

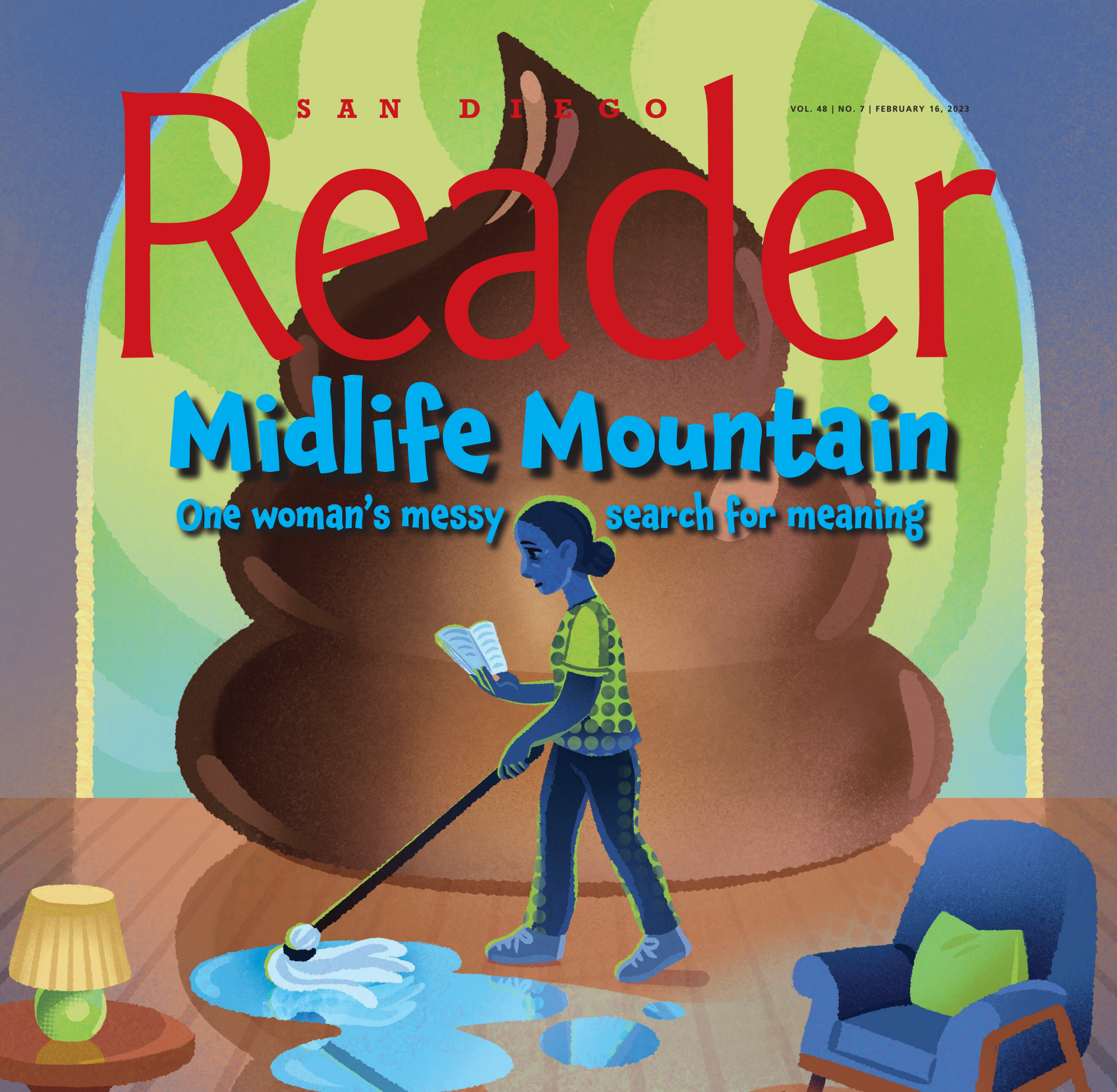
S A N D I E G O

VOL. 48 | NO. 7 | FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Reader

Midlife Mountain

One woman's messy search for meaning



Good dog gets gun grabber ■ Encinitas equestrian estate ■ Symphony's stops pulled

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LETTERS

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

Trump Trumps Love

Cover Story, February 1, 2023

This story comes right out of the gate with a sympathetic story about a guy who claims he can't be a racist because he once shared a bong with a Black person(!). Yes, the good old "I'm not racist, I have a black friend!" argument... which of course is exclusively trotted out by clueless racists who enthusiastically support obviously and demonstrably racist politicians like Donald Trump.

-MSNBC watcher
February 7, 2023

The issue with Trump is that he is so despicable you cannot just ignore people who support him. He is devoid of moral value. Unlike a decent Republican, you cannot have a rational debate and agree to disagree over your differences. So if a friend supports Trump you cannot remain friends. It would be like someone supporting Hitler in 1939.

-Not a Hitler fan
February 6, 2023

Completely agree. Supporting Trump is not equivalent to supporting, say, Mitt Romney. Trump is a fascist. And people who support fascists have declared themselves to be a social menace, and therefore have forfeited the right to be treated as people who are acting in good faith.

-Triggered Mormon
February 6, 2023

Fcuktrump. The most divisive president in modern time.

-Bad Speller
February 5, 2023

Don't want to be called a racist? Don't vocally support racist politicians! Simple, really.

-Clueless
February 7, 2023

How Wagner's Ring operas are like the U.S.

Classical Music, November 6, 2020

Historically, Empires may have fallen - civilisations even - but man has learned from his faults and rebuilt differently. We now know the symptoms of decadence and could if we wished avoid them. I'm afraid your vague Cassandra-like post neither informs us of where the performance of the Wagner Ring (where?) fails or succeeds. Still less do you enumerate the symptoms of decadence that you have discerned in its production - or indeed in American Society!!

-JSC
February 9, 2023

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San Diego Reader

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February 16, 2023

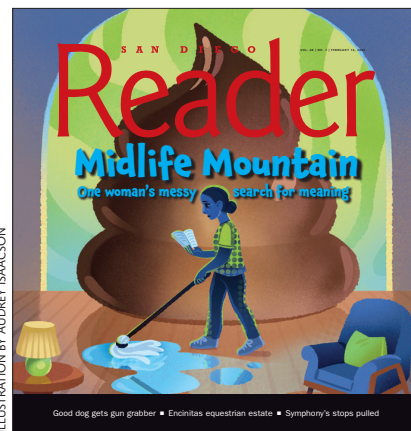


ILLUSTRATION BY AUDREY ISAACSON

"You need to be okay with poo" — page 8



Cuyamaca Peak in winter — page 28



Mac and cheese lumpia — page 23

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

THE BRINY BLUE

Saved from the waves

Lifeguards rescue surfers and plane passengers from stormy swell

Last month, San Diego's surging waves kept lifeguards busier than usual. The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department even helped rescue folks from a plane that landed on the surf. On January 19, sometime before 8 am, Dan Schade was walking by South Carlsbad State Beach. As he told 911 VIDEO NEWS later that day, that's when "a plane passed me along the water a quarter a mile north of me, right in



CREDIT: 911 VIDEO NEWS

"Luckily, it was flat this morning"

front of the lifeguard tower. [The pilot] gently sat it in the white water about 30 feet from the shore. Luckily, [the surf] was flat; it's 1-2 [footers]. If he would've done it yesterday or the day before, he would've been in some pretty big surf."

Nearly a week earlier, on January 13, local surfer Raliza Amato saw a fellow surfer in

distress, shortly after she paddled out from Tourmaline Surf Park, situated between La Jolla and Pacific Beach. "I saw someone floating without a board and yelling, 'Help! Please help!'" The distressed surfer was about 20-30 feet away from her, and "no one else was in sight or close enough to him. I looked, and he had no board, so I started paddling towards

see someone drown for the first time in my whole ocean life." (Amato has been surfing for 18 years.) She yelled to the surfer that she was sorry, but she couldn't make it to him. "Then I turned the nose of my surfboard and my body towards the beach and started waving my arms wildly, screaming, 'Help, help, help!' while simultaneously pointing towards the floating person that needed help. Within what felt like seconds, the jet ski came and rescued him."

But it was week before that, on January 7, that the lifeguards seemed busiest. The San Diego Lifeguards Facebook page said their initial rescue launched at about 7:30 am at Windansea Beach, when a male surfer's leash broke. "The surf was so big and the rip current so strong that he couldn't make it back to shore on his own," reported the site. "He became distressed and was spotted by SDFD lifeguards on patrol. They used a rescue watercraft along with two lifeguards in the water and safely returned the surfer to shore." He was not injured. Then in La Jolla, a rookie surfer was riding a board too small for the monstrous waves. He "was almost rolled onto the rocks by the waves," said the site. Again, lifeguards hopped onto their water craft and rescued the newbie, who was not injured. Their third rescue took place at Sunset Cliffs in an area that locals call "No Surf Beach." "Several surfers experienced broken surfboard leashes and were caught in a massive rip current," continued the lifeguards' page. "Lifeguards deployed RWCs [rescue craft] and surf boats, and all were rescued and safely returned to shore."

Around the same time, *lifeguardsofsandiego* posted a photo on their Instagram page of a rescued surfer whose surfboard was broken into pieces. The caption read, "Please do not try and surf or swim in these conditions unless you are ultra-experienced. SDFD Lifeguards warn that it will often take up to a half hour

to return to shore in waves this big. It's not only dangerous to be out there, but it's also dangerous for lifeguards to perform rescues in these conditions."

And why were the San Diego County waves so big last month? Surfer Amato explained, "It's because of the dominant west-northwest swell, storms happening right off our coast. We usually watch storms off the South Pacific during the winter, because it's their monsoon season and our surf season."

And regarding the surfer she had tried to reach, she said, "The lifeguards told me afterward that his leash snapped in front of the pump house, and he was yelling for help. But because of the strong current and huge waves, they lost him. When I waved my hands and yelled, they were able to find him, and I am thankful to God that I was able to help that way. Thank you to the San Diego lifeguards — true heroes in this big surf season."

MIKE MADRIAGA

FALLBROOK

Gun runner too slow for K-9 Loaded for bear, but unready for dog

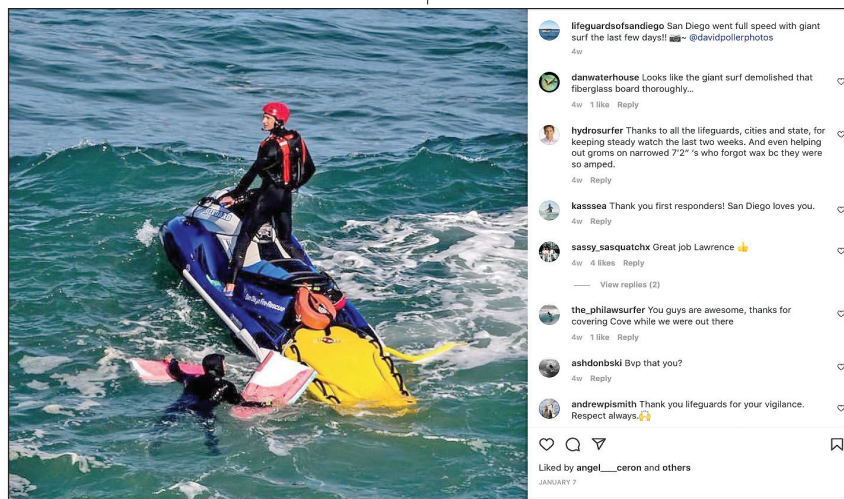


Oceanside police officers with their canines, from their Facebook page July 2015.

The owner of the Fallbrook Guns & Ammo store on Main Street in downtown Fallbrook called 911 a little before 9 pm on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. He told police that he could see a burglar in his shop via remote surveillance video, and that the intruder was breaking into display cases and stealing guns and ammunition. Reportedly, the intruder was able to get into the gun store by first breaking the window of an adjacent business (which had no alarm), then climbing up into the ceiling space, making his way over to the gun shop, and breaking through the ceiling.

Local law enforcement mounted a big response: Sheriff's deputies, Oceanside police, the California Highway Patrol, a SWAT team, and a Crisis Negotiations Team arrived on scene and surrounded the building. More than 20 officers were present, according to Lieutenant Aldo Hernandez.

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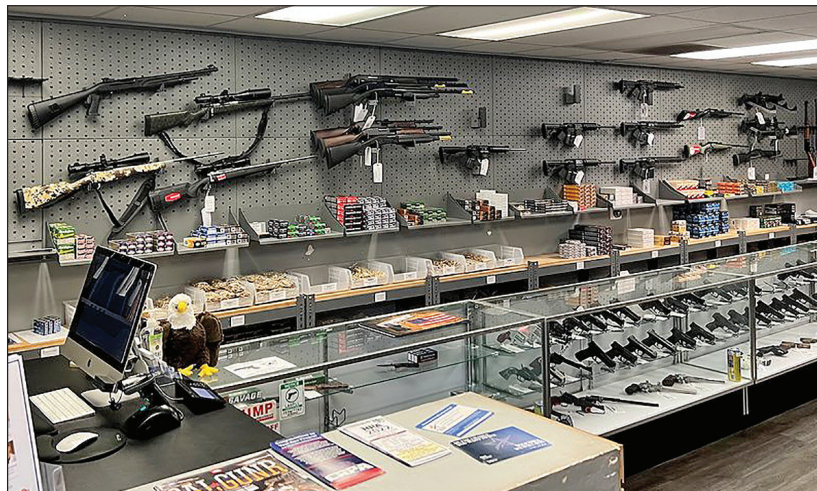
INSTAGRAM/LIFEGUARDSDOFSDIEGO

Surfer's busted board (bottom) graces the gram.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

Main Street was closed off, and “the perimeter of the building was well lit.” The owner of the business arrived at the police command post and was able to show officers live video of his store’s interior; officers were able to observe the prowler in real time. The business owner also provided



Guess that’s why they call it a drop ceiling!

the numbers of phones located inside the business, which police used in an effort to make contact with the offender — unsuccessfully — over the course of two hours.

During the standoff, the alleged burglar used the time to load twelve different weapons with ammunition. He carefully stored six weapons in the ceiling, and then he secured six of the loaded weapons to his person, according to a reliable source. After two and a half hours, the suspect allegedly made a run for it out of a ground level door, but he was unable to outrun a

\$740; one Springfield Armory pistol, TRP operator, \$2100; and one M&P Shield black 380 pistol, \$600.

Macias was originally held in lieu of \$50,000 bail, but at his first court appearance on Monday January 23, prosecutor Keith Watanabe requested bail be raised to \$500,000; this was granted by Honorable judge Matthew Brower. Macias currently pleads not-guilty to 26 felonies, including burglary and multiple counts of felon in possession of weapons and felon in possession of ammunition. The defen-

During the standoff, the alleged burglar used the time to load twelve different weapons with ammunition.

police canine. The dog made contact with the suspect, Guillermo Macias, who “sustained minor injuries during the arrest,” according to a Sheriff’s statement released the next day. The alleged burglar reportedly suffered cuts from the glass he allegedly broke to get into the first building, along with bites from the dog.

After he was treated at Palomar Hospital, suspect Macias was booked into custody at the Vista jail the next day. The jail website described him as a 29-year-old Hispanic male, 6 feet 2 inches tall and 170 pounds. One of the original accusations against Macias — willfully harming a police dog, a misdemeanor — has not been charged by the DA’s office. The dog

dant has a criminal history in San Diego’s North County. In 2015, when he was 21, he pleaded guilty in two cases, one theft and one DUI, both as misdemeanors. In 2017, Macias, then 24, admitted using a knife when he “committed an assault on two separate occasions against two different people with force likely to produce great bodily injury.” His plea deal involved admitting those two felony crimes; three other felonies were dismissed. He agreed to serve six months in local custody. At that time, he listed his home address in the 1200 block of Old Stage Road in Fallbrook — about a quarter mile from the location of the gun store.

EVA KNOTT

was not seriously injured, according to Lt. Hernandez.

A public Sheriff’s report declared that the following items were stolen by the suspect, but recovered: two Henry Repeating Arms, both model H001, value \$400 x 2; one Remington 700 rifle, \$745; one Ruger pistol Single-Six, \$250; one Daniel Defense rifle DDM4, \$2000; one Colt pistol Python, \$2400; five black Glock pistols, values \$1500, \$2500, \$850, \$1500, and \$1600; one black Ruger rifle, PC Carbine,

UNDER THE RADAR

Rent-a-pol Turo, Inc., a controversial peer-to-peer car-sharing company based in San Francisco, gave \$7500 on January 31 to the ballot measure committee run by termed-out state Senator **Toni Atkins**, who is seeking to become the state’s next lieutenant governor. Last summer, Turo went on a Hawaiian political spending spree, “donating thousands of dollars to Hawaii candidates ranging from Honolulu City Council Chair **Tommy Waters** to gubernatorial front-runner Lt. Gov.

Josh Green,” according to an August 22, 2022, account by *Honolulu Civil Beat*. “Both the city and the Legislature have recently been considering bills that would clarify regulations covering companies like Turo.” On the island of Maui, airport goers complained of losing their parking spots to Turo-owned vehicles, per a December 29, 2022, account by *Maui Now*. “‘Yes, parking is a hassle and, yes, I got a \$40 ticket’ for parking outside of a stall,” Maui pilot Kim Anderson is quoted as saying. “Turo renters shouldn’t be able to park cars in the lot.” *Maui Now* adds, “State Department of Transportation Maui District Airports Manager **Marvin Moniz** said state officials met Wednesday to discuss language for new legislation that would crack down on businesses operating without a permit or license in state airport public parking lots.”

Turo has also drawn fire in Texas, where the *Dallas Morning News* reported August 8, 2022, that the big international airport there sued the company to block its expansion. “San Francisco-based Turo, which filed for an IPO in January, has moved from a service where people share their own cars to a network of ‘hosts’ that own several cars, sometimes dozens, and can make a profit of more than \$1000 a month per new vehicle, the company said. Turo’s net revenue nearly tripled last year to \$330 million, although it’s still operating at a steep loss, common for tech startups.” The paper quoted Dallas-Fort Worth Airport lawyer **Paul Tomme** as saying, “We have a problem with illegal commercial activities, specifically, professional car renters who own fleets of vehicles and rent cars online and have them delivered here to the airport. They don’t have a permit with the airport to do so even though the code requires them to have one, they don’t pay airport fees, they don’t collect state rental car taxes or local rental car taxes and remit them to the state.”

