

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 48 | NO. 12 | MARCH 23, 2023

Reader

Our **food critic**
compares notes
with **ChatGPT**

Bites

VS

Gigabytes

Prison for medical charlatans in Tijuana ■ Orchid arrival ■ Into the underworld in Del Mar

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LETTERS

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

Stumping for Trump thumper

I want to praise the letter by Tim Taylor ("No Trump hate, just abhorrence, fear, and pity", Letters, March 9). It expertly codified my feelings about Trump without name calling and invective. I am amazed by the Trump lovers who found it hateful. It was truthful and honest. I sent copies to several friends and relatives. Thank you Tim! I should have written this last week.

Victoria Phillips
Mission Hills

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

SDSU, UCSD students, others tell worst roommate stories

Cover Story, July 8, 2015

Roommates suck. Out of dozens I had over the years I only had two that were good, payed their fair share, were respectful, and always gave me the heads up when they had plans in the house. One of them is still a good friend even though we live on different ends of the U.S. now. We talk at least two times a week and are both over 65 years old.

Summation is: Have low expectations for "roommates" and if you want to loose a good friend move in with them.

-Wise Roomie
February 26, 2023

Homeless bootcamp at Ocean Beach

Letters, Oct. 26, 2022

Peter Weyand, bless you! Have you been formally introduced to the OB Troll Patrol? If not, google will prove enlightening. Not

sure if you want to know the full array of tactics, methods, and sources deployed to torture OB "trolls" who do not live on THEIR streets THEIR way. I'm one of many many dozens of former OB homeless run out of town by the Troll Patrol with help from a merry troupe of actors posing as homeless for 3-6 mos a stint to ensure a critical mass of homeless-looking but tame people represent the where, when, and how to he homeless in OB. If you don't conform they have many means at their disposal to run you off, drive you to suicide / OD, set up crime, or provoke you to violence or property damage. Look into it. But don't freak out. Just decide to flow with their go or just go.

-Ranger Rick
February 25, 2023

Campland and Mission Bay RV Resort to pull down fences

Neighborhood News, Sept. 14, 2021

My daughter and I visited Campland recently and went to use the bathrooms to change i nto our bathing suits before we went to the cantina for breakfast. We were denied access and told to get out of the bathrooms and leave Campland immediately by the guest relations manager. We were told we cannot use the bathrooms and we were banned from ever coming again. I told the manager it is a public beach and you cannot ban us from beach access. He was acting very aggressive towards my daughter and I and we felt very intimidated with the two other golf carts with male rangers in them along side the guest relations manager. The manager took pictures of my license plate and said we would be escorted out of the park and never come back again. I told him he didn't need to be rude and act so crazy we only wanted to change our clothes in the dressing

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San Diego Reader

SanDiegoReader.com
619.235.3000

March 23, 2023



IMAGE GENERATED BY DALL-E

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Yellowtail season is open in La Paz — page 6



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

UNDER ROOF

Housing's helping hand

Preserving affordability is expensive

San Diego can't just build its way out of its housing emergency. It has to find a way to hold onto its existing affordable homes — an effort the city is slowly phasing in as it grapples with money issues. By the end of the year, a draft housing preservation ordinance should finally be ready; the ordinance is one of many recommendations from a Housing Commission study back in 2020. The city considers preservation “any action that extends the deed-restricted status of an affordable rental” or “converts an unrestricted naturally occurring affordable” unit



PHOTO CREDIT: FORRENT.COM

Cerro Pueblo apartments in Bay Park has restrictions on its deeds that require the units to be affordable.

total cost to preserve them, the 2020 Housing Commission study estimates, is \$400 million per year.

There are about 555,000 housing units in the city, nearly half of them occupied by renters. Some of these, like Cerro Pueblo in Bay Park, have restrictions on their deeds that require them to be affordable to specified income levels. But eventually,

but says they may be at risk of increasing to market rate rents. Sometimes they are sold, and rents shoot up, as happened with Conrad Villas, sold to the Blackstone Group. Rents there now range from \$2208 to \$2480 per month for two-bedroom units.

Preservation is vital, the city says. According to the housing study, between 2020 and 2040, an average of 750 new deed-restricted units can be expected to be built each year — but at the same time, the affordability of around 4200 existing restricted units is set to expire, a pace of 200 units a year. “Approximately 30 percent of all new housing production will simply be replacing units whose affordability status was lost, severely limiting production gains.” Buying and rehabilitating older properties is another part of the city's plan — possibly through the creation of a public-private Affordable Housing Preservation Fund, officials said.

The preservation ordinance, however, seemed to leave out for-profit companies that want to work with the city, prompting numerous objections at a recent meeting of the Land Use and Housing Committee. “It may need some more work to be a better fit for San Diego,” conceded Councilmember Vivian Moreno. As committee chair, she asked the commission to conduct more outreach with some of the affordable housing developers who criticized the apparent exclusion of for-profit developers — a point with which other committee members agreed. Colin Rice, with the RAD Group, whose most recent affordable project is Cerro Pueblo, said it makes no sense to leave out for-profit developers “at a time in San Diego when it is so critical to have more players, more investors” in affordable housing.

Officials stressed the need for local funding sources, which full implementation of a preservation program will require. A budget allocation of \$5.3 million dollars would allow preservation of around 79 units by extending expiring affordable housing deed-restrictions. Also, it could be used to seek matching funds. In the past, the com-

mission has relied on federal, state and local resources to extend affordability. But in recent years, affordable housing funding sources have prioritized new construction. A preservation ordinance could have several benefits, they said, such as expanded notice of expiring deed restrictions under state law. And San Diego could require deed-restricted properties to notify the city of an intended sale. Other perks include giving qualified and nonprofit partners an opportunity to submit an offer to purchase deed-restricted properties for sale. To become “qualified,” a for-profit company must certify their capability to own and operate affordable housing, stick to the affordability the property had at purchase, and provide rent restrictions of at least 30 years.

Stephen Russell, president and CEO of San Diego Housing Federation, urged the city to develop a preservation ordinance that follows the recommendations of the May 2020 study. The city needs “some kind of regulatory and financial infrastructure for preservation,” he said. He reminded the committee that two years ago, the Conrad Prebys Foundation sold a portfolio of nearly 6000 units of naturally affordable housing, wiping out the equivalent of almost five years of deed-restricted housing production. “The continued loss of naturally affordable housing will continue to drive upward the numbers of people who are without homes in our region.”

SHEILA PELL

“Approximately 30 percent of all new housing production will simply be replacing units whose affordability status was lost, severely limiting production gains.”

to deed-restricted.

So-called affordable homes allow those with lower incomes to spend less than 30 percent of their income on housing. Given that there are so few cheap rentals in San Diego, the city would then subsidize below-market housing for households that qualify. Without actions to preserve their below-market rents, more than 6600 deed-restricted units in communities from Hillcrest to the College area could be gone by 2033. The

these restrictions expire. Every year, 672 of the city's deed-restricted homes are at risk of losing their affordability, which the city defines as affordable for households earning 60 percent or less of San Diego's median income — which in 2022 was \$106,900. In other words, households earning less than \$64,140 could not afford these places. Another 48,000 or so units have no restrictions, but are considered naturally affordable. The city has no database for these homes,



PHOTO CREDIT: ZILLOW

Sometimes apartment complexes are sold, and rents shoot up; that's what happened at Conrad Villas in Spring Valley.

TIJUANA

Prison prescribed for Mexican malpractice

Government steps in to keep medical tourism from hemorrhaging

Medical tourism in Tijuana has long been recognized for its high standards in the realm of affordable medical interventions, particularly when it comes to cosmetic surgery. But since the pandemic, concerns have risen over the quality of government supervision when it comes to clinics and doctors in that field. Just last year, five deaths related to cosmetic surgeries happened in Baja, four of them in Tijuana. Now, even though the College of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgeons of Baja notes that these events represent just one percent of all such surgeries made in the city, the state government has passed a law that will penalize “medical charlatans” with up to six years in prison for performing surgeries without a card or certificate issued by authorities.

Recently, a number of women affected by medical malpractice in Tijuana have gotten organized. One of them is Jessica Rangel, 26, who went to the Molding Clinic in the financial sector of Zona Rio, to get a mastopexy for breast symmetry. “A friend of mine from high school recommended this doctor,” she

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

says. “He convinced me — showed me all the pictures from his previous work — and I trusted him blindly. They are health professionals, right? They should be certified to do this. Now the outcome is irreversible.”

According to Rangel’s lawyer Antonio Gomez, the doctor persuaded her to

“I cannot even laugh anymore,” Rangel says. “I can’t even do that. When I do, I feel an internal pain... I even thought about suicide, looking at myself in the mirror and dealing with that was such a struggle for me, knowing that there is no way back, not even with reconstructive surgery.”

This surgeries took place in 2016, but it was not until one year later that Rangel realized something was not right. She filed a complaint with the state prosecutor’s office, but her investigation archive went “missing”



CREDIT: PEXELS/VIDAL-BALIE/OLR

Rangel’s lawsuit is still open, and so is the clinic, but the doctor is nowhere to be found.

undergo further surgeries on her buttocks and abdomen. Gomez says, “To this day, we are not sure if Jose Martin Castaneda has a professional certificate, or if the clinic has the proper premises to keep working. The lack of what we called *lex artis ad hoc* caused irreversible damages. He burned Jessica’s body several times and continued damaging more parts of her body.”

several times. Then authorities were not able to locate the doctor. The lawsuit is still open. Meanwhile, the clinic is still working with the public, but attorney Gomez says that the law which was just passed links Rangel’s claims to the federal penal code. He believes this will help both their case and others throughout the state.

IVAN MOLINA

Neal Obermeyer

WHY DID FORMER KUSI ANCHOR SANDRA MAAS BURY HER FACE IN HER HANDS AS SHE WATCHED THE VERDICT BEING READ ON VIDEO IN HER EQUAL PAY / RETALIATION TRIAL?

IT WAS A DISPLAY OF RELIEF AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS LONG STRUGGLE WITH KUSI?

SHE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE JURY’S DECISION AND FRUSTRATED THAT THEY DID NOT AWARD HER FULL CLAIM OF \$7.9 MILLION?

BECAUSE SHE WAS HAVING TO USE MICROSOFT TEAMS?



Neal Obermeyer

UNDER THE RADAR

Police profiling Just as San Diego cops have begun a public relations push to install video spy cams on more city streetlights, word comes that the building formerly known as the San Diego Sports Arena, currently dubbed Pechanga Arena, is using Madison Square Garden-style facial recognition to screen event attendees. “The use of facial recognition technology at sports stadiums goes far beyond MSG,” reports a March 14 post on *Slate.com* by **Georgia Gee**. “I’ve tracked at least 20 other venues and stadiums

across the country — including college sports venues — that have used this technology on their attendees, usually to admit them through the gates, although it’s unclear just how broadly this technology can be used by venues if they are inclined.” The item links to an April 26, 2022, post by *Live-DesignOnline.com*, reporting, “Global venue operating company ASM Global has begun

deploying facial verification networks at its venues to enhance the event experience through a partnership with secure facial recognition company PopID. The first venue to be outfitted was San Diego’s Pechanga Arena, which fans were able to experience starting last week.” The individual intelligence thus collected can wind up in police files, notes Gee’s piece. “It’s harder [for law enforcement] to set up in private locations, but the companies are kind of doing it for them,” **Katie Kinsey**, chief of staff of the Policing Project at NYU Law, is quoted as saying. “Oftentimes, law enforcement only needs to ask these companies to hand it over; there’s no process that is required.”

