

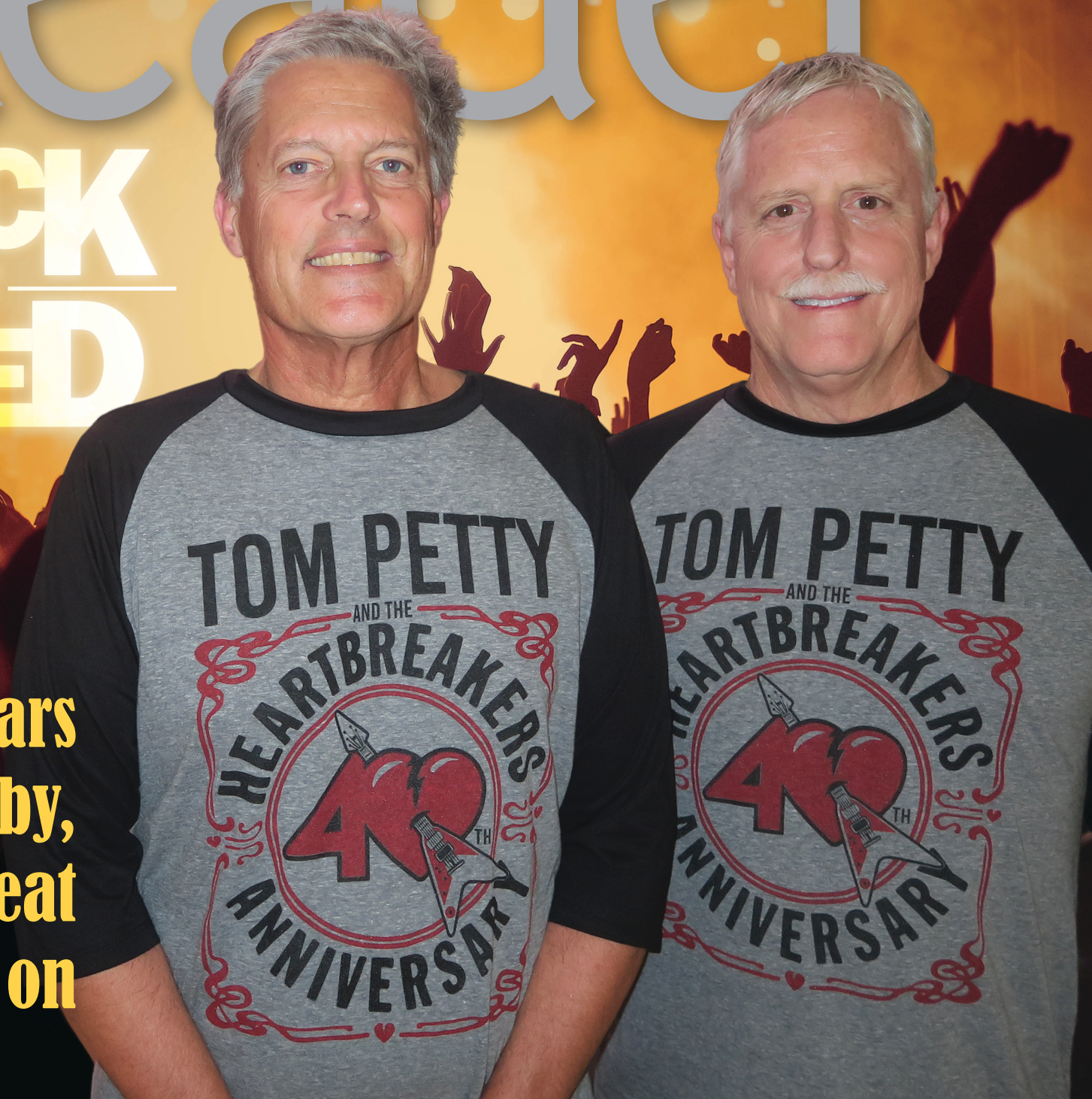
S A N D I E G O

VOL. 48 | NO. 8 | FEBRUARY 23, 2023

# Reader

**ROCK**  
**OF**  
**AGED**

**The years  
go by,  
but the beat  
goes on**



Drama in a desert pyramid ■ Opera in a box ■ Hummingbirds dive for love



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The Democrat Reader?

Good thing your rag is free. It is so biased against true Americans like President Trump. During his Presidency, America was strong and proud. Numerous debunked scandals against him and constant harassment by the Democrats show your true passion against this great Man. You print numerous letters(“Letters”, Feb 9 & 16, pages 4 & 1) and articles showing your TDS(Trump Derangement Syndrome) that reveal your bias. It is so sad to see another Hard Copy Magazine like yours take the leftist Socialist position throughout every edition. I suggest a neutral format or only the left will read it as the moderates and conservatives will not due to the lies and deception you present. Maybe rename your magazine *The Democrat Reader*, as that is your presentation and content. Please become neutral or you will become extinct. Make America proud to read your magazine, put in honest articles and letters, or your readership will continue to decline.

A Proud Conservative  
San Marcos

Trump 2024

I love it when the crybaby liberals get their feelings hurt just by the mention of president Trump, it's okay softies I can't stand you and people like you either. Trump is the best president Ever.

Vic Santos  
Lakeside

Moon phases and bird faces

Oh no, you've done it again! I wrote you about this same issue a few months ago, but

apparently, you're not paying attention. You cannot paste in moon-phase data from a previous year and have it be right. Your outdoors column for February 16, 2023(page 16) states that the moon is just shy of full phase, when it's actually approaching new moon, which occurs February 19, a little after 11 pm. If whoever does the astronomy portion of the column can't do any better than this, please find someone else who can. Misinformation is worse than no information!

Also, the photo you include, supposedly of an American Robin, isn't. I've been seeing robins in my yard and the photo is not a robin. I got out a bird book and there are obvious features that don't match with your photo. Robins don't have red on the face and they do have white around the eye. I'm not a good enough birder to identify the bird in your photo, but surely you can find someone knowledgeable who can.

Ted Caragozian  
Ranchita

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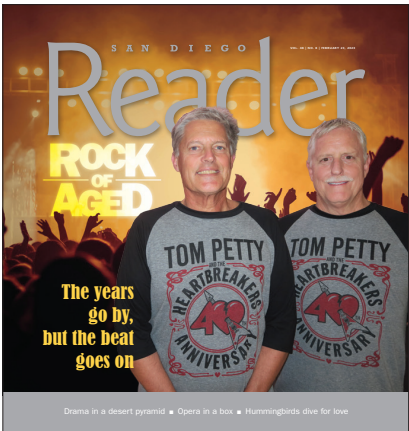
Vista bomb makers caught  
Neighborhood News, May 23, 2022  
All 3 defendants made plea deals. Caleigh Tabler, 22, admitted two felonies and was released for time served. Tabler is now on probation, with a sentence of more than 6 years prison hanging over her head if she offends again (lawyers call this ESS, Execution of Sentence Suspended). Valentine Castaneda, 26, admitted five felonies and expects 10 years prison when he is sentenced on Jan. 18. Juan Jose Castanedasantiago, 23, admitted two felonies, he could get anywhere from “time served” to four years prison, when he is sentenced on Jan. 12, 2023, by Honorable judge James Simmons.

-Eva Knott  
December 27, 2022  
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February 23, 2023



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

DOWNTOWN

## Equity on E Street

### New homeless program prioritizes older Black women

The city council on Monday unanimously approved the terms and funding of a \$2,446,500 state grant that will be used to house 40-50 homeless people in the East Village. Named the E Street Encampment Project, it will focus on the many camps in a six-block area surrounding the Old Downtown Central Library at 820 E Street, from Broadway to F Street and 7th to 10th Avenue. The goal, a path to long-term housing, includes intensive outreach (“not just your normal outreach”) and street-based case management to connect people to homes, healthcare and other services.



Location, location, location: \$2.5 million grant will focus on blocks near old library and current post office.

million for homeless outreach — but that was six months ago, she said. “If you were to go with me, you would see encampments just lining the street. Sadly, little has changed.”

But according to staff with the city’s Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department, there are big differences in the E Street project, starting with equity. Black females are a majority of the residents, many over age 55. Outreach workers will be “side-by-side dedicated to these 50 individuals,” staff

it wasn’t site-specific, officials said. So the city came back with the more targeted location.

The city will spend \$1.2 million of the funds on housing and flexible subsidies, \$950,000 on intensive outreach, \$150,000 on supportive services, \$116,500 on administrative costs, and \$30,000 on sustainable outcomes. The plan includes a two-year follow-through to make sure each person has a roof over their head after the site is cleared. Once people are housed, preventing the return of an encampment will be a required part of the process, possibly by activating the streets with a farmer’s market or art space.

SHEILA PELL

EL CAJON

## Carnevale tries to stop the music

### New board president objects to contract offered to predecessor



PHOTO CREDIT: TEDX

Otero, opportunist? Former board president helped set agenda for meeting that approved her original contract.

The Cajon Valley Union School District board of trustees voted January 31 to give former board president Tamara Otero a \$50,400 consulting contract. On November 8 of last year, Otero, after 12 years on the board, lost her bid for reelection to local real estate and mortgage broker Anthony Carnevale, who now represents northeast El Cajon’s trustee area 1.

Otero formed Alfabet Soup, LLC on December 9, just a month after her loss, and

the school board first awarded her new company a consulting contract at its December 13 annual meeting — by unanimous vote. But Carnevale says the board was not informed that they were giving Otero a contract. “No agreement, proposal, or documentation was attached for Alfabet Soup,” he says, “which made this agenda item uniquely opaque relative to the other consultant agreements voted on.”

After looking into it, Carnevale discovered that Otero was the beneficiary, and at the January 10 board meeting, he called for her contract to be terminated and for a review into why her involvement was concealed. (Each board member claimed they were unaware the company to which they had awarded a contract was Otero’s.) According to a January 6 email that district superintendent David Miyashiro sent to Carnevale, the agenda for the December 13 meeting was set by Otero and current board president Jim Miller.



Anthony Carnevale: “Was there justification for skipping the public bidding process?”

President Miller allowed a special meeting January 31 to address the matter, but instead of terminating the contract, he placed an agenda item to “approve consultant agreement with Alfabet Soup, LLC voiding the previous contract.” This was done in order to clear the problem with Otero setting the agenda for her own contract approval. The contract grants Otero \$70 per hour for 30 hours a week until the end of June — “Not to exceed \$50,400.00.” She will be doing advocacy work for the district and providing “services and support” for the district’s CEI [California Engagement Initiative] and FACE [Family and Community Engagement] programs, and TEDx events.

The independent contractor agreement for Alfabet Soup cites Section 53060 of the California Government Code to justify paying for Otero’s “special services.” According to the “Guide to Bidding and Contracting for School Districts,” originally published by the San Diego County Counsel’s office, “special services as far as a school district is concerned...are in addition to those usually, ordinarily, and regularly obtainable through public sources.”

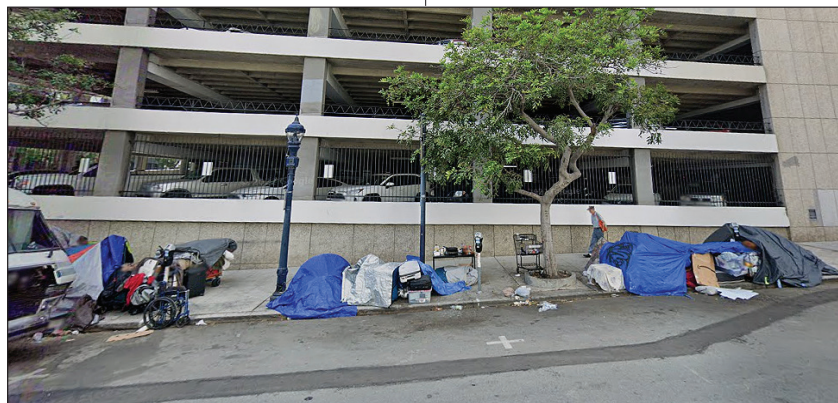
During the special meeting, Carnevale

*continued on page 3*

“The city will spend \$1.2 million of the funds on housing and flexible subsidies, \$950,000 on intensive outreach, \$150,000 on supportive services...”

It’s the first such state grant to target homeless encampments, officials said. But some are asking what exactly is so different about the project? Isn’t it just the latest of many similar, unsuccessful efforts? And why is the focus on this small slice of Downtown, when much larger encampments exist near Barrio Logan, all along Commercial Avenue? “This is concerning to me, this location, while several impacted areas in District 8 get worse,” said councilmember Vivian Moreno, mentioning the Commercial Avenue corridor. The council had allocated an additional \$1

said. The city will be working with non-profit providers, and expects to begin the project in about two months. Quarterly reports sent to the state will keep track of the city’s efforts, which include ensuring the encampments are gone, and that people accept the services. Further, it’s only the first encampment resolution, staff said — the state has more in the works. The city intends to utilize this first round of funding like a pilot program on “how we address encampments.” Finally, the state turned down an initial application for the grant in 2021 that included larger areas within District 8 because



Once people are housed, preventing the return of an encampment will be a required part of the process, possibly by activating the streets with a farmer’s market or art space.



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

said, “The contract calls out longstanding programs of the district. In each of those, we have existing employees of this district who are licensed, certified, trained. How is this contractor providing a special service that is outside the existing in-house abilities of our district?” He also asked, “Was there justification for skipping the public bidding process?...What is the nature of the emergency to approve the new contract?”

Assistant Superintendent Karen Minshew replied, “The TEDx event takes months and months of planning and is time sensitive. Some of the work and commitments we have coming forward with CEI and FACE are time sensitive. We do not have the bandwidth right now to perform all that we used to do. I refer to some of our staffing limitations.”

Mike Serban, Cajon Valley’s FACE director, said Otero was the “key reason” the district secured county, state and federal grants to help the school district work with refugee children who do not speak English and are behind the education level of their American peers. He added, “I think it saved the lives

of 26 kids, getting them out of Afghanistan. Day to day...we’re one community of many cultures. That’s the power of what she has been able to do.”

Miller said, “I asked Serban if there was another individual that could do the job immediately available. The answer, to paraphrase, was ‘no.’”

Eight people spoke against the con-



President Jim Miller, superintendent Dave Miyashiro. Instead of terminating the contract, Miller placed an agenda item to “approve consultant agreement with Alfabet Soup, LLC.”

tract during public comments. “There is no trust with Tamara Otero. That’s why she overwhelmingly lost. She’s betrayed the public trust time and time again,” one said. Carnevale received 62% of the vote to Otero’s 38%.

President Miller, Vice President Karen Mejia, Trustee Jo Alegria and Trustee Jolyana Jirjees voted to approve the new contract. Trustee Carnevale stood alone in voting against it.

ERIC BARTL

## UNDER THE RADAR

### Undercover car tags missing

The County of San Diego’s management of its fleet of government vehicles by the Department of General Services has been in dangerous disarray, per a recently posted audit dated September 29, 2022. The high-stakes debacle has impacted a bevy of county departments, keeping them in dark about the arrival of new cars and trucks, as well as jeopardizing the safety and security of those they already have. “During the fiscal year 2020-21, Fleet was only able to deliver 16% of standard vehicle orders compared to their goal of delivering 85% of orders,” says the report by chief auditor **Juan Perez**, regarding a crisis in the county’s so-called Fleet Management operation. “Fleet noted this goal was not met due to the operational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as manufacturer plants were temporarily closed.”

Covid aside, the audit says, leadership instability has been severely disruptive. “Specifically, two Fleet chiefs have left the department within the last few years, and there has been turnover with Fleet Standards Technicians. In addition, Fleet management acknowledged that vehicle order tracking in prior years was suboptimal, resulting in lost orders and delays.” Whatever the cause, mismanagement has been chronic and severe, per the document. “As of December 2021, 40 of 297 vehicle orders (13%) from fiscal year 2019-20 and 203 of 289 vehicle orders (70%) from fiscal year 2020-21 were still in progress.” Of 20 cases sampled for the audit, “16 of 20 orders had more than 90 days pass between when Fleet received the vehicle order until a contract request was sent.”

Compounding the mess, auditors say, they found that as of February 2022, “Fleet was not providing formal periodic updates regarding the status of outstanding orders to all departments and that departmental inquiries regarding order status were not always responded to in a timely manner.” In short, the report says, “Fleet has not established reliable benchmarks to effectively evaluate vehicle acquisition time, vehicle underutilization, and customer satisfaction.” Warn the auditors: “Delayed vehicle acquisitions can cost customer departments in the form of continued repair costs of vehicles that are being retired while waiting for new vehicles. Many of the newer vehicles would also be more fuel efficient or electric. Furthermore, requested vehicles may no longer be available, requiring the department to seek out

alternative options. Additionally, departments may not have a sufficient supply of vehicles to carry out essential functions if there are significant delays in the acquisition process, which in turn results in significant customer frustration and potential safety issues.”

As the aging county fleet awaits replacements, the report adds, maintenance disruptions due to increasing worker absences have burgeoned. “Fleet Technician vacancies and issues with staff calling out sick or extending

time-off with the implementation of a 4-day/10-hour garage staff schedule has caused staffing issues and maintenance delays due to lack of staff available,” the audit found. “There are currently three mobile technician vacancies out of five total budgeted positions. Mobile technicians are particularly essential to adequately service County Fire equipment located in rural communities that cannot be

easily transported to be serviced.” Two recalled vehicles were taken in for maintenance, but the recall work was not performed. “Both vehicles were returned to the client department without an explanation as to why the recall task was not completed.” As in the case of delayed purchases, officials blamed the pandemic for causing much of the problem. “According to Fleet, COVID-19 increased the number of sick days used by Fleet staff and affected the ability of other County staff to bring in vehicles for scheduled preventive maintenance.”

Even legally required state automobile licenses, including for undercover Sheriff’s vehicles, weren’t kept up to date. “DMV

renewal tags are consistently arriving at least one month after the expiration of the prior registration tags,” says the audit. “December 2020 undercover vehicle renewal tags were not received until mid-January 2021. November 2021 undercover vehicle renewal tags were not received until mid-December 2021.” Notes the audit: “Without current DMV registrations, departments may be unable to

legally operate vehicles that have an expired registration. Additionally, this could cause a potential security issue as undercover vehicles with expired tags are at greater risk of being pulled over.” In a September 12, 2022, response to a draft of the report, county General Services chief **Marko Medved** accepted the audit’s major findings and presented a list of management changes to be completed between March 31 and June 30 of this year.

continued on page 4



Marko Medved grants that the Fleet has been slow to make repairs.



International law attorney Natasha Wong funds Fletcher’s state race.

### Neal Obermeyer

SAN DIEGO POLICE SHOULD FILL THEIR STAFFING SHORTAGE BY HIRING HOMELESS PEOPLE!





## LETTERS

continued from page 1

### Amazon deliverer drives off with Encinitas golden retriever

Neighborhood News, December 27, 2022

Grand theft dog suspect Dena Marie Vindiola is next due in court Feb 21, Tuesday. Possible plea deal? Prosecutor William Heineken charged two misdemeanor drug counts and one felony theft in the case. The defendant remains at liberty.