Back in California, Turo has done better,

inking a deal with the San Jose Mineta Airport to make “Turo vehicle exchanges available in designated areas at SJC,” according to a February 2 report by *SFGate.com*. In a June 4, 2022, op-ed piece for *The Hill*, **Jarrett Skorup**, senior director of marketing and communications at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, argues that state legislatures should take a generally hands-off approach to the problem. “Requiring insurance and ensuring that insurance companies know



Toni Atkins, targeted by Turo.

what their coverage is being used for is fair. Some minimal disclosure rules for companies make sense. But taxes should be low and fair for the whole industry. And there is little reason for state lawmakers to try to get involved when it comes to airports or other places where cars are dropped off or picked up — the hosts and guests can work that out themselves.” Last year, Turo paid Sacramento-based lobbying outfit Miller Cespedes & Associates LLC \$230,000, according to state disclosure filings....San Diego County Supervisor **Nathan Fletcher**, reelected to a four-year term in 2022, continues to collect major money for his 2024 bid for state Senate. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, operator of a big casino, gave \$5500 on January 30, according to state disclosure filings.

bying outfit Miller Cespedes & Associates LLC \$230,000, according to state disclosure filings....San Diego County Supervisor **Nathan Fletcher**, reelected to a four-year term in 2022, continues to collect major money for his 2024 bid for state Senate. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, operator of a big casino, gave \$5500 on January 30, according to state disclosure filings.

Crash and burn A host of auditors continue their never-ending quest to keep local government honest. A January 18 report by San Diego City Auditor **Andy Hanau** says that “an allegation of a City employee conceal-



Andy Hanau: plaudits for the audits.

ing damage caused to a City vehicle was investigated and determined to be substantiated. The department took the appropriate corrective action with respect to the identified employee.” Hanau also reports that “an allegation of abuse of discretion regarding data reporting was investigated and closed based on the proactive corrective actions taken by the department to ensure that data will be collected and reported accurately.”

Meanwhile, the United States Government Accountability Office in a February 2 report to Congress, calls out a critical lack of childcare for military families here. “Officials said that the [Department of Defense] childcare program has encountered challenges in supplying sufficient childcare spaces to meet demand — particularly in certain geographic areas,” per the February 2 audit. “Officials identified

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LETTERS

continued from page 1

Nirwana Indian Gastrobar showcases tacos, sliders, and pizza

Feast! Restaurant Review,
January 28, 2023

Those chicken tikka masala “tacos” look WAY too big. I’m glad I’m not in the vicinity at the moment because I’d gobble them both in ten minutes.

—Meg Burns
February 2, 2023

Elizabeth Cotten, adopted by the Seeger family, then discovered

Feature Story, July 2, 1981

Exceptional article, but “adopted?” This was written a while ago, I know. However, by the time she met the Seegers, she was a grown woman with her own children and had already lived at least two lives. She was not a child or an orphan to be taken in. She was hired by them to work in their house,

clean their toilets, cook their food, take care of their kids, etc. So let’s not infantilize her, romanticize the relationship, or imply in any way that she was “childlike”. Perhaps you should reconsider your title...or not.

Again, great article. I’m glad I stumbled across it in my research.

—Eric Dozier
February 12, 2023

Murder charged on Nardo Street in Solana Beach

Neighborhood News,
January 13, 2021

Jade Janks was declared guilty of murder this morning, and taken into custody. She testified in her own defense, for two days, during her jury trial. She is currently set to be sentenced in April 2023.

—Eva Knott
December 21, 2022

Comfort food was never so needed

Tin Fork, February 21, 2018

Ed I just ate at Shakespeare today after picking-up the Reader across the street at El Indio. You toss the caber, not the caper ha ha!

—Piccata Pete
February 11, 2023

Gonzo Report: Finding the spirituality of the setting - HR (Bad Brains) plays The Holding Company

Gonzo Report, January 25, 2023

Thank you, was honored to be in Ocean Beach with HR. You are all beautiful

—Ray Sunshine
January 26, 2023

JCPenney, Macy’s, Marshalls, TJ Maxx push back against thieves

Neighborhood News,
October 11, 2022

Manuel Espinoza Alvarez, 25, made a plea deal and admitted three different felonies in three different theft cases in different parts of San Diego County. He admitted grand theft, stolen car and organized retail theft, and was sentenced to two years prison yesterday, in San Diego’s North County

Superior Courthouse. He had benefit if a Spanish speaking interpreter for all court matters.

—Eva Knott
January 5, 2023

If sci-fi glam really makes a comeback, UNI will rule them all

Blurt, August 1, 2020

Nico had too much testosterone for them.

—Glam fan
January 6, 2023

Under the radar

continued from page 3

the following areas as having DOD’s greatest childcare need: Norfolk, Virginia; San Diego, California; San Antonio, Texas; Hawaii; and the Washington, D.C. area. These challenges include capacity shortfalls, staffing shortages, and a lack of eligible childcare providers for DOD’s fee assistance program.”

San Diego State University was also an auditing target. “In general, we found that the campus had an appropriate framework for the administration of recognized student organizations. However, we found that student organization banking training materials lacked appropriate levels of cash-handling procedures, and student officers who were required to complete this training did not always do so,” says a January 19 report by **Vlad Marinescu**, Vice Chancellor, and Chief Audit Officer of the California State University System. “We also found that general release waivers were not collected in one instance when required for student organization events that involved travel.” Adds the auditor, “At San Diego State University, there are more than 300 recognized student organizations representing various categories, including academic or professional specialties, cultural and identity, leadership, recreation, and service.”

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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

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Sticky, tricky situations

An unhampered look at Carlsbad's Army Navy Academy

"Unlike the upper-school cadets, these boys will break down and cry, a lot. They don't want other boys to see 'em cry, 'cause it's not macho. But they come to me, and letting them cry, letting their emotions be known, means an awful lot. They really need, at this age, someone who'll actually listen." – Ray Westberg MAR. 6, 1997

Life as a castrated man

On our drive to the Cove, Tom briefs me on the state of his love life. He has grown increasingly close to a woman. They date regularly and are together often. But she has developed a reservation about the physical side of their relationship. Tom has proposed that he quit taking testosterone. – Steven Shepherd APR. 4, 1997

Man robs bank to see his daughter

Sean Legacy robbed a bank in Pacific Beach. He also wrote a book over the four years he was in various jails called *Point Zero Bliss*. It is the kind of book you pick up and then set down quickly, maybe pace or smoke, do some chores, turn on the tube and then—to hell with it—you pick it up again. – John Brizzolara APR. 17, 1997

Psychic Theodore Graham-Rogers, head of county probation

Carla tells about the duplex on Neptune Avenue in Encinitas where the Bees and Graham-Rogers rescued the spirit of a sailor named Eric who'd crashed and died on the nearby rocks. Another time, on one of the Navy bases in Point Loma, spirits of Indians who'd been slaughtered years ago were haunting one particular home-maker. – Jeannette DeWyze MAR. 13, 1997

What San Diego wine experts say among themselves

Tastings still have rules. "You know it's totally social when the women show up with seven layers of perfume that masks anything the wine could ever develop even if you held the wine right up to your nose. I have heard a lot of people say,



Kids wrestle, step on each other's shoes, crawl out windows.

'Hey, guys, no cologne; women, no perfume.'" – Matt Lickona FEB. 6, 1997

of thing happens—who else could they call? – Douglas Whyknott MAY. 15, 1997

San Diego beekeepers know all the flowering plants

One time, Mikolich says, he got a call from a friend, a commercial beekeeper whose helper had driven a truckload of hives off a road and then down into a gully. The hives had slid off the truck, and the air all around had gotten messy. Beekeepers tend to rely on each other when this sort

Older people in downtown San Diego talk about getting old

"I don't like the nursing home either. I don't want to go there 'cause I had a lady I used to pray with all the time, and when she got so sick, they put her there, it wasn't nice at all. They steal all the things." – Madeline DeFrees APR. 10, 1997

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Raising large animals requires a bit more space than your average suburban tract lot yard can offer. Depending on where you are in the county, you're going to need at least a half-acre lot, maybe an acre, if you want to keep animal control off your back. In real estate terms, we'd call such a parcel "horse property."

Of course, that's far too pedestrian a term for *Unreal Estate*, so we're going to go with something a little flashier. "Just 7 miles from the shore of the Pacific Ocean, this premier Equestrian Estate is a rare find in the beach community of Encinitas," opens the Zillow pitch for 3113 Camino Del Rancho, a ten-acre horse property, er, equestrian estate, that also includes a mansion and guest house built in 2007, with just under 5600 square feet of living area combined. Let's take a look around.

The listing opens with a couple of aerial shots. The first shows a good por-



Hold your horses: ten acres in Encinitas? Whoa, Nelly!

tion of the property, with a barn in the foreground, several separately-fenced grassy spaces, and the main house in the background. The next focuses on the house specifically, which looks pleasantly Mediterranean, thanks to its multicolored tile roof and rock exterior walls. Let's descend.

An enormous arched wooden entry door cased in red brick leads us to a foyer, which in turn opens onto a living room where the rough-hewn ceiling beams and rock accent walls lend a bit of a rustic feeling to the place, without going overboard. I don't know if I love the

tile work on the floor, but we can give that a pass, because the rest of the room works well. We get a little peek at what looks like a library or office off to one side — for some reason, there is a ladder in there, though it doesn't look like the shelves are high enough to really require one. A large painting of a horse's head atop the fireplace reminds us that if we are here, it's because we probably like horses. It helps complete the room's look.

There follows a dining room, outfitted with white cloth chairs and a white rug perfect for showcasing colorful food spills.

Otherwise, the room is fine, but after the success of the living room, I'm not impressed with either the size or style of this space. The kitchen is accessible through another arched passage off the living room that we must have missed the first time around — it's not incredibly spacious, but it looks functional. I like the breakfast nook with its array of windows and what appears to be a potbellied stove. In fact, I like it much more than the formal dining room.

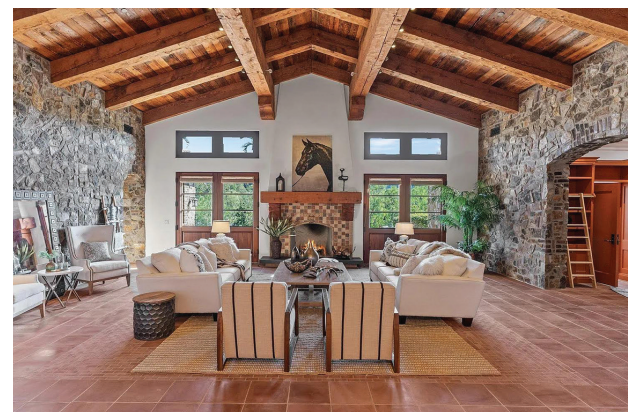
We get to a bedroom that is, like the kitchen, perfectly serviceable if unremarkable — aside from another arched door leading to the bath, one that the listing tells us is hand-carved. What I appreciate more is outside: more of the "truly exceptional stone work [that] blends in antique brick through the exterior, interior, and privacy walls that surround the patios" is on display here. The stone does seem

well-done, and given that the trend for modern houses is to buy sheets of fake rock pressed out of concrete and dyed to look real, I'd say that using the real thing does indeed qualify as exceptional.

But I've become distracted by the stones; the main thing to see here is that the patio wraps around the bedroom, and it does indeed boast a privacy wall that hides a little citrus tree, some lounge chairs, and a tiny pool. The listing calls this a "river flow pool." I don't know quite what that means, but I do know I would very much enjoy having my own private, hidden mini-pool.

Another bedroom offers its own sitting area and wet bar, which makes me think it's the primary — but if so, why

On to the equestrian part of this equestrian estate: the listing would like us to know that there's room to house as many as 20 horses, and that the grounds were "previously a training facility for top Grand Prix show jumpers. The equestrian areas include every equestrian amenity," which I suppose is desirable. There's also a well with a filtration system and direct access to "30+ miles of dedicated trails," in case your horses are more the riding type than the jumping type. We get to see some outbuildings, a corral, a training ring, and the inside of the barn before our tour concludes. I don't know enough about horses to know if every equestrian amenity is really included, but everything we *do* see certainly seems amena-



Rustic luxury, thanks in part to the very fine stone work.

doesn't it get the pool? We also see the bath, with still more of that exceptional stone work in the shower. It looks both pleasingly rustic and very difficult to clean. Then we get a few shots of a patio with an outdoor kitchen and the guest house, which seems to have been built with materials just as costly as in the main home. There's also a "caretaker residence" that looks like a mobile home, but one that has been nicely remodeled inside.

ble enough, and I tend to believe the listing when it tells us that the "oversized clear, hard redwood fencing lends a substantial feeling."

Public records list Camino 8, a limited liability company based out of Washington, as the estate's owner. The property was last sold in 2018 for a reported \$6 million in an off-market transaction, it was listed for sale in early January with a \$9,750,000 asking price that remains unchanged to date. ■

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Midlife

Mountain

One
woman's
messy
search
for
meaning

W

hen I turned 39, I took an inventory of my life. What I found there struck me thoroughly unremarkable. At best, it seemed my world and the life I had made in it could be summed up in one word: mediocre. The entirety of my twenties and thirties had been spent diapering, cleaning, cooking, doing laundry, making doctor's appointments, assisting with homework, and shuttling my kids to and from school and sporting events. Almost half my time on earth had been spent



performing the sort of banal tasks that women in La Jolla pay other people to do. And I wasn't even good at the gig. My oldest son was barely passing his high school classes, my kids were behind on the immunizations, and there were almost always dirty dishes in the sink. I was glad I hadn't had to interview for the job of mothering; I might have been deemed a bad fit for the position. And now, my kids were growing up. They just didn't need me that much anymore. I began to feel less like a contributor, and more like drain on my household.

The funny thing was, up until my 39th birthday, I had been okay with my second-rate housewifery. I consoled myself with the knowledge that I had three amazing kids and a very cool husband. Besides, it felt like I had my entire

life ahead of me to become impressive. There was still plenty of time for the sorts of achievements that would inspire my mother to pen a braggy Facebook post about me. But *after* I turned 39, after there was nothing between me and 40 but a lump of months, I began noticing the wrinkles forming around my eyes. When I spotted a lone pesky gray hair sticking straight out of my left eyebrow, I began to panic. I realized that I did not in fact have my whole life in front of me. I had half, maybe less. And as everyone who has ever hit a downhill slide knows, the ride gets faster as it goes.

It didn't help that my sister, who was just 19 months older than me, had recently secured her hoity-toity dream job with Amazon up in Seattle. She was climbing the corporate ladder, wowing everyone she met. She drove



"We stand near Avocado Acute's information desk, all of us decked out in blue scrubs. We look like a family of Smurfs."

an Audi. Lorde played at her company Christmas party. Then there was my brother, who was succeeding in the opposite direction: living a minimalistic bohemian lifestyle, teaching sustainable farming at UC Irvine, decreasing his carbon footprint and teaching those around him to do the same. I was by far the biggest failure in

my family, a stain on my immigrant parents' names. They had come to this country to raise impressive Americans, not sloppy stay-at-home moms.

I was headed for a mid-life crisis. I needed to shake things up before I found myself undergoing invasive plastic surgery, or worse, taking on a mustachioed lover.

So, I pretended that the past 20 years had not happened, and did what many 20-year-olds do when they discover they have no skills, talents, or even hobbies to speak of: I started looking at trade schools. One evening, two glasses of wine deep, I began Googling the trades. Welding seemed cumbersome. I wasn't

likeable enough for real estate. And given my history of giving my children terrible DIY haircuts, beauty school was probably out of the question. Mid-Google, I fell asleep. Deciding on a new life path was exhausting.

But my crisis wasn't about to let me quit that easily: a few days later, a flier from Grossmont Health Occupation Center appeared in my mailbox. They offered certification courses for pharmacy techs, medical assistants, vet techs, EMTs, and nursing assistants. Not exactly what I had in mind, but something.

Hello, nursing assistant!

"I think I am going to do one of those vocational certificate programs," I told my friend Laurie during school pick-up later that day.

"Like one of those programs that high school

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drop-outs and parolees do?" she asked, bemused.

"Uh-huh," I shrugged, gritting my teeth.

"Is healthcare even in your wheelhouse?" she asked, stifling a laugh.

It was not. But then, what was?

Upon revisiting the Adult Ed flier, I noticed that the orientation date had passed. But my crisis was not about to be deterred by red tape and schedules. I checked the Grossmont Health Occupation Center website and discovered they were hosting additional orientations for the programs that still had openings — you know, the leftovers. Thus it was that on a muggy Monday morning, I drove to the school, which was located next to West Hills high school in Santee, ready to begin my new life. I meant business; I even wore an underwire bra. And despite my

general fear and queasiness surrounding anything remotely medical, I went inside.

A secretary wearing pantyhose two shades darker than her skin tone explained that the only program that still had openings was the one for CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistant). Even among the options that were not what I had in mind, this one was not what I had in mind. But I told myself that the limited options were fine — one less decision to make, one less moment to hesitate and so be lost. The woman explained that I needed to pass a math and English assessment test and attend a brief orientation.

"Don't worry, most people pass the assessment," she said with a wink. Was I giving off idiot vibes? But I did pass, even if the math section proved a little dicey.

Afterwards, I slid into an open seat in the orientation room next to a brunette who was snapping her gum. An older lady shuffled to the front of the room to address the prospective students. Honestly, she was probably my age, but I needed her to be older than me. She had streaky highlights and wore orangey-red lipstick. Her white blouse sported a small round oil stain — maybe from lunch? As she droned on about the program, I found I couldn't stop staring at that stain; it was impossible to focus on anything else. Was it, was she, my future?

I perked up a little when her voice took on a serious note and she said, "If you are going to become a CNA, you need to be okay with poo — literally." She paused, eyeballing all of us, really letting the sentence sink in before erupt-

ing into maniacal laughter. The prospective students laughed along. I did not. Despite having raised three children, I am by no means okay with poo. Especially when it's a stranger's.

That night, over a dinner of storebought rotisserie chicken and salad, I told my husband that I had enrolled in a nursing program. "It is time to get my life moving," I said.

After a long pause, he let out a confused laugh, and replied, "Okay?"

And that was that. My future had begun. A few days later, I bought the required uniform: bright blue scrubs and a pair of white Converse All-Stars, purchased in the little boy's section at Ross because they were cheaper than women's shoes. The following week, I found myself taking a seat in a small, carpeted classroom at the Center. Apart from our instructor — a tall and lean Hispanic man with midnight shadow — I guessed I was the only person in the room over the age of 30. I did spot was a skinny blonde sitting in the front row who was probably in her late twenties; she had

a speech impediment and carried herself like a person who had done many, many drugs. On the third day of class, the teacher called me by her name — let's say it was Jolynn — and continued the mixup for the remainder of the course. I tried not to let it show how deeply offended I was by his *faux pas*. I also tried not to let it get to me that Jolynn appeared to be just as upset as I was over the confusion.

For the first month of school, I let the other girls copy off me. Why not? At least someone was doing the work. I learned how to convert millimeters into cubic centimeters and grams into kilograms, how to take vitals, how to do peri-care, and how to clean dentures. I kind of, sort of, liked it. I was doing well — it was nice to do well at *something* — and the girls in my class were a lovable group of misfits. Everything was smooth sailing until it was time for clinicals, the part of the course in which we took what we had learned and applied it in a nursing home environment. At this point in the story, it seems appropriate to switch to pres-

ent tense, for the sake of immediacy.