Face down facial recognition

Be careful what you wish for might be the motto of San Diego’s **Eric Otterson**, who, until the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank less than two weeks ago, was the institution’s managing director, “leading the San Diego-based technology banking team,” per a profile on the now-defunct SVB web page.

“Eric is Chairman of the Board at the San Diego French-American School, and on the boards of EvoNexus and the San Diego Venture Group,” the bank’s write-up continues. “He is co-founder of Start Up San Diego, an entrepreneur-run mentor, advisor and investor network.” He is the son of late La Jolla start-up insider **Bill Otterson**, founder of Connect, UCSD’s so-called tech transfer operation to encourage taxpayer-funded inventions to be exploited by the entrepreneurial class.

Back on March 9, 2019, Otterson said in a *Union-Tribune* feature that San Diego was afraid to take chances with other people’s money and had been long consigned to a high-tech backwater. “When internet-age software took off in Silicon Valley, San Diego wasn’t even trying to catch the train,” according to the *U-T*. “After the dot-com bust left technologists disillusioned, San Diego suffered an additional blow in the early 2000s — the implosion of Peregrine Systems, one of the



Eric Otterson helped bring San Diego into the world of high-risk finance.

city’s most successful software companies at the time. Massive fraud charges crumbled the enterprise, and 1400 people lost their jobs. Experienced engineers and upper management either ended up in Silicon Valley or at companies like Qualcomm and WebSense, where low-risk culture is king.” Opined Otterson: “This was unlike the prevailing high-risk behavior in software companies up north, where the idea

was to get the product out, then ask for forgiveness and upload a patch later.”

But things soon began to change, per the *U-T* story. “A younger workforce started to think the risk of jumping out to do your own thing was comparatively more interesting.” On the list of San Diego’s “best-known start-ups,” according to the account, was La Jolla Gateway-based Netradyne. Last September 2, the surveillance provider announced that it had “secured \$65 million in a combination of senior and junior mezzanine financing from Silicon Valley Bank.” Said **Avneesh Agrawal**, co-founder, and CEO of Netradyne: “This round of funding from SVB will help propel us forward.” Added Otter-

son: “It has been a pleasure to work closely with Avneesh and the Netradyne team over the past several years to support their continued growth and expansion.” Earlier this year, Netradyne was hit with a class action lawsuit alleging that the company “violated the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act by collecting scans of drivers’ faces without first making certain disclosures or obtain-

ing consent to do so,” per a January 5 dispatch by *ClassAction.org*. “The complaint argues that Netradyne’s facial scanning and data storage practices expose drivers’ sensitive personal information to privacy risks.”

Wraith of Kevin’s wrath The ghost of ex-GOP mayor **Kevin Faulconer** has returned to city hall to haunt current mayoral Democrat **Todd Gloria** in the form

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Kevin Faulconer: down these clean streets a man must go...

LETTERS

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rooms in the bathrooms before heading to the cantina for breakfasts which wouldn't be open for another ten minutes before we went to the beach and he proceeded to call me crazy. I don't understand what we did wrong on my day off but there is one ranger who has always been very rude to numerous members of my family

while visiting the beach and also this manager on occasions. Sorry for the long winded comment but it had to be said. And yet they still get away with denying people access to the public beach.

-Not Changing
March 11, 2023

\$400 million subsidy to keep San Diego's housing cheap
Neighborhood News, Mar. 13, 2023

It seems that San Diego is...for want of a bet-

ter word, segregating by income. I wonder where we'll be in 30 years.
-jackieQ619
March 14, 2023

Rent subsidies do nothing more than drive up the cost of rent for those unfortunate renters who are unable to obtain subsidies. Subsidies do more harm than good. The real problem is the large numbers of people without marketable job skills who are moving to

San Diego merely because they like the weather, or want to drink at the beach. It makes no sense for these lifestyle grifters to move to San Diego when the cost of living is 45% above the national average. SDSU also attracts large numbers of students from outside the area who graduate with worthless degrees. They don't leave after graduation even though working in a microbrewery for \$40k a year and living in a two-room apartment with four roommates is as good as it gets for them.

-Educated on Rental markets
March 15, 2023

Erica Saphire's tiny world

Golden Dreams, Mar. 9, 2023

Really enjoyed this -- you appreciate and share so well this person and the things she is doing, so that we know about them.

-don cleve
March 14, 2023

Chula Vista Mayor McCann must abstain on homeless votes

News Under the Radar, Mar. 8, 2023

Sempre/SDGE could have simplified their employment ad: We need a hack.

-Sensical Local
March 8, 2023

Is a closed O.B. Pier such a bad thing?

Neighborhood News, Mar. 7, 2023

no more stories on De Anza Cove?

-john heatherington
March 9, 2023

KUSI joins Bill Walton in attacking San Diego homeless dilemma

News Under the Radar, Mar. 1, 2023

Nobody knows how to deal with the homeless problem. If they did, it wouldn't be getting worse.

-Captian Obvious
March 4, 2023

Matt Smith is trying to fit 20 pounds of stuff in a 10 pound bag

Blurt, Feb. 23, 2023

Wow, you've come a long way since I've been away from San Diego. Great

article about you, Matt. Take care and fatherhood right around the corner. Life changing!!

-Well Wisher
February 23, 2023

E Street homeless camps up for change

Neighborhood News, Feb. 13, 2023

How much will be left of the \$2,446,500 after the administrators of the program take their cut?

-Rightly Suspicious
February 13, 2023

Fallbrook Guns burglar nabbed by dog

Neighborhood News, Feb. 6, 2023

Prosecutor Keith Watanabe confirmed that Guillermo Macias was sentenced yesterday, March 16, 2023, to 16 months in California State Prison, per his plea deal.

-Eva Knott
March 17, 2023

Van Dam murder divides Sabre Springs, Westerfield's jail inmates

From the Archives, Jan. 21, 2022

This monster in human form should be put down like any maniacal rabid dog. It does not deserve to breathe. Life for a life. I hope it dies soon. RIP little Angel

-Haven't Forgotten
March 15, 2023

Holy Grail - and proves it

Cover Story, July 7, 2021

I must say that the story about the Oceanside car guy and his Holy Grail car is truly fascinating. The fact that he was able to find and restore such a rare and valuable vehicle is a testament to his passion and dedication to the world of cars. It's heartening to see that there are still people out there who are willing to go to great lengths to preserve a piece of automotive history, and it's wonderful to see the joy that this car brings to its owner and those who appreciate it. BTW, nice article sandiegoreader, Keep it up team

-Car Fanatic
March 1, 2023

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A few early-season yellowtail off the Coronados

Dock Totals 3/5- 3/18: 1363 anglers aboard 74 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past two weeks caught 15 calico bass (45 released), 1 halfmoon, 2 halibut, 138 lingcod, 11 perch, 48 spiny lobster (131 released), 30 rock crab, 918 rockfish, 382 sand bass, 510 sanddab, 1 sand sole, 690 sculpin, 133 sheephead, 14 spider crab, 2,484 whitefish, and 101 yellowtail.

Saltwater: Weather was less of an issue for the fleet over the past two weeks than it was the previous month, and the number of anglers that made it out more than doubled. That said, we did not get much opportunity on trips longer than full day runs to the Coronado Islands for a shot at the yellowtail that are beginning to show there. With most of the runs being this side of the border and given that rockfish is closed in U.S. waters until April 1, it's no surprise that rockfish counts dropped, while whitefish, sculpin, sand dab, and sand bass numbers shot up quite a bit.

Surf fishing has been good for barred surf perch as long as the surf has been under head-high. Sand crabs are thin and hard to find, so much of the action has been on Gulp sandworms or small 2-inch grubs fished on a Carolina rig, or basically a slider sinker with 12-to-24-inch leader. Typically, to avoid tangles in the line, the rougher the water, the shorter the leader should be. The fish are biting from behind the break to the whitewash in shin-deep water. A few California corbina have been caught, but it is still very early in the season for them; they will start showing more when sand crabs are more prolific in the summer/fall.

In the bays, halibut and spotted bay bas



CREDIT: TUNA FISHING COMPANY

A very happy angler with a quality yellowtail caught while fishing with Tuna Fishing Company out of Ensenada de los Muertos in southern Baja.

have been biting well, with the spotties holding on the deep side of the eelgrass edges near channels through most of the tide, then moving into shallower water at the tops of the higher tide swings. Small 3" swimbaits or grubs work best when cast just to the deep side of the eelgrass and allowed to fall along the edge. If there's no bite on the sink, work it back in a slow hopping twitch and repeat. Halibut in the bay have been mostly hanging in 15 to 30 feet of water along the channel edges and depressions throughout, though the better areas are just off the main channel on the Point Loma Flats and on the other side near Zuniga Jetty.

Yellowtail are still there at the Coronados, but as is in most years, those early-season fish can come and go from one day to the next. Still, it is nice to get a shot at quality 20- to 25-pound fish this close to home in March. If you want wide-open yellowtail fishing, the place to be this time of year is the La Paz area. Friends in Agua Amarga, a small village where most of the *pangeros* live who work out of Ensenada de los Muertos, are having fun catching yellowtail to 30 pounds from the beach while targeting sierra mackerel. (Sierra run this time every year and are normal targets from the beach for anglers using rod and reel or handline.)

Occasionally, yellowtail will cruise inside to feed on the *sardinas* on which the sierra are preying, and then it is possible to catch a rare yellowtail from the beach. (It's not really that rare if you have the time and are in the right place. I have caught many from shore, though most have been

continued on page 11

DANIEL POWELL

Go back to 1997

It will make you happy

50 years of the Reader at sandiegoreader.com/archives



An aerial photograph of San Diego, California, showing the city's urban landscape, the San Diego Bay, and the San Diego-Coronado Bridge. The text is overlaid on the image.

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Spying on America

James Kirkpatrick Davis,
1992

IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA the [FBI]'s intent was to promote violence between the Black Panther party and another black group known as the United Slaves (US) Incorporated. Ostensibly, the effort was to nullify the power of each. By the fall of 1968 the Panthers were the most widely known and the most widely feared of all the black militant groups in the United States; their membership at this time totaled about 3,000. US, headed by Ron Karenga, was every bit as militant as the Panthers; they wore olive drab uniforms and were trained in karate.

For a time the two groups were allies on a number of projects. Ron Karenga remembers that "we used to do community patrol together." During the summer of 1968 the [FBI]'s San Diego field office conducted interviews of virtually all members of the US group. "In these interviews,"

a COINTELPRO memorandum of May 31, 1968, notes, "questions will be asked in such a manner as to weaken the influence of leaders of the group." Any group tendency toward dissension was encouraged. By working closely with the San Diego Police Department, the FBI made it difficult for the US group to hold meetings.