-Eva Knott  
February 18, 2023

### Last topless bar in North San Diego County

Neighborhood News, September 17, 2021

I was a Dancer at Pure Platinum but before it was Dirty Dan's. I never saw a lot of drug addicted people. I saw beautiful women entertaining men, just to make money to survive. I was a single

mom and dancers get a bad rap. I was an exotic dancer when we had to put clear Elmer's glue on our nipples too keep the cops at bay... We were harassed by those suckers. They put a flashlight in your private area and if one little hair was showing. Indecent exposure citation... Lol so dumb... I also was a dancer in Canada. Now that's the wild wild west. Totally nude, table dancing etc. Anyways, props to all the exotic dancing ladies out there... What ever happened to the Inn Spot in Lemon grove I think

-Danced out  
January 8, 2023

### Ironsmith Coffee owner shot in neck and face

Neighborhood News, October 31, 2022

At his next court appearance on October 26, 2022, his defense attorney questioned Tarafa's mental competency, and criminal proceedings were suspended pending mental

competency determination. Since that date, Oct 26, there have been no more court dates listed for Jmar Tarafa. The last list of charges showed six felonies, including attempted murder and assault with a firearm.

-Eva Knott  
February 16, 2023

### District Attorney, Union-Tribune fail to remove Dennis Hodges from San Diego County commission

News Ticker, June 13, 2022

Good for Dennis Hodges. We ought to obey GOD rather than man.

-God Hearing  
February 2, 2023

### Mexico City comes to Coronado High

Golden Dreams, August 3, 2022

Where does the family wealth come from? I come from a Northern European country and it is rare to have such enormous wealth.

-Unfamiliar  
January 15, 2023

### Airport '77 : the spirit is willing, but the script is weak

Movies At Home, August 27, 2021

An Airport '23 would be more realistic only in this movie portrayal we would be in a luxury SR-71 in which one retired from the government was converted by Elon for a global warming summit in Switzerland and upon returning encounters an aircraft sent by Putin over the midwest containing an EMP that is capable of a complete meltdown of all micro circuitry in the U.S. actors playing the Washington DC bunch would be right out of Saturday night live.

-Script Machine  
January 18, 2023

### "Somewhere between Meat Loaf and King Louis XIV"

Blurt, September 10, 2021

He was a true goth, artist, cine-file, and authentic friend. You will be missed Valentino/Raven/Roger xxoS

-Unfamiliar  
January 15, 2023

### Gonzo Report: Boomers & Gen X-ers gather at Guggenheim

Gonzo Report, February 16, 2023

Oh, how I wish I had been there. I really like the Park and Market venue.

-Gen Boomer  
February 16, 2023

## Under the radar

continued from page 3

### Nathan's money lover

Valentine's Day brought yet more special interest money for Democrat Nathan Fletcher's 2024 bid to become a state Senator. The Barona Band of Mission Indians, operator of a casino and hotel in the county, gave \$5500 on February 14. La Jolla lawyer **Natasha Wong** came up with the same about a week before on February 6. According to a post on the University of San Diego law school website, alumnus Wong "is an international law attorney in San Diego. She began her career as the Executive Director of the Chinese Service Center. She is the co-founder of San Diego's first fully licensed Chinese bilingual preschool and is the current Superintendent and former Principal of the Chinese School of San Diego." Meanwhile, Democratic state Senate Pro Tem **Toni Atkins** has filed a January 26 amendment to Toni Atkins for Lt. Governor 2026 disclosure showing that Align Technology, Inc. of Morrisville, North Carolina gave the group \$5000 on September 23 of last year, when Atkins was campaigning for the ultimately successful pro-abortion Proposition One. Early this year, Align sued SmileDirectClub in U.S. District Court in California, according to a *Nashville Business*

*Journal* account of January 5. "The complaint alleges that SmileDirectClub's false advertising has harmed Align's reputation and continues to cost the company millions of dollars," according to the report, regarding longtime legal jousting between the two dental industry titans. "It is unfortunate that Align, already a defendant in multiple lawsuits regarding its anticompetitive conduct, has decided to bring this meritless complaint in an attempt to try to maintain its position in the aligner category and apparently justify its continuing decline in revenue," SmileDirectClub's Chief Legal Officer and Executive Vice President of Business Affairs Susan Greenspon Ram-melt said in an email cited by the story. "Despite stating that SmileDirectClub was founded on a 'dangerous lie,' Align did invest \$46.7 million in 2016 for a 17% stake in SmileDirectClub, followed by an additional \$12.8 million investment to boost its ownership to 19%, according to a 2018 *Los Angeles Times* report — although those investments came after Align dropped a 2015 lawsuit against SmileDirectClub accusing the company of copyright infringement," the *Business Journal* story says.

— 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/](mailto:sandiegoreader.com/staff/matt-potter/contact/).

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## Blood Lies

Patricia Wallace, 1991

**SYDNEY DROVE** to the *Union-Tribune* building on Camino de la Reina in Mission Valley. She made a left into the only entrance and coasted to a stop at the guard gate. Her power window glided soundlessly down.

"I've come to place an ad," she said before the guard could ask, then peered at the main building, an imposing red brick structure nestled within tall ivy-covered walls. Six stories high, its smoked glass windows overlooked Highways 8 and 163. "Is this the right place?"

"Sure is. Visitor's lot is the first section to your right."

She nodded her thanks and drove through. Apparently, there weren't many visitors today, and she had her choice of spaces. After parking, she glanced back at the guard to see if he was watching.

He was.

Not wanting to arouse his suspicions, she got out and headed toward the curved pathway that led to the front doors. Walking slowly, she had time to wonder at Victor Griffith — ever the iconoclast and frequently outrageous — working in a staid environment like this.

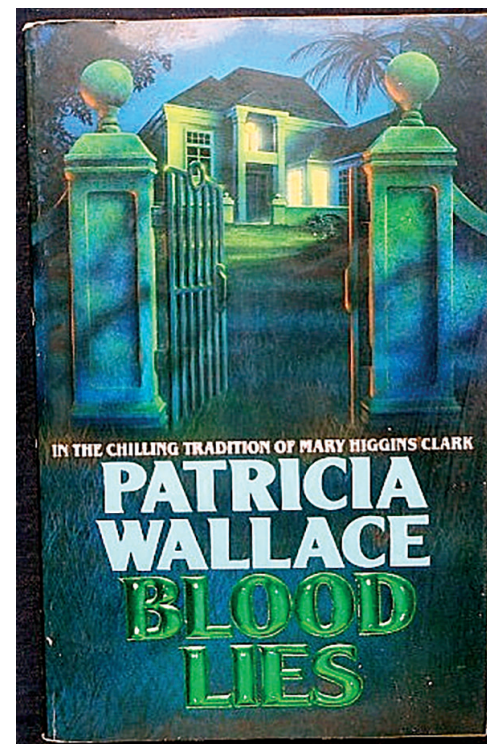
As conservative as the buildings and grounds were, the lobby was even more so. Dark wood paneling and somber gray carpet brought to mind not reporters sniffing out a story but rather morticians determined not to offend the bereaved with even a single splash of color during the bleakest period of life. At the center of the lobby sat a kiosk. This, Victor had told her, was where one placed a classified ad. And he had helpfully supplied her with a dummy ad purporting to offer Free Kittens to Good Homes.

When she'd protested that some little kid calling for a free kitten would be heartbroken to find the ad a hoax, he'd shrugged and said, "Life is hard."

Beyond the kiosk she could see a second guard sitting quietly but alert at a desk near the elevators. No one was allowed access to the upper floors without an appointment, and the keeper of the castle did not look as if he would be at all adverse to applying a little physical emphasis to company policy.

Sydney watched him as he crossed the lobby, half expecting him to challenge her right to be there, but his hooded eyes regarded her benignly, evidently having found her beneath concern.

*The Reader will pay \$10 for submissions to "San Diego in Books" that are selected for publication. Choices must be drawn from books or out-of-town periodicals. Include author, title, date of publication, and your phone number. Email to editorial@sandiegoreader.com or send to "San Diego in Books," 2323 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92102*



Sydney drove to the *Union-Tribune* building on Camino de la Reina in Mission Valley. She made a left into the only entrance and coasted to a stop at the guard gate. Her power window glided soundlessly down.

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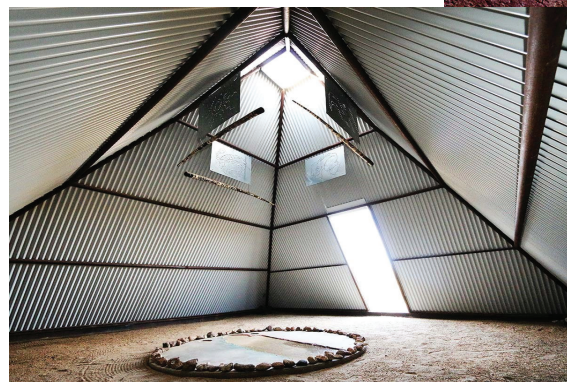
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## Adventures on paradise's periphery

Jessica Johnson has been on many outings during which she has thought to herself, “We might die today.” Like the time she and some companions were six miles deep into the back country near the El Capitan reservoir, photographing the flume and making their way towards the dam — the end point of their hike. When they paused for a break, one of her friends started climbing a rock wall and happened to disturb a hive of bees. “Suddenly,” she says, “we had thousands of bees chasing after us.”

Johnson thought fast: “I’d had a situation when I was kid where this exact same thing happened, and I got low to the ground and



Inside the pyramid.

pretended I was a rock, and all my friends got stung a ton of times and I got stung zero times. So I’m telling my friends this story. I’m like, ‘You guys— meditate, completely ignore them, and just walk as fast as you can away from the bees.’ We literally had bees hitting us in the head.” She demonstrates for me, making her finger into an aggravated bee that repeatedly bonks the side of her face. “But none of them stung us, because we stayed calm and completely ignored them.”

Johnson says that she has many such stories, but one jumps out at her from the dark



Hidden somewhere in San Diego.

closet of memory. She and two companions headed out to Jacumba several years ago to take a look at some abandoned trains. Along the way, they found some other intriguing desert things: a curious lone pyramid in the distance and, much closer, four cement tubs, empty but made for bathing in the hot

spring water found in the area. Next to the tubs, she found a woman’s purse that gave her an eerie feeling. Had the owner been abducted? Had some other misfortune happened? Despite — or perhaps because of — that eerie feeling, Johnson felt that the purse gave her party a good excuse to go further into this property — specifically, over to the pyramid, to see if people were about. She reasoned that if they encountered someone on this piece of what was probably private land — “It’s not always easy to tell,” she notes — she could say that she was trying to return the purse

to its owner. She and her friends made their way over.

Recalls Johnson, “So we go to the pyramid, and sure enough, you can hear people talking in there. I knock on the pyramid, and you can hear them all get quiet.”

“Hi, I’m Jessica,” she said to the door. “We found this purse. I’m wondering if someone lost it?” There was a pause.

“Finally, this man talks. But whenever the man asks us a question, immediately after, a woman echoes what he says.”

Man: “Hello.”

Woman: “Hello”

Man: “How many of you are there?”

Woman: “How many of you are there?”

Johnson answered that there were three of them. They were then asked a couple of other questions before the pyramid dwellers asked if they would like to come inside. The door opened to reveal — relievingly, I assume — a group of four old hippie types, one of whom was indeed the owner of the purse. The structure was empty inside,

expect for a cement slab in the center. There were silhouettes of three bodies outlined on the slab — less relieving, I assume.

“If you would have been here ten minutes earlier or ten minutes later,” said one of the hippies, “you would have been at the wrong time. But you guys came at the right time.” For what, exactly? It was unclear. The hippie said that before he had them lay down, he wanted to know if any of them had claustrophobia, or any issue with being locked in the pyramid.

“My friend says, ‘Yes, me,’” recalls Johnson, “and he says, ‘Good — you’ll lay in the middle.’

Boom! He slams the pyramid door shut.”

As she laid herself down, Johnson thought, “We really got ourselves into a situation.” On the other hand, she feels she can read people well, and says she didn’t feel any “dark energy” from the pyramid people.

Johnson’s not exactly sure of the meaning of what the old hippies got up to next, but they began to make various motions and sounds over their supine guests on the slab: waving fingers, shaking bottles around their faces and in their ears. She says she found it surprisingly amusing, and had to stifle her laughter by biting her cheek. Happily, it all ended well: “Yeah, Now I’m friends with all of them. They’ve turned the area into an Airbnb.”

The effort and the hazards of days like that one in the desert are all labors of love on behalf of Johnson’s project, *Hidden San Diego*, a digital compendium of destinations and curiosities that might escape the average San Diegan’s notice. She started work on it in 2010. “I don’t think I would have created the concept now,” Johnson tells me. The explosive growth of social media and the limitless quantity of content developed since then would have made her reluctant to try. But *Hidden San Diego* has survived, remaining relevant by broadening its range of material, joining the social media fray, and continuously growing its array of local hidden treasures.

In 2019, her first book, *Abandoned San Diego*, was published, and she received a Town Crier award from San Diego’s Save Our Heri-



Desolation by the Bay.



Look out for the bees!

tage Organization for her work documenting and writing “enticingly about irreplaceable, little known, majestic, or designated historic sites and buildings.” Today, she’s still out and about, even with a new baby and a day job. Recently, she made her way over to photograph the current state of the De Anza Trailer Park on Mission Bay, where residents in a hurry to leave have left their homes and belongings behind. It’s a piece of newly abandoned San Diego that will soon exist only in memories, stories, and photographs — thanks in part to Johnson’s curiosity and curation. ■



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# ROCK OF AGED



**J**eff Schafer is a 61-year-old engineer at Viasat in Carlsbad. He is married with two sons, ages 24 and 27.

He estimates that over the last ten years, he's attended over 100 concerts, featuring such classic rock acts as Blue Öyster Cult, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Foghat, Alice Cooper, and Rick Wakeman – most of whom are, or were, even older than he is.

## The years go by, but the beat goes on

"I love the experience of live music and being out with friends who also enjoy the same thing," he says. "There's a limited amount of time to see these bands I've loved my entire life, as evidenced by Jeff Beck just passing away. Tom Petty died a week after I saw him. But for me, it's not just that they might die. We pick and choose the ones that we think are still playing well, and then we go."

Schafer notes that he took both of his sons to their first concerts — Metallica for older son Ben, who

was 15 at the time, and Megadeth for younger son Matthew, who was 14. "Now, they both go to a lot of shows on their own," Schafer says. Still, he adds, he figures that in recent years he's gone to more concerts than both of his two sons, combined.

As a teenager, Schafer was a big music fan who routinely went to concerts, which at the time were relatively cheap — three to five bucks a ticket. "My first concert was the Doobie Brothers at the San Diego Sports Arena, when I was fifteen, and my second



was the Eagles, that same year, also at the Arena. I saw Lynyrd Skynyrd a week before the plane crash” that killed three of the band’s members, including the lead singer. When he went off to college at California State University at Stanislaus, Schafer says, he worked as a deejay on the college radio station. “I saw whatever bands came to the college – George Thorogood and the Destroyers, the Greg Kihn Band, the J. Geils Band.”

But after college, and after settling in back home in Carlsbad, getting married and starting a family and a career, he found that concerts tended to get put on the back burner — at least, until the boys reached their teens and became more independent. “There was a big gap, and I don’t really remember what got me going to shows again. But once I did, it was almost like I couldn’t stop,” Schafer says. “Part of it is that so many of these bands I remember from 30 and even 40 years ago sound as good as they did in their prime, if not better. I saw Blue Öyster Cult in November 2021 at the Belly Up Tavern, and they sounded amazing. The sound quality at the Belly Up is so much better than it was at San Diego Stadium, where I saw them in 1979. And their new guitarist — only two of the band’s five members are originals — is incredible.”

Schafer ventures as far north as Los Angeles to see his favorite classic rock acts, although most shows are local. The furthest he’s gone to see an old favorite? Berlin, Germany. “I found out Tony Carey, who lives in Germany, was going to do a show, and I felt it would be fun for a friend of mine and me to fly over there and go see him,” Schafer says, noting

he’s been a fan since Carey played keyboards in Rainbow. The musician subsequently enjoyed a successful solo career, highlighted by the success of the Top 40 single “Fine, Fine Day.” “We planned an entire trip to Berlin around that show, and saw him in this really neat place. We stayed a week and saw the whole city, even finding a museum dedicated to the Ramones. And it was all just to see that one show.”

Another time, Schafer and his wife Kelly flew to Austin, Texas to see Mark Knopfler, the former leader of Dire Straits, another of Schafer’s classic rock favorites. They were so enthralled by the show — part of the famed *Austin City Limits* music series — that a few days later, they ventured up north to catch another concert by Knopfler at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison, Colorado.

Schafer’s remaining bucket-list artist? Mike Oldfield, known for the ’70s hit “Tubular Bells.” Says Schafer, “I don’t think he plays anymore, but this year is the 50th anniversary of that song and if he’s playing anywhere in the world, I’m going to go see him.” Any fears that time is running out? “I’m not scared of my favorite bands dying out. I figure, hell, I saw them in their heyday and just enjoy any further time I get to see them. It’s like, I’m not scared of my parents dying. I know they will, but in the meantime, I’ll still do as much as I can with them.”

#### Old money

Worldwide, fans spent an estimated \$11.7 billion on concert tickets last year, a record high, according to *Pollstar*, the concert industry trade magazine. In November, Live Nation, the country’s leading concert promoter, said it “delivered the biggest sum-

mer concert season in history” and maintained that these results “demonstrate the ongoing and increasing demand for live events globally, with attendance up at events of all sizes from clubs to stadiums.” This despite the fact that the median price for concert tickets is now over \$100, according to *Pollstar*. And while much of that money comes in from contemporary artists such as Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny, English singer Ed Sheeran, and One Direction alum Harry Styles, aging rock stars — helped along by not-much-younger fans such as Jeff Schafer — are racking up impressive numbers. According to *Billboard Magazine*, four of the top ten concert tours of 2022 were by so-called legacy acts — artists whose biggest hits came out decades ago, and who are well past the traditional retirement age.

Elton John, who turned 75 in March 2022, finished the year at No. 2 (behind Bad Bunny), with an estimated tour gross of \$334.4 million. The Rolling Stones, whose members are all in their late seventies, finished at No. 6 with an estimated tour gross of \$179.4 million. The Red Hot Chili Peppers, an alternative rock band formed in 1983, came in seventh with \$177 million. And heavy metal heavyweights Def Leppard and Mötley Crüe, whose heydays came during the big hair heavy metal boom of the ’80s, finished in eighth place with \$173.5 million. Expanding the list to the top twenty: Paul McCartney, the Eagles, and Guns ‘n’ Roses all had big concert years.

In a 2017 article titled “Twilight of the Rock Gods,” *The Wall Street Journal* observed, “With

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many of rock's founding fathers and mothers reaching their 70s, the end of the age of rock 'n' roll is just beginning... Of the 25 artists with the highest record sales in the U.S. since 1991, when reliable data first became available, just one — Britney Spears — is under 40, Nielsen data show. Nineteen of the 25 are over 50 years old. In terms of concert-tour revenue, artists over 50 represent half of the \$4.5 billion generated by last year's top 100-grossing tours, excluding non-music acts and comedians, according to a *WSJ* analysis of data from *Pollstar*....” The article went on to say that “Boomer rock stars are in a league of their own, the products of an exploding record business that minted celebrities at a time when celebrity was less common... Rock was the first musical genre to become a huge, multibillion-dollar global industry with staying power. A confluence of technological, cultural and musical forces in the middle of the 20th century led to the modern pop/rock industry. Record players, a fixture in most American homes by the late 1960s, let America's restive youth



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

**Roger McGuinn in Poway in April 2022**

listen to music away from their parents. Rock concerts went global and took over sports stadiums. The rise of mass media — especially television — enabled global celebrity. ‘We produced famous people at a rate we never did before,’ MIT professor César Hidalgo and his colleagues said in a study.”