The tense present

Bright and early on an overcast Monday, we meet at Avocado Acute, located in a seedy section of El Cajon. Our teacher instructs us to park in the Shadow Mountain Arabic Congregation lot and walk a block to the nursing home. He has struck up an agreement with a pastor to allow us to park there. "You should still walk to your car in pairs," he instructs. "This isn't Del Mar." He explains this to us as we stand near Avocado Acute's information desk, all of us decked out in blue scrubs. We look like a family of Smurfs. "Remember," he continues, his manner stern, "some of these patients are never touched. Do not get alarmed if on occasion they become aroused. It happens. Move on. Be respectful and professional." I have never had to be professional in the presence of an aroused person before. Just one of the exciting new experiences I have to look forward to over the coming weeks, I tell myself. Take that, crisis.

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nursing home proper, we are hit with an overwhelming odor: a mixture of urine, sweat, despair, and Lysol. As we continue our tour — meeting staff and patients along the way — we hear a steady stream of what sound like pained cries. Some of them sound tinged with delirium.

Eventually, our teacher separates us into two different wings. He introduces us to the nursing assistants on staff, the people we will shadow. My CNA is a grumpy looking middle-aged, dark-haired woman with round tortoise shell glasses. Call her Zeba. Zeba wants nothing to do with me: she barely looks in my direction when my teacher introduces me. Later, when she does look at me, it's an up-and-down assessment, after which she wrinkles her nose in disappointment and grunts for me to follow her. Immediately, I am tasked with changing an older gentlemen's adult diaper. I want to die. I have practiced this on dummies in our classroom lab, but never on a real human. I thought maybe I would be eased into the whole poo side of things, but Zeba doesn't mess around. When she sends me down the hall to a utility closet for extra blankets, I run into one of my classmates. She whispers nervously, "This place is so scary! I never want to come back here, ever!"

I know I should say something encouraging, because I am her elder. Instead I whisper back, "I know!"

Before we leave for the day, my teacher pulls me aside and asks if he can speak with me privately. "Listen," he says, there is a sex offender on this floor. He has been very disre-

spectful to past students. I assigned him to you. Don't worry, I told Zeba that you are not allowed to go in his room unless it's an emergency, okay? I didn't want to put on of the younger girls on him."

When I get into my car after this conversation, I cry. I never want to go back. Later, I type in the address of Avocado Acute into the Megan's Law website, and discover that I actually have *two* sex offenders on my roster. Both are child molesters. I am disgusted. I call my mom, in tears.

"You're fine," she says, and I can tell that she is stifling laughter.

"Are you laughing?" "No," she insists, trying to compose herself. "But from the information you told me, both of them are child molesters. You are an adult. You are fine!" With that, she surrenders to a case of the giggles. What else is there to do but laugh along with her? I mean, it probably is okay.

"You can do this, I know you can," she says before hanging up.

That is all I need to hear. I still don't want to go back, but the next morning, I pull on my Smurf uniform and head out the door, because I am not a quitter, and I can do this. As I wait with the rest of my classmates for the start of our rounds, I can tell that many of them share my dread — a dread that for me, will endure for as long as I am there. But Jolynn, my tweaker twin? She seems to be thriving in this environment. She is one hell of a nursing assistant.

Near the end of my first week, I am carrying a bundle of dirty sheets down the hall in a clear trash bag when Zeba stops me and asks, "Are those from 117B?" I nod.

She lets out a surprised laugh before commenting, "That patient has scabies!" I am horrified. I spend the rest of the day scratching my skin. I am a paranoid wreck. When I get home, I remove my scrubs in the garage and wash them in my machine's hottest water cycle. I shower and scrub my skin raw, but I still feel itchy.

Patients

Zeba may not like me, but Dan does. Dan is one of my child molesters. He refers to me as his angel. "There she is," he announces any time I enter his room, "my angel to brighten my day." He wears a thick ankle monitor on one leg. He likes to talk to me about baseball, and also his oldest son, who lives on the east coast. He makes me feel squeamish. I remind myself that he is a person deserving of care, just like any other patient. I chant this in my head over and over during our every interaction. It works like a mantra. I am growing as a person.

Two weeks into clinicals, he gets a new roommate. Any time I assist said roommate, Dan freaks out. One day, while I am in the process of feeding Dan's neighbor, Dan loses it. "Oh, I see," he shouts at the new guy, his voice soaked with disgust, "You think you are the Prince of Avocado Acute." From deep in his throat, Dan produces an out of tune trumpet sound, a bent fanfare for the new prince. His roommate rolls his eyes.

"You think you can just snap your fingers and she will get you whatever you want," Dan rants.

"Ignore him," I say, shaking my head.

"I need help!" cries Dan. "I need some

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orange juice!”

At last: a situation for which my life experience has prepared me: I have spent over a decade caring for my own bratty children. I know to keep my reaction minimal.

“I can get it for you when I am done here,” I tell him nonchalantly.

Like my children, Dan is not pleased by my lack of concern. Unlike my children, he feels free to volley a dizzying array of insults at me. I smile and shrug, remaining calm, just like I used to with my kids when they were in the throes of a tantrum. A few weeks later, when The Prince of Avocado Acute is moved to a more intensive wing of the hospital, Dan resumes his practice of referring to me as his angel.

I have other patients. There is a pint-sized man whose room is halfway down the hall. He has

snow-white hair and a matching beard. He is almost always smiling. One morning, just after breakfast, he emerges from his room with two full cans of air freshener. He wheels himself slowly down the corridor, spraying both bottles simultaneously and fully saturating the air. He is met with a standing ovation from the entire staff. “You, sir, are a saint!” Zeba gushes in amusement. It is the first time I have ever heard her laugh. He salutes us and wheels himself back into his room.

The woman in room 115C has Alzheimer’s. While most residents don’t have personal belongings, her room is decked out in framed family photographs. She has floral bed sheets, and she wears soft flannel pajamas. Despite all her stuff, I have never

seen a visitor enter her room. (In fact, during my entire time I work at Avocado, I see only one of patient get a visitor. Said visitor wrinkles up a nose at the smell and demands that I change the sheets. I do it, even though I changed them fewer than two hours earlier. I get it: Avocado Acute is scary, it smells bad, and the CNAs have too many patients.) One day, when I bring her lunch, she gets furious.

“What is this?” she shouts, seeing the tray in my hand

“Do you want me to bring you something different?” I ask.

She leaps out of her bed. I am so startled that I back up. She keeps walking toward me until I am pressed against the far wall of her room.

“Let me out of here!” she shouts, spraying my face with spit. “I am sup-

posed to go to a movie!”

“Would you like to go on a walk?” I ask her sweetly.

But this only serves to enrage her more, and she shouts, “I need to get out of this place!”

I am pretty sure I am about to get my ass kicked, but then Zeba arrives. She laughs so hard that she can barely breathe.

“Stop being so nice!” she scolds me, “Let them know who is boss!”

For a few days after that incident, Zeba is less demanding and stops giving me all the nasty jobs. Unfortunately, I don’t stay on her good side for long. A week later, while I am changing a patient, he has an explosion of diarrhea. I am not properly equipped to contain it. It keeps coming and coming. It is a volcanic eruption.

“I am so sorry,” he says. “It’s fine,” I assure him, “no problem.”

I call out to my friend Jasmine — a curly-haired 20-year-old who sat next to me during the classroom portion of our class — and ask her to bring another changing pad and more washcloths. Minutes later, she joins me as we tackle a literal mountain of shit. She

wraps up a soiled washcloth, looks at me, and with a sarcastic smile, utters, “Can you believe this shit?”

“I cannot,” I reply.

Jasmine laughs first. She tries to contain her giggles, but within seconds, we are both laughing. I am laughing so hard that I have tears running down my face. Soon our patient joins in, letting out a big belly laugh — which causes even more diarrhea. We are dying when Zeba finally marches in. She is not laughing.

“Come on, Zeba, stop being so serious,” pleads Jasmine.

“Oh, for goodness sake,” Zeba says, sucking in her breath hard. Noting the mountain of soiled washcloths, she demands, “Pull yourselves together and bring those rags down to the laundry!”

Of course, we weren’t laughing at the patient. Jasmine has a huge heart. She plans on becoming an RN. I’m sure she’ll be great at it. She is thriving here. I am not. My patients like me, and I enjoy keeping them company, but I am in a constant state of fear. I am terrified I will break one of their bones. I am scared

that one of them will slip while I am bathing them, or worse, choke while I feed them their lunch. I am scared I will completely forget how to perform CPR.

It’s not that losing patients is unusual; it’s that I don’t want it to be my fault. One patient died my third day on the job. He slept in the same room as molester Dan, in the third bed furthest from the door. He was the skinniest human I have ever seen. He had wiry white hair. He resembled Popeye before Popeye was introduced to spinach. My second day, he grabbed a fork off his food tray and started furiously scratching his skin with it. When I managed to pry it out of his hands, he put a death grip on my arm and somehow forced me to scratch his back with the fork I was now holding. I was frozen with horror until I remembered to drop the fork. The next morning, his bed was empty. When I asked Zeba where he was, she said “Dead.” That was all the explanation she gave. I felt an unexpected pang of sadness over the loss of skinny Popeye.



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Past tension, past tense
I didn't tell many people I was doing the nursing program. As I have said, I am not a quitter, but I still wasn't sure I would make it through the clinicals. And even if I did, I knew I was not cut out to be a CNA.

But I *did* make it through, and after our last day, one of my classmates took a few of us to the bar she waited at, and we all did shots in celebration. Not a single one of us had quit. We took our final exam. All but two of us passed. Our teacher sent us job opportunities, and invited a few different speakers from local nursing homes to address our class. My classmates started applying for CNA jobs. Avocado Acute offered us all bonuses to stay on. A few of us did; most of us did not.

In the parking lot after it was all over, I gave Jasmine a hug, said goodbye, and cried. I knew there was nothing holding our friendship together outside of work, and that I would not see her again. But I think about her often. I imagine her as a full-fledged nurse, out there in the world, being

impressive. As for me, I thought about applying at a hospice center. The idea of comforting patients in their final days appealed to me. But my crisis intervened; perhaps it was satisfied that I had suffered enough. Because even as I searched CNA job listings, ads for preschool teaching jobs kept popping up. I decided to apply for a few. I have always been great with kids.

I got a call back about a job at a Grace Lutheran preschool in Hillcrest. I scheduled an interview. Assistant director Anita, met me at the gate and gave me a tour of colorful rooms filled with little people. In the toddler room, I helped an adorable round-faced boy named Duncan build a tower out of wooden blocks. He giggled uncontrollably after knocking it down with a swift karate chop. Outside, a class of four-year-olds marched by in single file, singing a dinosaur song at the top of their lungs. A little girl in a purple dress with braided pigtails growled like a T-Rex. A curly-haired boy with saucer-sized brown eyes looked

up at me with a shy smile and waved a chubby hand in my direction. "Hi, nice lady," he shouted with a grin. I smiled and waved back. He looked almost identical to the toddler version of my oldest son. My heart felt like it might explode. I felt such a strong sense that I had landed exactly where I was meant to be. Zeba was a fading memory.

"I've got a good feeling about you," Anita said as she walked me back out the gate. Zeba disappeared altogether. If I could have bottled up that moment in a snow globe to keep on a bookshelf, I would admire it often. I was so overcome with joy that when Anita called me a few days later to offer me the position, I said yes immediately. Maybe a job teaching preschool at minimum wage wasn't going to rate a braggy Facebook post from my mother, but I was okay with that. I felt hopeful — even though I still needed to be okay with other people's poo. Two weeks shy of acing my Certified Nursing Exam, I went to work at a preschool. It was exactly what I needed.

— Siobhan Braun



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**San Diego
Reader**

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 16

BEER AND POTTERY AT ORIGINAL 40

Session price includes your choice of pottery piece, paint, and firing, as well



as one pint of OG40 beer. Your finished pottery will be available for pick-up at the Cone 6 studio.

WHEN: Thursday, February 16, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

WHERE: Original 40 Brewing Company, 3117 University Avenue, North Park.

cone6ceramics.com

NAT GEO LIVE: LIFE ON THE VERTICAL WITH MARK SYNNOTT

Mark Synnott is a pioneering big wall climber who has pioneered four big wall first ascents on Baffin Island's remote east coast, including a grade VII on the 4700-foot north face of Polar Sun Spire. In Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains, he established two grade VII big wall ascents. One, a 6000-foot wall topping out at over 20,000 feet, is one of the longest



rock climbs in the world. Closer to home, Mark has climbed Yosemite's El Capitan twenty-two times, including several one-day ascents. He also uses his skills to break scientific ground, reaching inaccessible environments in search of rare species.

WHEN: Thursday, February 16, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

WHERE: Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. theconrad.org

Friday | 17

KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE

Karl Denson bridges fusion jazz and R&B soul with progressive freak rock. His list of credits includes work with Lenny Kravitz, Anders Osborne, Slightly Stoopid, and Greyboy All Stars,

plus playing onstage with the Rolling Stones as their official tour saxophonist. Now, his Zappa-esque band Karl Denson's Tiny Universe is playing a two-night 25th anniversary celebration.

WHEN: Friday, February 17

and Saturday, February 18, 8 pm

WHERE: Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. bellyup.com

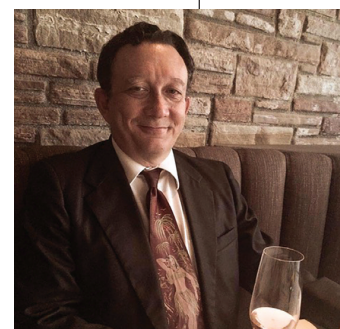


KARL DENSON

Saturday | 18

!FIESTA! HISTORY OF SAN DIEGO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANTS

Mexico's rich cultures and cuisines have influenced San Diegans' food choices since the city's beginnings in 1769. Martin S. Lindsay's visual presentation celebrates the history of local San Diego restaurants born from Hispanic, Mexican, and Latin cultures. Some you may never have heard of,



while others have become classics over the years.

WHEN: Saturday, February 18,

10:30 am to 12 pm

WHERE: Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard, East Village. chsandiego.org

Sunday | 19

FUNGUS FAIR

Attend a gathering of Mycophiles, educators, chefs, supportive businesses, mushroom amateurs, and professionals. Fungus Fair speaker Joshua English is an artist and designer on a quest to discover the most sustainable material solutions to the everyday design

challenges we face. Speaker Steve Farrar, who has been growing culinary and medicinal mushrooms for over 40 years, is currently the Chief Technical Officer and a co-founder of M2 Ingredients/OM Mushroom Superfoods.

WHEN: Sunday, February 19, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

WHERE: Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park. [facebook.com/SDMYCO/](https://www.facebook.com/SDMYCO/)



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19: FUNGUS FAIR

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.*

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Canines, Cats & Coffee Meet adoptable animals from a variety of local pet rescue centers and shop from an array of vendors selling dog and cat related gifts. There will also be a mobile pet groomer so your current or soon-to-be furry friend feels all the love. Saturday, February 18, 10am; **free**. Invita Cafe, 18021 Calle Ambiente #506. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

San Diego Rocket Con Comic & Toy Convention The 4th Annual San Diego Rocket Con features vendors with collectibles, comics, toys, and other items. Meet voice actors from Dragonball Z, My Hero Academia, and Naruto, take a picture with real life Power Rangers, enjoy or participate in a cosplay contest, or get a sketch of your favorite superhero drawn by artists from Marvel and DC and other publishers. Saturday, February 18, 10am; Sunday, February 19, 10am; \$22-\$40. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Story: Real or Not So Much This exhibition seeks raw, psychological, primal work in any medium or form, except installations. Fridays, 11am; through Friday, March 17, **free**. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

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

BEER

Barre & Beer with Barre3 Barre class with Jenny of Barre3 and Pure beer. Sunday, February 19, 10am; \$25. 21 and up. Pure Project North Park, 2867 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

Girl Scout Cookies & Beer Pairings Pairings: PB&J (Blonde

Ale with peanut butter and grape jelly) with S'mores Fall Of Troy (orange & vanilla Double IPA) with Trefoils Good Morning Beautiful (Brown Ale with coconut, coffee, and maple syrup) with Samoas Peanut Butter Milk Stout with Tagalongs. Saturday, February 18, 12pm; \$20. 21 and up. Belching Beaver Oceanside, 1334 Rocky Point Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Girl Scout Cookies & Beer Pairings Guests receive four 4-oz beers paired with four Girl Scout Cookies with one bonus mystery beer at the end. Also receive 15 percent off any to-go beer. Girl Scouts will be selling additional cookies. Saturday, February 18, 1pm; \$25. 21 and up. Second Chance Beer Co., 15378 Avenue of Science #222. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

Girl Scout Cookies & Beer Pairings Enjoy La Morenita (Dark Czech Lager) with Tagalongs. Saturday, February 18, 12pm; \$12-\$25. 21 and up. Original 40 Brewing Company, 3117 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Paint Your Own Pottery with Beer Paint Your Own Pottery event with Cone 6 Ceramics Pottery Studio. The price includes your choice of pottery piece, paint, and firing, as well as one pint of OG40 beer. Your finished pottery will be available for pick-up at the Cone 6 studio. Thursday, February 16, 6:30pm; \$40. Original 40 Brewing Company, 3117 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Yoga & Beer with YogaSix Enjoy a yoga class with Amanda G. of YogaSix and Pure beer. Sunday, February 19, 10:30am; \$25. 21 and up. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Author of the Month: Leslie Ferguson Author Leslie Ferguson will discuss her book *When I Was Her Daughter*. Tuesday, February 21, 6:30pm; **free**. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Ronald Niezen: The Memory Seeker Warwick's will host Ronald Niezen as he discusses and signs his new book, *The Memory Seeker*. Limited open seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure seating, pre-order @ warwicks.com/event/niezen-2023. Thursday, February 16, 7:30pm; **free**-\$22. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Weekends with Locals: Dipak K. Gupta Weekends with Locals will be hosting Dipak K. Gupta, author of *Lonesome Flight*. Sunday, February 19, 2:30pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Weekends with Locals: Ladan Murphy Weekends with Locals will be hosting Ladan Murphy, author of *Blue Moons, Golden Arm & the One-Eyed King*. Sunday, February 19, 12pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Writer's Symposium by the Sea: Anthony Doerr Interview with Anthony Doerr and Dean Nelson as part of the 2023 Writer's Symposium by the Sea. Followed by book signing with Doerr. Anthony Doerr is the author of *All the Light We Cannot See*, which was awarded the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, which was a finalist for the 2021 National Book Award and is currently a finalist for Novel of the Year in the British Book Awards. Tuesday, February 21, 7pm; \$10-\$50. Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive. (POINT LOMA)

Writer's Symposium by the Sea: William Finnegan Interview about *Barbarian Days* with William Finnegan and Ben Cater, hosted by the PLNU Honors Program as part of the 2023 Writer's Symposium by the Sea. William Finnegan is an award-winning reporter, a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, and the author of five books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Barbarian Days*, a memoir about his lifelong passion for surfing. Finnegan's books include *Crossing the Line: A Year in the Land of Apartheid*, *Cold New World: Growing Up in a Harder Country*, *Dateline Soweto: Travels with Black South African Reporters*, and *A Complicated War: The Harrowing of Mozambique*. Wednesday, February 22, 7pm; \$10-\$50. Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive. (POINT LOMA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

5-Week Adult Magic Course Learn how to perform easy, mind-blowing magic from San Diego professional magician, Tom Interval, who has taught magic for 36 years. For students ages 18 and up, with a maximum class size of eight. Sessions will occur once per week every Sunday for five weeks. The cost includes supplies. Preregistration is required. Sundays, 1pm; through Sunday, February 19, \$295. 18 and up. Interval Magic, 3820 Georgia Street. (NORTH PARK)

Adult Performance Workshop Join others in working out a short set of songs to perform for a live audience at the end of the workshop. This is an eight-week intensive seminar led by Genevieve Storm. Adults Ages 18+. Thursdays, 7pm; through Thursday, March 2, \$200-\$250. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Energy Balancing for the Public Integrative Chakra Therapy (ICT) is very powerful subtle energy medicine. Mondays, 6pm; through Monday, June 26, **free**. Bamboo Garden Wellness Center, 162 South Rancho Santa Fe STE A30. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Guitar Level 1 Beginner Workshop This introductory guitar class is aimed at familiarizing beginner students with basic guitar playing techniques, music theory and

playing socially. No musical experience is required to take this class. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, February 28, \$96-\$120. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Guitar Level 2 Intermediate Workshop This guitar class is aimed at introducing intermediate guitar playing techniques, music theory, and playing socially. Students will learn 7th chords, basic barre chords, and an introduction to pentatonic scales as well as key musical concepts that every jammer needs. Tuesdays, 7:30pm; through Tuesday, February 28, \$96-\$120. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Improv Classes Taught by Chris Shurland, founder of Santa Barbara's Irreverent Improv. Tuesdays, 7pm; through Tuesday, March 21, **free**-\$10. Twilight Stage, 219 N. Coast Hwy. (OCEANSIDE)

Learn to Cook Without Recipes Classes In this class, you will learn what the cooking techniques sauté & fry are all about, when to sauté or fry, and what ingredients you can cook in your skillet. Mondays, 5pm; through Monday, June 26, \$30. 18 and up. creativecookco.com/classes/cooking-technique-class-saute/. (ONLINE)

Macrame Flower Hoop Wall Hanging Workshop This workshop includes step-by-step instructions along with all of the supplies. Finish off your masterpiece with adding a floral touch to your piece.