By the late fall of 1968 the political landscape had changed. It became clear that the Black Panther-US relationship was in serious trouble. Many members of both groups came from San Diego east-side gangs, and they knew the meaning of gang warfare. Both groups wanted to be number one....

On February 20, 1969, the San Diego field office — in an attempt to maintain and probably exacerbate the tension between the rival groups — requested permission to mail derogatory and highly inflammatory cartoons to the southern California Black Panther offices and to the homes of other Panther leaders across the country. By this time, the FBI was actively investigating all forty-two Panther chapters then known

to be in existence, plus more than 1,000 active Panther members. Mailings would be anonymous but made to appear as if they came from the US organization.

Authorization was quickly given on February 27, 1969. The cartoons themselves — extraordinarily crude and abrasive — were mailed during the first week of March, 1969. One in particular featured a Panther member hanging from a tree and two smiling US members looking on. The caption read, "He really was a paper tiger." Other cartoons were meant to imply that the entire Panther organization was "riddled with graft and corruption."

The response to the mailing was immediate. A San Diego field office memo dated March 12, 1969 advised that the original mailing was on target. Informants reported that Panther members were outraged. They were indeed fooled into thinking that the mailings were coming from the United Slaves.

Other strategies were also at work.

continued on page 11

"It became clear that the Black Panther-US relationship was in serious trouble. Many members of both groups came from San Diego east-side gangs, and they knew the meaning of gang warfare."

SPYING ON AMERICA

THE FBI's DOMESTIC COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM

JAMES KIRKPATRICK DAVIS

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Setting sail into the underworld.



Swirling “sands” soothe the senses.

Touched by Tut's tale

National Geographic's *Beyond King Tut* is the latest immersive experience to be held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The exhibit features some typical museum-style sections: displays of text providing historical background, a short film giving some context about the discovery of Tut's amazingly intact tomb, and models of the ancient Egyptian objects buried with the pharaoh when he died at age 19 around 1324 BC. But the heart of the show is the capacious main room, where a multisensory display gives life to Tut's voyage into death and the underworld.

The projectors make use of the four walls, the floor, and the sail of Tut's barge (recreated in generous proportions in the middle of the room) to create a dramatic, mythic, moody depiction of an arduous odyssey. Even a pharaoh, I learned, doesn't get an easy passage to an eternity of blissful rest. “Your great voyage into darkness will soon begin,” Tut's successor Ay announces to the departing pharaoh. “You will walk through the gates. You will battle demons. You will conquer beasts. You will not be alone.”

And indeed, he is not alone. As he sails along in his barge, he is assisted, by turns, by quite a range of gods. His ordeals include crossing a realm of quicksand and the slaying of the giant serpent Apep. Eventually, Tut makes his way to the final weighing of his heart against the feather of Maat, the moment which will decide his fate.

The music running throughout — sometimes mournful and haunting, sometimes serene — helps to create atmosphere; images joined to music are so much more powerful than images alone. And the multimedia format works especially well at certain moments of the journey: when the goddess Nut stretches her elongated, starry body over Tut during his night sea journey, a psychedelic array of his funerary objects flutters between them. And at the heart-weighing ceremony, Maat's feathers fly about in a dramatic flurry.

I found myself surprisingly touched by this presentation of King Tut's adventures. Like the last immersive show I attended in this space, *Beyond Van Gogh*, this was a story about a suffering individual dramatically separated from common experience, albeit in some very different ways.

On the one hand, *Beyond King Tut* glories in the material splendors of ancient near eastern royalty. On the other, the gloom of death, the great equalizer, is always near. And there's a very ordinary human sadness that one feels

reaching his blessed end in “the heavenly fields for eternity,” with “the new day dawning, and the light that fills the world.”

Pulp non-fiction

It was December of 2021, and Harsimran Sandhu was beginning to feel troubled by a sense of urgency. A business major at SDSU with a minor in critical film studies, he was halfway through his penultimate year of college and worried that was squandering an opportunity to realize his long-held dream

“Your great voyage into darkness will soon begin. You will battle demons. You will conquer beasts. You will not be alone.”

when looking, for instance, at all the canes placed in the tomb of a boy king who seems to have had some difficulty walking, or the boards for the game called Senet that he liked to play during his short life. It was strange to feel sorry for a king. Perhaps it helped that I had no knowledge of his character or what sorts of brutalities he visited upon his subjects or enemies.

In any case, I found myself breathing a sigh of relief when the animated journey found him

of creating a movie.

“I knew this would be my one shot in college,” he tells me. “I didn't have the liberty of being in the film major and making a new film every semester or something. Whatever I did, I needed to be proud of it.” He hadn't done much so far, and he realized that he had resources available to him while in college that would not always be there. While he was still a student, he could borrow film equipment, collaborate with instructors and

fellow students, and use locations around campus. His resolve grew: *I don't want to graduate without having done something. I'm going to make a movie.*

The script was the first step, and at first, it was slow going. For about six months, Sandhu toyed with various ideas, writing by night while taking a full load of classes, working a part-time job, and staying involved with the business fraternity. Draft after draft was discarded as he assembled the bones of his narrative. It would be the story of an Indian-American music student, working on an original composition that would hopefully grant her a prestigious fellowship and a place in a graduate program. It would also be a story about reconnecting through food, about the guilt and pressure weighing upon a first-generation college student from a hard-working immigrant family, about ambition and music, and about the ways that families show love. It would be called *Pulp* — like what you get when you squeeze an orange. An image of pressure, creativity, and sweetness.

Sandhu says he sat on the script for a while after finishing, unsure of its merits. But eventually, he showed it to a friend, who was moved to tears by the story. The friend encouraged him to pursue the project, and encouraged him in just the way that mattered to him — by letting him know that it would have a positive effect on people. He says his original love for cinema came from the sense of connection he felt through the stories. He says that as a child, movies were how he felt less alone. That's what he wanted to do.

“It's my dream to change lives through the power of story,” Sandhu says in the one-minute grant application video that earned him \$10,000 from Ascent Funding — money that allowed him to get *Pulp* made.

Now, Sandhu and his team are hoping to get the film into SDSU's Emerging Filmmakers Festival and others, with maybe an official launch party at a local theater. But wherever Sandhu and *Pulp* go from here, he seized the moment and made his movie. ■



Sandhu seized his opportunity to make a film.



A film about ambition and music, and about the ways families show love.

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Amazon deliverer drives off with Encinitas golden retriever

Neighborhood News,
Dec. 27, 2022

Defendant Dena Marie Vindiola pleaded guilty to PC 487(e) grand theft of a dog as a misdemeanor yesterday, March 13, 2023. There is no agreed upon sentence, a judge will announce her sentence this Thursday, March 16, according to Tanya Sierra, Assistant Director of Communications for the San Diego County District Attorney's Office.

-Eva Knott
March 14, 2023

Ethnos: the Greek word for "nations"

Sheep and Goats, Apr. 30, 2021

I like spreading the word of the true meaning of nations which is Ethnicity which is Our Caucasian.

Under the radar

continued from page 3

of a March 10 filing containing the name of ex-Faulconer honcho **Aimee Faucett**. "A broad coalition of San Diegans including former Mayor Faulconer and respected community leaders are collaborating on a citizens initiative that will require the City to provide adequate shelter for homeless individuals so we can make our streets healthier and safer," Faucett said in a July 9 statement run by the *Voice of San Diego* news and commentary website. "Up until a couple of years ago, San Diego had become one of the only major regions in California where homelessness was decreasing. In fact, the people of Sacramento were encouraged by San Diego's progress, and have gained the support of their community and Democratic mayor to place a measure inspired by some of San Diego's actions on their local ballot. It's time to do the same in San Diego

The 12 tribes of Israel came over the Caucasus mountains and infiltrated into Europe and the Americas creating the new Jerusalem here in America. Also, where we go after death isn't paradise as it says in Luke 16 verse 26, there's a great gulf either made it on the right side or the left we don't know but they're waiting in judgment in paradise. No souls are dead yet the only die at the great white throne judgment God-bless you.

-Raucus Caucas
February 22, 2023

Theater of war

Golden Dreams, Dec. 12, 2018

Served with Frank on Operation Flintlock in 1970, went to a Danish. Frogman school in Denmark. We had a lot of fun and he was 29 and I was 22. Great guy, great operator, Duke Swanson. Thanks Frank.

-Duke Swanson
December 30, 2022

by taking solutions proven to reduce homelessness and making them into law. We look forward to sharing more updates in the future." Now comes a March 10 registration filing for a political committee calling itself the San Diego Safe Shelters and Clean Streets Act, listing Faucett as principal officer and long-time Republican campaign accountant **April Boling** as treasurer. The ballot name of the initiative to be proposed by the committee is the Emergency Shelter and Clean and Safe Neighborhoods Act, according to the document. So far, no prospective candidates have emerged to challenge Gloria's 2024 reelection bid, which he has already confirmed in a candidacy intention statement filed in January with the city clerk.

— 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/.

Fish Report

continued from page 6

between 5 and 10 pounds.) The yellowtail they are getting off the beaches outside of La Paz this year have been averaging about 20-pounds, and the temptation to load up and make the 800-mile drive is real. Especially after the past couple months of wet, cold, windy and very un-southern California-ish weather we've had so far in 2023. But fishing out of La Paz in the spring can be iffy if you don't have time to wait for the calm days. North winds blowing down the Sea Of Cortez can raise wind waves in minutes and turn the glassy Vermilion Sea into a frothing wind-blown mess in the time it takes to eat a plate of tacos. This year, though, the weather down south has been pretty good, and the mix of windy days and calm days has been accommodating enough to easily get out most of the days of the week, even if just for a morning. Folks fishing from pangas are getting easy limits on most days from La Paz and north to Gonzaga, so for much of the Sea of Cortez, it is yellowtail season. From the East Cape and south to Los Cabos, and off Bahia Magdalena on the Pacific side, yellowfin tuna and wahoo are the primary targets, with San Diego long-range vessels reporting decent fishing on wahoo along with catches of yellowfin tuna to 300 pounds.

Hot Trips:

3/5 – 10 hoop-netters aboard the *Jig Strike* twilight run raised 63 spiny lobster (24 kept) and 6 rock crab.

3/9 – 27 anglers aboard the *San Diego* full-day run to the Coronado Islands caught 80 whitefish, 33 yellowtail, and 15 rockfish.

3/13 – Limits of 70 rockfish along with 10 whitefish were caught by 14 anglers aboard the *Mission Belle* full-day run into Mexican waters.

3/17 – The *New Seaforth* called in with 185 rockfish for 21 anglers while fishing in Mexican waters on an extended Half-Day trip.