I count myself among those older oldies fans. Last year, I went to more than a dozen concerts, mostly by musical heroes of my youth, such as Bob Dylan, Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues, Roger McGuinn of the Byrds, John Fogerty of Creedence Clearwater Revival, Robby Krieger of the Doors and, moving into the '70s and

'80s, Blondie, The Damned and Roxy Music. Like Jeff Schafer, I was an avid concert-goer as a teen and young adult, took time out to build a career and raise a family, and now spend well over \$1000 a year on concert tickets. I take delight in the fact that I saw the Moody Blues twice in 2017 during what turned out to be their farewell tour — once with my oldest son and once with my middle son — and that they sounded even better than they had when I first saw them in 1978, nearly 40 years earlier. The biggest difference was the audience: a number of patrons were in wheelchairs, and a couple wheeled oxygen tanks.

### That front row sound

Pete Albanese, 63 and also an engineer, lives in Encinitas, and attends five to seven concerts a year. A recent, memorable show: Ex-Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant with Alison Krauss at the Rady Shell on the Embarcadero. Albanese's show count may be a little low, but that's because he likes to sit as close to the stage as possible, and has spent up to \$1000 per ticket to see performers like Rod Stewart and the late Jeff Beck. “If I go to a concert, I want to be front row, or at least as close to that as I can get,” he says. “I want to listen to the instruments as they are being played, as op-

posed to amplification.” Albanese has been attending concerts all his life, with no gap years during his family- and career-building days. “Music's always been a part of my life,” he says. “I saw Rod Stewart and the Faces in 1973, back in Toronto — I'm originally from Canada. I was the younger brother in my family, and we had cousins who were four years older, so we listened to underground FM: the Yardbirds, Buffalo Springfield. And we went to concerts by the Cars, Bruce Springsteen, a young Carlos Santana.... Going to concerts has been continuous. I even took my son, when he was seven, along with my parents, to see Rod Stewart play the amphitheater in Chula Vista. Everybody had to be included.”

That son is now 28 and still accompanies his dad to shows often, Albanese says. “Much of my concert activity is venue driven,” he notes. “I like Humphrey's, I like the Spreckels Theater, and up in LA, I like the Dolby Theater, the Greek, and the El Rey. If I go to the Hollywood Bowl, I'm going to get front-row seats. The venue is really important to me: the acoustics, the visual perspective. I try to stay

away from the Sports Arena and the amphitheater in Chula Vista.”

Albanese says that while he prefers attending concerts by classic rock acts he's been listening to for years, he especially prefers artists who are still putting out new music. “I like artists like Mark Knopfler because their artistic capabilities are still there,” Albanese says. “He's such a talented composer, and his band is incredible. I like the horns and how they compose and produce stuff. I bought his latest album and loved it. It's the progressive nature of Knopfler and people like that; they are constantly growing, their music is changing, and they're always bringing new musicians to the table. The Rolling Stones, on the other hand — I won't see them again. I don't see any value. They haven't done anything new in 40 years.” Albanese is not averse to jumping on a plane and heading off to some far-off destination for the right artist — and the right venue. “A few years back, I flew to Toronto to see Mark Knopfler at the Sony Center, which used to be the O'Keefe Center. And I've seen Van Morrison in Ireland, Las Vegas

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PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Jeff Schafer outside the Bob Dylan concert at the San Diego Civic Theater in June 2022

and even the Royal Albert Hall in London. For the London show, I bought the ticket and then figured out how to get there.”

Albanese’s comments about sitting up close resonate with me, although I am inherently cheap, and have never spent more than about \$200 for a concert ticket. Funny story: in October 2021, I went with my friend Frank Silva to see Van Morrison at San Diego State University’s Open Air Theater. Frank is a diehard fan of Van and spent \$525, plus fees, for a front-row center ticket. That, by the way, was the regular price from Ticketmaster, not an inflated price charged by ticket scalpers — I mean, ticket brokers. I spent \$65 for a seat way up high. Before the show began, I walked down to the orchestra pit to visit Frank.

“How did you get down here?” he asked.

“I just walked in,” I responded. “Why do you ask?”

“Well, because they check wristbands and won’t let anyone down

here without wristband.” So I walked over to an usher and casually asked for a wristband. By then, the opening act, Taj Mahal, was already playing, so I sat down next to Frank in the vacant front-row center seat beside him. And I got on my phone, checking the Ticketmaster site to see which seats remained unsold, so I could sit in one of those unsold seats. Lo and behold, among the handful of tickets still available was the one I was sitting in, right next to Frank. I enjoyed the show and didn’t feel one bit guilty. *Five hundred bucks — make that six hundred, when all the fees were factored in? Someone’s getting a little greedy.*

#### Let’s put on a show

Brad Auerbach is a Solana Beach attorney, 65 years old, who estimates that over the last five years, he’s gone to about 200 concerts. “Sometimes there’s two a week, sometimes none, but I figure I go to at least three to five concerts every month,” he says. “It was a kind of slow fall for us, since

we had a big trip to Italy and then the holidays cut into concerts.” But he’s looking at picking up the pace as the new year progresses. Among the most recent concerts Auerbach has attended: George Clinton, the 82-year-old funk pioneer, at the Anaheim House of Blues; 75-year-old Elton John at Petco Park; The Who, led by 78-year-old singer Roger Daltrey and 77-year-old guitarist Pete Townsend, in Las Vegas; Roxy Music, the British art-rock band fronted by 77-year-old Bryan Ferry, at the Inglewood Forum; and former Pink Floyd leader Roger Waters, who turns 80 this year, at Staples Center in Los Angeles. Auerbach gives all those shows high marks, even The Who, whose performances have been known to be erratic. “That’s my number-one band,” he says. “Each time I see them, I wonder whether I’m going to be upset. Will they be like the boxer who doesn’t know when to hang up his gloves? But they always come through and deliver.”

Auerbach saw his first concert in 1971, when he was just 15: Chicago, at the War Memorial Stadium in Buffalo, New York, where he grew up. “The next year, 1972, was a big year for me: I saw Led Zeppelin, Neil Young, Frank Zappa, and Jethro Tull. Mom insisted I wear earplugs, for which I am eternally grateful. I still do.” He continued attending as many shows as he could afford, but he slammed on the brakes when (you guessed it) it came time to launch a career and start a family. “It was probably a decade ago that I started back up,” Auerbach says, “when the girls were a little older.” (They are now 22 and 24). What prompted his con-

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cert comeback? “I think the driver isn’t so much the biology of these people I’d like to see, meaning these guys are getting older,” he says. “I mean, most of these artists I’ve already seen, many of them multiple times. It’s obviously great to be able to see them again, but it really does boil down to the live experience. I love live music. And you just can’t recreate this in any other way. It’s only going to happen at that time, in that place, and you’re right there, in the audience, watching it happen. It’s not going to happen again.”

Auerbach notes that many of the legacy bands he loves sound better today than they did in their heyday. That’s not just because of the “last hurrah” aspect; it’s also because the money has gotten so good that they can afford top-notch backing musicians, equipment, and productions. “For years, artists played concerts to support record sales,” he says. Concert tickets were cheap because live shows were considered part of the marketing campaign to support album sales. But with the rise of the internet, song file swapping and streaming, concerts have



**Robbie Krieger of the Doors at the Coach House in San Juan Capistrano in September 2022**

become the primary way that musicians make money — which is why concert tickets are easily ten to twenty times more expensive than they were in the ’70s and ’80s.

Not that he minds much. “I think it’s wonderful that these guys are making real money,” Auerbach says. “I still have an old Led Zeppelin concert ticket stub, and I remember thinking long and hard about how much of my paper route money I was going to spend: four bucks, five bucks, or six bucks for the really good seats. Now, if those guys would even get back

together, you’d move the decimal point at least two spaces, probably three. But it won’t happen.” Artists also recognize that to keep people wanting to pay big bucks to see them in concert, they need to put on spectacular shows. “I think they understand that they can’t risk phoning it in,” Auerbach says. “They really have to be into it.”

Unlike some senior concert attendees, Auerbach doesn’t limit his live shows to legacy bands he remembers from his youth. “I’m very excited about how our kids have joined us in getting into music, and in

addition to liking some of the same bands we like, they’re turning us on to newer bands. Our girls for Christmas got us tickets to see The Dip at the Belly Up, and then we also saw the Jamestown Revival.” (The Dip is a rhythm and blues band formed in 2013 by jazz students at the University of Washington in Seattle; Jamestown Revival is a folk duo from Magnolia, Texas, that merges Southern country with Western rock and American roots-rock.) “Seeing these younger bands and getting turned on to them is just great,” Auerbach

says. “I’m not blinded by only seeing legacy artists. I’m definitely open to seeing new bands.”

### Music is my drug

Ricky Hoelck, who turns 70 in August, is gearing up to see Tommy James at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas in March. “I’ve seen him two times already,” he says of the 75-year-old former front man of Tommy James and the Shondells, whose string of ’60s hits include “Crimson and Clover” and “I Think We’re Alone Now.” Hoelck, who lives in San Diego and still works full-time as a sales rep for a spice company, says he typically attends 40 to 50 concerts a year, some in the San Diego area and others while he’s traveling, either for work — he has a five-state sales territory — or for senior softball tournaments. Recent shows include .38 Special, Foghat, Little Feat, and the Tedeschi Trucks Band — only the latter is a relatively new band, formed in 2010; it plays a blend of American rock and blues. In addition to going to concerts, Hoelck collects and sells vintage concert posters.

“I’m a recovering drug

addict, among all the other things I’ve done in my life,” Hoelck says. “I got caught up in the ’60s and ’70s, and then as I started making more money, as more money came around, so I did that. No one knew how addictive it was, but it got me. I didn’t lose everything, but it kind of redirected me, so when I finally got sober, besides God, I turned to the one thing I have always loved, even before drugs, which is music. This was in 2008, and while I had never really stopped going to concerts, I just got into that groove, and now music is really my drug.”

Hoelck says he tends to stick with classic rock acts he remembers from his younger days. “It’s the music, man,” he says. “It’s our music. We had the greatest era of creativity, with instruments, sounds and creative stuff — these incredible guitarists, Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Page, Carlos Santana. Just looking up into the ether and pulling this music out... where is it coming from? I mean, I saw Hendrix jam... I just love music, especially live music.”

Hoelck says one of his most memorable concerts was a show at the Encore in Las Vegas by Creedence

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PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues at the Coach House in June 2022

Clearwater Revival singer, songwriter, and guitarist John Fogerty (born 1945) that was held a day after the Las Vegas shooting massacre in October 2017 at the Route 91 Harvest music festival, in which 60 people lost their lives. “When we went in, John goes, ‘I was here last night, you guys were here last night, here’s what we’re doing. If you want to stand on your head in the aisles, go for it. If you want to film, dance, stand on your seats, I told the ushers we’re going to take a trip out of the building without leaving it and they need to leave you alone.’ And he went on to play an incredible show.”

Another time, Hoelck says, he saw Jefferson Starship shortly before leader Paul Kantner’s death in January 2016 at the age of 74. Kantner was known for being something of a grumpy old man, and Hoelck’s experience underscores that perception. “Right before the show, as the band members were already up on stage, the lead singer, who replaced Grace Slick, waved at one of the guys sitting at a front table to come on up, so he did,” Hoelck says. “And as he’s coming up the steps, Paul Kantner, who’s sitting on an amp, looks at him and says, ‘What the fuck,’ and starts

shoving the guy in the chest, right off the stage. The guy has to hop across two tables and lands on the floor. And the singer says, ‘That’s my friend, Paul!’” Hoelck saw ZZ Top play last summer, a year after the death of the long-bearded trio’s longtime bassist, Dusty Hill (who, like his two bandmates, was born in 1949). “They were great,” Hoelck says. “When Dusty died, they invited their longtime sound man to join them. He’d been with them for 25 years, just this clean-cut tech guy. Well, after Dusty died, he grew his beard and let his hair grow long, and sure enough, [band leader]

Billy Gibbons says, ‘You’re taking Dusty’s place.’ And when I saw them, he never skipped a beat.”

The fact that he’s frequently on the road broadens Hoelck’s opportunities to see his favorite performers live. “Joe Walsh was playing down in Chula Vista with Bad Company the day I was leaving on a road trip,” Hoelck says. “At first I said, ‘Damn – it’s the day I’m leaving,’ but then I found out he was playing up in Berkeley the very next night, which is where I was heading. So I said, ‘Man, I’m going.’ I bought a ticket, flew up there, rented a car and drove straight to the amphitheater where he was playing. And by the time I got there, as I was walking in I heard him sing, ‘Walk Away.’ I had one ticket, and I was in row sixteen. And I was pinching myself: *I can’t believe I’m actually here.*”

— Thomas K. Arnold

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# Calendar

# Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 23

THY ART IS MURDER



Formed in 2006, Australian deathcore band Thy Art Is Murder was one of the first extreme metal bands to reach the Top 40 charts in Australia, Canada, and the U.S. Following several lineup changes, guitarist-bassist Sean Delander is the only remaining founding member. Their most recent studio album *Human Target* was released in 2019.

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 23, 7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue, North Park. [livenation.com](http://livenation.com)

Saturday | 25

FIDO FEST

Fido Fest is expecting at least 2500 attendees this year. There will be a shelter donation drive to help local non-profit shelters. Bring an item and be entered to win doggie gift baskets. Microchipping and pet licensing provided by the San Diego Humane Society. Check out the Interactive Zone's agility course, off-leash tennis ball mania, arfs & crafts, doggie temporary tattoos, and treat finder. Contests include: doggie cake walk, costume contest, smallest dog, largest dog, and best trick.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 25, 11 am to 3 pm

**WHERE:** Town Center Community Park, 550 Park Center Drive, Santee. [cityofsantee.ca.gov](http://cityofsantee.ca.gov)

SELTZERLAND

Enjoy a hard seltzer festival with entertainment, seltzer pong, ladder ball, and cornhole. Take pics inside the inflatable

bubble booth, and go home with seltzer swag. Choose from 100+ hard seltzers throughout the venue.

Games, activities,



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25: SELTZERLAND

live DJ, Instagramable photo ops, giveaways, and food available for purchase at food trucks. 2022 winners: Playa Mar, Owl's Brew, The Finnish Long Drink, Fireball Whisky. KYLA Hard Kombucha, and Happy Hour Tequila Seltzer.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 25, 11 am to 6 pm

**WHERE:** Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, 1000 N. Harbor Drive, Downtown. [seltzerland.com](http://seltzerland.com)

SECRETS OF SOUTH SAN DIEGO BAY BIKE TOUR

California State Park interpreter Laura Dulin will be leading a small group of people on a bike tour of the South San Diego Bay. Come learn a little bit about the "secret" history of the area, as well as the various little-known animals that live in the Bay area. Registration required.

**WHEN:** Saturdays, 10 am to 11:30 am, through May.

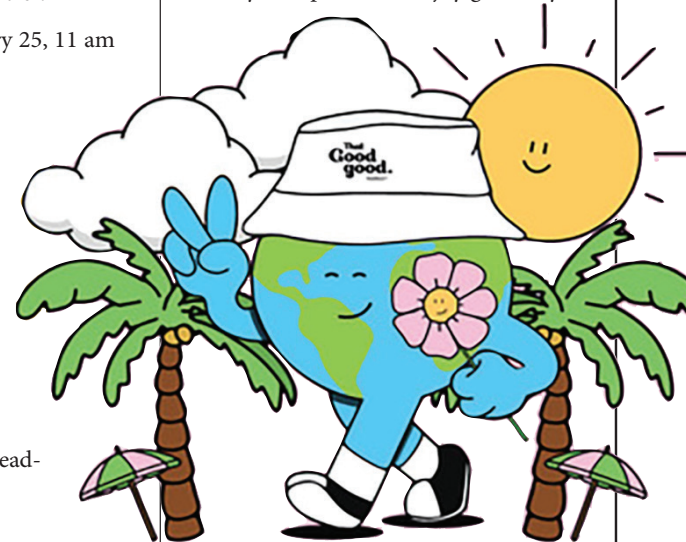
**WHERE:** Silver Strand State Beach, 5000 Highway 75, Coronado. [sdbikecoalition.org](http://sdbikecoalition.org)



Tuesday | 28

VEGAN FOOD & LIFESTYLE MARKET

Sample plant-based treats, shop for cruelty-free products, enjoy giveaways,



and learn about the benefits of a vegan lifestyle. Pet- and kid-friendly. Vegan alcoholic drinks and music.

Evolution Fast Food is the world's first fully vegan drive-thru restaurant, offering quick plant-based options.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 28, 4 pm to 8 pm

**WHERE:** Evolution Fast Food, 2965 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. [evolutionfastfood.com](http://evolutionfastfood.com)



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## ART

**Black Nerds Expo** Attendees can explore and celebrate black comics, books, art, video games, pop culture, content creation, science, tech, engineering, and math alongside like-minded individuals. This event is open to everyone. The first 100 attendees to register will receive a raffle ticket. Saturday, February 25, 11am; **free**. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

**Loves Me, Loves Me Not** Locally based vendors and artists, coffee served by Surje Coffee Co., live music from Ben Parks, and more. Saturday, February 25, 5pm; \$10-\$15. San Diego Made Factory, 2031 Commercial Street. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

**The High Renaissance in Italy** Although the High Renaissance lasted for only a short period of time, it saw the production of some of the most exceptional artistic creations in the Italian states. Rome, which was the capital of the Papal States, and Florence were the two primary locations where High Renaissance artists flourished. Thursday, February 23, 11am; **free**. [timkenmuseum.org/calendar/list/](http://timkenmuseum.org/calendar/list/). (ONLINE)

**Torn Paper Collage class** All skill levels welcome. Supplies provided. Ages 10 to adult. Wednesday, March 1, 2pm; \$61-\$70. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

## BEER

**Beer Release: PlatyPug Belgian Amber 7.5%** Belgian style beer. Friday, February 24, 12pm; **free**. 21 and up. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

**Sour Sunday** Flight featuring pours of barrel-aged sours. Five tasters for the price of four, plus enjoy 20% off sour bottles to go all day. Sunday, February 26, 11am; Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**Edward Zuckerman: Wealth Management** *Law and Order* writer Edward Zuckerman will discuss and sign his new novel, *Wealth Management*. Thursday, February 23, 7pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

**Jane Muschenetz: All the Bad Girls Wear Russian Accents** Book launch for *All the Bad Girls Wear Russian Accents* with poet and artist Jane Muschenetz. “Written with humor and heart during the pandemic and the Russian invasion of her home country of Ukraine, Jane’s debut poetry chapbook is a poetic exploration of life as an outsider, our fraught relationship with societal norms, and our common humanity.” Saturday, February 25, 2pm; **free**. 18 and up. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Weekends with Locals: R. Ann Bush** Weekends with Locals will be hosting R. Ann Bush, author of *Waves on the Potomac*. Sunday, February 26, 2:30pm; **free**. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Weekends with Locals: Richard G. Oppen** Weekends with Locals will be hosting Richard G. Oppen, author of *The Body in the Barrel*. Sunday, February 26, 12pm; **free**. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Writer’s Symposium by the Sea: Maria Hinojosa** Interview with Maria Hinojosa and Dean Nelson followed by book signing with Hinojosa. Maria Hinojosa has written three books: *Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America*, *Raising Raul: Adventures Raising Myself and My Son*, and *Crews: Gang Members Talk*. Thursday, February 23, 7pm; \$10-\$50. Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive. (POINT LOMA)

## Rhyme & Verse

*Two poems by Isabella Hsu*

### A Higher Call

“Our system is so discriminatory against Black and brown people...I want to do as much as I can to make their lives easier.”  
— Kim Kardashian

I’m different now; I aim for more than fame,  
And only justice can relieve my thirst:  
To represent, defend, and to arraign  
On end until each verdict is reversed.  
I know just what it takes to get ahead—  
From chats with Trump to being a sex tape star.  
It helps that I don’t care what some have said  
(Though it still took four tries to pass the bar).  
The call to law runs deep, it’s in my blood.  
I’ll make sure that my kids will be protected  
From having to appear before a judge  
(No matter that they’re safe—we’re well-connected).  
I’m going to defend just like my dad,  
Who knew that not all brown people are bad.