Tickets also include a flight of wine and \$10 off a bottle of your choice. Wednesday, February 22, 6pm; \$55. La Mesa Wine Works, 8167 Center Street. (LA MESA)

Meditation Building Confidence With Meditation hosted by Nandi Thursday, February 16, 7pm; **free**-\$20. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

SANDAG: How to Use Transit in San Diego Free webinar followed by a Q&A session. Commuters will learn about: Commuter amenities at transit centers, Bike lockers and bike parking, San Diego Regional transit routes, Transit benefits at your company, The PRONTO card, SANDAG's Try Transit program, Youth Opportunity Pass. Tuesday, February 21, 11am; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3lkqgl4>. (ONLINE)

COMEDY

Beth Stelling Mal Hall The show with Adam and Sean Kimbles Hume Tuesday, February 21, 8pm; \$20-\$35. 21 and up. Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

Chris Hardwick AS SEEN ON: Netflix, NBC, Comedy Central & more! Friday, February 17, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, February 18, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Comedy Inside Candys Wednesdays, 9pm; through Wednesday, June 7, **free**. 21 and up. El Prez, 4190 Mission Boulevard. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Craig Conant AS SEEN ON: Just for Laughs, MTV & more! Thursday, February 16, 8pm; \$15. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Kountry Wayne Friday, February 17, 7:30pm; \$38-\$78. Magnolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Le Cabaret on Grand Thursday, February 16, 8pm; \$15. 18 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Pretty Funny Women Hosted by Lisa Sundstedt. With Bella Tovar, Sapna Iyer, Luz Pazos, Olivia Hill, Lynne Goodman, Carol Johnson, Devon Kane and Angelina Spicer. Wednesday, February 22, 8pm; \$25-\$30. 21 and up. Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

Quinn Dahle With Alfonso Ochoa and Raymond Montoya opening. 2 Item minimum purchase per person (food or drink). Friday, February 17, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, February 18, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; \$17. 21 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Saturday Night Comedy Dog friendly venue. Saturday, February 18, 8pm; **free**-\$10. 21 and up. Bolt Brewing, 8179 Center Street. (LA MESA)

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Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] These mad-cap actors in tights weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's comedies, histories, and tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter. Thursday, February 16, 5:30pm; Friday, February 17, 5:30pm; Saturday, February 18, 2pm and 5:30pm; Sunday, February 19, 2pm; \$25. North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987-D Lomas Santa Fe Drive. (SOLANA BEACH)

DANCE

Brother to Brother Visionary Dance Theatre presents *Brother To Brother*, featuring life experiences from the perspective of men of color in America. Friday, February 17, 7:30pm; Saturday, February 18, 7:30am; \$19-\$24. Move Fitness, 8674 La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

City Ballet of San Diego: Pas de Quatre City Ballet of San Diego for a performance of the Romantic Era ballet – Jules Perrot's *Pas de Quatre* – and other famous duets from the Romantic Era, including the *pas de deux* from *Coppélia* and *Giselle*. Friday, February 17, 7pm; \$50. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

Collage 2023: Dance Matters San Diego Civic Dance Companies present *Collage 2023: Dance Matters*, winner of a Bravo Award for Best Dance Show in San Diego for three years in a row. Friday, February 17, 3pm; Saturday, February 18, 3pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, February 19, 2pm; \$15-\$20. Casa del Prado Theatre, 1600 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Dita Von Teese: Glamontrix Dita Von Teese burlesque show, Glamontrix. Wednesday, February 22, 7:30pm; \$113-\$154. 18 and up. Magnolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Line Dance Class Line Dance Class with Connie & Renee Thursdays, 6pm; through Thursday, February 23, **free**. Comstock Bar and Grill, 316 West Mission Ave., Suite #115. (ESCONDIDO)

Live Arts Fest Featuring this year's winner of the Young Choreographers Showcase & Prize, Marcella Torres-Sanchez, as well as artists Lavina Rich and Holly Clark. Friday,

OUTDOORS

Manzanitas bloom, American robins head west, measure trees

Manzanita Shrubs are Starting to Bloom this Month in the foothill areas of the Cleveland National Forest. The various manzanitas, characterized by smooth, reddish bark and tough, leathery leaves, bear myriads of tiny, white to pinkish-white, urn-shaped blossoms. Large (decades-old) manzanitas can be seen around Julian and in parts of the Cuyamaca Mountains. Along the coast, a similar, but less attractive variant thrives: Mission manzanita.

A Large Number of American Robins are in Southern California, the third largest ever, according to the annual San Diego Christmas Bird Count. They're usually here in small numbers, but



CREDIT: ANDY BEAR GRILLS PARKER

AMERICAN ROBINS ARE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN LARGE NUMBERS THIS WINTER.



CREDIT: JANE BENNETT/UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MANZANITAS OFTEN BLOOM EARLY IN WINTER AND ARE VERY POPULAR WITH BUTTERFLIES AND HUMMINGBIRDS.

because of still snowy conditions in their usual habitats, experts believe they have made their way to Southern California in search of food. Robins are migratory songbirds in the thrush family and can be found all over the North America, including west of the Rockies from Southern Canada to Central Mexico.

Tree Heights Can be Easily Measured this Week if the Sun Shines at Midday. On or near Friday, February 18, at or very near 12 noon, the sun as seen from San Diego County stands at an altitude of 45 degrees above the horizon. Under those conditions, the length of a shadow cast by a vertical tree trunk on a horizontal surface equals the height of that tree trunk. Even if you lack a measuring tape, you can still use your own feet to pace the distance heel-to-toe: the length of an average adult male's shoe sole, for example, is very close to one foot... The moon, just shy of full phase, rises dramatically into the late afternoon eastern sky Thursday, February 17, at around 5:20 pm -- some 20 minutes before the time of sunset.

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.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

25th Annual Fungus Fair Mycophiles, educators, chefs, supportive businesses and dedicated mushroom amateurs, enthusiasts and professionals will gather. Sunday, February 19, 10:30am; **free**. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

AAASRC Black Resistance Panel AAASRC Black Resistance Panel: Local and Global Perspectives

A roundtable discussion will be chaired by Provost Ivan Evans (Eleanor Roosevelt College). Other participants include Wallace Bullcock (writer, educator, historical dramatist, and activist, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse), Assistant Professor Gabriel Bámgbó-πÉÉ (Literature Department), Pierce Flynn (Aesthetic Content & Marketing Group), Lea Marie Ruiz-Ade (AAASRC Board), Eduardo Santana (AAASRC Board), African Studies students, and Distinguished Professor and AAASRC Director Bennetta Jules-Rosette. UCSD Social Science Building, #101 Thursday, February 16, 3:30pm; **free**. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Climate Change & Homelessness Discuss local solutions to climate change and homelessness in San Diego. Wednesday, February 22, 5pm; **free**. Café Coyote, 2461 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

FOR KIDS

Art Club for Children 5-10 This art class is designed for children ages 5-10 at any level and of all backgrounds. The objective is to engage participants in the culture and heritage of Yiddishland through art. Learn: Painting,

drawing, sketching, basic jewelry making, and book making. Class materials are included in the price. Mondays, 3:30pm; through Monday, March 6, \$25-\$210. Yiddishland California, 1128 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

Baby Storytime Enjoy songs, fingerplays, books, and more with your baby. All children are welcome. Geared toward pre-walkers. Tuesdays, 1pm; through Tuesday, December 19, **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Dance Pants Party Recommended for toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary-school age kids, this simple dance program will feature "The Wheels on the Bus," "Baby Shark," and more. This program will be held outdoors. Audience: Recommended for ages 1+. Wednesdays, 10:30am; through Wednesday, February 22, **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Jurassic World: The Exhibition a family-friendly immersive 20,000-square-foot experience. Visitors walk through the world-famous "Jurassic World" gates, explore richly themed environments and encounter life-sized Velociraptors, a Brachiosaurus, and the most fearsome dinosaur of all, the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex. Monday-Sunday, 11am; through

Sunday, April 16, Westfield Mission Valley Center, 1640 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Love on a Leash Enjoy dogs with Love on a Leash. This program is geared toward children ages 6-10. Fridays, 3:30pm; through Friday, May 26, **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

San Diego Symphony Carnival of the Animals Saturday, February 18, 7pm; \$15-\$40. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Ski Camp Week Children participate in energizing fitness games, ninja courses, ziplines, rock climbing, themed fun, gymnastics, music, dancing, and so much more. Each camp program is uniquely designed to keep your children moving and active. Monday, February 20, 9am; \$40-\$75. Affirmations Yoga Studio, 12222 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Toddler & Preschool Storytime Recommended for ages 2-5, this storytime program includes books, songs, games, and early literacy fun. Please note: this program will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Audience: Children Thursdays, 10:30am; through Thursday, February 23, **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

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LECTURES

!Fiesta! History of San Diego's Mexican Restaurants Culinary Historians of San Diego will present *Fiesta! The History of San Diego's Mexican Restaurants*, with Martin Lindsay, in the Neil Morgan Auditorium. Saturday, February 18, 10:30am; **free**. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Coastal Scrub to Garden Fair Balboa Park historian Nancy Carol Carter will describe the richly planted and beautifully maintained grounds of the Exposition, which won praise as a "Garden Fair." This lively program will introduce a wide cast of interesting characters and is illustrated by numerous vintage photographs showing how the Exposition forever changed Balboa Park and influenced horticulture in all of southern California. Thursday, February 16, 7pm; **free**. Water's Edge Faith Community, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. (OCEAN BEACH)

Communicate Less Verbally & More Visually Bruce Heimbach was an architect/project manager for a large local construction firm when he suffered a massive stroke. He developed aphasia and was not able to communicate his basic needs and wants. Over time, Heimbach made a recovery and developed a new outlook on life. Heimbach will share his experience as well as his art and how it

has guided him and shifted his values and priorities. USU Ballroom Wednesday, February 22, 6pm; **free**-\$5. CSU San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Humanitarian Response to the War in Ukraine San Diego World Affairs Council: The Humanitarian Response to the War in Ukraine - speakers from the organization Americans for Ukraine will be presenting. Saturday, February 18, 10am; **free**-\$10. Balboa Park Hall of Nations, 2191 W. Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Nat Geo Live: Life on the Vertical with Mark Synnott Mark Synnott is a big wall rock-climber, he's made legendary first ascents of some of the world's tallest, most forbidding walls. Today, he uses his skills to break scientific ground, reaching incredibly inaccessible environments in search of rare species. Thursday, February 16, 7pm; \$20-\$58. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Native Plants: Connecting Islands of Habitat Emerald Keepers Eco-Lecture Series: Geologist and Master Gardener Mary Berube will teach participants about the ecology of Grand Caribe Shoreline Park and how they can support our local ecosystem with native plants. Wednesday, February 22, 6:30pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

NATURE

Family Discovery Walk: Animals & Tracking Join MTRP Trail Guides for a family-oriented adventure learning to identify the tracks of some of the seldom-seen animals that live in Mission Trails. Meet in the day use parking lot. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, February 18, 1pm; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Guided Bird Walk Join MTRP birders Millie Basden and Cindy Cornelius for a guided bird walk in the eastern side of the park. In winter, many migratory species are present along with resident birds like California Quail. Meet in the Kumeyaay Lake Campground day use parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Walks are canceled if raining. Friday, February 17, 8am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Guided Bird Walk: Beginners Join MTRP birders for a guided bird walk in the eastern side of the park. This bird walk is designed for beginning or newer birdwatchers, but all skill levels are welcome to attend. Meet in the Kumeyaay Lake Campground day use parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, February 18, 8am; **free**.

Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

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. Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays, through February, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Stars at Mission Trails Join members from the San Diego Astronomy Association at the West Sycamore area of MTRP to view the nighttime sky through telescopes. Telescopes provided or bring your own if you have one. Rain or cloudy skies cancel event. Meet in the parking lot at the far east end of Stonebridge Parkway. Friday, February 17, 5:30pm; **free**. West Sycamore - Mission Trails Regional Park, 17160 Stonebridge Parkway. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Winter Migration Bird Walk Docent Mike Gollong will lead the walk and discussion about the variety of species of birds from the north that make the lagoon their home from November to April each year, even a Bald Eagle recently spotted on the trail. Bring binoculars or borrow from the Nature Center. Meet at the Nature Center. Saturday, February 18, 10am; **free**. 18 and up. Batiquitos Lagoon

Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mardi Gras at SeaWorld Enjoy live music and performances including a New Orleans Jazz band, Mardi-Gras processional, Louisiana-inspired laser show, plus multiple performers, colorful costumes, and festive decor. Saturdays, 10am; through Saturday, February 25, \$89-\$109. SeaWorld, 500 Sea World Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

Model Train 3 Rail Special Sale Friday night sale featuring 3 rail, O-gauge trains, prewar, postwar, modern, and track and other parts. There will be a freebie table and a \$1-2 table. There will be a raffle to win a new engine or your choice of cars. Friday, February 17, 5:30pm; **free**. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

SPOKEN WORD

Black Voices/Black Writers A staged reading of the work of classic and contemporary black writers including Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Bil Wright, Audre Lorde, and more. The cast: Rhys Greene, Portia Gregory, and Karole Foreman. Sunday, February 19, 4pm; \$20. First Lutheran Church of San

Diego, 1420 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Motions & Emotions: Filipino American Stories of Healing The event includes an art exhibit and three performances addressing Filipino American intergenerational trauma. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, February 19, \$5-\$20. New Americans Museum, 2825 Dewey Road #102. (LIBERTY STATION)

Storytelling Institute: Learn the Art of Storytelling! The Storytelling Institute, a free six-week course presented by the Storytellers of San Diego, is open to everyone who would like to hone their skills in this ancient art form. The Institute culminates in a storytelling slot for each participant at the San Diego Storytelling Festival at the Coronado Public Library on March 18. Tuesdays, 6:30pm; through Tuesday, March 7, **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

SPORTS & FITNESS

President's Day Weekend Wellness Retreat Accommodations for those attending the two-day retreat will include two nights at The Brick Hotel, easy access to Cococabana Rooftop where the private retreat is held, daily workshops and activities, and a retreat gift bag. Sunday, Febru-



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ONLY IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 24

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ary 19, 3pm; Monday, February 20, 10am; Brick Hotel, 408 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Gulls Home Game Saturday, February 18, 7pm; Sunday, February 19, 5pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

San Diego Legion VS Utah Warriors Saturday, February 18, 7pm; Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

Secrets of South San Diego Bay Bike Tour CA State Park interpreter, Laura Dulin, will be leading a small group of people on a bike tour of the South San Diego Bay. You will learn a little bit about the “secret” history of the area, as well as learning about different little-known animals that live in the bay. Registration required, sign up at link of via laura.dulin@parks.ca.gov Saturdays, 10am; through Thursday, June 1, **free**. 18 and up. Silver Strand State Beach, 5000 Highway 75. (CORONADO)

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.

Anything Goes

The S. S. American is sailing between New York and England with a comically colorful assemblage of passengers. Song, dance, and farcical antics ensue in this hilarious shipboard romp wrapped in one of Cole Porter's most magical scores. Anything Goes is delightful, delicious and de-lovely. “Cole Porter songs and tap-dancing sailors? What's not to love?... The show is so packed with daffy physical shtick, comical dialogue and those still dazzlingly clever Cole Porter lyrics that it's impossible not to surrender.” -The Hollywood Reporter Music & Lyrics by: Cole Porter Original Book by: P.G. Wodehouse, Guy Bolton, Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse New Book by: Timothy Crouse & John Weidman Director: Omri Schein Choreographer: Xavier J. Bush Music Director: Van Angelo. Rating: PG-13 SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE, 4652 MERCURY ST., CLAIREMONT. 858-560-5740. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

Birds of North America

A play about fathers, daughters, and what we choose to see. Birds of North America by Anna Ouyang Moench Directed by Lisa Berger. From one of the writers of Apple TV's hit series, *Severance*, comes a father-daughter story that spans decades in one suburban backyard. John and his daughter Caitlyn are birders. As they scan the skies, looking for elusive birds, the climate and their worlds will change as they struggle to understand the parts of one another that defy understanding. Produced in partnership with the San Diego Audubon Society. Previews: February 5 & 9. Opening Night: February 10. ASL Performance:

February 26.

MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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

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

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATER, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. 7:30PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SUNDAY.

Dita Von Teese: Glamontrix

Dita Von Teese burlesque show, Glamontrix. MAGNOLIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 210 EAST MAIN ST., EL CAJON. 619-440-2277. 7:30PM WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22.

Ensemble: The Musical

A musical about putting on a musical. Ensemble is a new dramedy. TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

The Ferryman

The Tony Award winning Best Play *The Ferryman* by Jez Butterworth will be the first production in the Conrad Prebys Theatre at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center starting January 27. The show takes place in Armagh, 1981 during the heart of The Troubles. The Carney farmhouse in Northern Ireland is a hive of activity with preparations for the annual harvest. A day of hard work on the land and a traditional night of feasting and celebrations lie ahead. But this year they will be interrupted by a visitor. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS.

The High Table

Tara and Leah are planning their perfect wedding: The dresses are chosen, the venue is booked, and the invitations are mailed. But when Tara's Nigerian parents refuse to attend, it's not just the RSVP list that is thrown into question. Meanwhile, suspended in the stars, three of Tara's ancestors are jolted from their rest to decide whether or not to bless her wedding. A hilarious and heartfelt story of lineage and love is played out between the heavens and earth in this debut play from British playwright Temi Wilkey.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Lucky Stiff

Lucky Stiff. A Musical by Ahrens and Flaherty Directed by Kathy Brombacher Harry receives the unexpected news that he has inherited a fortune from his late Uncle Anthony, on the condition that he takes Anthony's dead body on a special trip to Monte Carlo. If Harry fails, the money will go to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn. However, also hot on the tail of Uncle Anthony's money is Rita, Anthony's lover with whom he embezzled \$6 million behind her husband's back. And hot on Rita's trail is her brother Vinnie, who has been blamed for the crime! With mistaken identities, love interests, disguises,



R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Sounds of the '60s, served up with sass and soul.

farcical chases, and an omnipresent corpse, *Lucky Stiff* is an offbeat musical murder mystery. This life-affirming musical will keep you entertained and enthralled as the story of a dead man's holiday is played out in front of your eyes. A co-production with Oceanside Theatre Company. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Neil Simon's Rumors

In 1988, Neil Simon needed to cheer himself up. The solution was a farce in two acts, set in Palisades, that shows a dinner party gone topsy-turvy. An enjoyable romp that has been staged all over the world, this is one of Simon's most celebrated comedies. But it carries a subtle undercurrent of sadness, which becomes clearer when we set it alongside the events of the playwright's life. Rated: PG-13 STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-721-9983. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci

As I made my way up the aisle after the show, I heard a fellow attendee mutter, “Well, that was a bit too cerebral for me.” It was all I could do not to stop and assure him that if he wasn't grinning at what he'd just seen, he was probably too cerebral for it. Yes, the text spoken by the eight actors was taken entirely from the titular notebooks, and yes, the action on stage served as a sort of illustration of those excerpts, and yes, Leonardo Da Vinci is one of the great geniuses of human history. But writer-director Mary Zimmerman hasn't given us Da Vinci the genius; she's given us Da Vinci the man. And small surprise: these aren't his treatises, these are his notebooks, the place where you can find his advice on portrait lighting alongside his complaints about how much his, um, manservant has stolen from him lately. Their presentation here is occasionally profound and insightful, as in the twice-recounted memory of peering into a dark cave as a boy and noticing the simultaneous rise of fear and excitement in his breast. But it's much more frequently funny, a good-natured ribbing of the Great Man. My cerebral theatergoer was most likely trying to follow the talk of force and weight when he should have been paying attention to the actor's hilarious scribbblings on the chalkboard while he spoke.

And maybe he didn't notice when an exhaustive account of bodily proportions got interrupted by one actor's hesitance to have anyone measuring any sort of lengths around his nether regions. But how was he not guffawing at Leonardo's account of how we might make human flight possible, or his petulant treatise on why painters are superior to sculptors (ahem Michaelangelo ahem)? There is beauty in the staging and wonder in the words. But go in looking for laughs, and let the cerebral stuff creep in 'round the edges OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

When I was a boy, I used to visit an elderly neighbor. She liked to listen to a radio station that played what I would come to know as “oldies” — Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, etc. The station's tagline, repeated *ad infinitum*, was “The Music of Your Life.” This was baffling to me, until I got a little older and figured out it was The Music of *Her* Life. The music she had grown up with, swooned over, fallen in love to, wept along with, and which now took her back to those days, so long ago and far away. I thought of her as I soaked in the sonic memory machine that is R-E-S-P-E-C-T: six women taking the audience back, back, way back to songs of the '60s with a little help from the band. Every now and then, we hear a bit of biography or a dollop of history: Buffy Sainte-Marie's “Universal Soldier” even gets some politically-tinged backstory. But for the most part, there's no narrative here, just time passing, from Lesley Gore and “teen-pan alley” up through Joni Mitchell's “Woodstock,” with chronological detours here and there to highlight particular artists (The Supremes, Dionne Warwick, songwriter Laura Nyro). And as the title might indicate, Aretha gets to close the show with “the #1 song of all time as ranked by *Rolling Stone*.” The theatrical magic comes from the performers' embodiment of so many different artists — not just the vocal invocations, though they are impressive, but hair, makeup, movement, manner. They get help from the artists themselves, whose images are projected bigly on the beaded backdrop. It probably helps if you know most of the songs, since very few of them are presented *in toto*. It probably helps

even more if you *lived* with them, if they were The Music of Your Life. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATER, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, 619-437-6000. CALL FOR SHOWTIMES.

Under a Baseball Sky

From José Cruz González, author of American Mariachi, comes a Globe-commissioned story about baseball's deep roots in the Mexican American community. When troublemaker Teo is put to work cleaning up a vacant lot belonging to his elderly neighbor, this unlikely pair forms a bond forged in history and America's pastime. Inspired by San Diego's Logan Heights neighborhood, and directed by Globe Resident Artist James Vásquez, this world premiere celebrates communities and individuals coming together to find hope, healing, love, and the occasional home run. OLD GLOBE - SHERYL & HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]

The Theatre School @ North Coast Rep presents a wild twist on Shakespeare, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* [revised] as its next student production. All 37 plays in 97 minutes. These madcap actors in tights weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's comedies, histories, and tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 5:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 5:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

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.

M3GAN — Her gave us a female AI that gradually lost interest in her human user because he was so limited. It was a sad experience. *Ex Machina*

gave us a female AI that gradually grew to hate her human user because he was so limiting. It was a frightening experience. But *M3GAN* gives us a female AI that doesn't discard or hate her human user, because her whole raison d'être is to take care of her. And despite its sad setup — a little girl loses her parents in a car crash — and a smattering of frightening moments, it is first and foremost a fun experience. Machine learning may one day be the death of us all, but we're still far enough out from the Rise of the Machines to indulge a wry chuckle at the prospect. Pretty roboticist Gemma (Allison Williams) is a victim of her own genius: the “smart toy” she's built — essentially, a pet that never dies and can talk — is getting dinged in the marketplace by a cheaper, dumber knockoff. Her boss wants her go lower, but that's not how geniuses operate. She's got something really special in mind, but then life dumps a just-orphaned niece in her lap, and the deadline is looming. But wait! What if her new invention is just what a grieving little girl needs? Someone to be with her, to console her...to protect her from the mean dog next door. There's nary a surprise in sight plotwise (and while we're at it, blessedly few jump scares); what's unexpected is how human, and even funny, the story of a robot girl gone rogue manages to be. 2023. 2022. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Missing — There's a story in this followup to 2018's *Searching* — a film in which the father of a missing girl decides to play cybersleuth and learns just how much he doesn't know about his daughter. And it's a pretty clever inversion of the original: this time, it's the parent who's missing, and instead of realizing she wasn't as close to family as she thought, distraught daughter June (Storm Reid, winsome) has to wrestle with how she's pushed her mother away. (Mom's final “I love you” text before going silent didn't even rate a heart emoji in reply, just a tepid like.) Or at least, she has to feel bad about it while she's doing the real work of the movie, which is to dazzle and delight the viewer with her internet savvy and quick thinking as the film itself finds ways to put its whole world on a computer screen. Photo Booth and Face Time give us the user/protagonist, while a host of social media apps and streaming video services provide the rest: Instagram, the Ring doorbell cam, tourist-town view cams, security cams, etc. June's frantic bounce from Notes to Mail to Google to errand service site to this, that, and the other is both delightful and dizzying, and that works to *Missing*'s advantage, because it keeps you from feeling too many feelings or asking too many questions, especially once the revelations start. Again, the drama is not the point: *Searching*'s dad went looking for his little girl and learned the awful truth that he's looking for a stranger; *Missing*'s little girl goes looking for Mom and learns the lovely truth that she's been loved all along. The horror has to come from outside that dynamic, and when it does, it's just not as gut-wrenching. But if a sequel's job is to do the original one bigger, then mission accomplished. (Points also for the swipe at the ghoulish rise of real-time true-crime.) 2023. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Alila Marea Beach Resort:
Friday, 5pm — Nathan Welden.
Saturday, 5pm — Farrah Camu.

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
Saturday, 6pm — Freddie Walton.

Beaumont's:
Saturday, 9pm — Jetpack Mojo.
\$5-\$10.

Bellamy's Restaurant:
Thursday, 6pm — Jake Taylor Smith.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, 8pm — The Lone Bellow. \$27-\$48.
Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Karl Denson's Tiny Universe. \$30-\$53.
Sunday, 8pm — Kitchen Dwellers and Lindsay Lou. \$18-\$32.
Monday, 8pm — Ace Frehley. \$45-\$79.
Wednesday, 8pm — Eric Hutchinson. \$25-\$44.

Brick by Brick:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Early Moods. \$10-\$15.
Friday, 7pm — Wacken Metal Battle Round 1. \$12-\$15.
Saturday, 7pm — Wacken Metal Battle Round 2. \$12-\$15.
Sunday, 8pm — Nite and Persekutor. \$10-\$12.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Rotting Christ and Carach Angren. \$25-\$30.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Tsunami Bomb and Death By Stereo. \$20-\$25.

Casbah:
Thursday, 8pm — Bass Drum of Death. \$20.
Friday, 8pm — Emo Nite. \$16.
Saturday, 8pm — Madonna &

Siouxsie Dance Party. \$8.
Sunday, 8pm — Deke Dickerson and Nashville Ramblers. \$15.
Monday, 8pm — Daring Greatly. \$12.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Falling Doves, Band of Wolves, CircaSonic.
Wednesday, 8pm — The Messthetics, James Brandon Lewis. \$18-\$20.

Comstock Bar and Grill:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Still Around Band. Free.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
Thursday, 6pm — Keep On Duckin'.
Friday, 7pm — The Martens & Silphos.

Duke's La Jolla:
Sunday, 4pm — Jehua Evans.
Tuesday, 4pm — Farrah Camu.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
Saturday, 6pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.
Wednesday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar:
Friday, 6pm — Tyler F. Simmons.

Farmer & the Seahorse:
Thursday, 4:30pm — DevvLov.

Friday, 4:30pm — TJ Moss.
Sunday, 11am — Sean McCole.

Garage Kitchen + Bar:
Friday, 7pm — Adam Bergoch.

House of Blues:
Friday, 7:30pm — Rockero Night. \$15-\$65.
Saturday, 7pm — A Flock of Seagulls and Strangelove. \$41-\$80.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Kenia Os. \$44-\$54.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Friday, 5pm — Brian Jones Rock 'n' Roll Revival. Free.

L'Auberge Del Mar:
Saturday, 7pm — Johnny Martin.
Sunday, 11am — Jesse Johnson.

La Jolla Woman's Club:
Wednesday, 7pm — Preservationist Jazz Band Fundraiser. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, 5:30pm — Kristi Krause.
Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, 6pm — Dalton Gazette.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:
Friday, 7pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.
Saturday, 7pm — Sean McCole.

Madam Bonnie's:
Thursday, 7pm — Ghost Jazz



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(The Tonight Show, Comedy Central)
Alfonso Ochoa • Raymond Montoya
Fri, 2/17 @6:30pm & 8:30pm
Sat, 2/18 @6:30pm & 8:30pm



AMIR K
(MADtv, Comedy Central)
Louie Centani • Kane Holloway
Fri, 2/24 @6:30pm & 8:30pm
Sat, 2/25 @6:30pm & 8:30pm



PETE GEORGE
(National Headliner)
Mary Upchurch • Rene Lancaster
Fri, 3/3 @6:30pm & 8:30pm
Sat, 3/4 @6:30pm & 8:30pm
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Fri, 2/17
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Sat, 2/18
PLEASURE DEVICE
Tuberosa
Moe n' The Failure • Wookalars
Mon, 2/20
LADY DOTTIE & THE DIAMONDS
Tue, 2/21
SOMETHING FUNKY
Funk, Jazz, Blues, Soul, & Boogaloo
Thu, 2/23
CREDIT ELECTRIC
Michael Montano • Lee Wires
Fri, 2/24
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the inside track
blurt

A new one from half of Mattson 2 San Diego's Jared Mattson has a new solo album, *Peanut*; it represents a bold step away from his work with twin brother Jonathan in Mattson 2. But as Jared testifies, he had to deal with certain legal entanglements

who were kinda bullies, but we had other kids our age we'd cruise with. Lots of parks and pools. I think we just wanted to play *Mega Man* all day. Then we moved to Cardiff near Santa Fe, so we were right next to the barrio. Working class families, very surfy vibes.



Jared Mattson prefers melody over message.

first. "When we sold out the Casbah for the first time, we were, like, 'Okay, we can die happy now.' Then Jonathan had a fun altercation with a fan. The guy was trying to talk to him while my bro was playing — trolling him, criticizing our music. Jonathan harnessed his Irish strength, pushed the guy away, and threw a drumstick at him. The audience applauded Jonathan. Two of our friends grabbed the guy and escorted him out. He was yelling, 'I'm a lawyer, I'm a lawyer, get your hands off me!' Those two friends of ours who grabbed him...were also lawyers."

Jared and Jonathan arrived into the world at Hillcrest's Mercy Hospital. After that, "age zero to two, I lived on Melrose behind Juanita's. All I remember there was spilling root beer on the carpet, and a grubby hermit-type dude who would walk around the block with a snake wrapped around his neck. I also lived in Village Park. Typical suburban working class vibe. I think the house was haunted. Our street had rough older kids

A few blocks away was the Mexican neighborhood. Lots of epic legendary food and skate spots in that zone. Now I live way out in the bourgeois cut in Rancho Santa Fe. So I've had the pleasure of seeing all different vibes."

Mattson has gone from early gigs at Cardiff's Miracles Café, when the twins were all of 15, to sharing a stage with Toro Y Moi (whose label in releasing *Peanut*) at North Park Observatory. The duo met Bono at a wedding in Bel Air. "He was so nice, and he really liked our music. He called us 'great singers.' That was significant, since, at that time, we were 100% instrumental. Playing a punk club in Sau Paulo Brazil was incredible. Ravenous fans, as you could imagine. Sold out room. Some fans had to prop their legs on stage to hold Jonathan's bass drum up. Because our music had no vocals and was pretty diverse, they thought we were Brazilian. Got shot at in El Paso while in the tour van. The bullet entered the passenger mirror and grazed the whole side of the car. Smelled like burnt rubber."

For *Peanut*, Jared left Jonathan and almost everyone else behind, recording in his own cabin and overdubbing most of the parts. He'd already gone through different guitar styles, and these sessions found him communing with Aswad, Burning Spear, and Andy Summers' work with The Police. "Go minimal," he enthuses. "No thick chords. The guitar should be the farthest thing from importance. Which was an exorcism for me in a way. Don't get me wrong: there are hero guitar

moments. But in so many of my songs, I use three-note sparse chords. In reggae, they'll use two-note chords super high up. They are masters at separating the mids, highs, and bass. [I used] a drum machine. Strong bass line. Minimal

guitar. I wanted it to be really sparse at moments, and really lush" at others.

He generally sings in English, but branched out for the new set. "I sang in Japanese for the track 'Please Come Here,' because I love Japan. I got my friend Yusuke Hanai to help make sense of it. At [one] point, where it's gibberish, the melody and the sonic quality take the power, rather than the lyrical message. I've always been more interested in melody and sound than the actual things people are saying."

"I think this record will keep me busy," he concludes. "I want to tour a lot for it. I already have another solo record finished. Mattson 2 has a new album that we want to shop around. The music on it excites me so much. Our immediate plans for the future with M2 is to get back on the road and hit all the cities in North America with Paul Cherry."

— Andrew Hamlin

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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

THE GONZO REPORT

A fine time at the Guggenheim

A true listening room makes its first joyful noise

Everything was going my way, including a cancer-free pathology report that finally came just hours before this event: the inaugural concert at the newly constructed Park & Market. It felt like I'd been waiting forever for both. I first heard about this planned "Black Box" theater some years ago. I salivated over the notion of a venue that would both house a million-dollar high-tech sound system and serve as a multipurpose hub that could welcome conferences and lectures in addition to performances. It's taken some time to get to the public concert phase (they opened last May), but the venue — now christened the Guggenheim Room, thanks to the

generosity of philanthropists David and Claire Guggenheim — debuted its opening "Intersections" concert series on January 27.

Thanks to a battered truck that leaks oil like the Keystone pipeline, I opted to arrive by Uber and hope that I could find a friendly soul from whom I could hitch a ride home. To call the building impressive is a considerable understatement: it's huge, coming in at more than 60,000 square feet. As I approached the Market Street entrance, I was struck by the heft of the 10-foot-high glass doors. The split-level first floor takes up the bulk of a city block, and you could probably land a Cessna in the Forum Lobby. There is a gorgeous winding hardwood staircase that leads to the Digital Gym Cinema on the second floor. The ceiling is high enough to induce vertigo, but I noticed that the entire building was eerily quiet. I had arrived early to get a tour with Mr. Waltz, and I mentioned the sonics, which, given the preponderance of hard surfaces, should have been bouncing soundwaves like a spastic basketball in an empty hallway. Waltz pointed to the thick, sound-absorbent foam on the underside of the structural elements as a mitigating factor.

Back downstairs, we headed to the Guggenheim Room, which was already starting to fill up. It's a spacious 3400-square-foot rectangle



Irving Flores: an infectious sense of groove.

with high ceilings. Up above, I spotted a series of intersecting girders and trusses that housed the elaborate lighting system. Dead center on the slightly elevated stage stood a baby grand Yamaha piano, with a pair of Shure KSM 137 microphones positioned about four feet above the open lid on boom stands. The mics fed into a large mixing desk on the north side of the room. It looked like the console from the Starship Enterprise. The audience was a mix of Boomers and Gen X-ers, and by my count, about 30 percent of them were wearing masks,

which I found oddly reassuring. The room itself was wonderfully quiet. It seats around 200, and I noticed that there were fewer than a half-dozen empty chairs. Even though the music had yet to start, the drone of nervous conversation was nearly nonexistent.