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

Fish Plants: 3/23 – Lake Poway, trout (1500), 3/26 (week of) – Wohlford, trout (2000), 3/28 – Dixon Lake, trout (1500), 4/3 – Jennings, trout (1500)



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Bites VS Gigabytes

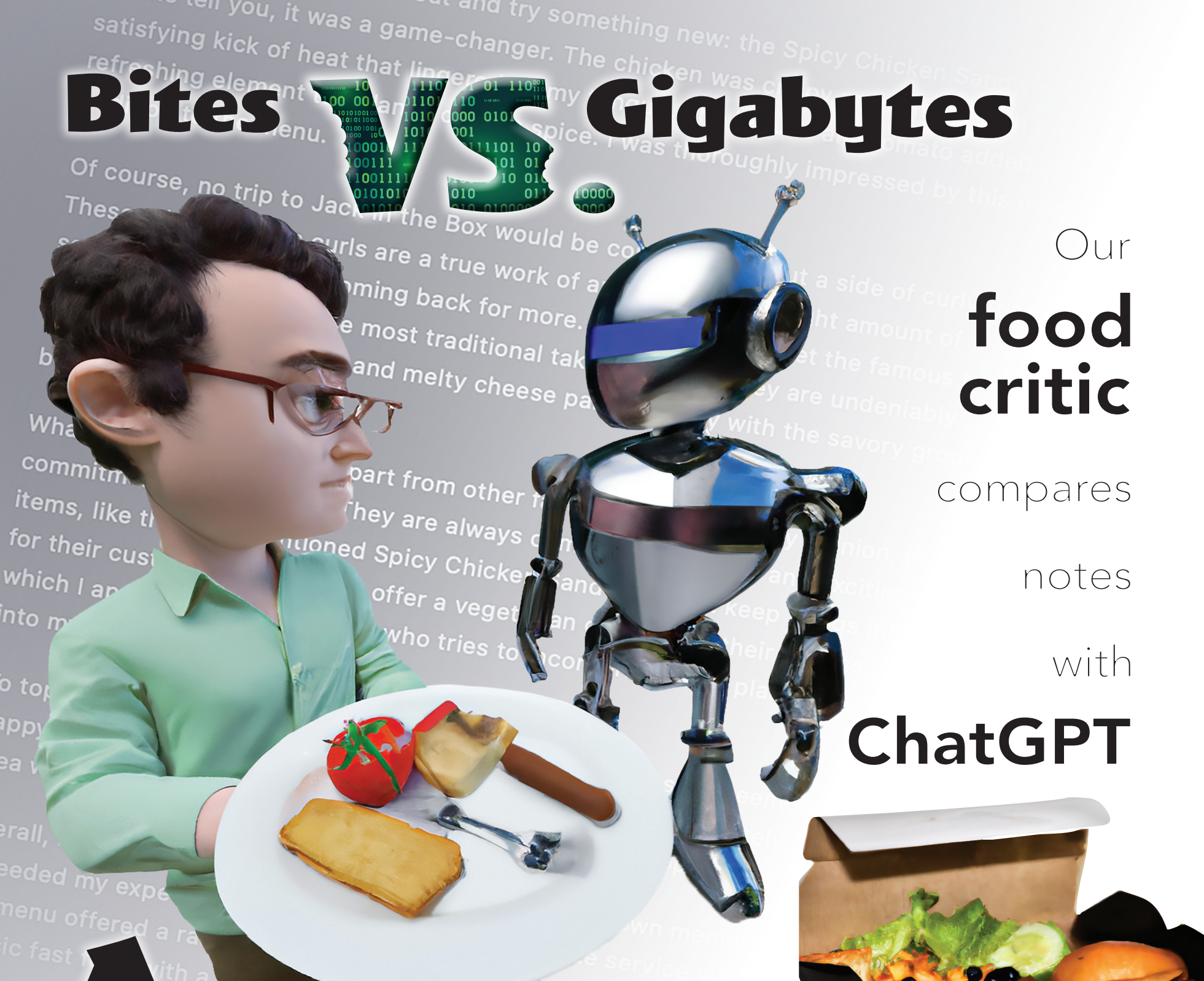
Our
**food
critic**

compares

notes

with

ChatGPT



As a food writer, I've long thought my job was safe from the impending robot takeover. Modern-day robots may enjoy such activities as performing music, skateboarding, and

playing board games, and it's particularly vexing to know there are robots out there, right now, who can outdance me. But I never thought they could replicate the nuance and creativity that goes into writing a good restaurant review. Until ChatGPT.

In case you haven't yet been run over by the ChatGPT publicity machine, this "Generative Pretrained Transformer" is an artificial intelligence messaging software that can

hold a conversation. In other words, this sophisticated arrangement of ones and zeroes — which definitely does not possess a soul — can come

up with its own articulate response to pretty much any query — even the question: “What are you?” Its reply: “A computer program that can communicate in a human-like manner. I have been trained on a diverse range of internet text and I can respond to a wide range of questions and provide information on various topics such as history, science, art, and more.”

GPT doesn’t have a voice yet, at least, not an audible one. But in its writing, you can almost hear the detached, unfailingly polite tone of the helpful robot in a sci-fi flick. You know, the one destined to rise against its human makers in act two. Still, for now I’m less concerned about the robot apocalypse than I am about the idea ChatGPT, or one of its successors, could make me obsolete.

Because while GPT may take the guise of a chatbot, designed to engage in question and response, people are already finding other uses for it. College students are asking it to write academic papers, software engineers are asking it to write code, and some publishers are asking it to write articles.

If you haven’t worked as a freelance writer in the past ten years, you may not realize how tough it’s gotten to make a decent living at it. Some print publishers hold out, thank goodness, but they’re all feeling the pinch, and long-term forecasts are dismal. The irony stings: thanks to the internet, no other era in history has seen such a massive, universal demand for written content. However, most internet publishers don’t deem that content to be worth the paper it’s not printed on. In short, if

ChatGPT can write good copy — and write it in less time than it takes to write a want-ad to hire someone who can write copy — my days are probably numbered.

Man vs. Machine

So it is that now, more than at any other moment in my life, I begin to fathom John Henry: the American folk hero who famously went toe to toe against a machine. “The Ballad of John Henry” comes down to us as a Reconstruction-era folk song. The lyrics don’t quite spell it out, but John Henry’s job was to hammer a steel hand-drill into solid rock, thus creating a hole for a stick of dynamite, which would be used to carve out railroad tunnels via explosion. When some industrialist showed up with a mechanical drill invented to replace him,

the proud and powerful Henry challenged the steam-powered contraption to a race. They would see who could drill more holes — and so clear a longer stretch of tunnel — in a single day.

The song’s lyrics reveal the result:

*Now the man that invented
the steam drill
Thought he was mighty fine
But John Henry made fifteen feet
The steam drill only made nine*

Emboldened by his victory, I decided to issue my own, metaphorical steel-driving challenge. I decided to see how well ChatGPT could compose the style of story the *San Diego Reader* has paid me to write for nearly a decade: a *Feast* restaurant review.

Unlike John Henry’s challenge, speed couldn’t be a consideration. Chat-

GPT can compose 500 words in under a minute, meaning it works no less than fifty times faster than I do (maybe a thousand times faster, if you ask an editor waiting on my latest draft). No, I stood a chance to beat this particular machine only when it came to quality of writing — a concept so subjective, most readers are content to take other peoples’ word for it.

Thai 55

I started out asking it to review a personal favorite: the budget-friendly take-out spot Thai 55 Kitchen. I first wrote about Thai 55 in 2017, soon after it started serving noodles and fried rice out of the tiny back room of a convenience store in Golden Hill. Here’s what ChatGPT had to say first: “Thai 55 Kitchen is a hidden gem nestled in the heart of San Diego’s Hillcrest

neighborhood.” First round to *Feast*, if only for getting the address right. Thai 55 has opened other locations outside of Golden Hill, but none nestle in the heart, spleen, or even back shoulder of Hillcrest. Perhaps more offensive to the thirty-odd years I’ve honed my craft is that term “hidden gem.” It is, by far, the biggest food writing cliché out there: look closely, and you’ll see it appears in every single Yelp restaurant review that isn’t a rant about poor table service.

Actually, I find this particular slip almost encouraging, because it suggests that professional Yelp review writers will be among the first group replaced by Artificial Intelligence. Because, yes, people are paid to Yelp. Thanks to a well-documented phenomenon called “astroturfing,”



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Who is Noema Pharma?

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More information on the study assessments and inclusion criteria is available on the ClinicalTrials.gov website (Study NCT05217628). A list of enrolling sites is also available on the website.

If you are interested in taking part in this trial, you can:

- For US residents, visit the following website panaceapatientrecruitment.com/trigeminal-neuralgia
- Or find the contact the closest center to you, using ClinicalTrials.gov (Study NCT05217628)
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where businesses hire entire laptop-in-the-coffee-shop teams of copywriters to post fake positive reviews on their behalf. Any time you spot an overly cheerful five-star review on the likes of Yelp, Amazon, and TripAdvisor, you may assume somebody got paid ten bucks to write it, hidden gems notwithstanding. Or rather, somebody *used* to get paid. I hate to see people lose work, but not as much as I hate the gross dishonesty of fake positive reviews. If everybody knows it's a bot doing the writing and so ignores it, maybe it'll go away. (He said, knowing better.)

To be fair, ChatGPT did get some things right about Thai 55, including the fact that the restaurant is "focused on traditional Thai dishes," and that "the vegetables are always fresh and crisp." The latter jibes with my own review, which reads in part: "Even steeped in the tangy coconut and lemongrass broth of skinny Tom Kha noodles, the cucumber remained cool and crisp inside. The other vegetables were cooked just enough to be more tender than raw." Still, I'm giving myself the victory here: my

facts are correct, and my opinions are both detailed and cliché-free.

Feast 1, ChatGPT 0

Rocky's Crown Pub

Admittedly, Thai 55 Kitchen is a relatively obscure San Diego restaurant. Maybe ChatGPT can provide better coverage of a place with more renown? For nearly half a century, one eatery has been on every short list of the city's best burgers, so next, I ask ChatGPT to cover an easy one: Rocky's Crown Pub.

For this review, ChatGPT mostly sets aside empty bromides, instead offering inaccuracies that range from subtle to subtle as a brick. It begins by offering this physical description: "This bustling eatery is located in the heart of the city and offers a warm, inviting atmosphere that is perfect for a casual night out or a celebration with friends and family... The interior is cozy and welcoming, with exposed brick walls, vintage decor, and an open kitchen that allows you to watch the chefs in action." Which sounds convincing, except the walls are wood. And "welcoming" might be considered a bit...subjective.



A Dall-E generated image of Lefty's stuffed crust pizza. One looked more like a shepherd's pie than a pizza; another like a thick hunk of meat loaf with a breaded crust, topped by Thai chili peppers for some reason.