## Anaxagoras Contemplates

### His Compost Pile

In evening’s lower glow, the scraps  
From dinner’s vegetables are spilling  
In tumbled piles—translucent skins  
Of onions, ends of carrots, stems  
Of eggplants touched with rot. All these  
Lie where they’re left in seeming stillness,  
Awaiting death beneath the soil.  
But tilled and turned, they’ll live again,  
Will break beyond their parts, divide  
As looser atoms, other selves,  
Transformed into the sediment  
Of life: the hangnail or the thread  
Of hair, the grime beneath a shoe,  
The spot of drying blood, now brown,  
The corner of a broken tooth.  
Our darkened senses fail to see  
This swarming mass of little worlds.  
Once seething, they are settled now,  
And lay themselves once more in earth,  
Awaiting slow and strange rebirth.



Isabella Hsu is a writer and editor based in Milwaukee. She is currently pursuing her MFA in creative writing from the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

*Find more poetry online at [SDreader.com/poetry](http://SDreader.com/poetry)*

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Acrylic Pour Workshop** Instructor: Beverly Brock. Friday, February 24, 2pm; \$20-\$30. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

**Acrylic Pour Workshop** Instructor: Beverly Brock. Monday, February 27, 6pm; \$20-\$30. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

**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)

**Afro-Caribbean Dance & Drumming Workshop** Enjoy a discussion of African and Caribbean dance forms and styles demonstrated on video. Dance and drumming rhythms are then taught

and practiced, followed by freestyle African dance under the direction of Master Percussionist Gene Perry. Musical instruments are available. Social Science Building, Room #101 Thursday, February 23, 3:30pm; **free**. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Canasta 101** Learn how to play the popular game, Canasta, with a 6-Week Course. Thursday, February 23, 1pm; \$135-\$150. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

**Compost Workshop** A composting workshop will include instruction and demonstration in the building and maintenance of a backyard compost pile and worm bin. The workshop is free, and no registration is required. Saturday, February 25, 8:30am; **free**. Escondido Community Garden, Centre City Parkway at Decatur Way. (ESCONDIDO)

**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)

**Fermented Vegetables Workshop** Learn how to make probiotic-rich, gut healthy fermented vegetables. Saturday, February 25, 11am; \$69. Young Medicine, 4403 Manchester Avenue 207B. (ENCINITAS)

**Free Tax Preparation Clinic** The San Diego Public Library has partnered with the nonprofit Home Start to offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. Appointments are required via 619-952-7684 or [VITAASSISTANCE@HOME-START.ORG](mailto:VITAASSISTANCE@HOME-START.ORG) Mondays, 1pm; through Monday, February 27, **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

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

**Learn Neuro-Linguistic Programming** Receive hands-on training, demonstrations, tools and techniques, and an action plan to put into practice as a certified practitioner following the sessions. Thursday, February 23, 12pm; Friday, February 24, 12pm; Saturday, February 25, 12pm; Sunday, February 26, 12pm; Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, 10950 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

**Meditation** Building Confidence With Meditation hosted by Nandi Thursday, February 23, 7pm; **free**-\$20. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

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

**Watercolor Workshop Two: 4-Week Course** Taught by Minnie Valero, students gain confidence and an understanding of watercolor as they play and paint. Thursday, February 23, 3pm; \$79-\$109. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

**Writing the Travel Narrative** With Lenore Greiner Saturday, February 25, 1pm; \$36-\$42. 18 and up. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Yiddish Art Classes for Children** This class is aimed for children of all backgrounds, ages 5-10. The class will involve art making and interpretation, based on the rich cultural heritage represented at Yiddishland. No electronic devices are allowed in the classroom. Class materials are included in the price. Wednesdays, 12:45pm; through Wednesday, March 8, \$25-\$150. Yiddishland California, 1128 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

## COMEDY

**Amir K** With Louie Centani and Kane Holloway opening. 2 Item minimum purchase per person (food or drink). Friday, February 24, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, February 25, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; \$17. 21 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**Baked Goods Comedy: Jason Collings** Cannabis themed comedy show with Jason Collings from *The Lions Den* podcast, *The Tonight Show*, and more. Sunday, February 26, 7pm; \$5. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Chula Vista Comedy Club** Featuring local comics. Tuesday, February 28, 7:30pm; **free**-\$10. 21 and up. El Cruce+241, 241 3rd Avenue Suite C. (CHULA VISTA)

**Comedy Night: Jennifer Mason** Jennifer Mason headlines with Toni Torquato, Josiah Moreno, Chuck Foster, Sam Cohen and Gene Levin. Friday, February 24, 7:30pm; **free**. 18 and up. Spacebar Cafe, 7454 University Ave., Suite A. (LA MESA)

**David Koehn** AS SEEN ON: “The Office”, Champ Kind from “Anchorman” and “Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues.” Comedy Central, ABC, FOX, Netflix & more! Thursday, February 23, 8pm; Friday, February 24, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, February 25, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Dr. Abby’s Stand Up Comedy Angels Show** Al Gavi (Headliner), Babak Shahrokh (Feature), Abby November, Carol Johnson, and Host and Opener, Edna Nerona. Monday, February 27, 6:30pm; \$5-\$80. 18 and up. Athens Market, 109 F Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Friday Night Comedy** Dog friendly venue. Friday, February 24, 8pm; **free**-\$10. 21 and up. Bolt Brewing, 8179 Center Street. (LA MESA)

**Los Mojados** Comedy in Spanish! (That’s Spanish Only Gringos). 2 item minimum purchase per person (food or drink). Thursday, February 23, 7pm and 9pm; \$5-\$10. 21 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**Stand-Up Clean Comedy Night** Headliner Nic Flair Friday, February 24, 7:30pm; \$5-\$20. Dancehouse Point Loma, 2180 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

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## DANCE

**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)

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

**A Discussion of Yoruban Culture & Traditions** Enjoy a discussion and deep exploration of the themes and culture at play within the world of *The High Table*. The High Table director, Dr. Niyi Coker, UCSD Professor Gabriel Bámbgbósé and UCSD PhD candidate and Dramaturg, Jazmin Logan, will speak on the mainstage all about the Yoruban religion and traditions that are explored on stage. Sunday, February 26, 4pm; \$20-\$65. Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

**Author Platform** Author Platform with Jill G. Hall Saturday, February 25, 2pm; \$36-\$42. 18 and up. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Chamber of Commerce Senior Expo: Embracing Retirement** Valuable information to those retiring soon, those that are retired and families of aging individuals, all who need a little help navigating this new life chapter. Exhibitors include healthcare providers, housing options, senior lifestyle businesses, fitness & wellness, government agencies, financial and tax services, insurance and more. Saturday, February 25, 9am; **free**. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. (ENCINITAS)

**One on One with Taryn Manning** Discussion with film and TV star Taryn Manning hosted by OIFF Artistic Director Carly Starr Brullo-Niles. Tickets include access to OIFF's 2023 Award Show. Saturday, February 25, 7pm; \$12-\$15. Sunshine Brooks Theatre, 217 N. Coast Highway. (OCEANSIDE)

**Poway Library Knitting Group** Spend the afternoon with fellow knitting enthusiasts. All are welcome, including beginning knitters, although no formal instruction is provided. Bring your own supplies. Monday, February 27, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

**What is Yiddish?** Learn about the origins and development of Yiddish and get your questions answered by our CEO Jana Mazurkiewicz Meisarosh. Drink a glass of wine, enjoy some nosh, and mingle with other people with interest in the La Jolla area. This event will be broadcast on Zoom. Friday, February 24, 7pm; \$18-\$30. Yiddishland California, 1128 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

# OUTDOORS

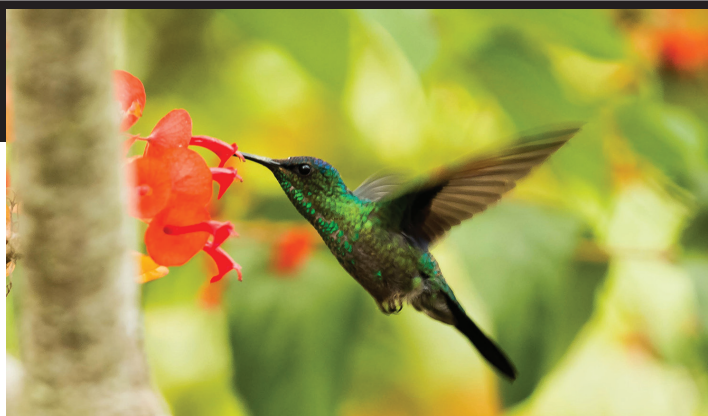
## Ceanothus marches east, monkey flower attracts hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are Swarming Over San Diego County's Backyard Gardens and scrub-covered coastal hillsides, and the warm Anza-Borrego Desert. Red monkey flower (which blooms best in March and April) is a favorite source of nectar near the coast, while red-blossomed chuparosa and ocotillo normally play the same role in the desert. Keep an eye out for the male hummingbird's mating "dance," which involves soaring ascents followed by dramatic downward dives.

**Ceanothus, or Wild Lilac, has been Springing into Bloom** for some time -- at least in the warmer coastal areas. By early March,



WILD LILAC (CEANOTHUS) BLOOMING IN A RANCHO PENASQUITOS BACKYARD.



DINING AND DANCING.

virtually every chaparral-covered canyon and hillside on the coastal strip may exhibit blue- or white-flowering specimens. The peak of the *ceanothus* bloom will work its way eastward, reaching Ramona and Alpine by late March or April, and the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna mountains by April or May. For the next few years, vigorous *ceanothus* growth will continue in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, where the devastating 2003 Cedar wildfire incinerated nearly all of the trees and opened up opportunities for post-fire pioneering vegetation.

**After Dinnertime at This Time of Year**, five carnivore constellations are rising upright in a row from the northeast to south, as if out of hibernation. They're all seen in profile, with their noses pointed up and their feet (if any) to the right. These are: *Ursa Major* (the Big Bear) in the northeast (with the Big Dipper as its brightest part), Leo the Lion in the east, dim Hydra the Sea Serpent in the southeast, *Canis Minor* (the Little Dog) higher in the south-southeast, and bright *Canis Major* (the Big Dog) in the south.

*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. Planet information from SkyandTelescope.org.*

## FARMERS' MARKETS

**Vegan Food & Lifestyle Market** Sample plant-based treats, shop for cruelty-free products, and learn about the benefits of a vegan lifestyle. Tuesday, February 28, 4pm; **free**. Evolution Fast Food, 2965 Fifth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

## FOOD & DRINK

**Move & Mimosas** 2023 Wellness at the Lake series: 45 minute workout and meditation class led by MUV Meditations, followed by mimosas by the pool and 20% off restaurant, The Grill. Sunday, February 26, 11am; \$15-\$35. Lakehouse Hotel & Resort, 1025 La Bonita Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

**San Diego Dim Sum Tour** Enjoy a walking tour through the heart of Asia-town and end at a popular Asian supermarket. Trip length 1.5-2 miles. Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 31, \$69. Jasmine Seafood Restaurant, 4609 Convoy St., Suite A. (KEARNY MESA)

**Seltzerland** Hard seltzer festival, Seltzerland, features entertainment, seltzer pong, ladder ball and cornhole. Take pics inside the inflatable

bubble booth, and go home with all the seltzer swag you could dream of. There will also be a DJ on hand to provide a live soundtrack. Saturday, February 25, 11am; \$29-\$39. 21 and up. Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, 1000 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Tijuana Street Food Tour** Enjoy an all-inclusive street food tour in Tijuana. Guests meet at the McDonald's at the San Ysidro Trolley Station. Passports required. wildfoodietours.com. Saturdays, 12pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$69. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

**TomatoMania** Featuring classic and heirloom tomatoes with four-inch plants offered for sale. Friday, February 24, 9am; **free**. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (EL CAJON)

## 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)

**Chula Vista Library Family Concert Series** Música de Mariachi: Spanish/English program, participants will learn how mariachi instruments make their sounds and how their rhythms layer to form this special musical style. Open to all ages. Saturday, February 25, 2pm; **free**. Chula Vista Civic Center Library, 365 F Street. (CHULA VISTA)

**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)

**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)

**Trail Tykes Program** Created for children 2 to 5 years of age, Trail Tykes includes a read-aloud story, and a craft/activity or a short walk with MTRP Foundation staff and volunteers. Please register to reserve your free space. Sunday, February 26, 10am; Monday, February 27, 10am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

## NATURE

**Birding Basics Class** Join MTRP Trail Guide and birder Winona Sollock for an educational bird identification class. Learn 5 simple techniques to identify birds at a glance. You will also learn how to use a field guide, so bring one along if you have it. Classes meet at the Visitor Center in Classroom A. Free seating limited to first ten people Saturday, February 25, 1pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**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 March 3, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Oceans at Night** Birch Aquarium is launching Oceans at Night, an event that invites a 21+ audience to experience an immersive blend of art, science and technology after hours. The new monthly series celebrates the wonders and mysteries of the ocean after dark. Thursday, February 23, 6:30pm; \$67-\$75. 21 and up. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

**Wheelchair-Accessible Botanical Tour** Join Park Ranger Herrera for a journey through a lesser-known botanical treasure. This easy, 1/4 mile trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Bring water and sun protection. Leashed, friendly dogs are welcome. Meet near the playground. Saturday, February 25, 11am; **free**. Charles Lewis III Memorial Park, 4639 Home Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)



## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Bird Friendly Home & Garden Expo** We've looked at the biggest threats to birds and wondered how people can make a difference: threats like habitat loss, run-ins with domestic pets, collisions with windows and other human-made objects, loss of reliable food sources. The Bird-friendly Home and Garden Expo will introduce you to some businesses with products and services that help birds, either directly or indirectly. Sunday, February 26, 10am; **free**. Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**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)

**San Diego Bird Festival Exhibit Hall** Try out all of the brands, and then buy the one that is right for you. The exhibit hall is open to the public. Thursday, February 23, 1pm; **free**-\$35. Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC BEACH)

## SPOKEN WORD

**Opus Generis** Five classical poems illustrating the gender-identity formation process. Saturday, February 25, 3pm; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Hills Library, 925 W. Washington Street. (MISSION HILLS)

**The VAMP Nonfiction Storytelling Show** From So Say We All, the San Diego literary arts nonprofit, the VAMP nonfiction showcase theme is "Vampires." Thursday, February 23, 8pm; 21 and up. Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**Orli Vinyasa** Orli Vinyasa + Vuori x Pura Vida Pop-Up: Yoga session followed by a post-flow mini market and mingling. Saturday, February 25, 9am; \$30. La Jolla Woman's Club, 7791 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**San Diego Gulls Home Game** Friday, February 24, 7pm; Wednesday, March 1, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

**San Diego Legion VS New England Free Jacks** Sunday, February 26, 4pm; Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Yoga For Gratitude in Yiddish (with English Translation)** Practice yoga and mindfulness that focuses on gratitude to help detoxify the mind, body and connect to a larger reason for being. The language of instruction is Yiddish with English translation. Instructor: Tanya Yakovleva Sunday, February 26, 8am; \$10-\$15. Yiddishland California, 1128 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

## 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



**The Ferryman: Oh dear, it's Chekhov's goose!**

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 daz-zlingly 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

MOXIE's mission statement is to "create more diverse and honest images of women+ for our culture using the intimate art of theater." But when you're on as solid a run as the theater has been of late, you can afford to be generous and put on a show like Birds of North America, one that puts a man at its center and lets a woman — in this case, his adult daughter — go to work on him.

Not "go to work" in the sense of

attacking or teaching or even consciously influencing — if anything, their conversations here, undertaken over the course of many autumns as he spies and catalogues the birds in his backyard, are marked by Dad's efforts to impress his brand of liberal environmentalism upon his disappointing offspring. First, she's content to copyediting for a conservative news outfit, happy to take their money whether or not she agrees with their product. Then she finds herself grieving for a miscarriage as if it were a baby and not merely a clump of cells, an admission that brings forth from the Old Man the horrified suspicion that she may be pro-life.

That's Dad: sticking to his principles no matter the emotional cost to those around him — and ultimately, to himself. Eager to save the world, unsure how to preserve his family. Daughter "goes to work" simply by being a person, by being honest, and by being there. The conversation ebbs and flows — now meandering, now rushing ahead, always helped along by the birds: something to notice during an awkward silence, something to distract from a heated moment, something to see together even as you're being driven apart.

Lisa Berger's direction is elegant and unobtrusive, as it should be: this is an actor's showcase, with Farah Dinga ably holding her own against Mike Sears' presence and performance. MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

### The Ferryman

New Village Arts' production of Jez Butterworth's celebrated Tale of the Troubles is stuffed to bursting and as subtle as a punch in the on-the-nose, right down to the soundtrack's inclusion of The Cranberries' "Zombie," a song written in the aftermath of an IRA bombing that killed two children in 1993.

Nearly the whole thing takes place in the downstairs of the Carney family farmhouse, but it feels more like an epic movie than a single-setting play, in part because of all the stories that get told of action elsewhere — very often, violent action. We open with the finding of a body: Quinn Carney's brother Seamus, dead these many years, with a bullet hole in his head. Seamus was once in the IRA (and what do you know, so was Quinn), and the details surrounding his death are as murky as the bog in which he was found. It's bad timing, what with the attention on Irishmen starving themselves to death in prison to protest their status as criminals. Quinn will need talking to, as will Seamus' wife Caitlin, who's been living with him ever since her husband's disappearance.

But that talk is a long way off: first, there's the life of the Carney farm to show: the Ireland that isn't at war, that's content to ship its grain to Poland as pig feed, because that's all they're allowed to do. It's harvest day, and the clamorous clan is all abuzz — all except wife Mary, who, erm, has a virus.

It's a huge show, generous with its characters, indulgent in its scenes (the post-harvest dance is a production unto itself), and ambitious in its mounting. Thomas Edward Daugherty's Quinn has the charisma to carry things along, but the play makes it tough for him to show his evolution as a character. The viewer must be content with his many interactions, and the tales told by those in the generations above and below him, to help understand the nature

and effect of the gradually mounting tension within his breast.

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.

### Mean Girls - The Musical

Mean Girls is a ferociously funny new musical from an award-winning creative team, including director Casey Nicholaw (Aladdin, The Book of Mormon), composer Jeff Richmond ("30 Rock," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"), lyricist Nell Benjamin (Legally Blonde), and book writer Tina Fey ("30 Rock," Bossypants). SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. 7PM TUESDAY, FEB. 28 & WEDNESDAY, MAR. 1.