The Intersections series is the brainchild of Andrew Waltz in collaboration with violinist and polymath Yale Strom. The opening concert combined the talents of three virtuoso pianists from differing genres: Joshua White, Tina Chong, and Irving Flores. White began with one long continuous medley that referenced everything from Wayne Shorter's "Nefertiti" to the chestnut "You Are My Sunshine." He would launch from languid pastels into sudden maelstroms of hyper-kinetic energy and then bring the audience back down again. A friend on the other side of the room told me later that she felt herself levitating during the performance.

Tina Chong displayed some serious virtuosity from an entirely different perspective. Most impressive was her distillation of Beethoven's sixth piano concerto. Next up was Irving Flores, whose hyper-velocity never wavered from an infectious sense of groove. At that point, I maneuvered from my seat to head to the restroom. I was stunned when I entered the Forum

(continued on page 22)

Find The Gonzo Report online at sandiegoreader.com/gonzo

THU. FEB. 16 EARLY MOODS Tyranis		SAT. FEB. 25 NU METAL NIGHT Celebrating your favorite bands of the nu metal era
FRI. FEB. 17 WACKEN METAL BATTLE Gravity Grave, Fadrait, The Oathbreakers, Maskerratt, Parasitic Existence, Drillbit, Mister Fister		TUE. FEB. 21 ROTTING CHRIST Carach Angren, UADA, Gaerea
SAT. FEB. 18 WACKEN METAL BATTLE The Bastard Saints, Druide, Cranial Detriment, Corpsemaker, California Villain, Godhammered, Corpus	WED. FEB. 22 TSUNAMI BOMB & DEATH BY STEREO The Hammerbombs	THU. MAR. 2 THE SPILL CANVAS Arms Akimbo, Sleep it off
SUN. FEB. 19 NITE Persekutor, Salacious, Belialth	THU. FEB. 23 DIZZY REED'S HOOKERS & BLOW Murder of Five	FRI. MAR. 3 HE FILMS THE CLOUDS I Sank Atlantis, The Undertaking, Good For Nothing

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San Diego Symphony to start pulling stops

The San Diego Symphony has announced their 2023-2024 Jacobs Masterwork Series. This season promises to be a turning point in the organization's evolution under CEO Martha Gilmer. The most obvious element is the grand opening of the revitalized Copley Symphony Hall at The Jacobs Music Center. In recognition of this \$125 million project, the symphony claims to be pulling out all the stops. Let's look and see if all the stops will indeed be pulled.

It doesn't take long to confirm that this is a stop-pulling season. I need look no further than Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27, 2024, when the symphony will be performing Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7*, with music director

Rafael Payare conducting. Bruckner was the greatest organist of his day and knew all about pulling out all the stops. This inclusion of this symphony alone makes the season a victory for yours truly.

The second weekend of the season has a little piece known as Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 2: The Resurrection*. You may have heard of this one. It's a goliath of the symphonic repertoire, and features something called The San Diego Symphony Festival Choir. This is a huge development. For decades, The San Diego Master Chorale has been the *de facto* chorus for the symphony. What is this new Festival Choir? Is it incorporating the Master Chorus? I'm more than

intrigued, and will be looking for more information on this topic.

Also making an appearance is Antonin Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9: From the New World*. It feels as though the last time the symphony performed this piece, Dave Mustaine of Megadeth was the featured soloist — back in 2014 or so. It also feels as if the symphony has done Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8* at least nine times since then. I am looking forward to revisiting the new world.

There is one concert that almost seems like it's too much. That concert offers both Jean Sibelius's *Violin Concerto* and Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6: Pathétique*. Holy hell. This is the Batman and Robin of post-Romanticism. San Diego's



Rafael Payare knows what he's about.

Augustin Hadelich will be performing the Sibelius.

Moving on down the line, we get Richard Wagner's *Ring Without Words*, as arranged by Lorin Maazel. Maazel has taken Wagner's 14-hour Norse epic and boiled it down to just over an hour of music. That's still a great big piece of music.

The final concert I'd like to mention will take place on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

This is a "Masterworks Special Event." Ya, no kidding. The concert consists of Siegfried's funeral music from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*, Edward Elgar's *Cello Concerto* with Yo-Yo Ma, and then Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*.

I think we can confirm that all the stops have been pulled. Oh, and Michael Tilson Thomas is going to conduct in 2024 as well.

Classical Music this week

Aris Quartett Founded in 2009 in Frankfurt am Main, the quartet has performed on the world's great stages. MOZART String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 "Dissonance" MENDELSSOHN String Quartet No. 6 in F Minor, Op. 80 GRIEG String Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 27 Sunday, February 19, 3pm; \$43. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue.

SACRA/PROFANA: Beauty Reimagined Contemporary choral music including works by Morten Lauridsen, Jonathan Dove, Toby Hession, and San Diego composer Jasper Sussman. This concert will also be the West Coast premiere of "Verum Corpus" (True Body) by Saunder Choi. Friday, February 17, 7pm; \$10-\$30. St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street.

San Diego Opera: The Puccini Duo *The Puccini Duo* brings to life two great Puccini one-act operas. Suor Angelica tells the story of a woman who bears a child out of wedlock and is sent to a convent for penance. The comic-opera Gianni Schicchi begins with the death of wealthy Florentine Buoso Donati, and his distraught family who are upset about being

forgotten in his will. Making a welcome return for these performances is mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, who will sing the role of the Principessa in Suor Angelica, and will take on the title role of Gianni Schicchi, a role traditionally sung by a baritone. Directed by Paul Curran and conducted by Yves Abel. Sung in Italian with projected English translations. Run

time is 1 hour and 55 minutes, including one 20 minute intermission. Friday, February 17, 7:30pm; Sunday, February 19, 2pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

San Diego Symphony Carnival of the Animals Saturday, February 18, 7pm; \$15-\$40. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Farmer & the Seahorse: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Puro Feeling. Friday, Feb. 24 — Puro Feeling.

Garage Kitchen + Bar: Friday, Feb. 24 — Adam Bergoch. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Adam Bergoch.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: Saturday, Feb. 25 — 3 Car Garage.

L'Auberge Del Mar: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Jemille Viale. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Sarah Ingraham. Sunday, Feb. 26 — Kristi Krause.

La Jolla Community Center: Friday, Feb. 24 — Fourth Friday Jazz Series. \$25-\$35.

La Valencia Hotel: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Brian Pierini.

Friday, Feb. 24 — Keni Yarbro. Sunday, Feb. 26 — Jackie Foster.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort: Friday, Feb. 24 — Jason Mann. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Dalton Gazette.

Madam Bonnie's: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Frankly Swingin' Band. Free. Friday, Feb. 24 — Andrea Loraine Jazz Quintet. Free. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Mar Picao. Free.

Mission Bay Resort: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Gabriele Dagrezio.

Friday, Feb. 24 — Israel Maldonado. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Joanna Gerolaga. Sunday, Feb. 26 — Michael LeClerc.

Moonshine Beach: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Josh Ward.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Free Martinis. Friday, Feb. 24 — Circasonic. Free. Saturday, Feb. 25 — 2lil2late.

Music Box: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Almost Monday. \$20. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Taylor Party. \$17-\$140. Sunday, Feb. 26 — One Drop Redemption.

Observatory North Park: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Thy Art Is Murder. \$25. Friday, Feb. 24 — Magic City Hippies. \$25. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Emotional Oranges. \$60-\$154. Sunday, Feb. 26 — Epik High.

One Paseo: Saturday, Feb. 25 — Sounds & Sips. Free.

Pal Joey's: Friday, Feb. 24 — West of 5. Free.

Panama 66: Sunday, Feb. 26 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Pechanga Arena San Diego: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Ana Gabriel. \$61-\$171.

Petco Park: Friday, Feb. 24 — Rezz. \$65-\$200. Saturday, Feb. 25 — DeadMau5. \$65-\$200.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: Friday, Feb. 24 — One Night of Queen. Saturday, Feb. 26 — Cenicienta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story.

Seabird: Sunday, Feb. 26 — Keni Yarbro.

Seaport Village: Saturday, Feb. 25 — Baxter Simpson. Free.

Side Yard: Saturday, Feb. 25 — Jemille Viale.

Soda Bar: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Weapons of Mass Creation. \$18. Friday, Feb. 24 — Strokes Nite IV. \$12.

THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 21

Lobby to see (and hear) Mr. Flores again, this time on the huge LED wall facing Market Street. The visual effects were mindboggling, and the sound was of the highest fidelity.

There are concerts scheduled at the Guggenheim Room for the rest of the year, including Indian *tabla* virtuoso Samir Chatterjee on February 16 and flamenco guitarist Adam Del Monte on March 10. As a music critic, I'm all about true listening rooms, which are exceedingly rare. And I have to say, based on this experience, the Guggenheim Room at UC San Diego Park & Market is a hit. I was even able to hitch a ride back up the hill into North Park with Joshua White, saving me from shelling out for another inflated Friday night fare. ■

Saturday, Feb. 25 — Kristine Leschper (fka Mothers). \$18.

Soma: Saturday, Feb. 25 — Lucki & Eem Triplin. \$37.

Sound: Saturday, Feb. 25 — Big Gigantic. \$59.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre: Friday, Feb. 24 — Tito Puente Jr. & his Latin Jazz Orchestra. \$39-\$49.

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park: Friday, Feb. 24 — Ordinary Elephant. \$15-\$18.

Til-Two Club: Friday, Feb. 24 — Sleepy Hollow, Plenum, Machine Politik. \$8.

University of California San Diego: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Afro-Caribbean Dance & Drumming Workshop. Free.

Waterbar: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Jackie Foster.

Westfield University Towne Centre: Thursday, Feb. 23 — Ben Benavente. Friday, Feb. 24 — Joanna Gerolaga. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Mike Myrdal.

Winstons Beach Club: Friday, Feb. 24 — Joe Marcinek Band. \$12. Saturday, Feb. 25 — Electric Waste Band. \$15. Tuesday, Feb. 28 — El Ticket. Free.

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Happy lumpia hunting

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Lia's Lumpia wraps up a world of food favorites

Lia's Lumpia; 2219 Logan Ave., Barrio Logan. After too long, I finally caught up to Lia's Lumpia. As a food truck, it's repeatedly eluded me: starting service after I'd left a food truck park, or ending service before I showed up at a brewery where it was booked for the day. That's how it goes sometimes: food trucks are always on the move, working limited hours, and the same could be said about me.

Fortunately, Lia's Lumpia is no longer just a food truck. Now, it's a storefront in Barrio Logan, with regular hours. Week in, week

but Hunter really caught my attention by telling me the truck's options included lumpia filled with mac 'n cheese. After each of my failed attempts to catch up with the truck, I lamented the fact my first taste of mac 'n cheese lumpia would have to wait.

It's not *all* fusion, of course, and before I tried anything else I wanted to get a baseline sample of Lia's always-available, traditional lumpia. They measured something like 7 or 8 inches long, or about twice as long as any lumpia I'd tried before, and combined minced beef, pork, and vegetables — mostly meat. The serving of eight for \$12 filled me up much faster than expected, and had a vaguely hot dog-like flavor.

Once I had my baseline, I could move to the fusion, where things got interesting. Keep an eye on the monthly specials, and you'll see that Lia's Lumpia puts a broad array of cherished regional dishes inside its lumpia wrappers. I've noted ramen lumpia, loaded with noodles, bok choy, and seared pork belly. At times, there have been carne asada fries lumpia, spam musubi lumpia, and soul food lumpia packed with pulled pork, dirty rice, and collard greens. In the run-up to this year's Super Bowl between the Chiefs and the Eagles, the shop offered Kansas City BBQ lumpia and a Philly cheesesteak lumpia of ribeye, cheese, and grilled peppers.

These lumpia specials are more standard length but extra fat, to fit in more filling goodness (eight for \$15). The same goes for the \$11 order of mac 'n cheese lumpia, which proved worth the long wait. It's not the most decadent mac 'n cheese, but the fried roll motif lends the dish more structure and purpose than all the fried mac appetizers I've tried.

In this new location, the menu has expanded beyond egg rolls to include the likes of smash burgers, wings, Filipino styled tacos, and desserts — including fired dough *malasadas*, which are sort of Portuguese donut holes, served with a drizzle of ube syrup (\$8 for a dozen). Meanwhile, the food truck remains parked and ready to cater behind the little converted house Lia's Lumpia now calls home.

They've picked up where mobile kitchens necessarily leave off and made their brick-and-mortar biz homey inside, with sofas and easy chairs and a hodgepodge of standard table seating. Better still is the spacious front yard, where the eclectic seating continues with a mix of bistro tables, fire tables, and counter seating set up along a shaded front porch. It's a prime position from which to watch Logan Avenue street life pass by, every Thursday through Sunday.

by Ian Anderson



A fixed location for the food truck Lia's Lumpia.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Fat Tuesday Party Celebrate the spirit of Mardi Gras at the Rooftop Bar with fresh Beignets and a Shrimp Creole as you mix and mingle. Tuesday, February 21, 2pm; Mission Pacific Hotel, 201 North Myers Street. (OCEANSIDE)

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)

Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Valentine Party Friday, February 17, 6pm; \$29-\$30. 21 and up. American Junkie, 628 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Dim Sum Tour Enjoy a walking tour through the heart of Asia-town and end at a popular Asian supermarket. Trip length 1-2 miles. Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 31, \$69. Jasmine Seafood Restaurant, 4609 Convoy St., Suite A. (KEARNY MESA)

San Diego Magazine Cocktail Kickoff Signature alcohol brands compete to make the fan-favorite cocktail of the afternoon with live music, food trucks & more at a pre-game in honor of the San Diego Legion's first game. Saturday, February 18, 1:30pm; \$55-\$65. 21 and up. Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)



Traditional lumpia, and mac 'n cheese lumpia.

out, I know exactly when and where to find it.

I've been wanting to try Lia's Lumpia for nearly three years now, ever since a chance encounter with founding chef Spencer Hunter and his mother Benelia Santos-Hunter (also known as the namesake Lia). In early 2020, they were fresh off an appearance on the TV show, *The Great Food Truck Race*, and gearing up to take their brand of lumpia to San Diego's streets. And a big part of that brand — reflecting Hunter's own mixed heritage — was fusion.

I'd have tried the lumpia either way,



The Lia's Lumpia food truck, as seen on the TV show, *The Great Food Truck Race*.

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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

20Twenty at Westin Carlsbad: *Tuesday-Friday, 4:30-6:00 pm:* \$2 off wells, signature cocktails, and wines by the glass. \$10 off cheese and charcuterie.

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

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

CARMEL VALLEY

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

BOOZE NEWS

BY MATTHEW FLYNN

New beer from old wine grape skins

"HBC are the same folks that developed Mosaic, Citra, Loral, Sabro, and Talus," says Jeremy Moynier, Stone Brewing Sr. Manager of Innovation and Supply Chain, when discussing the brewery's partnership with Hop Breeding Company. He continues, "We are very involved in hop research and hop exploration. We walk the fields with breeders every harvest and give feedback on experimental varieties that they have planted. We also do a lot of trialing on our

pilot brew systems of these varieties in development, and will send beer and sensory data back to the breeders, growers, and vendors. It lets us experiment with new hops, and in turn, gives good feedback to those developing these newer hops. We have used several HBC hops over the years in many of our beers."

The most recent selection from this partnership is 843, an experimental hop used in Stone's upcoming Patio Magic Double IPA. According to Moynier, 843's attributes are orange, berry (especially strawberry and raspberry), floral, and wood notes. And though it's being used for a double IPA in this case, Moynier suggests that 843 could also work well in a lager or stout — though he has yet to try that. The new hop is combined with



Stone gets experimental with Patio Magic

Mosaic, plus Southern Aroma hops from South Africa, which add notes of passion fruit and lychee.

In addition to its hop profile, Patio Magic boasts another unique ingredient: Phantasm. "This is our first commercial release with Phantasm, a grape skin extract from New Zealand," explains Moynier. "White wine grapes are pressed off of the skins, and those can be thrown away or worked back into the soil, but here they are used to develop this innovative addition to beer. Phantasm contains Thiol precursors" — compounds that produce many of the desirable fruit characteristics also found in hops — "and when used with certain yeasts and hops, they can really intensify the flavor and

aroma experience. Phantasm is fairly new," he

notes, "and we started trialing it over the summer last year." Made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes, Phantasm contributes a juicy flavor and aromas of passion fruit and guava.

Patio Magic's recipe features a simple malt bill, meant to let the hops, orange peel, and Phantasm come to the forefront. The result is a complex 8.8% ABV double IPA with flavors of citrus blossom honey, mango, cherry cordial, white wine, and papaya. On the nose, Patio Magic boasts hints of candied orange, mango, dank, floral, strawberry, and guava. The beer is a limited release, hitting shelves and taps on February 27. It joins another Stone limited release, 9 Minutes to Midnight Black IPA, which is part of Stone's One Batch Dispatch program. The latest one-off release is a double dry-hopped Imperial black IPA, which has a small portion of Stone's 25th Anniversary Triple IPA aged in whiskey barrels blended in for good measure.

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

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

Vogue Tavern: *Monday-Friday, 3-5pm:* \$5 all draft beer pints, well cocktails, Patron shots, micheladas, Jameson shots, burgers, kielbasa sandwiches. *Sunday, 9-11pm:* \$5 all draft beer pints, well cocktails, Patron shots, micheladas, Jameson shots, burgers, kielbasa sandwiches.

CITY HEIGHTS

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

CLAIREMONT

Vinya: vino + vinyasa: *Monday-Saturday, 4-6pm:* \$2 off glasses, \$6 pints, \$10 off bottles *Sunday, 4-6pm:* \$2 off glasses, \$6 pints, \$10 off bottles.

CORONADO

Brigantine Coronado: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$1 off all draft beer, well drinks, and featured wine by the glass, \$4 sparkling wine glass.

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

DEL MAR

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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Asti Ristorante: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$5 beers, \$7 house wine and cocktails, bites from \$5.

Carnitas' Snack Shack — Embarcadero: *Tuesday, 3pm-5pm:* \$8 well drinks, \$10 craft cocktails, \$2 off all draft beers. Three tacos for \$13 all day.

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

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

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

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

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

Tin Roof San Diego: *Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm:* Half off all spirits and draft beer

The Tippy Crow: *Monday-Thursday, 3-8pm:* Drink exchange (prices vary). *Friday-Saturday, Noon-8pm:* Drink exchange (prices vary).

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.

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

HILLCREST

Tacaliente: *Monday, 4-8pm:* \$3 beers. *Tuesday, All day* \$3 beers. *Wednesday, All day* \$10 marinated wings with beer. 4-8pm: \$3 beers. *Thursday, All day* \$5 beers, \$8 micheladas. 4-8pm: \$3 beers. *Friday, All day* \$15 carne asada fries and a beer. 4-8pm: \$3 beers. *Saturday, All day* \$3 Sangria glass. 4-8pm: \$3 beers. *Sunday, All day* \$10 street taco and michelada. 4-8pm: \$3 beers.