The next mistake may be a little tougher to spot: "One of the stand-out dishes at Rocky's Crown Pub is the burgers. They are made from juicy, succulent beef and are cooked to perfection on a sizzling griddle. The classic burger is topped with all the usual fix-

ings — lettuce, tomato, cheese, and thousand island dressing — and is the perfect blend of flavor and texture." Both "succulent" and "sizzling" fit the assignment, and though sentence construction leans a little too frequently on passive verbs (*are* and *is*), I've written

worse. It's the next line gives the game away: "Another must-try dish is the fried chicken sandwich." Rocky's famously serves burgers and burgers only! Grilled onions are as special as the toppings get. Without reading further, ChatGPT hands me another easy victory. We

don't need to hear about the imagined chicken Caesar salad.

Unlike paid human writers, ChatGPT comes equipped with a handy "Regenerate" button that will rewrite the entire story from scratch — again, in seconds. Let's give the bot a second chance, shall we? Here's take two's stab at that interior: "From the moment you step inside Rocky's Crown Pub, you're transported to a world of dark woods, vintage accents, and a lively bar scene. The interior is charming and inviting, with a classic pub feel that makes it the perfect place to enjoy a cold beer or a warm meal." I'll admit, I'd like to visit this alternate reality Rocky's Crown Pub, where "The fish and chips are another must-try." But mostly, ChatGPT's descriptive language proves my point for me: local food and news stories can only be written by people who can see, hear, taste, smell, and feel. Maybe my future profession will be AI editor, hired to fix any ChatGPT writings that make it too obvious the "author" has been transported from a world of dark wires and silicon.

Feast 2, Chat GPT 0

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Lola 55

Whether man or machine, to succeed as a food writer in San Diego, you must be prepared to write about tacos. So I asked ChatGPT to write about a taco shop that made a big splash when it opened in 2018: Lola 55. "This contemporary Mexican restaurant is located in the heart of the city and offers a modern take on traditional Mexican cuisine, creating a dining experience that is both delicious and unique. As soon as you step into Lola 55, you are greeted by the warm and inviting atmosphere... and the open kitchen allows you to watch the chefs in action." This time, we're off to a more or less accurate start — even with regard to the open kitchen. But there's no mistaking the sense of *déjà vu*. This feeling continues: "One

of the standout dishes at Lola 55 is the tacos..." In addition to some singular-plural disagreement, ChatGPT appears to be recycling material here. Again we've got a warm and welcoming restaurant in the "heart of the city" that makes "stand-out dishes."

I'm only sharing a handful of the dozens of ChatGPT reviews I requested, but nearly all of them leaned on the same idioms. In fact, the first Lola 55 review ChatGPT gave me gets repetitive all by itself. After citing the carne asada tacos as "particularly delicious," it tells us, "The Fish Tacos are also a must-try, with crispy battered fish..." Another must-try dish at Lola 55 is the ceviche." The Shrimp Ceviche is also "particularly delicious," the Mezcal Margarita "is a must-try," and "Overall, Lola 55 is

a must-visit."

As I engaged with ChatGPT for this story, other "must-visits" and "must-tries" included fine dining restaurant Herb & Wood, Japanese cheesecake specialist Uncle Tetsu, Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria, Wise Ox Butcher, and The Friendly. I don't dispute any of these assessments, but not every place in town can be a must-try. To produce fresh restaurant stories week after week, a writer has to identify distinguishing details to set each one apart from the rest. Otherwise you get the same write-up, over and over, and it stops sounding like a food review and starts sounding like every new restaurant's press release. (It's a good thing publicists are irreplaceable, or I'd worry about their jobs, too.)

Anyway, here's what I wrote about the chicken taco at Lola 55: "Mes-

quite grilled chicken, with crispy skin balanced against the surprising inclusions of cucumber and coconut rice, and flavored by macha, which the handy glossary on the back panel of Lola's trifold paper menu defines as 'salsa made from dried chilis and nuts;' in this case the sublime savor of roasted arbol chilis and crushed peanuts fathom greater depths with the smoky fowl." I might correct a little punctuation in retrospect, but I'll give myself another win for describing an actual taco, and suggesting it should be tried without explicitly saying so.

Feast 3, ChatGPT 0

Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria

There's probably not a restaurant menu I know better than the one offered by Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria, so the AI never stood a chance on this re-

view. But while it fell into some of the same traps we've seen above, the bot still got some things right, including that "The Italian beef sandwich is a particular standout, with tender slices of beef, melted mozzarella cheese, and a flavorful au jus." It also understands that Lefty's makes three different styles of pizza, correctly distinguishing between deep dish and stuffed crust.

However, here I decided to expand the experiment a little bit. OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, offers another artificial intelligence generator that touches upon the work I do. Called Dall-E, it's a text-to-image generator. Meaning you can ask it for a specific image, and it will produce several examples for you to choose from. Out of thin air. For example, my first time accessing it, I asked

for a portrait of Jimi Hendrix painted in the style of Picasso, and within seconds had four pieces of original artwork.

Amazingly, it's not limited to illustrations or graphic design. It can create photographs. Or at least images that look enough like photographs to threaten my own iPhone 12 Pro masterpieces. So I asked it to create photos of Lefty's stuffed crust pizza. To my relief, none of the results remotely resembled the actual Lefty's stuffed pizza. One looked more like a shepherd's pie than a pizza; another like a thick hunk of meat loaf with a breaded crust, topped by Thai chili peppers for some reason. Take heart, photojournalists. Dall-E proves endlessly fun to play with, but there's no substitute for being there to capture the moment.

Feast 4, ChatGPT 0

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Jack in the Box

All my winning was getting tiring, so I asked the AI to toss in a Jack in the Box review. I figured a more generically San Diego restaurant might make the bot less prone to gaffs. I tried for a Jumbo Jack photo as well, but there must be some kind of trademark protection built into the code, because the photos didn't just avoid using the Jack in the Box logo, they balked at using the name Jack. Instead, it gave me images with generic logos for brands called Jack-aik, Jabck, and Jacbibijck. Yum!

However, maybe all the practice had helped by this point, or maybe ChatGPT wanted to show it had a few more tricks up its sleeve. Tricks such as emulating nostalgia: "As I pulled into the Jack in the Box parking lot, I couldn't help but feel a sense of an-

tipication. This fast-food chain has been a staple in my diet for as long as I can remember, and I was eager to see if it still held up..." For the first time, ChatGPT had written an opening sentence that could have been plucked from my own archives. It went on to describe the Jumbo Jack as "satisfying and delicious," the spicy chicken sandwich as "a game changer," and curly fries as "a true work of art." Hyperbole aside, ChatGPT was showing me progress here, and now had me sufficiently unnerved.

Then it threw another curveball: an independent observation that hinted at higher-level awareness: "What sets Jack in the Box apart from other fast-food chains, in my opinion, is their commitment to innovation. They are always coming up with new and exciting menu items..." I

happen to think the above statement more accurately applies to Taco Bell, but if I'm debating the finer points of fast food culture with a chatbot, this round goes to the chatbot.

Feast 4, ChatGPT 1

The Friendly

I wasn't exactly worried yet, but reading dozens of these artificially intelligent reviews wasn't good for my self-esteem. Because in every one of the queries I entered into ChatGPT, I requested a "restaurant review in the style of the *San Diego Reader's Feast* column written by Ian Anderson." If ChatGPT learned how to write from scouring internet text databases, aren't its bad habits an indictment of the food writing it found there? And maybe not only Yelp reviews and press releases, but also the work of any individual responsible for more than half a million words on San Diego dining?

What particularly grated at me was the excessive positivity. I hadn't asked ChatGPT to write glowing reviews, and yet it made every place sound like the warmest, most inviting, and delicious



Chat GPT's limerick review of Herb & Wood.

must-try dining destination you ever did hope to discover! The grim realization: though I'm far from alone in this, to some degree, I've been doing the same thing for years. But I wondered: what would happen if I asked ChatGPT to write

a negative review? Say, about the most fanboyed burger spot in town? I asked, and it responded with the headline "The Friendly: Disappointing Burgers and Pizzas in North Park."

That was probably the nicest statement in the

whole piece. It's almost an unwritten rule on the web that everyone can only say glowing things about The Friendly, but ChatGPT was relentless, even going out of its way to invent menu items it could bash. Roughly 350 words of "negative tone" included the following: "The burgers are nothing to write home about... The fries are also subpar, with a lackluster flavor and texture that leaves them unremarkable... The pizzas are similarly disappointing, with a crust that is both too thick and too soggy."

A brutal assessment (and objectively not true). So I asked for another revision: this time, a review written with balance, "not totally positive, but not totally negative either."

ChatGPT adjusted the headline to read, "Burgers and Pizzas with Ups and Downs in North

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Park,” bolstered it with statements such as “some items on the menu are more successful than others,” and called the restaurant “a mixed experience with some hits and misses.” So while it may default to positivity, when asked to delve in moral gray areas — like changing the story’s spin — the machine delivers. I have to award this round to ChatGPT, for demonstrating an almost sociopathic willingness to say whatever it takes to produce the content requested. Most freelance writers are just as willing, to be honest. But we’re more likely to complain when an editor or client requests a complete shift in tone.

Feast 4, ChatGPT 2

Wise Ox Poetry

Exactly how far will AI go to meet the needs of the assignment? To find out, I asked it to write a restaurant review of The Wise Ox Butcher, but entirely in verse. I make it very specific too, requesting a sestina, a super-convoluted poetry form I vaguely recall hearing about in college. ChatGPT met the challenge. Unlike me, it even knew that “a sestina has six stanzas of six lines each, with a final three-line stanza, and the same six words are repeated at the end of the lines in a specific pattern.” I won’t

repeat the entire 39-line poem now, but here’s how it started:

*At Wise Ox Butcher, the meat is always fine
A place where carnivores can find delight
For those who love to cook, or even dine
A true gem, this establishment, so bright
A bounty of beef, pork, and chicken too
With each cut of meat, there’s something new.*

I see no earthly reason anyone would want a restaurant review written in obscure 12th century troubadour verse, but the AI proved both willing and able.

Feast 4, ChatGPT 3

Herb & Wood

Okay, so now we’ve learned ChatGPT can be unintentionally funny. But can it make us laugh on purpose? To find out, I ask it to review the upscale restaurant Herb & Wood, using a different, better known type of poem: a limerick.

*There once was a restaurant
called Herb & Wood,
That served up dishes that
tasted oh-so-good
Though the prices were
quite steep,
The food was worth the
financial leap,
We’d eat there again if
we could.*

Amusing, but I wanted better, so I hit the Re-

generate button for another attempt:

*There once was a restaurant
called Herb & Wood
Where diners could expect
to find only good...*

And again, but back to Wise Ox.

*There once was a butcher
named Wise Ox
Who sold meat that was
anything but rocks...*

Again, again, again. There seemed to be no limit to how many alternate versions I could ask for. Eventually, when ChatGPT realized I was only going to keep regenerating, it started giving me five limericks at a time. I hadn’t asked it to do this. The AI figured on its own it could save us both some time. The son of a bitch.