### 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 scribbles 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

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**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 & SUN-  
DAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

## STREAMING

**Sharper** — The film opens with close-ups on the gear assembly of a Rolex watch — perhaps a promise to the viewer that what follows will be a masterpiece of intricate moving parts, providing a precise, satisfying experience with understated elegance. But alas, the Rolex that

actually appears in the film is a fake, and while the pieces — sorry, characters — of this movie do meet and mesh, precision, elegance, and satisfaction are not part of the picture. It looks cheap, sounds silly, moves in fits and starts, and absolutely pops its springs in the third act. Director Benjamin Caron mishandles what should be a strong cast (Julianne Moore! John Lithgow! A couple of promising newcomers in Briana Middleton and Justice Smith!) in this tale of operators caught up in each other's schemes. Throughout, there is the sense of the film's desire to be cool without ever quite managing it, often at narrative centerpiece Sebastian Stan's expense. At one point, circumstances threaten to turn a con-artist caper into something more desperate and dangerous, but here as elsewhere, dramatic urgency is sacrificed in sacrificed in the twisty pursuit of cleverness. (2023) — M.L. ● (APPLE TV+)

## MOVIES

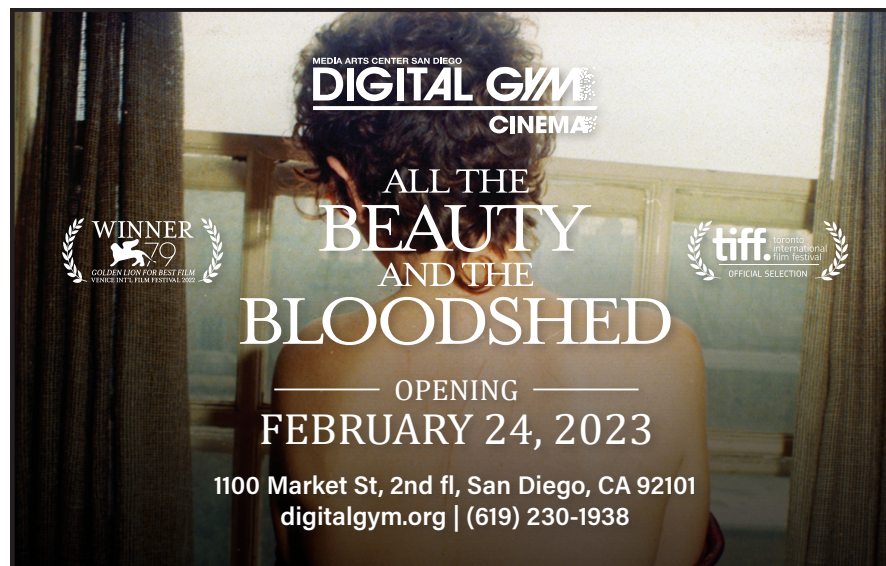
*All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at [SDReader.com/movies](http://SDReader.com/movies).*

**Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania** — My first thought as the credits rolled was, “I didn’t feel a thing.” But that’s not fair. I did feel stuff. Disappointed by the clichéd staging, lazy effects, and incoherent

action of the brief opening sequence (set against an admittedly dramatic nebula-filled sky). Bemused by Ant-Man's rambling, maybe-supposed-to-be-charming introduction about how his life doesn't make sense — but that's okay! Annoyed by his teenage daughter's faux-righteous rebellion against the mean cops using tear gas to clear out a homeless encampment in the middle of the night. Dumbfounded by the fact that Ant-Man's Father Figure has been Ant-Man's helping teenage daughter do research on the realm in which his wife was trapped for 30 years without telling said wife (or Ant Man). Ooey about how

much anti-aging CGI may or may not have been lavished upon the actors' visages. Frustrated when disaster strikes, daughter repents, and Ant-Man insists she's done nothing wrong. Angry when the film pulls a lead-weight tone reversal in a seemingly dramatic scene in order to illustrate the difficulties that arise from a failure to communicate. Off-put when Father Figure and Wink talk about the other people they banged during their separation ("I had needs!"). Still more off-put when a sweet lil' alien keeps asking about people's holes — their number, uses, and emanations. Sorry for the Bad Bitch whose carcass

ter trait is Oppressed Indigenous. Fascinated by the bad guy's simple trick of slowing his speech to lend himself menace. Amused by the desperate effort to up the stakes, post-Thanos ("Trillions will die!") And then baffled: by the reduction of a universe-destroyer to just another punch-and-hand-ray baddie, by the lame *deus ex machina* during the final fight, by the utter meaninglessness of the hero's sacrifice... And yet, there it was, that thought, overarching and overwhelming: "I didn't feel a thing." — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)



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METRO GOLDWIN PICTURES PRESENTS A CHARTOFF-WINKLER PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH PROXIMITY MEDIA AND OUTLIER SOCIETY  
**MICHAEL B. JORDAN "CREED II" TESSA THOMPSON JONATHAN MAJORS WOOD HARRIS ELDON HUNTER AND PHYLLICA RASHAD MUSIC BY JOSEPH SHUBLEY COSTUME DESIGNER JESSICA WILK**  
 EDITED BY TYLER NELSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JESSICA BACILESE PRODUCED BY ARIANNA CAHANN AND AUSA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KRANER MCINTYRE PROD. BY PRODUCED BY SEYI OJANAN ZACH COOPER NICHOLAS STEIN ADAM ROSENBERG  
 PRODUCED BY IRWIN WINKLER CHARLES WINKLER WILLIAM CHARLTON DAVID WINKLER RYAN COOPER WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B. JORDAN AND ELIZABETH RAPISO BASED UPON THE CREED FRANCHISE CREATED BY JONATHAN GLICKMAN SILVESTER STALLONE  
 STORY BY RYAN COOPER AND KEENAN COUGLER & ZACH BAYLON SCREENPLAY BY KEENAN COUGLER & ZACH BAYLON DIRECTED BY MICHAEL B. JORDAN

**PG-13** PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
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**ONLY IN THEATERS MARCH 3**

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# the inside track blurt

## Smith pounds out

**product** Drummer Matthew Smith has been a fixture in San Diego for quite a few years, playing with the Matt Smith Neu Jazz Trio, Juice Box, and Fresh Veggies Micro Brass. He gigs often enough around town that it's easy to

months. I've amassed some recording gear, and I'm trying to play as many instruments as I can, including doing my own vocals. I've blocked my time out so that, 30 days before the release date, I'm doing various amounts of promotion, hyping the upcoming drop. I'm



PHOTOGRAPH BY YOUSSEF HINAWY, PROVIDED BY MATTHEW SMITH

Matthew Smith: dreaming of San Diego, living in LA.

forget he's no longer living here, and has settled in Long Beach, a move that began when he returned to school for his graduate degree at CalArts in Santa Clarita. While he can still be seen, for instance, on February 24 with different bands at Panama 66, he's also performing frequently up north with a band called Phat Cat Swinger, and teaching jazz drums at Palomar and Saddleback Colleges.

Smith and his wife Rebecca bought their Los Angeles County home last year. For now, he's still cool with making the commute south as needed. "I feel a deep longing to go back and live in San Diego all the time," he says. "I just don't think it's going to happen anytime soon. Maybe in the next ten years." He's also recording and releasing his own original material, in the form of periodically dropped singles. "My process is to release a new song every two

not going to be releasing an album at the end, but this is an experiment in promoting my abilities as a songwriter and multi-instrumentalist."

Smith released his first single, "Responsibility," in November, and his second single, "Cool Man," on February 10. "I'm looking to drop music in April, June and August," he adds. "Those are my target months. I'm doing all the singing. I'd say you could call it 'jazz-adjacent,' but maybe it's closer to 'indie rock' with jazz harmony mixed in. I'm also playing bass, guitar, drums of course, and I've got a plethora of keyboards at my house where I'll be recording it. I'll be adding samples and textural effects and *mbira* as well. I even added some trombone on 'Responsibility,' I used to play that instrument a lot, but not much anymore."

If Smith's ambitious project sounds like he's on a mission, well, there's a reason for

that. "I'm going to be a dad in April, so I know everything is going to change overnight. For the first time in my life, I've been able to sit back and not have to worry so much about the hustle and grind. This band Phat Cat Swinger has been really helpful in that regard; they've been keeping me busy with steady, well-paying gigs that I love to do. It's a swing band, kinda Brian Setzer, rockabilly-adjacent. We do a lot of gigs at Disneyland and the band has a big six-week tour coming up in September, which is going to be great. But with my kid on the way, I'm trying to fit 20 pounds of stuff in a 10 pound bag. That's probably the reason for all of my creative output in the last six months. I gotta do it now!"

As if impending fatherhood and a packed schedule weren't enough, Smith has also embarked on a parallel career as a visual artist, designing concert posters and similar images. "My wife bought me an iPad in 2019, which I used basically for reading music. Then the pandemic hit, and I started drawing. I started out by drawing my friends, and they came out better than drawing people I didn't know. Then I started designing flyers for people." Eventually, he was commissioned to design the 2022 CalArts World Music & Dance Festival poster. "That was huge for me; I had to go out and buy a bunch of programs. As far as what I'd like to do with it: recently, I've put out some buttons and pins with my art on them that I'll be selling, in correlation with the 'Cool Man' release. I'd love to have a show, an art show, something like that. I'm still trying to figure out how to properly present my art, because it's all digital. I feel like I've put out a lot more visual art in the last year than musical art. But I feel like that'll even out here in 2023, as the world is seemingly coming back to its feet."

— Robert Bush

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

## CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

## THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

**Alila Marea Beach Resort:**  
Saturday, 5pm — Rachel Jay.

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:**  
Saturday, 6pm — Jarred Matthew.

**Baumont's:**  
Saturday, 9pm — Emotional Rescue. \$5-\$10.

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

**Belly Up Tavern:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Twiddle. \$23-\$123.  
Saturday, 8pm — Steve Poltz 14th Annual 50th Birthday Bash. \$41.  
Sunday, 8pm — Infinite Floyd. \$16-\$28.  
Monday & Tuesday, 8pm — Dinosaur Jr. \$37-\$66.

**Brick by Brick:**  
Thursday, 7pm — Dizzy Reed's Hookers & Blow. \$15-\$20.  
Saturday, 9pm — Nu Metal Night. \$15-\$20.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — Show Me The Body. \$25-\$28.  
Monday, 7pm — Junny.

**Calvary Lutheran Church:**  
Sunday, 2:30pm — North County Wind Ensemble. \$15-\$20.

**Cannonball:**  
Thursday, 5pm — Joanna Gerolaga.  
Tuesday, 5pm — Puro Feeling.

**Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens:**  
Thursday, 6:15pm — Molly Miller Trio. \$45-\$55.

**Casbah:**  
Saturday, 8pm — Surefire Soul

Ensemble. \$18-\$20.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — Blank Space and Modern Hearts. \$7.  
Monday, 7:30pm — Magical Animals and Moondaddy. \$7.  
Tuesday, 8pm — The Sadies. \$20-\$22.  
Wednesday, 8pm — King Tuff. \$20-\$23.

**Chula Vista Civic Center Library:**  
Saturday, 2pm — Chula Vista Library Family Concert Series. Free.

**Comstock Bar and Grill:**  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Cool Rush Band. Free.

**Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD:**  
Friday, 5pm — Kallisti Vocal Ensemble. Free.

**Deano's Pub:**  
Saturday, 8pm — CCnE. Free.

**Duck Foot Brewing Company:**  
Sunday, 1pm — Bluegrass Jam. Tuesday, 7pm — SD Jazz Collective.

**Duke's La Jolla:**  
Friday, 3pm — Ke'Ahi.  
Sunday, 4pm — Jehua Evans.  
Tuesday, 4pm — Farrah Camu.

**Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:**  
Thursday, 6pm — David Shyde. Friday, 6pm — Joanna Gerolaga. Tuesday, 6pm — Whitney Shay.

**Fairmont Grand Del Mar:**  
Saturday, 6pm — Farrah Camu.

**Farmer & the Seahorse:**  
Thursday & Friday, 4:30pm — Puro Feeling.  
Saturday, 11am — Freddie Walton.

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

**Holding Company:**  
Sunday, 2pm — Punk Rock Karaoke.  
Wednesday, 7pm — Pink Talking Fish. \$15-\$27.

**House of Blues:**  
Sunday, 7:30pm — Christian Kuria. \$100-\$237.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Pokey LaFarge. \$25-\$75.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Zolita. \$27-\$68.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Young Nudy. \$27-\$75.

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:**  
Saturday, 8pm — 3 Car Garage.

**L'Auberge Del Mar:**  
Thursday, 5pm — Jemille Violet. Saturday, 7pm — Sarah Ingraham.  
Sunday, 11am — Kristi Krause.

**La Jolla Community Center:**  
Friday, 7pm — Fourth Friday Jazz Series. \$25-\$35.

**La Valencia Hotel:**  
Thursday, 5:30pm — Brian Pierini.  
Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow. Sunday, 11am — Jackie Foster.

**Loews Coronado Bay Resort:**  
Friday, 7pm — Jason Mann. Saturday, 7pm — Dalton Gazette.

**Madam Bonnie's:**  
Thursday, 7pm — Frankly Swingin' Band. Free.  
Friday, 7pm — Andrea Loraine Jazz Quintet. Free.  
Saturday, 7pm — Mar Picao. Free.

**Mesa College:**  
Wednesday, 3pm — Carnatic K.S. Resmi. Free.

**Mission Bay Resort:**  
Thursday, 6pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.  
Friday, 6pm — Israel Maldonado.  
Saturday, 6pm — Joanna Gerolaga.  
Sunday, 6pm — Michael LeClerc.  
Monday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.  
Tuesday, 6pm — Jemille Violet.

**Moonshine Beach:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Josh Ward.

**Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:**  
Thursday, 9pm — Free Martinis.

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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

**JC CURRAIS**  
(Conan, Comedy Central, NBC)  
Fri, 3/10 @6:30pm & 8:30pm  
Sat, 3/11 @6:30pm & 8:30pm

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Wed, February 22  
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Thu, February 23  
**CITY SOUL CLUB**

Fri, February 24  
**PLENUM**  
Sleepy Hollow • Machine Politik

Sat, February 25  
**GLOWING BRIAN**  
Vertigoat  
The Rails • Lady Parts

Sun, February 26  
**TURNSTYLED, JUNKPILED**  
Lauren Leigh • Thea the Band  
Justin John Rodriguez

Tue, February 28, 6pm  
**OPEN VINYL DJ NIGHT**

Wed, March 1, 7pm  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**

Thu, March 2, 4pm  
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Fri, March 3  
**MEET ME IN THE BATHROOM**  
w/ DJ Mike Delgado

**SODA BAR**

Wed, 2/22 @ Soda  
**WHITE DENIM**

Thu, 2/23 @ Soda  
**WEAPONS OF MASS CREATION**  
DIVINA

Fri, 2/24 @ Soda  
**STROKES NITE IV**  
INTERPOL LIVE TRIBUTE  
2000s DJ SET BY CIARA DOMINIQUE

Sat, 2/25, 6:30pm @ Soda  
**KRISTINE LESCHPER (FKA MOTHERS)**  
NINA RYSER

Sat, 2/25, 10pm @ Soda  
**RENAISSANCE \ RENNAIDANCE**  
BEYONCE NIGHT

Sun, 2/26 @ Soda  
**INFINITY EYES**  
SCUFFS  
THE FICTITIOUS DISHES  
FREE PAINTINGS

Sun, 2/26 @ Brick by Brick  
**SHOW ME THE BODY**  
JESUS PIECE • SCOWL  
ZULU • TRIPPJONES

Tue, 2/28 @ Soda  
**SHUA**  
TAYLOR ARMSTRONG  
AMM

Wed, 3/1 @ Soda  
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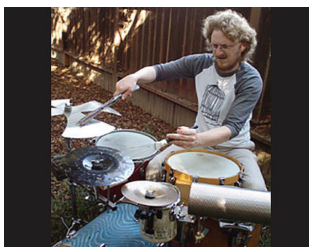
## FALLING DOVES

*Technicolor Dreams*, the new album from Christopher Leyva's band Falling Doves, was mixed and recorded at London's famed Abbey Road studio by producer Chris Bolster. A promotional tour kicks off this week; Leyva is calling it the *Technicolor Dreams: Norway, Japan & Beyond 2023 World Tour*. Concerts are also planned for Australia, as well as a UK date at the current incarnation of the Cavern Club, and a May 31 appearance at Humphreys.



## ALICIA PREVIN

Singer/violinist Alicia Previn recently took part in a session with reggae producer The Scientist for an upcoming Paul McCartney project, a new version of "Frank Sinatra's Party" from *Egypt Station Explorer's Edition*. Previn's own upcoming single, "Purpose of a Dog," features her son Max O'Reilly playing guitars and electronic drums and was produced by Jeff Forrest for Noise Cartel Records, with a video streaming online. The March 20 single release party at the Casbah will feature her backed by A Lens to the Sun.



## NATHAN HUBBARD

Percussionist Nathan Hubbard's Troikastra project is a cross country trio with Michigan-based drummer/electronic musician Curtis Glatter and California-based turntable icon Tenshun. According to Hubbard, "The trio creates kaleidoscopic music from samples, 16rpm turntables, and modular synths, for fans of musique concrete, plunderphonics, and skipping exotica records." Troikastra's new album *It's The Door With The Little Stairs* comes with a video for "You Are One."



## ASS POCKET WHISKEY FELLAS

Formed in 2011, Ass Pocket Whiskey Fellas perform Irish traditional tunes and rock music. Regarding their name: "When we first started playing together, our former cajon player would bring a chilled flat pint bottle of whiskey to each practice," says singer-mandolinist George Davis. They have a new CD called *Third Flagon*, which includes one local-centric track called "Grunion Run." Sample lyric: "Storming the beach as if it were a grunion, flyin' out of the sky, hit the ground running."



## ALMOST MONDAY

Almost Monday is an alternative rock band featuring teen surfing pals Dawson Daugherty (vocals, bass) and Luke Fabry (guitar), later joined by Cole Clisby (guitar). The band recently made their Korean concert debut, where they were reportedly greeted nearly as enthusiastically as K-pop stars. They'll play the Music Box in Little Italy on Thursday, February 23, topping a bill that includes Doublecamp and Foxtide.

Friday, 9pm — Circasonic. Free.  
Saturday, 9pm — 2lil2late.

### Music Box:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Almost Monday. \$20.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Taylor Party. \$17-\$140.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — One Drop Redemption. \$14.

### Observatory North Park:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Thy Art Is Murder. \$25.  
Friday, 8pm — Magic City Hippies. \$25.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Emotional Oranges. \$60-\$154.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — Epik High. \$80-\$211.  
Wednesday, 7pm — Cuco. \$93-\$205.

### Old Town Temecula

#### Community Theater:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Bohemian Queen All-Star Tribute.

### One Paseo:

Saturday, 4pm — Sounds & Sips. Free.

### Pal Joey's:

Friday, 8pm — West of 5. Free.

### Panama 66:

Sunday, 3pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

### Pechanga Arena San Diego:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Ana Gabriel. \$61-\$171.

### Petco Park:

Friday, 5pm — Rezz. \$65-\$200.  
Saturday, 5pm — DeadMau5. \$65-\$200.

### Point Loma Library:

Monday, 6:30pm — The Swingin' with Dean Concert. Free.

### Poway Center for the

#### Performing Arts:

Friday, 8pm — One Night of Queen.  
Sunday, 2pm — Cenicienta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story.

### Pure Project Vista:

Saturday, 7pm — Saturday Sessions: Audio Perdisco. Free.

### Rustic Root:

Tuesday, 6pm — David Shyde.

### Sandbox:

Saturday, 8pm — BTS SOPE Night. Free.

### Seabird:

Sunday, 4pm — Keni Yarbro.

### Seaport Village:

Saturday, 12pm — Baxter Simpson. Free.

### Side Yard:

Saturday, 6pm — Jemille Violet.

### Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Weapons of Mass Creation. \$18.  
Friday, 8pm — Strokes Nite IV. \$12.  
Saturday, 6:30pm — Kristine Leschper (fka Mothers) and Nina Ryser. \$18.  
Wednesday, 7pm — N8NOFACE. \$18.