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.

LA MESA

Brigantine La Mesa: *Daily, 3:30-6:30pm:* \$1 off well drinks, drafts, featured wines, \$4 glass sparkling wine, \$5.75 margaritas, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine.

LITTLE ITALY

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

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

NORMAL HEIGHTS

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

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

The Joint: *Monday, Thursday, 2-6pm:* \$5 all local drafts. *Tuesday, 2-6pm:* \$5 all local IPAs. *Wednesday, 2-6pm:* Rotating \$4 draft selection. *Saturday, 11am-2:45pm:* \$7 bottles of bubbles and OJ with brunch entree. *Sunday, 2-6pm:* \$7 bottles of bubbles and OJ with brunch entree.

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, .*

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 Pearl: *Monday-Tuesday, 4-6pm:* \$4 select beers, \$5 well drinks, \$6 house wine, half off specialty cocktails. *Wednesday, 4-6pm:* 4-6pm: \$4 select beers, \$5 well drinks, \$6 house wine, half off specialty drinks. *Thursday-Saturday, 4-6pm:* \$4 select beers, \$5 well drinks, \$6 house wine, half off specialty drinks.

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.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Rare Society: *Wednesday-Sunday, 5-6pm:* \$5 drafts, \$8 select wines and select cocktails. \$16 half-dozen oysters, \$32 one dozen oysters, other food specials.

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PERSONALS

EARTH TO HECTOR Meow meow meow... paaahhhrr. I love you XO XO call me Smokey (619) 513-5236

HOW DOES IT FEEL SNAIL TRAIL... to leave your mark on the landscaping... too bad that's all you have.

THE LORD IS GOOD to those who serve him. If you don't know Jesus or have a relationship with him, ask him to come into your heart and believe, and though shall be saved, Romans 3:16. For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son, for whosoever believed in me to not perish but have ever lasting life.

TO BE REMEMBERED with respect and not senseless violence, 1001 crosses in Memphis, anonymous, doves be upon you, note to Mississippi blvd. Peace.

BEULAH, I'm watching Alex and Skippy.

DEAR JOE It's still you. I don't know when it won't be. I miss you and I love you.

CHUBBY I'll always love you... but I hate you. I wish it could have been different. Your back-seat b.

BEULAH, It's Friday and I don't have a job.

REMEMBER THE HB RACES? I wonder if you bother reading these still? I know my T DAWG will see it. HB relay races champs! What Up Daaawg! You think pan face will see this? ha ha ha Spock! How ya Like Me NOW? kelleycando@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

NOTICES

PSYCHIC READINGS Star reads by phone or Skype only. She's read Tarot and Angel cards for over 40 years. Let her help you. rb.gy/uqyprz star@indigo-chakrahealing.com

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CLASSES / LESSONS

THE ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP 2023 Winter Conference taking place from February 26th to March 5th. More details: rb.gy/uyejn7. If you have questions, please contact us: trfcorporate@gmail.com. God bless you! (760) 757-6600

DO YOU WONDER ABOUT LEMURIA? Discover the Mystery of Lemuria and its Ancient Wisdom Teachings based on Universal Laws. Bring more success and satisfaction into your relationships, career and daily life. All this begins when you ask for a Free Brochure. www.lemurianfellowship.org/freebrochure

LEARN TO SEW A HOODIE! Sew your own hoodie this February 12, 19, 26 from 1-4pm. Learn to sew zippers, hoods, pockets & more, along with the importance of following grainlines, and how to properly measure your body & read patterns. Sign up sandiegocraft.org today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

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TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES, Meditation In Movement. First class is free. Join us outdoors Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings or indoors for Qi Gong 6pm Tuesday and Taiji 6pm Wednesday. Taoist Sanctuary. Sign up on our website. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, (619) 692-1155. taoistsanctuary.org.

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LOOKING TO SUBLET NEAR SDSU Male, 57, looking to sublet off campus housing near SDSU. dray4232@gmail.com



FURNISHED/MBR/STUDIO SAN MARCOS "Upgraded" 4 wide mobile home. Master bedroom + full bath, pvt kitchen. Garden, fire pit, indoor laundry, & weight room, enclosed garage parking. Fully furnished, must be 35 Y/O > \$1600/bills included. (858) 342-3335 / one24win@gmail.com



WELL FURNISHED ROOM I have a well furnished room available for rent. Having a separate bathroom, bedroom, living room and kitchen. Thanks Gikmet. (347) 605-1011 / gikmetmurad@gmail.com

ROOMMATE INQUIRY Looking for room for two. Fixed income. Willing to exchange (negotiable) for reasonable rent for cleaning and tech support. Utilities included please. We have 1 car\ no pets. Storage if possible. 420 friendly but negotiable. No scammers! (619) 847-6239 / derrickhawkins619@gmail.com

MATURE GAL SEEKS ROOM TRADE!!! I'm polite, respectful, trustworthy, quiet, clean, neat, kind & real. Free of additions/drama, animal lover, easy to get along with. Looking for a furnished private room/space in exchange for me. doing tasks such as cleaning, pet care, laundry. Thanks. sandiegolady13@gmail.com

WEEKLY ROOMS FOR RENT \$300. Weekly. (619) 869-5814 / rtgood2016@yahoo.com

SENIOR SEEKS ROOM FOR RENT Man early 70's looking for a room for rent. On a limited income of Social Security. Se habla Espanol. Johnny (619) 340-7942.

OTAY RANCH, \$1,300 Room for rent, furnished, AC, tv, internet, non smoker, no drugs, no pets. \$1,300/month, \$300 deposit. Call Carlos (858) 999-7980.

FURNISHED PRIVATE BEDROOM 6595 Montezuma San Diego. Equipped kitchen privileges, shared clean bathroom. \$775/monthly, including utilities and cable. Apts (619) 287-3060, voicemails welcome.

CATHOLIC WOMAN I am looking for a room near Trolley station or Little Italy, La Jolla or Del Mar \$850. I have a small older very well behaved poodle. Call or text (949) 300-5295.

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

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

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

SANTEE, \$750 2/2 home w/ homeowner, dog. Same price furnished/unfurnished. No kids under 18. Pools, spas, clubhouse, tennis. AC & heat, kitchen, W/D. No tobacco, or add'l pets. Share util. (619) 499-9663, phone calls preferred.

RENTALS

SEEKING 2 RENT BEAUTIFUL COURTYARD Do you have a beautiful private courtyard available for rent? Professional seeking serene outdoor space for specialized. workshops for therapists and couples. Seeking trial arrangement. with hopes for long-term. Please email courtyard@mailbox.org.

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LA MESA, \$2199-\$2699. 3BD+2BA (\$2699) and 2BD+1BA (\$2199) apartments. Welcome to Mt. Helix Gated Community! New kitchen. Stainless steel appliances. Spacious. Clubhouse. WiFi. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

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

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SENIOR REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST I am a local San Diego Real estate broker with a certification for senior real estate specialist. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns with a complimentary consultation. (858) 336-0012 / katecaliforniare@gmail.com

MORTGAGE LOANS & BUSINESS LOAN Mortgage loans & business loans. (619) 415-7064

MUSIC

WANTED FEMALE BAND MEMBERS Singers, all kinds of music, brand new band. My name is Jessie, (442) 244-1642.

21 INCH DUMBK DRUM 21 inch tall dumbek drum with wood-en base in excellent condition \$250 or best offer. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

BLUES GUITARIST WANTED Founding members of the Big City Blues Band looking for an experienced blues guitarist to join up with drums base and keyboard. Call Richard at (619) 439-6084 after 1PM.

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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@sbcglobal.net or leave message at (619) 596-9343.

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

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

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JOBS WANTED

GAL IN NEED OF \$\$\$\$\$\$ ASAP!!!! Responsible, reliable, real female in major need of cash paying gigs. now! Please be serious & sincere, NO scammers! Most interested, in domestic work such as cleaning, house sitting & pet care. Also, Interested in remote online jobs. Please contact me. sandiegolady13@gmail.com

SEEKING TEMP JOB Looking for temp type employment. Contact Gregg at (619) 617-9860 or text.

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will drive to doctors appointments & hospital appointments, will grocery shop, prepare meals, light housekeeping, provide companionship, and more. Please call Carol at (858) 525-1154.

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

WANTED / TRADE

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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CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS We buy diabetic strips. Local cash pick-up. Sealed boxes only! Call or text (619) 535-1848. We buy One Touch Ultra, Free-style Lite, Accu Check, Aviva Plus, Contour, Dexcom.

COLLECTING ANGELS I am trying to collect angels that have

hearts around them or on them. (619) 286-3841 and my name is Tina.

SPONSOR WANTED Christian needs 8x10 foot with electricity to perfect inventions. Motor/mobile home, porch, room, garage, barn, basement, shed, cabin, attic, shack ok! Escondido/Valley Center. Call/text or leave a message (760) 814-3328 ASAP - plz.

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

SEARCHING FOR OLD TUBE STEREOs I am an electronics hobbyist, and I am looking for 1960's vintage, tube type stereo components to refurbish, such as Fisher, Scott, McIntosh, Dynaco & More. And I am it stored away in the attic or garage. I pay ca\$h, so please call Jack (619) 296-3100. /jack22@cox.net

FARMLAND TO GROW ORGANIC FOOD Lets grow organic food in an edible labyrinth to feed folks in need creating a sanctuary for the community to enjoy & learn from. If you own the land, this senior gal will manage all, supplying fencing, irrigation parts & more. YouGo-FarmGal@gmail.com.

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SEEK C-PAP MINI for backpack travel. Balboablue330@hotmail

NEED YOUR OLDEST CLOTHES! PAY! Buying old clothes from storage or recently deceased relative. Men's preferred, but women's too. Casual clothing from 70s-80s-90s or earlier. Jeans and t-shirts, military. Paying best for Levi's jeans and Grateful Dead t-shirts. Call or text. (619) 704-4257 / igotpolo@gmail.com

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

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

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

FOR SALE

ALBUMS AND BIKE I have Elvis Presley albums, Lou Rawls Jesus Christ albums, 10 speed bike for sale. Call me at (619) 457-2316.

CALIFORNIA KING WOODEN BED FRAME 6 drawers, \$100 (619) 756-1027.

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GO GREEN SCOTTS BRAND push lawnmower, like new, \$35 obo. (619) 542-0472 landline no text, can deliver.

MISC FOR SALE Amana gas dryer, \$40. Classic O'Keefe Merrit center grill stove, \$40. Can deliver, (619) 220-6888.

PHILIPS BYPASS MACHINE good condition, \$100, (858) 366-2088.

SCOTTS HANDY GREEN II SPREADER This hand-held spreader has an ergonomic design which reduces wrist fatigue for applying lawn grass seed or fertilizer (up to 1,000 sq. ft.). It is heavy duty and rustproof. Like new and in excellent condition. \$12. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcسد@gmail.com

SEEK C-PAP MINI for backpack travel. Balboablue330@hotmail

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

4 BEAUTIFUL NEW INTERIOR DOORS Premium knotty alder, solid wood, mfg. by Craftsmen In Wood in Arizona, 1-3/4" x 3' x 8', no hinges or handles, they are extra doors from my remodel, I

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FREON R22 1 full 30lb bottle R-22 \$300 (858) 272-6303. Leave a message.

SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SFI2 For Cabinet makers, used to bend laminates for countertops, purchased new for \$5,000., it was used once-like new condition, selling for \$2,900., (760) 746-7209.

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

TROYBUILT ROTOTILLER CULT FT: 208CC, Model: 21B34M871, purchased new, never used, \$575., (760) 746-7209.

1500 WATTS FLAT PANEL HEATER This Soleus Air portable floor & wall mountable space heater (28"x 20.75"x 8.675" deep) provides silent & safe heating. The front panel grill has some discoloration but the heater is in good working condition. \$45. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcسد@gmail.com

CONTACT CRIMPER Daniels AFM8 (AKA M22520/2-01) unused with 5 locators (K287, K41, K40, K13-1, K42) \$100 firm. Call or text (619) 818-1120 I can text a pix.



WHITE BASSINET W/ MUSIC & SOUND This Delta Children Classic Breeze bassinet (21"x 35.5"x

OIL CHANGE Additional 55 cartridge fee. Plus tax, has waste. 6 engine cover shield removed fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. Special only for 4cyl vehicle. 6-8cyl vehicle does not apply.	\$24⁹⁵ most cars
AC SERVICE Diagnostic \$95	\$49 Recharge from
BRAKES Front or rear *Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.	From \$49 most cars
30K 60K 90K Scheduled Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	\$65 most cars
RADIATOR Or Transmission Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	\$45 most cars 4 cyl.
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We'll beat any written estimate! Dents, dings, scratches? Now offering bodywork. B.T. Auto Wrench Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary! 8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C 858-533-8120	

45.5" H) comes with canopy, mattress pad & fitted sheet, storage shelf, lockable wheels, music, sound & soft night light. Clean & in very good condition. \$25. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcسد@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL GLASS TABLE LAMP This classic table lamp with brass trim base & cream pleated shade is very pretty and in excellent condition. 26.5" tall overall, body 16" high, base 6.5" across, shade 7" (top), 18" (bottom) & 12.5" (side). \$25. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcسد@gmail.com

IKEA ORANGE PLASTIC KIDS TABLE This children's play table is lightweight but sturdy & easy to clean (30-3/8 "x 21-5/8"x 18-7/8" high). Perfect for kids to sit at and play, draw, or do crafts both indoors or outdoors. Clean & in good condition. \$20. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcسد@gmail.com

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: brand new clocks folding laundry basket fancy candle holder blue v-tech house phone these items you must for 40.00 obo also I am selling three(3) brand new pairs of pants ask for James @ (619) 450-7914. / j.fifield31@gmail.com



SPIRAL BINDING MACHINES GBC Docubind P-100 or Ibico Ibi-matic Spiral Binding Machines. Like new. Create professional presentations. For demo video see youtube.be/m0WfjbyNraU. Similar machine at Staples are \$159 but

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

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

ELECTRIC ALARM CLOCK brand new electric alarm clock, still in the box \$5. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

BASS GUITAR 1989 "Signature" jazz bass, roasted figured Maple neck, Sadowsky preamp, MEC pickups, \$1900. (619) 980-6008.

BLACK LEATHER 13" BOOTS SZ 8.5 This genuine leather women's ladies high heeled boots (13" tall, 4" heels) with side zippers are made in Brazil. Leather upper, man made sole in excellent condition. \$15. Text or email for more information and/or pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcسد@gmail.com

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TIMING BELT 4-cyl., most cars.	\$195	AXLE SHAFT 4-cyl., most cars. plus labor	\$99 each

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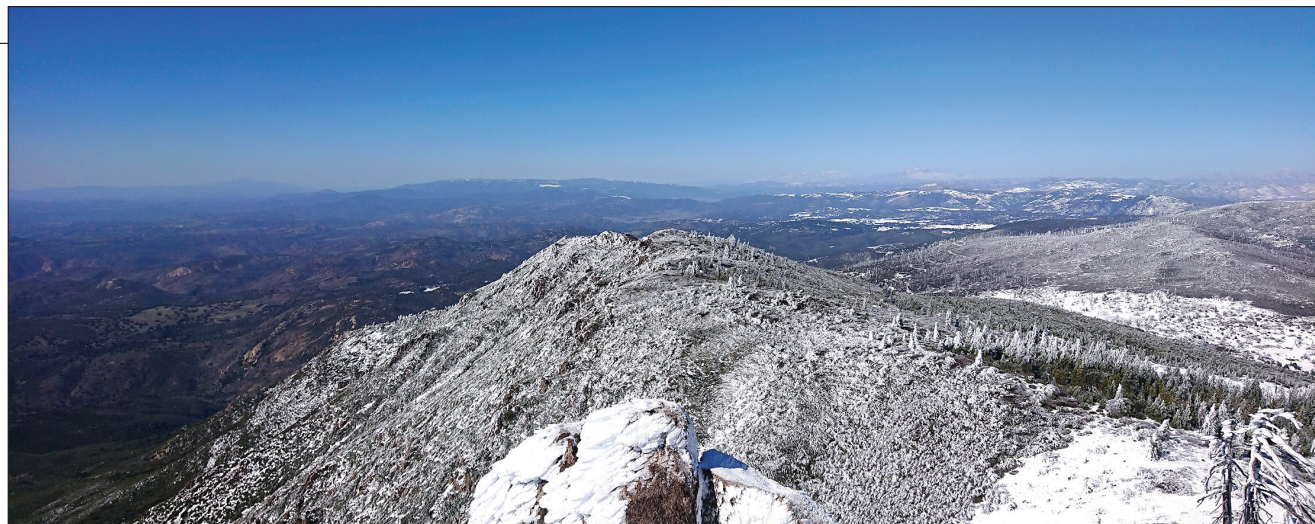
ROAM

It was a white morning and the first rays of light were gleaming on a snowcapped Cuyamaca Peak. All was calm and quiet, without the slightest breath of wind. Even the birds, which were normally chatty at the first sign of dawn, had slept in. Only now were they beginning to stretch their feathers and flit from bush to fence post. Nearby, a lone deer tiptoed silently through an empty meadow, its ears fluttering from the soft touch of falling snowflakes.

With dawn came new hope about the day's adventure, as if the sun were stoking the embers of my soul. Though I wanted to absorb the beauty of the moment, I knew I had to start moving before the roads became lined with cars containing young families wanting to give their kids warm memories of the cold snow.

To avoid the bumper-to-bumper traffic to the mountains, I had left home before sunrise, following a dark and lonely road along I-8 up to Paso Picacho Campground, which was closed until the ice-slick roads thawed. Without a place to park, I continued a mile or so north on SR-79 where I found a questionable ditch in which to pull over. The air was cold, but I was bundled from head to toe. My feet were wrapped in thick wool socks and hiking boots, and I wore a long sleeve thermal, a puffy jacket, thick pants, and a beanie.

My trekking poles extended, I began up Milk Ranch Road. To my surprise, the path was not fresh, but lined with ski-prints from a fellow wanderer. I trudged alongside their tracks through a foot of snow, which was cold and firm after the long night — unlike my body, which was growing as hot as a furnace from my uphill climb. As I began to sweat, I peeled off my jacket and stored it in my backpack. On biting cold days, it's important to keep your warmest clothes as dry as possible. Otherwise, you'll reach the peak to find other hikers bundled up and sipping hot cocoa from a thermos while you shiver uncontrollably under the weight of your wet clothes. You'll wind up sprinting down the trail in a desperate attempt to warm up, all the while



Where winter falls away into lush chaparral.

wondering when you last felt your hands — not that I'm speaking from experience.