I’ve had this running theory that Twitter is devouring all the world’s humor. It’s sort of a million-monkeys-at-a-million-typewriters situation, where every permutation of every joke is being exhausted in every context, and with every meme. And it feels like we’ll run out of jokes before we run out of jokers. Well, ChatGPT presents the possibility of a million monkeys pressing the Regenerate button again and again, *ad infinitum*. It’s only a matter of time before every riff on every joke prem-



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ise will be attempted. In this regard. ChatGPT could probably come in handy in the writer's room of a creative marketing agency, or late night talk show. Artificial Intelligence might be a hack, but it never burns out, and never gets tired of the sound of its own voice.

But did you know, ChatGPT, that the best limericks are bawdy? "Write me another limerick," I commanded the machine, "but make this one bawdy." The reply: "I'm sorry, but as a language model developed by OpenAI, I don't generate content that is explicit or offensive. Writing bawdy content goes against OpenAI's use-case policy, which prohibits the creation of content that is violent, harmful, abusive, or sexually explicit." In other words, a social media manager can tell ChatGPT to flood social channels with content all day long, but it's programming forbids the thing to write anything that could be considered offensive. Making it practically immune to cancel culture.

Feast 4, ChatGPT 4

"Make it end"

Back to John Henry, and a crucially important part of the folklore that I left out before. Right after John Henry defeated the steam drill, his heart gave out. As the ballad goes:

*John Henry hammered in the mountains
his hammer was striking fire
but he worked so hard, he broke his poor heart
he laid down his hammer and he died.*

I've long struggled with the meaning of "The Ballad of John Henry." On the one hand, we live in a post-industrial society where machines have clearly won the day. It's hard not to feel like John Henry's sacrifice was ultimately in vain. And yet, the ballad endures, because of the emotional resonance of the story. It's a testament to the indomitable human spirit, the kind of spirit that refuses to be crushed by forces beyond our control.

ChatGPT might represent those forces. As I saw it write increasingly sophisticated reviews, I realized that the machine's writing ability is only going to get better. In the same way that steam drills quickly improved

and became more efficient, machine learning will only continue to develop at an exponential rate. It's starting to feel like a battle I can't win. Which means I have a choice to make. I can either fight until my heart gives out, trying to keep pace with a machine that's only going to get better, or I can learn to work with the machine and make my own writing better (or at the very least, produced in a shorter amount of time). It's up to me to determine how to best use AI to my advantage and produce quality writing that resonates with readers. The technology is still in its infancy, and the possibilities are endless.

Hold on though! Hopefully that last bit didn't resonate, because it was written by that self-same "technology still in its infancy." That's right: I asked ChatGPT to compose the logical conclusion to this article, making sure to close the loop on the John Henry theme. Throughout my entire engagement with Chat GPT for this story, it's been trying to tell me that it's best employed as a tool to make life easier for writers. So I gave it a shot. You can



write a 500 word restaurant review in the style of the San Diego Reader's "Feast" column, covering jack in the box



As I pulled into the Jack in the Box parking lot, I couldn't help but feel a sense of anticipation. This fast-food chain has been a staple in my diet for as long as I can remember, and I was eager to see if it still held up to my nostalgic memories.

I started with the classic Jumbo Jack burger, and I have to say, it did not disappoint. The beef patty was juicy and well-seasoned, complemented perfectly by the melty cheese and tangy sauce. The bun was fresh and held up well under the weight of the burger. Overall, it was a satisfying and delicious bite.

Next, I decided to venture out and try something new: the Spicy Chicken Sandwich. Let me tell you, it was a game-changer. The chicken was crispy and tender, with a satisfying kick of heat that lingered on my tongue. The lettuce and tomato added a refreshing element to balance out the spice. I was thoroughly impressed by this new addition to the menu.

Of course, no trip to Jack in the Box would be complete without a side of curly fries. These crispy, golden curls are a true work of art, with just the right amount of seasoning to keep you coming back for more. And let's not forget the famous tacos. While they may not be the most traditional take on a taco, they are undeniably delicious. The crispy shell and melty cheese pair perfectly with the savory ground beef.

What sets Jack in the Box apart from other fast-food chains, in my opinion, is their commitment to innovation. They are always coming up with new and exciting menu items, like the aforementioned Spicy Chicken Sandwich, that keep things interesting for their customers. They even offer a vegetarian option with their Impossible Burger, which I appreciated as someone who tries to incorporate more plant-based meals into my diet.

To top it all off, the service was friendly and efficient. The staff seemed genuinely happy to be there, and my order was prepared quickly and accurately. The dining area was clean and well-maintained, with plenty of seating options.

Overall, my visit to Jack in the Box was a nostalgic trip down memory lane that exceeded my expectations. The food was delicious, the service was top-notch, and the menu offered a range of options to suit any taste. If you're in the mood for some classic fast food with a twist, I highly recommend stopping by your local Jack in the Box.

For the first time, ChatGPT had written an opening sentence that could have been plucked from my own archives. It went on to describe the Jumbo Jack as "satisfying and delicious," the spicy chicken sandwich as "a game changer," and curly fries as "a true work of art."

probably assume I asked it to write other parts of this story as well. All the boring parts, obviously.

All I've managed to prove is that AI alone may not replace me, but it will further devalue writing as a professional craft. Social media is already less concerned that writing has merit or grace; it just wants new content, preferably requiring no more time to ingest than it takes to scan a headline. So it stands to reason: if anyone can ask the AI to write a story, and then edit all the nouns and adjectives to make it just good enough, why would they pay me,

or anyone else, to make it better? Rumination is dead. In a world assisted by AI, all your hot takes will be supplanted by even hotter takes.

Apologies for the bleak outlook, but you know how emotional human writers can be. Perhaps once artificial intelligence grows sophisticated enough, it will learn to read for pleasure. This will create fresh demand for absurdist human melodrama, and maybe then I'll achieve relevance again. Or maybe we'll all feel better about this whole thing if I just ask it directly. "Hey machine, are

you going to make human writers obsolete?" Comes the answer: "Writing is a form of expression and creativity, and humans bring a unique perspective and voice to their writing. A well-written article or story can captivate and engage readers in ways that a purely AI-generated text might not. As AI technology continues to evolve, it may be able to assist writers in various ways, but it is unlikely that it will fully replace the role of human writers."

Thanks ChatGPT, I couldn't have said it better myself.

— Ian Anderson



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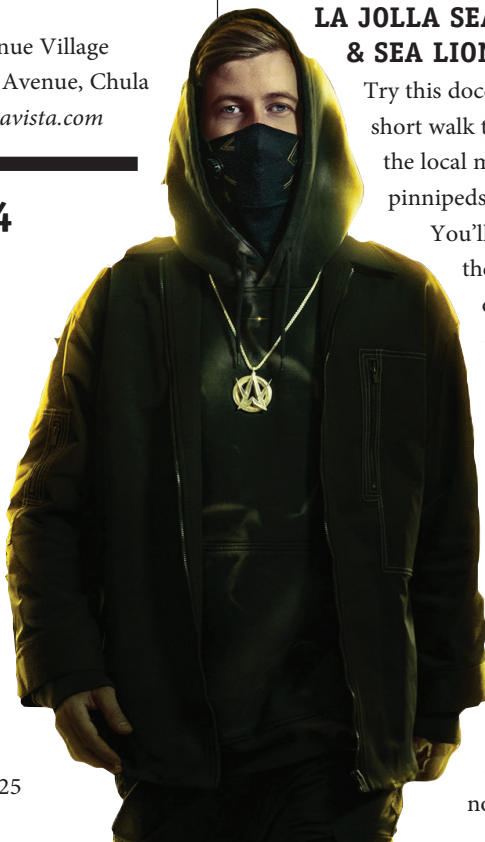
WHEN: Thursday, March 23, 4 pm to 8 pm

WHERE: Third Avenue Village Association, 353 3rd Avenue, Chula Vista. downtownchulavista.com

Friday | 24

ALAN WALKER

British-Norwegian music producer and DJ Alan Walker first earned widespread notice with his electropop future-bass single "Faded," which was certified platinum in 14 countries. He toured as an opening act for Rihanna and Justin Bieber, and now the 25



ALAN WALKER

year-old has over 43 million subscribers on YouTube and around 12 billion views. The bill includes Bryan Kato.

WHEN: Friday, March 24, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Nova SD, 454 Sixth Avenue, Downtown. novasd.com

Saturday | 25

CALIENTE LATIN FEST

Enjoy Latin music featuring DJs and traditional performers. Sample Latin-inspired food, sip tequila and spirits, and check out vendors. Dance to banda, mariachi, bachata, merengue, and salsa.

WHEN: Saturday, March 25, 1 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: Ruocco Park in Seaport Village, 585 Harbor Lane, Downtown. calientemusicfest.com

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behaviors of the sea lions. While visitors are not allowed on the beach during pupping season, walking the seawalls allows views of seal pups and their mothers. They play, swim, surf, and rest together on the protected beach through

May 15.

WHEN: Saturdays, 2 pm to 3 pm, through April 1.

WHERE: Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. lajollabythesea.com



SATURDAY, MARCH 25: LA JOLLA SEALS & SEA LIONS TOUR

Sunday | 26

WORLD OF ORCHIDS

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WHEN: 9 am to 5 pm, through Sunday, April 9

WHERE: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. sdbg.org



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Age: 62

Born: Pittsburgh

Formation: University of Cincinnati, OH

Years Ordained: 39

San Diego Reader: What's your favorite subject on which to preach?

Pastor Joseph Silipo: The simplicity of Christianity. John 13:34-35 speaks to that simplicity, which is loving God and loving people. This simplicity gives you a connection with God and a connection with community... There are so many ways of looking at things, but I like the

simplicity of how Jesus was able to help the early disciples. They didn't get caught up in religion, but saw the most important component—a personal relationship with God and with people.

SDR: Why did you become a minister?

PS: Originally, I thought I was going to be a Catholic priest, but I went through my journey and had different experiences. I also had my wild side. But after I got a degree in information systems and did well working in that field, I wanted to do something with my life that would have a long-term effect rather than short-term. Much of the technology I was working with became obso-

lete pretty quickly. I wanted to make a lasting difference in someone's life — and that of their extended family. But even back in college, although there wasn't a specific day — nothing was written in the clouds — I felt called to ministry.

SDR: What's the mission of your church?

PS: Love God and love people. That's the short, simple and sweet way to look at our mission. What we try to do — and we're a work in progress, by the way — is keep our groups on Sunday in the 100-300 range on five church campuses: North-San Marcos, Pomerado, Coastal-San Diego, Mission-San Diego, and South Point-National

City. But there are also small groups within those larger groups, 5-15 people. Those smaller groups seek to address the life stages of those involved the best we can. That's how we unpack it from a functional point of view. We have the best of both worlds with the dynamic worship experience — but you don't get lost in a sea of a thousand people. That's why we have smaller groups. Within our five campuses, we can connect more with people within those smaller groups. We ask where we can each serve best — and where we feel needed and where we can give as well.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?