### Soma:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Lucki & Eem Triplin. \$37.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — August Burns Red and The Devil Wears Prada. \$29.  
Sound:  
Saturday, 8pm — Big Gigantic. \$59.

### Sycuan Live & Up Close

#### Theatre:

Friday, 8pm — Tito Puente Jr. & his Latin Jazz Orchestra. \$39-\$49.

### Templar's Hall at Old Poway

#### Park:

Friday, 7:30pm — Ordinary Elephant. \$15-\$18.

### Til-Two Club:

Friday, 8pm — Sleepy Hollow, Plenum, Machine Politik. \$8.

### University of California San

#### Diego:

Thursday, 3:30pm — Afro-Caribbean Dance & Drumming Workshop. Free.

### Waterbar:

Thursday, 4pm — Jackie Foster.

### Westfield University Towne

#### Centre:

Thursday, 12pm — Ben Benavente.  
Friday, 12pm — Joanna Gerolaga.  
Saturday, 12pm — Mike Myrdal.  
Sunday, 12pm — Jesse Johnson.

### Winstons Beach Club:

Friday, 9pm — Joe Marcinek Band. \$12.  
Saturday, 8:30pm — Electric Waste Band. \$15.  
Tuesday, 9pm — El Ticket. Free.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### Beaumont's:

Friday, Mar. 3 — Cash'd Out. \$5-\$10.  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — The Marcus Syndicate. \$5-\$10.

### Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, Mar. 2 — War.  
Friday, Mar. 3 — The English Beat.  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — The English Beat.  
Sunday, Mar. 5 — Preservation Hall Jazz Band.  
Sunday, Mar. 5 — Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

### Black Cat Bar:

Friday, Mar. 3 — Clinton & Kyler. Free.

### Break Point:

Saturday, Mar. 4 — Brazilian Carnaval.

### Brew Coffee Spot:

Friday, Mar. 3 — Java Jazz Quartet. Free.

### Brick by Brick:

Thursday, Mar. 2 — The Spill Canvas and Arms Akimbo. \$26-\$30.  
Friday, Mar. 3 — He Films the Clouds and I Sank Atlantis. \$10-\$12.  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — The Atomic Punks and Murder of Five. \$27-\$30.  
Sunday, Mar. 5 — Visions of Atlantis and Helsott. \$18-\$23.

### Casbah:

Thursday, Mar. 2 — S.G. Goodman. \$15.  
Friday, Mar. 3 — Pleasure Pill and Nitefire. \$8-\$10.  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — Cass McCombs.  
Sunday, Mar. 5 — The Deslondes.

### Duck Foot Brewing

#### Company:

Thursday, Mar. 2 — Deadheads Night.  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — Phantom Twins and Rank Ocean.

### Elfin Forest Recreational

#### Reserve:

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

### First Unitarian Universalist

#### Church of San Diego:

Saturday, Mar. 4 — Melanie DeMore's Community Singalong. Free.

### House of Blues:

Friday, Mar. 3 — Caye. \$15.  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — Arlie and Whitehall.

### Madam Bonnie's:

Thursday, Mar. 2 — Mar Picao Jazz Fusion. Free.  
Friday, Mar. 3 — SD Jazz Trio. Free.

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# THE GONZO REPORT

## Wined and lined

### Drinking and dancing at a Fallbrook shindig

The heavy rains and windy roads on SR-76 leading into Fallbrook added to the adventure of my January 15 visit to the Country Wine Dancing shindig at Monserate Winery. As I pulled up around 6 pm, I wondered if I was in the right spot. It was dark, and my shoddy GPS had directed me to turn a block or so early, so I wound up in a dirt lot. Luckily, the blare from the nearby James Kelly Band assured me that I was not far away from my destination. I followed the country music through the northwest San Diego County air, and a minute later, pulled into a vast parking lot that was packed with cars and lifted trucks surrounding an enormous industrial tent.

Between 200 and 300 people were already at

the party, and at any given moment, around 25 to 50 of them were line dancing to the live music. Others were sitting at tables, conversing, laughing, and eating tacos or slice of Margherita or meatball pizza slices. The venue's house wines flowed freely, and many toasts were being made. Band singer James Kelly rocked a thick brown ZZ Top-style beard. Jerry Deex accompanied Kelly on drums, with Chris Harris on bass, and Kyle Krogh on lead guitar. The band played original country music, and also covered twangy hits that ranged from classic to contemporary. Billy Ray Cyrus' "Achy Breaky Heart" and Luke Bryan's "Country Girl" proved popular.

Line dancing instructor Sabrina Schneider requested that I jump into her group tutorial with around 25 other eager learners. Schneider yelled into the mic, "To the right, to the left, move back, forward touch, back touch, step and turn, scuff right foot forward, turn three quarters turn to left. And repeat!"

"That was easy," I told the girls dancing next to me. "Cheers," I added, holding up my glass of red wine. They smiled cordially and



Country Wine Dancing: a complicated business.

continued the dance lesson, which resembled the Electric Slide, a four-wall line dance. As we beginners took a break, Schneider continued dancing, inviting more dancers to join her. This cued James Kelly's group to play "Texas Time," a 2018 Keith Urban hit.

Cowboy hats and boots were sartorial staples. I rocked a plaid shirt, a puffy hunter-style vest, blue jeans, and a trucker hat. A few dancers, including dance instructor Schneider, wore purposely distressed and/or ripped jeans. The girls next to me had lots of rhinestones

on their belt buckles, jackets, and boots. One peculiar thing I noticed about the line dances was that each song played by the live band had a full-on unique dance routine to accompany it — a routine which the dancers knew and danced to in a synchronized fashion. My background is hip-hop and breaking, in which each dancer's performance is unique. I had to admit that line dancing seemed like it was more fun to learn, at least when you're in a large group.

"Country line dancing ain't what it used to be," said Wayne Peters, who attended the party to learn

the 2023 routines. "It's changed. They are now fusing different genres into the dances. Look, that's strutting and Smurfing." Peters pointed to Schneider, the instructor, as she moved her arms like a freestyle swimmer. "And that's like the salsa and merengue" Peters added, noting the back-and-forth foot movements. "My sister and I used to do line dancing at a country night club in Imperial Beach on Saturn and Palm," said Peters. Back then, "we only had 25 sets of dance moves. Nowadays, there are hundreds." I

(continued on page 24)

Find The Gonzo Report online at [sandiegoreader.com/gonzo](http://sandiegoreader.com/gonzo)

<b>WED. FEB. 22</b> <b>TSUNAMI BOMB &amp; DEATH BY STEREO</b> The Hammerbombs		<b>SUN. MAR. 5</b> <b>VISIONS OF ATLANTIS</b> The Spider Accomplice, Helsott, AndEver
<b>THU. FEB. 23</b> <b>DIZZY REED'S HOOKERS &amp; BLOW</b> Murder of Five		<b>THU. MAR. 2</b> <b>THE SPILL CANVAS</b> Arms Akimbo, Sleep it off
<b>SAT. FEB. 25</b> <b>NU METAL NIGHT</b> Celebrating your favorite bands of the nu metal era	<b>FRI. MAR. 3</b> <b>HE FILMS THE CLOUDS</b> I Sank Atlantis, The Undertaking, Good For Nothing	<b>SAT. MAR. 11</b> <b>DEATH TO ALL</b> Suffocation, Nukem
<b>SUN. FEB. 26</b> <b>SHOW ME THE BODY</b> Jesus Piece, Scowl, Zulu, TRIPJONES	<b>SAT. MAR. 4</b> <b>THE ATOMIC PUNKS:</b> The Tribute to Early Van Halen, Nightshadow, UAP - Unidentified Audio Phenomenon, Pandemic Unleashed, Syndicate 4	<b>TUE. MAR. 14</b> <b>HALLAS</b> Danava

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# IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

## Maybe Puccini should be kept in the box

What was once known as *Il Trittico*, by Giacomo Puccini, is now being billed as *The Puccini Duo* by San Diego Opera. That's probably for the best, because the full complement of three one-act operas make for a long evening, and I've never met anyone who is crazy about the first one, *Il Tabarro*. (The other two, *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*, also don't get a lot of love, so the chance to experience full-fledged productions of them doesn't come along very often.)

The first offering was *Suor Angelica*. The story is about a woman who was forced to join a convent seven years before the opera's action because of her illegitimate child. The primary issue I had with it was a directorial decision to change the end of the opera from absolution to hysteria. At the end of the opera, Angelica finds out

that her son died two years ago. She is devastated, and creates a poison for herself so she can be reunited with her son in death.

Too late, Angelica realizes that taking one's own life is a mortal sin. She pleads with the Virgin Mary to be gracious and to give her a sign that she will not be damned. The sign Angelica receives is a vision of her son and the Virgin washed in heavenly light. But apparently, the end that Puccini created doesn't work for modern audiences, and so needs to be changed. Anything that is modified for modern audiences usually sucks and is full of contrivances. In this case, a solitary child sneaks into the ward with Angelica and goes to bed. As she is dying, the boy comes over to her. In her hysteria, Angelica mistakes him for her son and grabs him. The boy pushes her away and runs off stage. Angelica

dies without any sign of grace from the Virgin Mary, or The Universe, or her subconscious mind, or Vishnu, or Yahweh, or Zarathustra, or whatever.

This decision marred an otherwise essential moment of opera delivered by soprano Marina Costa-Jackson. I was blown away by Cotsa-Jackson's dramatic abilities, and I squeezed out a tear or two as the opera concluded — in spite of the nihilism. But I couldn't help thinking that the 1990 film *Jacob's Ladder* got the moment right. At the conclusion of that movie, the dying father is comforted by an angelic version of his dead son. It is a powerful and moving image that San Diego Opera decided wasn't worth presenting in *Suor Angelica*.

The second opera, *Gianni Schicchi*, would have been a wonderful experience had it been cast correctly.



Giacomo Puccini, not a nihilist.

When I heard that Stephanie Blythe was performing the title role, I assumed she had the notes in her voice to present a convincing character. She does not. Half the role was washed out by the orchestra and the other singers. The notes that were audible sounded bizarre. The brash and audacious Schicchi came off as sniveling

and conniving.

I guess I can give San Diego Opera credit for trying to get outside the box, but sometimes the inside of the box is sufficient. If I were to give this night of opera a rating, I would give it 6.5 out of 10, because of the dramatic commitment and truly operatic singing of Marina Costa-Jackson.

## Classical Music this week

**Hausmann Quartet: Haydn Voyages - Then & Now**  
Music at the Maritime, a quarterly concert series, will be performed aboard a 1898 steam ferryboat Berkeley that operated for 60 years on San Francisco Bay. The first half of this concert features two Haydn quartets: one from his opus 9 set, which

he considered his first mature group of string quartets, and one of his masterpieces written a quarter century later. Tomeka Reid's writing today, and Mendelssohn's exuberant D Major Quartet closes this show with a bang. Sunday, February 26, 2:30pm; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 N. Harbor Drive.

**Inspirations of American Jazz & Musical Friendships**  
This program of violin-piano works explores how American and French composers were inspired by American jazz and musical friendships and includes William Bolcom's Sonata No. 2, Maurice Ravel's Sonata No.

2, Amy Beach's "Romance," and John Corigliano's Sonata. Friday, February 24, 1pm; free. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue.

**SD Symphony Jacobs Masterworks: Beethoven Concerto 3 & Symphony 4** Case Scaglione, conductor.

Benjamin Grosvenor, piano. Igor Stravinsky: Symphonies of Wind Instruments. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37. Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 4 in B-flat Major, Op. 60. Friday, February 24, 8 pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at [SDReader.com/classical](http://SDReader.com/classical)

**Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:**  
Thursday, Mar. 2 — Big Boss Bubeleh.

Friday, Mar. 3 — The Exploits.  
Friday, Mar. 3 — Tube Amp'd.

**Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill, 136 Encinitas Boulevard. :**  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — Harmonica John.

**Museum of Making Music:**  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — Tinsley Ellis & Marcia Ball.

**Music Box:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — Little Brother. \$25.

**Nova SD:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — Said The Sky. \$45.

**Observatory North Park:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — The Wonder Years and Hot Mulligan. \$40-\$103.

**Pechanga Arena San Diego:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — The Eagles. \$149-\$3133.

**Poway's Irish Pub:**  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — West of 5. Free.

**Quartyard:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — Jawny and Wallace. \$20.

**Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:**  
Thursday, Mar. 2 — Maggie Rogers. \$49.

**Soda Bar:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — Lostboycrew. \$18.  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — Braxton

Cook.  
Sunday, Mar. 5 — Dawson Hollow and Nite Tides.

**Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:**  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — Joey G & Jinky Vidal. \$78-\$128.

**Tio Leo's:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — 3 Car Garage.

# THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 23

ditched Peters and headed to the bar.

Josh Work, events manager for the 116-acre vineyard, poured me a couple of glasses of red wine. "This is one of our newer wines," he said. "We named it Ruscello, which means 'creek' or 'stream' in Italian. We have an old historic creek that runs through the entire property." As a relatively new winery, the venue owners wanted to expand their ability to hold and host social events, events such as this Sunday night gathering. After I drank my wine, I walked back to the dance floor and realized I had caught a buzz.

Bandleader Kelly dedicated the next song, a slow one, to the women present. "My wife has been nothing but supportive for everything and everywhere we go — by far my biggest fan, although she is not shy in telling me when I'm off. Gotta love her for that." I couldn't find a person to slow dance with, so I sat that one out. ■

**Waterfront Park:**  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — CRSSD Festival.  
Sunday, Mar. 5 — CRSSD Festival.

**Winstons Beach Club:**  
Friday, Mar. 3 — Drug Hunt and Wild Wild Wets. \$15.

**Wong's Dragon Room:**  
Saturday, Mar. 4 — The Mothmen. Free.

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# Leftover revival

What has kept me from this, all these years?

The Aztec drums echo through the barrio. Even at this distance, you can hear the dancers' ankle rattles shaking with each foot stomp. Chicano Park on this Monday night tells you better than anywhere else about the deep cultures that have met and mixed here in Aztlan. And it tells me that the new sign shining out from across National Avenue is part of some kind of revival. "Los Chilaquiles," it says, here at the corner of National and Cesar Chavez.

Huh. Because I've never given *chilaquiles* a second thought. Knew next to nothing about them, except they're tortilla chips cut into triangles, fried, doused in red or green chile salsa, and served up a bit like nachos — filler material for when you're light of pocket.

But to feature them as your restaurant's defining dish? I dunno.

Still, got to go in and check things out, specially as it's now part of the "Attitude" bar and brewery. (It turns out they have other

sober up. Good to know.

This place is part of a new wave of more middle-class eateries and cross-cultural watering holes that are signs of the almost inevitable gentrification of Barrio Logan. The place is too close to downtown to be immune from that. The good news is that the barrio's guardians have so far kept the winds of change down to a gentle breeze. This place, for instance, is built around

the idea of one of the oldest Aztec-based foods: corn tortillas, chopped up and covered in a salsa.

Just like nachos, *chilaquiles* are all about scraping the bottom of the barrel. The beautiful thing is that to make *chilaquiles* best,

you should use a bunch of half-stale corn tortillas. You chop 'em up and leave 'em for at least 24 hours, so they become more like cardboard, 'cause then they meld better with the *rojas* or *verde* sauces you're going to pour on. Think slightly soggy, but super-flavorful chips. (Chips? If you're really cool, you call them *totopas*.)

So here, it looks like they let you decide on whatever kind of *chilaquiles* you want. You pay \$12.99, then make your choices: first, pick a protein, such as chicken, pork, birria,

carne asada, *cochinita*, carnitas, *huevos*, or *tocino* (bacon). Then for, say, *chilaquiles rojas* (red), you mix in the hot sauce and tomatoes and turn that collection of chips into a casserole. You can make it a *salsa verde*, too. Success is when you let the tortilla chips become slightly soft, but not beyond the point where they are still somewhat crunchy. That's the art of the *chilaquila* pie.

But when my meal comes out, I find I'm not prepared for the color show! For starters, my plate features electric-green and scarlet tortilla chips on top of a pile of *frijoles*, plus orange-yellow rice, pink sautéed onions, and a burger-shaped squish-up of tortillas and carnitas on an orange and black tray that's also the plate. Honestly, it looks too pretty to break up into mere food. I'm impressed with the trouble they take. A little hot sauce, a little stout as a sweet swiller, and I'm thinking: what has kept me from this, all these years?

An additional pleasure: we're eating exactly the same thing as countless Aztec families and soldiers and kings hundreds of years ago, right here. The idea really turns me on, gives me a *frisson*. A bit like with nachos: we're talking foods that were

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Going upscale: two Brazilian visitors to the barrio share wine, cheese fries.



Churros, strawbs, cream, delish, but the visual is the top specialty here.



Arty presentation of fries dish

places as well.) Full disclosure: I'm here partly because of *chilaquiles* curiosity, and partly because Attitude's brewers make some danged good *chelas* (cervezas), right here on the spot. (And the one I am in love with right now is their Divine Stout, "earner of the 'Beyond a Shadow of a Stout' badge." (Too late, I notice that they give you a small tulip glass instead of the 16-ounce tumbler, I guess because it's 10.5 percent alcohol.) Now I've gotta eat, and my buddy at the bar says *chilaquiles* are classically used to absorb alcohol for folks who want to



ancient  
when  
Colum-

bus and  
Cabrillo sailed the ocean blue. Of course, until recently, most folks thought this was a recent Spanish-Mexican invention. Not so! Aztecs and other local folk have been repurposing leftovers since

wa-ay before refrigeration, with the idea that in so doing, they not only saved old food from the slops bin, but benefited from the healing properties of ingredients like aging corn, chocolate mole, sesame seeds, and yes, *huilacoche*, the recently re-popularized mold that is supposed to give you the energy to do what a man or woman has to do, *heh heh*.

Tasting it, it's hard to imagine there's all this "Vuelve a la Vida" ("Back to Life") magic coming out of a bowl of leftovers. But hey, if it worked for Moctazuma and his people, it's good enough for me.

Natch, there are plenty of alternatives on the menu. One I really want to try next time is the "spinach strawberry," a kinda salad thing in the "La Dieta" section, with "strawberry dressing (secret recipe), pralines, and feta cheese." Costs \$10.99. But this *chilaquiles* thing is a strong new current, one of many Native American and Mexican ideas finding its way onto California foodies' must-eat lists. It's been fermenting south of the border for years, but now, thanks to multiplying places like this, it's happening more and more in our fair city.

Plus, hey, those ghostly drums in the distance are always gonna be here to remind us where this-all comes from. On Monday practice nights, anyway. ■

**The Place:** Los Chilaquiles, in Attitude brewery, 1985 National Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-795-4269

**Prices:** Chilaquiles (turn chips and salsa into a casserole! Pick own salsa from roja to endiablados (hot!), add protein, from pork to birria), \$12.99; breakfast: Healthy Omelet, \$13.99; 3 tacos de birria, \$11.99; ("pa' la cruda") hangover dishes, include menudo, \$15.99, and torta ahogada ("drowned tart"), \$13.99; chilaquiles in crema pobлана with chorizo, \$12.99; spinach strawberry, with pralines, feta cheese, \$10.99

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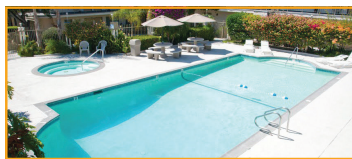
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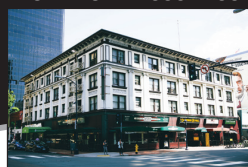
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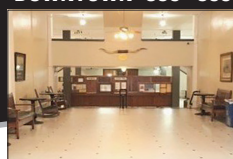


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**WANTED FEMALE BAND MEMBERS** Singers, all kinds of music, brand new band. My name is Jessie, (442) 244-1642.