After gaining 500 feet over a mile and a half, the trail diverged three ways, and I took the road less traveled. My plan was to go south towards the peak along the Azalea Spring Fire Road, so I stopped to rest and sipped a bit of water. I felt strong with the fresh mountain air in my lungs, and before my body cooled off, I continued along my path, nodding farewell to the ski-prints and the phantom skier who had left them behind.

Aside from the distant sound of birds chirping, the landscape was stark and empty, as if the snow had hushed it all. A few minutes after turning on to the fire road, I turned again, up the Conejos Trail. Here the path was completely unbroken and the snow knee-high. Slowly, I took one sinking step then another up the mountain. The higher I climbed, the deeper the snow. The trees were so swollen with ice that their limbs hung heavy over the trail, forcing me to stoop below one branch and then another in order to get through. The further I went, the lower the branches hung, until the final few switchbacks had me crawling on my belly through a tunnel of frozen trees, my head pressed against the snow so that it wouldn't smack against one of the hundreds of icicles hanging perilously above.

During the whole ordeal, my toes grew numb as they sloshed around in my wet socks. But the embers of my heart still glowed with excitement.

With the switchbacks behind me, I began wayfinding along a flat section of the mountain's shoulder. The snow had erased nearly every telltale sign of a trail, and my only guide was to follow the gaps between fallen trees that some forester had cut with a chainsaw to clear the trail. It was like following checkpoints in a race, and my finish line was Lookout Road. For most of the year, Lookout Road is just that, a paved road that takes hikers up to Cuyamaca Peak. But today, the black asphalt was buried in snow. Not the pure, white snow that I'd been trudging through, but dirty, sticky snow that was littered with pine needles, dirt, and various boot and paw prints. The kind of snow that's effortless to walk on.

In due time, I made my last few twists and turns up the trail to the peak where I was able to look down on San Diego. The first time I'd seen this view, I was breathless. Now, after several annual trips up the mountain, I caught myself fighting a longstanding urge to laugh. All around me there was snow, snow, snow. On the ground, clinging to the trees, melting in my boots. Winter had filled every nook and cranny. And as I looked down from that snowy plateau into the valleys below, it was amusing to see what little power winter held over the region. The snow quickly gave way to woody chaparral and San Diego looked as it always did: dark green with splotches of brown covering the rolling hills. Instead of seeing the world fall away into a climactic battle between rock and snow, light and shadow stretching to the horizon as it does in the Rockies or the Sierra Nevada, I had the impression that I was standing inside a snow globe.

Not wanting to return to my car by the same path, I journeyed down Lookout Road to Paso Picacho Campground. As I strolled below the canopy of pine trees and neared the now-open parking lot, the din of families grew louder. Drawing nearer, I saw a wide-eyed four-year-old looking at the snow with pure amazement before her eyes returned to her tablet to watch cartoons. Disheartened, I walked north along SR-79 back to my car. After the third truck came barreling down the icy road toward me, I decided that the slippery snowbank I was walking on didn't offer much protection, so I cut through the snowy meadow where I had spotted the deer at sunrise. Now that the snow had softened below the noon sun, the way was slow and cumbersome. Every footstep seemed to sink deeper,



A long and weary path up Conejos Trail.

and deeper, and deeper until I stumbled through the icy meadow like a half-dead corpse.

As I returned to my car, I saw that two of the cars parked in the same snowbank as me were trapped. One driver pushed his car while his wife sat snugly behind the wheel and their kids lobbed snowballs at each other, while the other driver had clearly given up and was napping until help arrived. I worried that my beat-up old car, which I've lovingly named Peezuf Shite for all the misfortune it's brought me, was similarly stuck. I started the car and let it idle for a minute. Then I turned on the 4x4, calmly shifted into first gear, and hit the gas. The back wheels spun and my dinky little car went *brrrrrr* as it shot to life and lunged onto the road like an Olympic pole vaulter. I could almost hear it growl with menace. With a smirk I went on my way, stopping only at Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant for a much-needed beer and a burger to warm me up.

— Ryan Brothers

CUYAMACA PEAK IN WINTER

Located above Paso Picacho Campground in Cuyamaca, Cuyamaca Peak from Milk Ranch Road is a moderately strenuous hike. A length of 8 miles and an elevation gain of around 1900 feet means the hike will take most people 3 to 5 hours to complete. Dogs are allowed.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 49 miles

Hike length: 8 miles • **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous • **Season:** December - March



Looking east toward the desert: Granite Mountain is coated with snow.

GINGER ROGERS: MY STORY first edition, autographed, Easton press, \$150, like new. Call Jim (619) 943-0328.

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

ICE BOX CHEST oak wood, cherry stained, white clad, reproduction. Simmons hardware Saint Louis, new condition, custom glass top protector, \$75. (858) 674-7213, Bob.

LAKLAND BASS GUITAR BAG \$75 (619) 980-6008.

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NIKON F2 SYSTEM with 5 Nikkor lenses and accessories, like new, \$395. (760) 257-5445

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER for sale, \$500. Contact David at (858) 568-2364

SPEAKERS AR BOOKSHELF Teledyne Acoustic Research "bookshelf" speakers. Very good sound and condition. See photos for dimensions. \$120 for the pair. gosptogo@halfalert.com

VINTAGE STYLE LADIES CLOTHING 1970's, XL, plus size, 3x, most items are brand new and still have tags on. \$7-\$20 per item, good quality, winter jackets/coats/sweaters, winter boots, high heels, tennis shoes, size 10-11, and more. Please call (619) 269-3434 ask for Mary.

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VINYL WINDOWS (2) 72X48 \$500 Crystal Pacific brand, new vinyl windows. Single panel vent, double pane glass. Flat sides. \$275 each or both for \$500. (Large windows in photo have sold) reply: gosptogo@halfalert.com.

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

SOLID BAMBOO FLOORING 22 SQ FT This tongue & groove solid flooring is made from natural bamboo in Toast finish. It is durable, scratch & dent resistant. 23 pieces (out of 24 in a full box) of 3.75"x 37.75"x 5/8". New in excellent condition. \$35. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

BOWLING BAG, BALL, SHOE COVERS The purple Strikeforce bowling bag (13.5"x 8"x 13"H) is strong & durable with a side pocket. The Ebonite Maxim bowling ball weighs 10 lbs. The Robby's No Wet shoe covers are medium. All in Excellent Condition. \$45. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

POTTERY WHEEL TO MAKE POTTERY This is to create your own pottery for decorative purpose only. Also includes adjustable tool arm, foot pedal, air-dry terracotta clay, 12 pottery design tutorials, 12 paint colors & 4 D batteries. New & never used \$20. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SILK FLOWERS IN CHAMPAGNE VASE 3 attractive arrangements available: \$8 each, \$22 for set of 3, \$30 for set of 4, or \$78 for all 11 vases. Great for special events and functions. Vases are 3" in diameter (top opening & bottom base) and 10" tall. Text or

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\$20 GOWNS Bridesmaids, parties. Flowers included. Call Sue (858) 740-7264.

BEAUTIFUL SOLID WOOD BOX This vintage box (5.5"x 3.5"x 2" high) with a hinged lid is nicely stained and varnished. It can be a wonderful storage place for jewelry, tarot, oils, arts & crafts, sewing supplies, and other lovely things. \$15. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BEST OFFER TAKES candles, wedding card box, table numbers. Call Sue. (858) 740-7264

VINTAGE TABLE LAMP BRASS BODY This 29" lamp is quite beautiful with a soft pleated linen shade (7.5" top, 17.5" bottom & 11.5" side). It has some fabric tears on the back. The body has some discoloration which reflects its vintage nature. \$20. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

MEN'S DESIGNER XXXL dress shirt \$134.35 sell \$49.99. Walker new \$70.95 sell \$35. Wheelchair/walker combo \$232.20 sell \$98. (619) 384-4960

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

RATTAN WOOD SPICE RACK STORAGE This handmade organizer (11"x 6"x 10" H) is strong, stable and very durable. It has 3 upper sections and 2 bottom shelves and can be used in kitchen, bathroom or other rooms at

home / office. Excellent condition. \$12. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SAUCE BAR DISPOSABLE Get your daily hit of nicotine with Vape Guys Inc's disposable Sauce Bar! Our device is designed for smooth, consistent vapor output and long-lasting flavor. It's easy to use and comes pre-filled with a variety of delicious e-liquids. (804) 431-4299 / seo@vapeguysinc.com

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COACH large 14 x 11 x 6 inch black diaper, multi use travel tote bag. Neoprene, 5975 Hamptons, no changing pad, very nice condition, \$30. Elaine (858) 674-7213.

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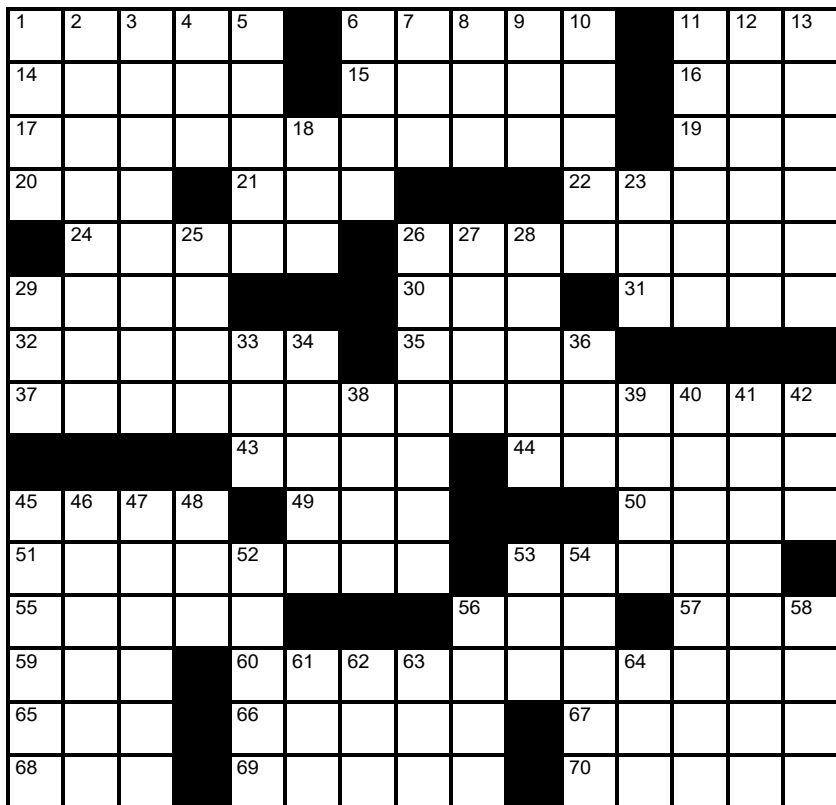
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The solving of the puzzles will no longer put you in contention for a Reader T-shirt and hat.

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

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Across

1. "When it comes to ..."
6. Conclude by
11. Where Wizards play with Magic, in brief
14. John ____, husband of Pocahontas
15. Affect emotionally
16. Test by a neurologist, for short
17. "Deep!"
19. Zoomer's parent, maybe
20. Still
21. Geological span
22. ____ Dame
24. Exams for future attys.
26. "Check out this trick I can do!"

29. Predicament
30. Spotify or TikTok
31. Follower of open or pigeon
32. It goes from about 540 to 1700
35. One of 8 vegetables in V8
37. Tofu, e.g. (or what can be found at the ends of 17-, 26-, 51- and 60-Across)
43. Laugh hard
44. Honey brand since 1921
45. Jul. 4 cookouts
49. The "S" of RSVP
50. Social position
51. Perfectly suited partner
53. Lena featured on the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage postage stamp series

55. "Schitt's Creek" matriarch
56. Sloth, for one
57. "Sound of da Police" rapper ____-One
59. Engine starter: Abbr.
60. Some members of a presidential candidate's campaign staff
65. ____ for tat
66. City home to the 1,000-year-old Al-Azhar University
67. "Under the Redwoods" author Bret
68. "Isn't ____ bit like you and me?" (Beatles lyric)
69. Beginning
70. Mend, as a torn seam

Down

1. Like many student films
2. "I swear ..."
3. Pop with no fizz
4. O'er and o'er
5. Go from 60 to 0, say
6. School on the Thames
7. ____ de plume
8. Expected
9. Play a role
10. "____ you!"
11. Neighboring
12. "Brewski! Now!"
13. Shook on it
18. "Help!"
23. Cheerios grain
25. Bickering
26. Patti in the Grammy Hall of

- Fame
27. Abbr. on old phones
28. Warms up the crowd
29. Singer Cooke
33. Foot rub reaction
34. Literature Nobel Mario Vargas ____
36. Delta ____ Chi, house in "Animal House"
38. Nincompoop
39. Alternative to a prov.
40. Certain financial advisers, informally
41. More than look up to
42. "A mouse!!"
45. Lifestyle expert with a Bed Bath & Beyond line
46. Get down on the dance

- floor
47. "Abbott Elementary" creator/star ____ Brunson
48. 35mm camera type, in brief
52. "Uh-oh. Better get ____" (auto repair slogan)
53. Hyphenated beverage brand
54. Daylight saving time adjustment: Abbr.
56. Annoying little twerp
58. Eurasian duck
61. Levy of "Schitt's Creek"
62. "____ for Vengeance" (Grafton novel)
63. Verb that sounds like its second letter
64. ____ kwon do

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

HARD:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

Cavity Sam Lives

— On Jan. 9 in Kyiv, Ukraine, a surgeon removed an unexploded grenade from the chest cavity of a 28-year-old Ukrainian soldier, *The Guardian* reported. The weapon lay just below the man's heart, and two "sappers" (military engineering soldiers) were on hand during the delicate operation to neutralize the device after it was removed. Doctors were unable to use electrocoagulation, a method that controls bleeding, because of fear that the grenade might detonate. "I think this case will go down in medical textbooks," said Anton Gerashchenko, Ukraine's internal affairs ministerial adviser. No word about how the grenade ended up in the soldier's chest cavity to begin with. He will now undergo rehabilitation.

Animal Antics

— Carrier pigeons have been couriers of legitimate and nefarious items for centuries, but officials at the Pacific Institution in Abbotsford, British Columbia, nonetheless were stunned when a gray bird with a tiny backpack landed in a fenced inmate prison yard on Dec. 29. The CBC reported that officers "had to corner it," according to John Randle, Pacific regional president of the Union for Canadian Correctional Officers. "You can imagine how that would look, trying to catch a pigeon." After some time, they were able to grab it and remove the package, which contained about 30 grams of crystal meth. "We've been focusing so much on drone interdiction ... Now we have

to look at, I guess, pigeons again," Randle said. They set the little guy free and are investigating its origin.

It's Baaaackkk

— The atmospheric river battering California has another weird consequence, *SFGate* reported on Jan. 10. The storms are making the Golden Gate bridge eerily "sing." Nearby residents first noticed the phenomenon during summer storms in 2020, when they heard a "screeching that sounded like torture." A Building and Operating Committee report from 2020 said the cause was the retrofit of 12,000 slats on the west side of the bridge. The cost to add clips that would stop the noise is \$450,000; officials said installation is due in the coming months.

Inexplicable

— In Coventry, England, someone dubbed the Cat Shaver is catching cats and shaving a square into their fur, *Metro News* reported on Jan. 11. Not just a small patch, either: six-year-old Talulah had a large bald spot on her stomach that owner Bonnie Towe noticed when her daughter picked the cat up. "Did someone take her and bring her back? Or did they do it in a car?" Towe wondered. "We did notice she wasn't going out quite as much. She mostly sits at home and looks out the window." Other victims' owners have discovered one another on Facebook, speculating that the cats are being marked as targets. But no other harm has come to any of them.

Mistaken Identity

— A walker out for a stroll in Wickham, Australia, in early January came across what they thought was a dead body clothed in a tracksuit, according to *ABC News*. Police cordoned off the area and began an investigation, but later concluded that the remains belonged to a cow. Roeburne Police Sgt. Dale Harmer voiced his frustration: "It has caused police to use an entire day and three police officers guarding a scene for something which was never a human in the first place." And what a waste of a perfectly fine tracksuit.

Check Twice, Engrave Once

— The Washington, D.C., Korean War Wall of Remembrance pays tribute to more than 36,000 American service members who were killed in that conflict. But according to *The New York Times*, it's also rife with misspellings and omissions. Historians Hal Barker and Edward Barker Jr. of Texas, who run the Korean War Project, call the monument "a damn mess;" they say it displays more than 1000 spelling errors, and that 500 names are missing altogether. The National Park Service passed the buck to the Defense Department, which supplied the names. DOD said compiling the list was "challenging." "No one bothered to check it before they set it in stone," said Ted Barker. "But now that it has been done, we need to get it right."

Break Out the Crab Legs

— Firefighters were called to the Associated Milk Producers Inc. plant in Portage,

Wisconsin, on Jan. 2 after flames broke out there, WMTV reported. But they were hampered by melted butter: "Butter was running down like 3 inches thick on the steps, so our guys were ... trying to drag the hose line. The hose line got so full of butter they couldn't hang onto it anymore," said fire Chief Troy Haase. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was called in after the fire was contained to assess the butter runoff, some of which went to a water treatment plant. But about 20 gallons ended up in a nearby canal; booms were used to contain the buttery mess. Officials say the environmental impact appears to be low.

Eyewitness News

— Riders on the MAX light rail system in Gresham, Oregon, witnessed a brutal assault around 2 am on Jan. 3, KPTV reported. A 78-year-old man on the train platform was attacked by another man, who "chewed off the victim's ear and part of his face," police said. "The injury was so severe that responders could see the victim's skull." The suspect did not provide investigators with a real name, but through fingerprints he was identified as Koryn Kraemer, 25, who had recently moved to the area from Georgia. He was charged with assault in the second degree.

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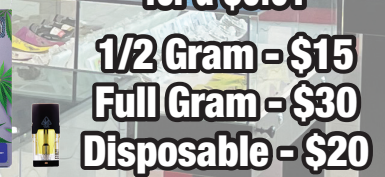
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OUNCES FOR \$89

SAVE \$50.99



**DELIVERY AVAILABLE IN
ALL OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY**



*Deal cannot be combined. Other restrictions may apply. Show this ad to your budtender or delivery driver to redeem.

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Cannabis

FIRST-TIME PATIENT DEAL



**DELIVERY AVAILABLE IN
ALL OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY**



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50% OFF

STIIIZY

Flower and OG pods

50% OFF

JEETERS

All Jeeters products

40% OFF

CANNABIOTIX

All Cannabiotix products

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INVEST NOW
SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE

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WEED4THEPEOPLE.COM

Contribute to the expansion of Jaxx Cannabis by participating in our REG A+ capital raise, Weed4thePeople. With an investment share as low as \$4.20, you can be a part of an organization that is taking the cannabis market to the next level.

Not an active investor? This could be a great place to start!

Active investor? Chances are you've been waiting for an opportunity like this, don't let it pass.

INVEST NOW
SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE



*In making an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of the issuer and the terms of the offering, including the merits and risks involved. Additional disclaimers apply, see website.