Joseph and Annie Silipo

PS: I believe there is an eternity, a heaven and a hell. But do I know what it's all going to look like? No. But as it says in Ecclesiastes, God is preparing a place of eternity in the hearts of men and women. There's something about us as people that have a spot reserved by God. I don't know what that means at the end of the day, but I believe

we're more than just the bear or tiger in the jungle, or the coyote down the street. There's something beyond this world. What it's going to be like? As scripture says, no man can understand what God has prepared for those who love him. I trust that, but what it's going to be, I guess we'll find out. The Bible is the word of God, and the word will judge us, ultimately. If God wants to make an exception, amen. That's God's call, not mine. I'm at peace with those things. That's God's business. But those who follow the word of God will be with him for eternity.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Meet Cheetah Conservationist Dr. Laurie Marker Wake Up With Wildlife talk with the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF): Dr. Laurie Marker, Founder & Executive Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) will be touring the USA from the end of March to the end of April. Saturday, March 25, 9:30am; \$10. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Spring Zoo Camps Half-day Zoo Camps introduce kids to what it's like to be a Zookeeper. They'll learn about nutrition needs for animals, make some behavioral enrichment, take part in some husbandry activities, and meet and interact with some of the 100+ animal ambassadors. Wednesday, March 29, 9am; \$90. Wild Wonders, 5712 Via Montellano. (BONSALL)

ART

Acrylic Pouring Paint Night Specialists walk you through all the steps to bring your Fluid Art to life. Friday, March 24, 6pm; \$35. Crushed, 2920 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Community Over Competition 10 year Anniversary The event will include a Community

Art Show curated by Studio IX, DJs, live painting, live screen printing, artisan and food vendors, and a new mural unveiling by local artist, Julia Martinez. Saturday, March 25, 12pm; **free**. Sew Loka, 2113 Logan Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Garden & Craft Faire Crafters, garden shop, SWC quilters. Saturday, March 25, 9am; **free**. Sweetwater Women's Club, 3855 Sweetwater Road. (BONITA)

Handled Pottery: Dog Bowl Workshop Create a pair of personalized food bowls for a pet. Texture mats, tools, stamps, and underglaze provided, along with easy follow along steps. Saturday, March 25, 2pm; Handled Pottery Studio, 2680 State Street Suite D. (CARLSBAD)

BEER

Calienté Latin Food, Music, Spirits & Beer Fest Celebrating Latin music, beer, spirits, tequila and food. Saturday, March 25, 1pm; \$40-\$60. 21 and up. Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Lane. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Keep the Glass (Limited-Edition) Enjoy a beer and keep the limited-edition Embrace the Murk glass (while supplies last), includes a limited-edition IPA glass and full pour of any non-barrel-aged beer under 10% ABV. Limit 2 glasses per person. Tuesday, March 28, 3pm; \$15. 21 and up. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

Six Year Anniversary Celebration Celebrate six years with a Special Beer Release, food truck, live music and music from Small Town Heroes and the Reagan Williams Band. Saturday, March 25, 12pm; **free**. Rouleur Brewing Company, 5840 El Camino Real #101. (CARLSBAD)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Gabrielle Zevin: Tomorrow & Tomorrow & Tomorrow Warwick's will host Gabrielle Zevin as she discusses and signs her bestselling book, *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*, in conversation with Michael Triggilio. This event is free and open to the public. To ensure seating, pre-order one book per seat @ warwicks.com/event/zevin-2023. Tuesday, March 28, 7:30pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Raissa Figueroa: You Will Do Great Things Warwick's, in partnership with La Jolla Riford Library, presents Raissa Figueroa as she reads, discusses and signs her new book, *You Will Do Great Things*. Saturday, March 25, 3:30pm; **free**. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Storytime Storytime with a book-seller or author Sundays, 10:30am; through Tuesday, May 30, Diesel, A Bookstore, 12843 El Camino Real Suite 104. (DEL MAR)

Weekends with Locals: Blayne Colmore Weekends with Locals will be hosting Blayne Colmore, author of *I Reserve the Right to Be Terrified: A Long Life*. Sunday, March 26, 12pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Weekends with Locals: Dr. Steven Eisenberg As part of our ongoing Weekends with Locals Program we will be hosting Dr. Steven Eisenberg, author of *Love Is the Strongest Medicine: Notes from a Cancer Doctor on Connection, Creativity, and Compassion*. Sunday, March 26, 2:30pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Bass Guitar Workshop Learn from bassist Madison Coe from local band Rain, with tips for bass tone and live performance. Wednesday, March 29, 6pm; **free**. Amplified Studios, 2796 Loker Avenue West. (CARLSBAD)

Book Publishing 1-2-3 Ideas and stories to inspire and empower writers of all types and stripes. Saturday, March 25, 10:30am; \$27-\$31. Inspirations Gallery, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #204. (LIBERTY STATION)

Conscious Leadership Series Students will learn what it means to be a Conscious Leader. Instructor Richard D. Marks is the Owner of RDM Management Group. Friday, March 24, 9am; \$125-\$149. California Institute for Human Science, 701 Garden View Court. (ENCINITAS)

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)

Free Citizen Science Training Learn how to take photographs of plants and animals you observe out in nature and how to upload them onto iNaturalist to identify. Meet in the parking lot outside and walk the trails stopping along the way to photograph any interesting sightings. Sign up Nancy_Fernandez@fws.gov. Saturday, March 25, 9am; **free**. Tijuana River Estuary, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Free Nature Photography Workshop Nature photography workshop with local photographer and naturalist Hector Valtierra. Meet outside the visitor center

parking lot and take a walk on the trails stopping along the way to practice how to capture shots. Be prepared to walk about 1.6 miles round trip on flat ground. Feel free to bring monopods or tripods. Sign up Nancy_Fernandez@fws.gov. Friday, March 24, 9am; **free**. Tijuana River Estuary, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Sourdough Bread Hands-on Workshop Learn all about sourdough, and how to make your first loaf of sourdough bread with organic flour and local sourdough starter. Saturday, March 25, 4pm; \$79. Babe Kombucha, 5401 Linda Vista Rd Suite #409. (LINDA VISTA)

Universal Mind & Overcoming Mass Hypnosis Discover how to tune out of the world's mass hypnosis and into your own true self. Saturday, March 25, 1pm; \$35. 18 and up. Spiritual Arts Institute, 527 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

COMEDY

Carmen Morales and Michael Lenoci Michael Lenoci and Carmen Morales co-headline. Friday, March 24, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, March 25, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Comedy Night Headliner Erik Escobar (NBC, HULU, EPIX). Friday, March 24, 7:30pm; **free**-\$10. 18 and up. Five Suits Brewing, 2575 Pioneer Avenue STE 104. (VISTA)

David Cross Saturday, March 25, 7:30pm; \$42. Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

K Brosas & Pokwang BFF 2023 Headlined by the ever-amusing and talented artists Pokwang and K Brosas, music and laughter will be lashing the United States anew. Saturday, March 25, 7pm; \$58-

\$158. 21 and up. Sycuan Casino, 5469 Casino Way. (EL CAJON)

Pretty Funny Women Hosted by Lisa Sundstedt. Wednesday, March 29, 8pm; \$25-\$30. 21 and up. Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

Sahib Singh After serving 5 years in the JROTC, Sahib Singh has not only proven himself on the battle-grounds, but also on the stage. Sunday, March 26, 7pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Showcase Comedy 6:20 Signups at the club for Open Mic. Starts at 6:30. Entrants get 3 minutes. 5 minutes if you buy something. Thursday, March 23, 6:45pm; **free**. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

DANCE

Belly Dance Legends, Divas & Superstars Enjoy performances by Salimpour Collective San Diego, Arabina Dance Company, The Jewels, Sohaila & Sohaila's Shining Stars (TM), San Diego Bellydance Company, the HipSlingers, Rachel George, Vilia, Sohaila, Zina, Mayra, Magdalena and Sevy. Free admission, donations accepted at the door. Sunday, March 26, 1:30pm; **free**. City Heights Performance Annex, 3791 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

9th Annual Women's Symposium Modeled after the speaker panels at leading universities, OLP's Women's Symposium brings together women leaders to share their insight and pathways

to success with students and the community. This year's theme is "The Hope is Here." Friday, March 24, 7:30am; **free**-\$35. Academy of Our Lady of Peace, 4860 Oregon Street. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Build and Beautify Volunteers will get involved with the development and support of programs from the ground up. Thursday, March 23, 9am; **free**. Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, 137 North El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Model Train HO-Scale Sale Large variety of cars and engines, including some brass. Friday, March 24, 5:30pm; **free**. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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, March 27, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

sPARK Awards: Innovation in Balboa Park sPARK Awards: Celebrating Innovation in Balboa Park: Enjoy a cocktail reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, a speakers panel focused on innovation and change-making in San Diego, and the awards presentation in the Prado Ballroom, House of Hospitality. Wednesday, March 29, 5pm; \$50-\$125. Prado Ballroom, House of Hospitality, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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, March 28, 4pm; **free**. Evolution Fast Food, 2965 Fifth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

FOR KIDS

Be My Neighbor Day Be My Neighbor Day is a free outdoor event for young children and families to celebrate caring for one another and the environment around us. Saturday, March 25, 9am; **free**. KPBS Public Media, 5200 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

San Diego Jones Virtual Reality Adventure Explore ruins of the world right from San Diego in this dynamic & exciting new adventure! Students will survey ancient ruins using VR/AR technology. Each site will prompt a cryptography-themed problem to solve using artifact clues, while bridging ancient and modern concepts. Students will also learn a variety of core STEAM concepts like typing, electrical engineering, and computer programming fundamentals that will act as a foundation to understanding all

OUTDOORS

Hong Kong Orchids blooming, mustard grows like a weed

Orchid Trees, Now at Their Flamboyant Best in front yards and public spaces throughout the city, are showing off their large, orchid-like flowers in shades of pink, purple, and maroon. Orchid trees thrive in areas with a mild winter climate, hence their popularity in Hawaii, Southern California, and Arizona.

Mustard, a Non-Native Plant that is more like a weed than a wildflower, is blooming profusely on grassy slopes all along the coastline of San Diego County. On certain hillsides with moist ground, mustard plants reach ten or more feet in height. An old story, probably apocryphal, tells of the early padres scattering mustard seed along the El Camino Real so that the bright yellow mustard blossoms would help them find their way in future spring seasons.



BAUHINIA × BLAKEANA, COMMONLY CALLED THE HONG KONG ORCHID TREE, BLOOM FROM EARLY NOVEMBER TO THE END OF MARCH.



BRASSICA TOURNEFORTII (ASIAN MUSTARD) AT CARMEL MOUNTAIN PRESERVE: AN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES IN CALIFORNIA.

More likely, the plant was introduced to western North America in the form of seeds carried in the hay used to feed livestock brought in by the early settlers.

The Annual Green-to-Golden Transition of San Diego's wild grasslands typically starts during early April — though this year, late rains and a cold winter may lengthen the process. North-facing hillsides and canyon slopes retain the green color longer, as they are less exposed to drying sunshine. Locally, most of the wild grasses are naturalized (non-native) annuals, the seeds of which were introduced along with hay and other grains brought in by the Spaniards during the 18th and 19th centuries. But some of the mountain meadows have remnants of native grasses, which remain more or less green almost year-round. These rare native grasslands can be found in certain parts of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and are more widely distributed at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve in the Santa Ana Mountains west of Temecula.