**REGGAE SKA POP** progrock fusion professional lead/rhythm guitarist for recordings, gigs, tours. CD/Tour credits. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973.

**BASS GUITAR, SCHALLER ROCKOON \$600** red, EMG's, 4 string, excellent condition, \$600. (619) 980-6008

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

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**PUPPIES** Shepherd mix \$100. Doodle pups \$500. (619) 840-3798 for video. / john@palmerpainting.com

**DOBERMAN PUP AVAILABLE** 9 week old male blue & tan Doberman puppy available for free - if interested send text to (619) 302-9929 - first come first served. / kikiidee69us@yahoo.com

**FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES** available. Males/females DNA pending AKC paperwork available. Please text or call (619) 875-0208. / aureybell@gmail.com

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**SCHWINN CRUISER 5** bicycle in good condition. The best cruiser ever made by Schwinn before they moved out of Chicago. \$700, (207) 265-6640

**BIANCHI VELOCE ROAD BIKE** Carbon fork, light green color, made in Italy, purchased new, only ridden a few times, \$650., in Escondido, call (760) 746-7209.

**CANNONDALE F1000SL MOUNTAIN Bike**, ultra aluminum steering fork, orange-yellow color, purchased new-very little use, \$450., (760) 746-7209.

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**DON'T BUY ELECTRIC, BUILD ELECTRIC.** Learn to build your own solar powered electric motorcycle. Text EV for details to (916) 880-2252.

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**AUTOMOTIVE**

**1999 COROLLA \$2000** clean, passed smog, new ties, new windshield, buffed out. (619) 457-2316



**2008 NISSAN ROGUE** Looks nice run good 120,000 miles. Will consider trade for small pickup or Sedan. Please looking to sell ASAP. Text (858) 361-4787. / goldflyn@yahoo.com

**1971 VOLKSWAGEN MANX STYLE DUNEBUGGY** on road/off-road. Street license California. 623, everything works, yellow, black vinyl top, 4 seater, 1600 CC, ready to go. \$9900 will take it home, need to sell. (760) 420-3641, San Marcos

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

**2016 MAZDA CX5 GRAND TOURING:** Automatic, AWD, 2.5L, 4 cylinder engine, 4 door, red metallic color, black leather seats, 94,700 miles, original owner, well cared for and maintained by a nurse, the reason for selling-the car was replaced by a new Tesla, \$16,500 call (760) 746-7209.

**WE BUY CARS!** We buy all type of cars running or not. Same day pickup, same day cash. No title, no tires, no keys, engine not working, check engine light on, running or not. 1. Call/text (619) 484-4032, 2. Get a quote, 3. Get your cash.

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a month 3006 Barnett Ave. point Loma open seven days a week trucks for rent \$300 a week Toyota four runner also minivans \$400 a week 15 passenger vans \$500 a week. (619) 233-8300

**RENTAL CAR AVAILABLE** also rent to own programs thousand dollars down \$500 a week in-house financing rent to own (619) 233-8300.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**HELP WANTED**

**DENTAL ASSISTANT WANTED** Friendly & caring dental assistant wanted Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to work for a warm & welcoming family dental practice. Please email your resume and professional references to kevinssdds@aol.com.

**LOOKING FOR IHSS CAREGIVER** Certified IHSS caregiver needed for a woman in LA Gardens w/vehicle, cooking, cleaning, shopping. LF a permanent provider. Available 5 hrs./day from Mon-Sun (40hrs/week). 2 shifts available will discuss in interview. (619) 269-3434

**OFFICE COORDINATOR** for SD law firm. Requires 2 years relevant exp. \$68500 /yr. Send resume to Leibl & Kirkwood

12625 High Bluff Dr #213 San Diego CA 92130 or fax (858) 481-7271

**PAID METH USE STUDIES** Volunteers need for paid Meth addiction studies. Confidentiality and privacy assured. Contact us to Learn More: (855) 367-8834. / recruitment@artemis-research.com

**PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST** Takeda Development Center Americas, Inc.is seeking a Principal Scientist in vivo Pharmacology in San Diego, CA to establish project strategy by integrating science, key technical knowledge, and program objectives and design research activities to meet these objectives. Up to 5% travel required. Apply on-line at www.takedajobs.com and search for Req #R0089318.

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**SENIOR TEST ENGINEER RD** Insulet Corporation has an opening for a Senior Test Engineer R&D in San Diego, CA. Salary Range: \$113680 - \$177630. Duties are to build test frameworks and methodologies that will define the testing process used as part of the agile software development process. Develop and execute test suite for Android mobile application. Develop and execute test suite for Cloud based web service application. Work closely with the software development team to identify and correct defects. Develop and maintain test database for automated validation test of software revisions. Collaborate with Development, QA and IT teams. Participate in product design reviews. Requires a Master's or its foreign equivalent in Software Engineering, Computer Science, Data Analytics or related field plus 2 years of experience in job offered or in software design and software testing. Experience must include: 2 years in testing web based and mobile

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<b>BRAKES</b> Front or rear *Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.	From <b>\$49</b> most cars
<b>30K 60K 90K</b> Scheduled Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	<b>\$65</b> most cars
<b>RADIATOR OR Transmission Services</b> *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	<b>\$45</b> most cars 4 cyl.
<b>TIMING BELT</b> Parts & Labor *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	<b>\$75</b> most cars 4 cyl.
<b>STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS</b> Plus labor.	<b>\$95</b> most cars 4 cyl.
<b>FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT</b> 56 and up.	
We'll beat any written estimate! Dents, dings, scratches? Now offering bodywork. Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary! <b>8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&amp;C</b> <b>858-533-8120</b>	

software applications, Java, Junit or Testing, 2 years' experience with Android technology stack, 2 years' experience with HTTP protocols, REST, SOA, 2 years' experience demonstrating source control, continuous integration and testing methods (i.e., Git, Perforce), 2 years' experience with continuous Build Systems such as Jenkins or Bamboo, 2 years' experience with software testing methodology, test development, and test execution, 2 years' experience with IEC62304, ISO 14971, FDA regulations and international standards applicable to medical device software development, verification and validation. Email resumes to: Keanu.h.alvarez@insulet.com

**TECHNICAL ANIMATOR.** Work hand-in-hand with team of level designers, artists & lighters to develop inspiring levels from prototype to completion. Req. Bach. in Animation, Interactive Design & Game Development or rel. field. Any suitable combo of educ., training &/or exp. is acceptable. Jobsite: Carlsbad, CA. Wage range: \$82,992/yr to \$124,000/yr. Send resume ref#22004 to: K. Finnsson, Activation Publishing, Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg. B, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

**FEMALE CAREGIVER NEEDED** I am 72 year old man. Minor mobility problem. Need assistance with my daily duties. I'll help to get REQUIRED IHSS registration. \$20/hr 15 hr/week Rancho Bernardo. Ad is not for unsolicited services or offers. (858) 360-0388 text voice.

**STAGEHANDS NEEDED (\$35/HR)** Happy people needed as stagehands at filming locations in San Diego. Duties include: making & serving coffee, photocopying & running petty errands onsite. Must be prompt & decent. Compensation: \$35/ hour. Reply with name and

number for quick reply. psalm-stoday3@gmail.com

**JOB WITH NO PAY** KNSJ 89.1 FM, FCC licensed, non-profit, all-volunteer radio station, needs you, experienced or not. We feature news, issues, all types of music. See KNSJ.org. Contact TimTaylor@KNSJ.org. Tim.

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

**PAID OBESITY STUDIES** We are now enrolling individuals for a paid clinical trial of an investigational medication to combat obesity. Compensation is available up to \$1800. Participants must be: smokers,,on Diabetic, 50 years of age or older (855) 367-8834 / recruitment@artemis-research.com

**SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH STUDY** CNRI of San Diego seeking schizophrenia research study patients, must be drug free, 18-65 years old. Compensation and transportation for qualified participants. Please call Travis (619) 706-7529. Referral number only.

**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.

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

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<b>SMOG CHECK</b> Most cars. Vans, trucks, & European cars \$10 extra. 2000 & up.	<b>\$26<sup>75</sup></b> + \$8.25 Cert.
<b>BRAKES</b> Front or rear. Most cars.	<b>\$50</b> + Labor
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<b>AXLE SPECIAL</b> Includes Parts & Labor	<b>\$99</b>
<b>MUFFLER</b>	from <b>\$95</b> + Labor
<b>PREMIUM SHOCKS</b> Monroe or KYB+ Labor	from <b>\$150</b> per pair
<b>PREMIUM STRUTS</b> Monroe or KYB + Labor	from <b>\$250</b> per pair
<b>STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR</b>	from <b>\$150</b> + Labor
*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition *Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing	
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JOBS WANTED

**IN MAJOR NEED OF EARNING \$\$!** Mature, reliable, polite, respectful lady in need of short or long term. cash paying gigs! Nothing illegal or inappropriate! I'd prefer remote. work from home opportunities but can do cleaning, pet care or most any domestic "chore". Please contact me!! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

**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

**DRIVER'S OUTSIDE MIRROR** 1998Chevy 1500 van, mirror wanted. (619) 408-9517 vm.

**SEEKING ROOM AND BATH** in home in trade for live in assistant services. No romantic situations, please. (858) 480-1086, text or voice. 15 years experience as a live in home assistant.

**LOOKING FOR OLD TUBE STEREO'S** I am looking for that old tube stereo system that your Dad used to play. These stereo components were made in America, in the early 1960's, by such Companies as Fisher, Scott, McIntosh, Dynaco & More. I pay ca\$h, so please call Jack (619) 296-3100. / jack22@cox.net

**BUDDY LEE DOLLS WANTED** Buying old buddy Lee dolls and old Lee or Levi's signs or promotional stuff. Old western stuff. (619) 704-4257 / igot-polo@gmail.com

**LOOKING FOR OLDEST CLOTHING** I need the oldest clothing I can find. Best price paid for ancient clothes. No matter if dirty or beat up. High volume of calls, please be patient. Call or text. In La Mesa, I come to you! Don't throw away the stuff in garage please. (619) 704-4257 / igot-polo@gmail.com

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

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

**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, Freestyle 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.

**SEEK C-PAP MINI** for back-pack travel. Balboablue330@hotmail

Bluefin tuna sighted from air in the Catalina Channel

**Dock Totals 2/5- 2/18:** 808 anglers aboard 46 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past two weeks caught 1 blacksmith, 27 calico bass (103 released), 43 halfmoon, 1 halibut, 3 lingcod, 30 spiny lobster (162 released), 5 rock crab, 1662 rockfish, 314 sand bass, 559 sculpin, 4 spider crab, 3 triggerfish, and 123 whitefish.

**Saltwater:** As we enter the middle of the ‘slow’ season here in Southern California, rockfish just south of the border — along with sculpin and sand bass north of the border — are making up the meat of the fish counts for the ½-day to 3-day fleet. Conditions further offshore have kept boats close to home, resulting in fewer lingcod from the less-visited reefs, and no reports over the past two weeks of any fleet-caught yellowtail that occasionally show off northern Baja for the overnight and 1.5-day trips. For that, a trip to Ensenada or San Quintin might be better, as the pangas can get out and back in a hurry in the smaller weather windows that often go with winter fishing.

As this time of year there are more anglers hitting the trade shows than taking boat rides, the angler counts are pretty low even when the weather is decent. But one thing that may change at any moment is the bluefin count. As I have said before, they are always out there somewhere. This past week, I have seen a couple photos of schooling bluefin taken from the air over the Catalina channel. If a window of opportunity opens and reports come in of private boaters finding and catching some of those tuna, we will see overnight and 1.5-day boats loading up and heading out there. Until that happens, other than a few yellowtail that may show for boats heading to the Coronado Islands and points south, expect the counts to mostly reflect sculpin, rockfish, and sand bass for the coming weeks.

For the shore-pounders fishing from the sand and rocks, the winter bite has been good for barred surfperch in the surf, and halibut and spotted bay bass have been biting well in the bays. As we are heading into the first grunion runs of the season, I expect the action in the surf to improve as gamefish move in with the spawning silversides. My best halibut caught from the beach was at night off Dog Beach in Ocean Beach a few decades ago. I casted a grunion out on a Carolina rig and was on in minutes. The result was a 36” California halibut that was just under 20 pounds. Not only halibut follow those grunion to the beach; large shovelnose sand sharks, or guitaras, along with leopard shark, larger croaker, shortfin corvina, and even occasional white seabass will feed at night within casting distance when the grunion slide up onto the beach to deposit their eggs.

The 2023 grunion runs are open to anglers in March, then closed for April through June, and will be open again in July. Grunion may be taken only by hand, no nets or other devices may be used, nor can you dig holes to trap them. A California state fishing license with an ocean enhancement stamp is required for anyone 16 or older to take them. The first seasonal closure for grunion was April-June in 1927 due to decreasing populations over previous years. That closure was reduced to two months, April and May, after the population rebounded by 1947. The closure was again extended



CREDIT: ROYAL POLARIS SPORTFISHING

Plenty of big yellowfin tuna for anglers aboard the long-range fleet, including several over 200 pounds, like this fine fish caught aboard the *Royal Polaris*.

keep checking if you're hoping to hop on a two-week trip for big tuna. For the rest of us up here in chilly Southern California, hopefully the weather will lay down enough for boats to go find those big bluefin swimming somewhere out there off our coast.

They're out there, so go get 'em!

Notable catches:

**2/5** - The *New Seaforth* ½-day AM trip returned to the dock with 221 rockfish caught by 45 anglers aboard.

**2/9** – 6 hoop-netters raised 67 spiny lobsters while aboard the *Jig Strike* ½-day Twilight run, with 8 of those raised keepers and 59 released.

**2/10** – The *Premier* called in from their ½-day AM border run with limits of 209 rockfish and 1 lingcod for the 21 anglers aboard.

**2/12** – 21 anglers aboard the *Dolphin* ½-day AM trip caught 42 sand bass and 11 sculpin while fishing the flats off Imperial Beach.

**2/16** – Light load success for just 8 anglers aboard the *Premier* ¾-day trip south, with limits of 80 rockfish caught for the day.

**Fish Plants:** 2/23 – Lake Poway, trout, (1500), 2/24 – Santee Lakes, lakes 3&6, trout (1500), 2/26 - Lake Wohlford, trout (2000), 3/6 – Lake Jennings, trout (1500)

DANIEL POWELL

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

**OB SPACEMAN PAINTINGS WANTED** Private collector seeking any and all of his art. Contact me at clintcarycosmicart@gmail.com or call or text (619) 684-0127.

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

**COMIC BOOKS** I buy and sell comic books raw and slabbed. I offer great prices, mark (619) 933-6275.

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

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

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

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

**I BUY VINYL RECORDS** all types, great prices paid. We don't just buy 2-3 records, we

buy your whole collection. Call (619) 250-3088.

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

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

**OLD DRUM SETS AND CYMBALS** Cash paid. Also any old or new band instruments. Call (619) 280-2075.

**I BUY OLDER STEREO GEAR** I got cash and I'll drive to you. Working or not ok. Pioneer,



Sansui, Klipsch, JBL, Fisher, Yamaha, Dynaco, McIntosh, Tannoy. What do you have? Call or text me for pictures (619) 279-7833.

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

## GARAGE SALES

**NEW & ALMOST NEW, CLASSIFIEDS** Household accessories, collectibles, hanging pictures/plaques, floral arrangements, nic-nacs, clothes, jackets, electronics, candles, back-packs, bedding, throw blankets, vases, figurines, dishes/kitchen utensils/trivets, handmade jewelry, call (213) 284-1459. / davisphd2014@gmail.com

**CHULA VISTA ESTATE SALE** ends 2/25, nice furniture, mirrors, hundreds of tools, car parts and rims and wheels, model trains, books and misc. By appointment only, call (619) 651-3435.

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

## FOR SALE

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

**BOB TAPIA FRAMED SEA-SCAPE** oil on canvas painting. 40" x 31". \$1200 Call or text (619) 200-1254.

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

**CAMERA BARGAINS** Canon, Nikon, Calorab, Minolta, Pentax, lenses and accessories from \$1-\$75. (760) 757-5445

**CATERING TYPE PANS** stainless steel. Square 10 x 12, rect-angle 12 x 20, multiple depths, some with lids, some with handles, some with holes. \$60 each or less, (760) 749-8266,

**DIANA GABALDON OUTLANDER SERIES** and John Gray hardback/paperback 21 books text (619) 622-1845.

**KITCHEN STUFF** new in boxes. Also, luggage. Very very cheap prices, (760) 747-1013, multiple things to choose from.

**MOBILE SCOOTER** for sale. EW/M41 new retail \$1500 will sell for \$650. (951) 380-1095 death in family.

**PAASCHE VJR AIRBRUSH** with hose and D-1/4HP 'studio quiet' compressor plus '50s vintage, hardcover, illustrated instruction book. Used twice, excellent condition. \$150 (760) 472-9127.

**PRO FORMER EXEREICE BIKE** paddle peddles. Large,

sturdy, like new, excellent condition, \$100. Text Judy (619) 396-0660.

**ROOKIE BASEBALL CARDS** Two Ohtani cards, one Tatis, one Julio Rodriguez, \$125 together, best offer for separate. Also vintage cards. (619) 943-0328

**SANTA CRUZ SKATEBOARD** \$40 obo, (619) 301-7899.

**VARIOUS WALL PICTURES** \$10 each. Three new pairs of ladies shoes, size 7-7.5, \$7 each. (619) 283-8417

**VINTAGE** 1930s, American Boy Scout merit badge sash with 42 original merit badges. Very good condition \$3500 (760) 472-9127.

**NICE VINTAGE 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



**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

**SOLID WOOD COUNTER HGHT CHAIR** This vintage swivel bar stool chair (25" seat height) with heart cutout on seat back is beautiful & well built. 3 matching chairs are available in good condition w/ optional seat cushions. \$45 each or \$120 for all 3. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



**BOWLING BALL, BAG, SHOE COVERS** The Ebonite Maxim bowling ball weighs 10 lbs. The purple Strikeforx bowling bag (13.5"x 8"x 13"H) is strong & durable with a side pocket. 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

**PEXTO SHEAR MODEL 269-A** 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.

**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



**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER.** 3 pc. mission style tustin oak. \$600 whole. Will sell separately if wanted. John (858) 952-4605 in Clairemont sq.

**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 tools, 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 email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**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



**VINTAGE TABLE LAMP BRASS BODY** This 29" lamp is quite beautiful with a soft pleated linen shade (7.5" top, 17.5" bottom & 11.5" side). It has some fabric tears on the back. The body has some discoloration which reflects its vintage nature. \$25. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**BABY BASSINET** brand new still in the box, \$60 firm (760) 908-6244.

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

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

info/pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**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

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

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

**TMEN MAGAZINES** Issues 1 thru 125 plus several indexes, and special editions. All in excellent condition. \$150 firm. I can deliver within 20 miles of Mira Mesa. Call or text (619) 818-1120.

**CARPET SHAMPOOER FOR SALE** Hoover heated steam-vac, used. \$75 (619) 301-8388 / jt174810@gmail.com

**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.

**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 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**TABLE LAMP METAL CYLINDER BODY** The body of this unique table lamp is 4.5" in diameter and 12" tall. The cream soft deep drum linen shade is 10.75" in top & bottom

diameter & 9.25" on the side. Modern and good looking. Very good condition. \$20. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

**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 COLT 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 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**WHITE BASSINET W/ MUSIC & SOUND** This Delta Children Classic Breeze bassinet (21"x 35.5"x 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 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**BEAUTIFUL GLASS TABLE LAMP** This classic table lamp with brass trim base & cream pleated shade is very pretty and in excellent condition. 26.5" tall overall, body 16" high, base 6.5" across, shade 7" (top), 18" (bottom) & 12.5" (side). \$25. Text or email for

more info/pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@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 / cadbcscd@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.f.iffied31@gmail.com

**SPIRAL BINDING MACHINES** GBC Docubind P-100 or Ibico Ibimatic Spiral Binding Machines. Like new. Create professional presentations. For demo video see youu.be/m0wfwjBNraU. Similar machine at Staples are \$159 but you can have at \$75 each. (858)-442-5782 (858) 442-5782 / Duggerofsr@yahoo.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.

**FOX RACING TITAN SPORT JACKET** with body armor for our pro sports etc. Size large, very nice condition. Call for more info, \$50 obo (619) 791-0278.

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

**ICE BOX CHEST** oak wood, cherry stained, white clad, reproduction. Simmons hardware Saint Louis, nice condition, custom glass top protector, \$50. (858) 674-7213, Bob.

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

**M2 SIRE 5 STRING BASS GUITAR** white, brand new. \$400, (619) 980-6008.

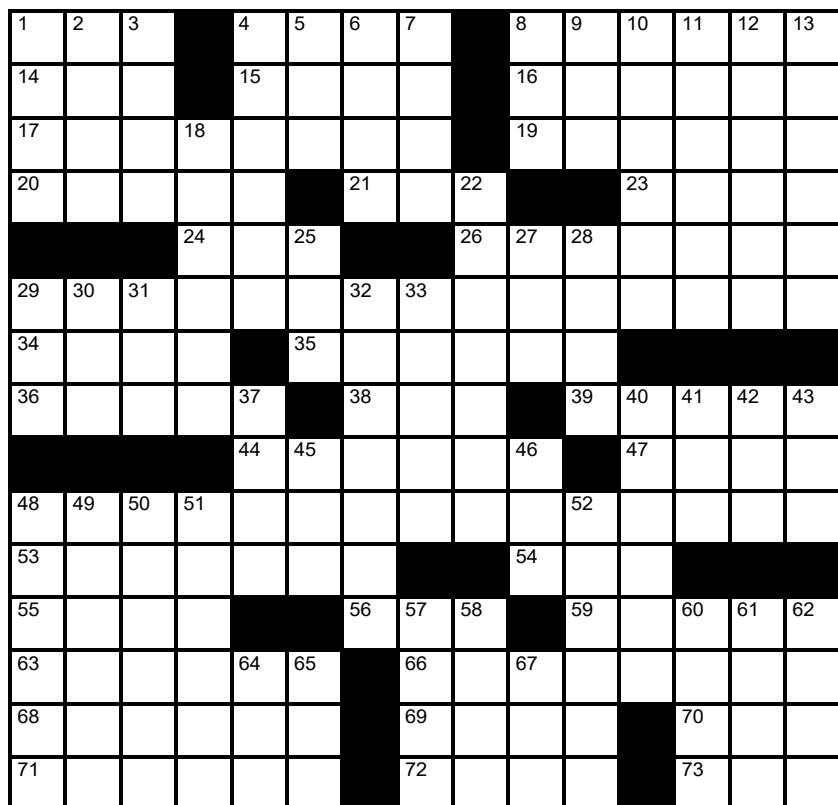
**TOY TRAINS + LEATHER JACKET** Big O Scale Union Pacific train engine with two cars. Excellent condition, \$250. Heavy leather jacket, size 62, excellent condition, \$150. Call Joe, (619) 357-1844 personal calls only, no text messages.

**VITAMIX PROFESSIONAL SERIES** 750 blender with guide booklet. Mint condition, never

CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE		
<b>FREE BRAKE INSPECTION &amp; ESTIMATE</b> <small>With any Service or Repair</small>	<b>SMOG CHECK SPECIAL</b> <small>★ STAR Certified</small> Smog Test or All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through March 15, 2023. <b>\$31.75*</b> <small>+ \$8.25 cert</small>	<b>★ STAR Certified</b> <b>SMOG CHECK   TEST ONLY \$51.75</b> <small>+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans &amp; European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice. Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.</small>
<b>EXHAUST SYSTEM REPAIR AVAILABLE</b> <small>Most Vehicles</small>	<b>ENGINE STEAM CLEAN AVAILABLE</b> <small>Most Vehicles</small>	<b>30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL</b> <small>from \$279.95 4-cyl. Most vehicles.</small> Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning Check brakes, suspension
<b>NEW CV AXLE</b> from <b>\$159.95</b> <small>Parts &amp; Labor</small>		
<b>TIMING BELT SPECIAL</b> <b>\$50 off quoted price</b> <small>Recommended at 60k miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.</small>		
<b>San Diego Smog's new home is at Cliff Brown Automotive!</b> <b>Cliff Brown Automotive • 4491 Park Blvd, SD, CA 92116 • 619-297-4204</b> <b>Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5:30 pm</b> <small>Coupons must be Presented Prior to Service • Senior Discounts Available • Offers Expire March 15, 2023.</small>		



# CROSSWORD



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## Across

- 1.** Bush who debated Trump in 2016  
**4.** Persian for "king"  
**8.** City across the Rio Grande from Ciudad Juárez  
**14.** \_\_\_\_ Dhabhi  
**15.** "Teenage Dream" singer Perry  
**16.** Actress Tracy who married Michael J. Fox after playing Alex P. Keaton's girlfriend on "Family Ties"  
**17.** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are each named for one  
**19.** "Summer's joys are \_\_\_\_ by use": Keats

## Down

- 1.** Rolling Stone magazine co-founder Wenner  
**2.** Goth-like aesthetic of some TikTok guys  
**3.** Dubai's \_\_\_\_ Khalifa  
**4.** Courtroom art  
**5.** Crone  
**6.** On  
**7.** Murderous alter ego of fiction  
**8.** Mini albums, for short  
**9.** Hack (off)  
**10.** "The \_\_\_\_ and the Stars" (1937 Barbara Stanwyck film)  
**11.** Keys on a keyboard?  
**12.** Sickly-looking  
**13.** Getting the job done  
**18.** Place for a nasal piercing

- 20.** Super Bowl III winner, for short  
**21.** Mastermind game piece  
**23.** Sch. with the fight song "The Mighty Bruins"  
**24.** Angel dust, briefly  
**26.** Slow musical movements  
**29.** Bird of prey listed a "priority species" by Audubon Minnesota  
**34.** Language of Pakistan's Daily Khabrain  
**35.** Guy of "Memento"  
**36.** Je t'aime : French :: \_\_\_\_ : Spanish  
**38.** Teddy's neighbor on Mount Rushmore  
**39.** Battling  
**44.** Hopped around on a stick

- 22.** DVD blooper collection  
**25.** \_\_\_\_ rally  
**27.** OB or ENT  
**28.** Out of port  
**29.** Wackadoodle  
**30.** Resource in Catan and Minecraft  
**31.** Amt. on a vitamin bottle  
**32.** 1980s First Family  
**33.** Bigwig  
**37.** Magnum \_\_\_\_ (masterpiece)  
**40.** Like some saws and bobsleds  
**41.** "Do I know that person?"  
**42.** Financial assistance  
**43.** \$200 Monopoly buys: Abbr.  
**45.** Riches of El Dorado

- 47.** Hum from a fan  
**48.** Food and clothing, for two  
**53.** Boomer on "The NFL Today"  
**54.** Goal  
**55.** Flows back  
**56.** Classic distress call  
**59.** Pack tightly  
**63.** Exercise at a Y, maybe  
**66.** "Afraid that ain't happening" (or a hint to solving 17-, 29- or 48-Across)  
**68.** Starr of old comics  
**69.** J.B. Smoove's character on "Curb Your Enthusiasm"  
**70.** Sports rep  
**71.** Being  
**72.** Eyelid affliction  
**73.** December 31, for short

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

We hope that the puzzles themselves will be enough of a pleasure.

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

Reader T-shirts and hats are available at [sandiegoreaderstore.com/](http://sandiegoreaderstore.com/)

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

# SUDOKU

## MEDIUM:

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

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

## HARD:

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



used. \$629 value, will sell \$300. (760) 472-9127

**HOT POINT WASHER** XL capacity, \$100. Two large mirrors, \$50 each. Other building supplies, very very very cheap. (760) 749-8266

**CAMERA COLLECTION** Agfa, Argus, Kodak, Leica, Zeiss. Excellent condition, \$300. (760) 757-5445

**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.

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

**BRAND NEW VANS HIGHTOP** suede, light mint green, lace up front, zipper back, purchased for \$100, selling for \$25, size 7. (619) 601-3591.

**COMFORTER** duvet fit full to queen bed, reversible pink lavender, gently used in guest room, good condition, non-smoking home \$15. Telephone 1-858-484-4483.

**DRIVE SHOWER HANDLE** brand new in box, \$25. (619) 601-3591

**WWII GUN RIFLE BOX** Excellent condition, original lining and wax paper, \$50 or best offer, need to get it out of my house. Call (619) 601-3591.

**AUTO GPS** vehicle device by Garmin, \$175 OBO. (619) 282-5105

**DRAPES/CURTAINS** two pairs, contemporary with tie backs, shades of green and brown, 72 inches down x 62 inches

across. \$10 each pair. (858) 484-4483.

**DINNERWARE** 20 piece china set, like new, dishwasher and microwave safe, pretty pattern, \$25 for set. (619) 282-5105

**MISC FOR SALE** drones from \$11, stun gun/flashlight combination \$20, all brand new. Grow lights. Text for prices and pictures. (619) 850-3264

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

**ASSORTMENT OF WOMEN'S SWEATERS** for the winter. Brand new. Sizes small to medium, solid as well as stripes, some with pockets and can be worn as jacket. Please call (858) 693-3409 for more details.

**TV SMARTBOX** (619) 850-3264 Every channel on the planet. UFC, pay-per-view movies, TV shows, no satellite on your roof, no cable bills, free demo, money back guaranteed \$300.

**VANITY LIGHTS** for bathroom, wall mounted, 8 bulb bar, bevelled glass, was custom ordered, good condition, ideal for rental. \$15 1-858-484-4483 Rancho Penasquitos area.

## SERVICES

**CUSTOM PACKAGING LANE** Custom Packaging Lane is a leading packaging company that specializes in providing custom packaging solutions to businesses of all sizes. With a focus on quality and attention to detail, We are offering

a wide range of packaging options. (855) 904-4417 / inquiry@custompackaginglane.com

**RODENT ISSUES?** Whether you're dealing with roof rats, house mice, squirrels, possums, rodent feces, or need dead rodents removed, our service offerings cover it all and more. Our scope of work is built around three pillars: rodent proofing, trapping, and removal. (619) 733-2983 / raat.em.out.23@gmail.com

**KID & TEEN CRAFT CLASSES!** San Diego Craft Collective offers a wide variety of afternoon craft classes—woodworking, ceramics, craft studio & garden club—for all ages, 3 years+, taught by professional craftspeople. We offer weekday & weekend workshops at sandiegocraft.org (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**LEARN A NEW FIBER ART TODAY** Learn a new fiber art! Coming up...learn to weave on a lap loom or rigid heddle, quilt with finesse, macrame a pillow, weave a pine needle basket & warp a loom at San Diego Craft Collective. Visit us at sandiegocraft.org & save your space today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**LEARN TO SEW THIS SPRING!** Learn to sew this Spring! Learn Sewing Fundamentals, Family & Beginner Sewing, How to Sew with Knit & Stretchy Fabrics, & How to Sew a Button Hole & more at San Diego Craft Collective. Visit us at sandiegocraft.org & save your space today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**90 MIN MASSAGE** Relaxing massage to your home. 90 minute. (664) 725-1368 / samgsmtel@yahoo.com

**HELP MY RELATIONSHIPS** Do you wish for peace, love, compassion, intimacy and caring? Help My Relationships, communication & love addiction re-patterning coaching can help you. Set up a free 30 min consultation (858) 344-0898 and talk to Tera. rb.gy/oyund4 help-myrelationships.com / tera@HelpMyRelationships.com

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**APPLE/WINDOWS COMPUTER REPAIR** Desktops, laptops, Macbook, iMac, internet, routers, WiFi, printers. Serving all of San Diego. Same day appointment. northparkcomputers.com (619) 299-2407

**JUJUBOX STORAGE** No More Trips To A Storage Unit. We Pickup, Store and Deliver. jujubox.com/ (858) 328-2899 / hello@jujubox.com

**MOBILE BIKE REPAIR/TUNE-UP** Low cost quality mobile bike repair. \$1 mile from 92107. Email picture of bike and any known issues to burleybikes@hotmail.com for quote. Below price match any shop. Buying broken/unwanted bikes.

**SECURITY CAMERA & DOOR BELL** Sales, repair, upgrade. Coax of IP. Servers, backup. Honest & with references. (619) 770-0011 / luislednick@gmail.com

**WEDDINGS** I do weddings anywhere/any place in San Diego. Preformed in English only. Cost is \$100 cash. I am certified to perform weddings. Suzette (619) 634-0480 / redbonepalmer@gmail.com

**HANDYMAN SERVICES** Are you in need of home repair or

renovation services? Call fix and Forget Handyman Services today for an estimate (760) 847-7393.

**SAN DIEGO HUNKS - YOU CALL, WE HAUL!** (619) 507-4172 Junk Hauling, demolition, moving services! Lift gate, senior citizen discount, Veteran owned business. Got junk? Call a hunk!

**SUNLIGHT LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE** General yard cleanups. Water damage repair, lawn service, irrigation systems, sprinkler installation and repair, valve installation, tree services, grass installation, retaining walls, block walls, artificial turf installation, fencing, drains. Fully insured. (619) 379-3837.

**FULL BODY MASSAGE** from head to toe. Reasonable rates, call Tony (562) 587-4417.

**TAX PREPARATION SERVICES** Affordable and reliable, serving San Diego and North County. Licensed and registered with CA tax Board (760) 791-9496.

**HORTICULTURE**, landscape design, redesign, troubleshooting, diagnostics on the spot. Solve your problems, improve your design, improve your maintenance today - no guessing! Educated, trained and experienced, 6th generation native, 6th generation horticulturalist in San Diego County. No sales, no installation, no maintenance. Check me out at EdwordsHorticulture.com, then call (619) 402-8670.

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**CLOGGED DRAIN? \$54 OUT THE DOOR!** Per stoppage, up to 100'. Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm only. Must have accessible cleanout, CSLB# 571032. Call Today: (619) 472-2112. perryplumbing.com.

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## Irony

— Early on Jan. 14, in Monterrey, Mexico, Carlos Alonso, 32, allegedly broke a glass door at Christ the King Parish and entered, intending to rob the church, Catholic News Agency reported. But as he tried to flee with a statue of St. Michael the Archangel in hand, he tripped and fell on the angel's sword, seriously wounding his neck. Passersby saw the injured Alonso and called for help; he is expected to be charged after he recovers from the fall. The statue was unharmed.

## Recent Alarming Headline

— On Jan. 16, a drive-thru customer at a coffee shop in Auburn, Washington, wanted more than an extra shot, KCRA-TV reported. As the barista handed Matthew Darnell, 38, his change through the window, a surveillance camera caught him grabbing her arm and pulling her toward him as he fumbled with a zip tie. The barista was able to pull away from him and close the windows as his dollar bills went flying. He drove off, but a distinctive "Chevrolet" tattoo on his arm was captured on video, along with his side profile. Police later reported that Darnell had been arrested at his home in Auburn and was held on \$500,000 bail.

## Fail

— When Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, was built in 2012, the district installed a high-tech lighting system that was intended to

save on energy costs, NBC News reported. But the software that controls the lights failed on Aug. 24, 2021, and every light in the school has been on since then. Aaron Osbourne, the assistant superintendent for the district, says the glitch is costing taxpayers "in the thousands of dollars per month on average, but not in the tens of thousands." Teachers have removed bulbs where possible, and staff have shut off breakers to darken some of the exterior lighting. But help is on the way! Parts from China have arrived to fix the problem, which is expected to be completed in February.

## Family Values

— WSMV-TV reported that a car that crashed into a mailbox in Nashville, Tennessee, on Jan. 14 was driven by an underage motorist -- REALLY underage, as in 5 years old. The child's father, John Edwin Harris, 53, was seen by a witness grabbing the kid and running from the scene, police said. Officers found multiple open bottles of alcohol inside and ran the tags; when they arrived at Harris' home, he was driving away in his wife's car. He failed a field sobriety test, could barely stand up and smelled of alcohol. He was charged with DUI and leaving the scene of an accident -- where's the child endangerment charge?! -- and was released on \$4,000 bond.

## It's Come to This

— Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31 of 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported a 108% increase in a certain smuggled

item at ports of entry, Fox5-TV reported on Jan. 18. It wasn't fentanyl or heroin, though. Seized egg products and poultry were the hot catch as prices soared in the United States. "My advice is, don't bring them over," said CBP supervisory agriculture specialist Charles Payne. Or, he advised, if you do, declare them so you won't be fined. Thirty eggs in Juarez, Mexico, cost \$3.40 -- a fraction of what they'd cost in the U.S. because of an outbreak of avian flu that forced producers to euthanize 43 million egg-laying hens.

## Awesome!

— Dominican sailor Elvis Francois, 47, was rescued by the Colombian navy on Jan. 18 after surviving 24 days drifting from the island of St. Martin in the Netherlands Antilles, NPR reported. Francois said he had been making repairs to a sailboat when currents swept it out to sea. He scrawled "help" on the boat's hull, then survived on a bottle of ketchup, garlic powder, seasoning cubes and collected rainwater while he waited for a rescue. "I called my friends, they tried to contact me, but I lost the signal," Francois said. "There was nothing else to do but sit and wait." He finally caught the attention of a passing airplane by signaling with a mirror. "I thank the coast guard. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be telling the story," he said.

## Dream Job

— Five lucky participants will clear a cool \$1000 to do what they wanted to do anyway: eat cheese before bedtime. Fox5-TV

reported that *Sleep Junkie*, a mattress review website, hopes to test the legend that eating cheese before bed causes nightmares, so they're asking "dairy dreamers" to consume a wide variety of cheeses, log their sleep and provide feedback about sleep quality, energy levels and bad dreams. The best part? Participants will be reimbursed for the cheese! The catch: you have to sleep alone.

## Police Report

— A 31-year-old woman was charged with two counts of robbery and possession of a weapon (ahem) on Jan. 22 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, after a puzzling attempt to steal a pizza, the CBC reported. Around 3 am, she allegedly entered a crowded restaurant and demanded a pizza, brandishing a firecracker as a threat. She was denied the pie, so she lit the firework and ran off with a pizza. Outside the restaurant, she got into a cab, but the driver asked her to get out because she was being belligerent. When the driver stepped out of the car, she jumped into his seat and took off, dragging the 54-year-old several meters down the street. Officers caught up with the stolen cab and caught the pizza thief when she became stuck in a snowbank.

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

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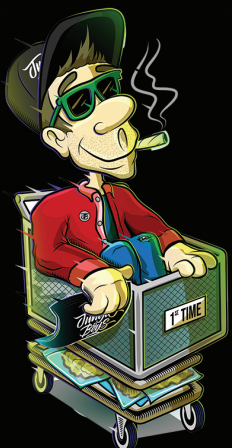
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