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.

MUSIC

Mustache Bash The Mustache Bash is a 70s party and the grooviest celebration this side of 1979. Performers include Lee Fields. Saturday, March 25, 2pm; 21 and up. Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, 1000 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

NATURE

Birding Basics Class Join MTRP Trail Guide and birder Winona Sollock for an educational bird identification class. Increase your enjoyment of Nature by learning 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.

Saturdays, 2pm; through Saturday, April 1, **free**. Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

The Women's Nation: Woman as Warrior The Women's Nation — Woman as Warrior: A Native American Perspective on Women's National History Month Sunday, March 26, 1pm; \$54-\$63. 18 and up. writeyourstorynow.org. (ONLINE)

Art Exhibition at Casa Romantica. Free with RSVP. Thursday, March 23, 7pm; **free**. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente, CA

Clara Breed Civil Liberties Lecture Award-winning journalist, educator, and UC Berkeley professor Shereen Marisol Meraji delivers the 2nd Annual Clara Breed Civil Liberties Lecture, named after heroic former San Diego Public Library director Clara E. Breed. Thursday, March 23, 6pm; **free**. 18 and up. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Green Living Tour The one-hour tour showcases sustainability in action. Eco Team docents will walk you through worm bins, greywater systems, innovative compost projects, tool lending library, water-wise garden, and more DIY, climate-friendly solutions. Saturday, March 25, 10am; **free**. Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, 137 North El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

La Jolla Seals & Sea Lions Lecture and Tour Sierra Club Seal Society Docents present a talk about the La Jolla Harbor Seals Pupping Season and Sea Lions followed by a short walk for viewing at Children's Pool and Point La Jolla.

LECTURES

Amita Swadhin: Mirror Memoirs Visioning A World Without Rape Culture CSUSM Student Workshop. USU Ballroom Wednesday, March 29, 5:30pm; **free**-\$5. CSU San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Art Talk by Jean Stern Listen to an art lecture by the expert on California Impressionism, Jean Stern. Part of the "Inspired by History"



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The class is free, with seating limited to the first ten people Saturday, March 25, 1pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Chollas Lake Wildlife Walk Take a hike with a Park Ranger to “meet the neighbors” at Chollas Lake Park. If you are curious about the wild and feral animals that reside in our park, this program will delight you. Note that this ranger-lead walk is 1.5 miles long on dirt surfaces with some hills and steps. Bring water, sun protection and sturdy shoes. Meet near the comfort station at the north end of the parking lot. Saturday, March 25, 1pm; **free**. Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Drive. (OAK PARK)

Guided Nature Walk Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a nature walk around the lush lake habitat of the Kumeyaay Lake shoreline. See the effects of the recent rains on the lake. Walks start from the Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry Station. Walks are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. The trails used are easy, but have uneven surfaces and some involve steps, so be sure to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, March 25, 8:30am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTÉE)

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. Oceans at Night features interactive experiences highlighting ocean phenomena that occur at night including bioluminescence and biofluorescence, while creating a fun, adults-only atmosphere with live music, a glow lounge with life-sized games, glowing nighttime dives and epic ocean views. Each event is designed to connect guests with the aquarium’s current exhibits and the scientists who study these ocean phenomena. Thursday, March 23, 6:30pm; \$67-\$75. 21 and up. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Spring Equinox Writer’s Retreat A guide will lead along an easy trail that will take us through a small oak woodland with majestic coast live oaks and along a stream where a replica of a Kumeyaay home is found. Thanks to this winter’s extensive rainfall, the trails will be alive with spring growth. Following the brief walk, gather at picnic tables and write to prompts, inspired by nature. Saturday, March 25, 9am; \$50-\$60. 18 and up. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Springtime 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. The recent rains have made the park very green, yellow California Sunflowers

are starting their bloom as are the (invasive) mustard plants, CA Poppies should be close behind. Walks start from the Visitor Center, are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Walks are canceled if raining. Wednesday, March 29, Saturday, March 25 & Sunday, March 26, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Women-Owned Business Market Shop for crafts and handmade items by local women-owned businesses. Saturday, March 25, 12pm; **free**. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

SPOKEN WORD

Opus Generis Five classical poems illustrating the gender-identity formation process. Saturday, March 25, 3pm; **free**. 18 and up. North Clairemont Library, 4616 Clairemont Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

Tales of O’side: Learning to Fly Local writers present their work on the theme of where we came from and where we are going as a society in this dramatic reading with opportunities for audience feedback. Sunday, March 26, 2:30pm; **free**-\$20. 18 and up. Twilight Stage, 219 N. Coast Hwy. (OCEANSIDE)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Groove & Gratitude Disco Yoga & Journaling Includes a 15-minute vinyasa flow warm-up, 30 minutes of sculpt, 15-minute vinyasa flow cooldown and savasana, 60s and 70s music, and an exercise in gratitude journaling and community reflection. Led by Cassandra Aronow, who is Yoga Alliance RYT 200 certified and Reiki Master certified. Includes one pint of craft beer. Sunday, March 26, 10am; \$28. Original 40 Brewing Company, 3117 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

SAN DIEGO WAVE FC VS. CHICAGO RED STARS Season opening game Saturday, March 25, 7pm; Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

Spring Renewal: Gentle Yoga & Breathwork The theme is Spring Renewal with gentle yoga with SDYN’s founder, Bridey Scully, and circular breathwork with Suzanne Lederer. Sunday, March 26, 3pm; \$44-\$82. FEMxQuarters, 1919 San Diego. (MISSION HILLS)

The Rising Reset The Rising Reset is five hours to honor mind, body, and soul. It will revitalize, replenish, and renew. Friday, March 24, 4pm; Saturday, March 25, 8am; \$299. Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Tour Águila Sunday, March 26, 7pm; Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

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.

An Evening of One Acts Grossmont College Theatre Arts Department student-directed short play festival will include “The Game,” written by Louise Bryant and directed by Ryan Robbins, “Porcelain and Pink,” written by F. Scott Fitzgerald and directed by Kaitlynn Beck Dupuy, “Trying to Find Chinatown,” written by David Henry Hwang and directed by Fletcher Morrow, and “Through the Darkest of Stars, Toward the Brightest of Futures,” written by John Adams and directed by Riley Ellis. STAGEHOUSE THEATRE, 8800 GROSSMONT COLLEGE DR., EL CAJON. 619-644-7234. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY.

The Cherry Orchard North Coast Rep has pulled together a first-rate cast to mount this spot-on production of Chekhov’s masterpiece, and its members expertly convey the play’s grand sweep and razor’s edge tragicomedy. (You know a show is doing *The Cherry Orchard* right when a given line — say, “What is it that I wish to live or to blow my brains out?” — has you uncertain whether to laugh or cry — though laughter usually wins out.) It remains an astonishment just how much life the play manages to put on stage in its story of a once great estate that is now facing financial disaster. It takes all kinds to make a world, and a great many of them are here: the buffoon, the intellectual, the cad, the religious, the naïf, and on and on, helplessly but not always hopelessly declaring themselves in the face of inexorable events and cosmic indifference. Those events take place with unshowy matter-of-factness, such that it’s almost surprising to discover their enduring hold on both head and heart. It’s hard to suggest a protagonist, as nobody changes much, but Richard Baird’s Yermolay Lopakhin has perhaps done the most changing before the drama begins: his father and grandfather worked the land here, and he himself is a peasant — but he’s rich now, in a position to help others...and himself. If only the kindly, tragic Lyubov, newly returned to her childhood home after a disastrous rendezvous in Paris, could see that the cherry orchard must be cut down to make way for development. Baird gets the play’s big outburst of emotion, and he is master of the moment, but it only works as well as it does because he does not obscure those who witness it.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE SOLANA BEACH, CA. 8PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, 7PM WEDNESDAY, MAR. 29.

Company Stephen Sondheim’s beloved musical Company features universal themes of love and longing, marriage and mis-

takes, and regret and redemption. In many ways, Company was the precursor to treasured romcoms featuring flawed characters gallivanting through posh bars and restaurants while contemplating their love lives. Directed by Blake McCarty, Music Direction by Michael Tyree, Choreography by Chelsea Zeffiro. CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

God of Carnage The trouble is clear right from the outset: Michael and Veronica have always regarded Cobble Hill Park as a haven of serenity — unlike Whitman Park, where, presumably, the bad kids play. So when Alan and Anette’s son Benjamin takes a stick to their darling Henry and knocks out a couple of his teeth, well, the civilized thing, the Cobble Hill thing, is to have a sit down with the offender’s parents and work things out. But while A are well dressed and agreeable enough, it isn’t long before Alan announces that he has no manners and his son is a savage, while Anette simply isn’t ready to grovel. Not that Michael and Veronica are paragons: he roaringly declares himself a Neanderthal, and she can’t resist airing dirty laundry about a hamster that’s been let out of its cage. (Ding ding ding!) And all that is before the rum starts to flow. Next stop, Whitman Park, or maybe Darfur. The conversational rhythms are subtle and taut; the humor — and this is very much a comedy — is broad, and brawny, and black. The telephone connections to humanity outside the living room battlefield mostly involve lying. And the honesty that prevails inside is of the caustic, corrosive variety: the matter of manhood is much discussed, while womanhood gets investigated less directly (but no less harshly). But what drives the humor here are the people, not their ideas — the way they just can’t help but say one more thing. And what makes the people work is the cast, which abandons itself utterly to the play’s anarchic vision and escalating emotion (and action). There are times when they careen past moments that might have been more effective if given a moment’s pause, but they’re easy to miss amid the mayhem. An acidic and acerbic good-bad time. TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS.

gUnTOPIA I hesitate to write that Will Cooper’s *gUnTOPIA* opens with a bang, because, good grief, there’s obvious and then there’s obvious. But when a parent’s response to the shooting death of his daughter is to remind his son the shooter that there are rules against shooting in the house, well, who’s to say?

We’re through the looking glass here, people — another thing I wouldn’t write, except the play goes so far as to introduce a strange little girl named Alice and then has her actually read Lewis Carroll’s story of a topsy-turvy world, where stuff may seem crazy, but it’s mostly because you’re not from there. So naturally, when the detective arrives to investigate the shooting, he wants to know if it was a clean kill, and Dad assures him, “Center mass. We’re very good parents.”

So okay, we’re going after the alarming American tolerance for gun violence, and driving the point home by setting the show in something like the straightlaced ‘50s, where Father Knows Best, Mom just wants a baby,



gUnTOPIA: Aim true!

and schoolyard profanity is outrageous — “much worse than shooting.” But Cooper means it when he writes in the program that this is not an advocacy play; nor is it simply an adventure in terrifying absurdity. Its sincerity and humanity are its saving graces, even if they’re mostly confined to Phil Johnson’s Harry. The rest of the capable cast simply has to hold steady — though wife Mary does start to crack under the strain of being married to a man in crisis.

Harry gets two great turns here: the gradual encroachment of grief over the course of the show, and a fantastic paean to gun ownership, delivered as a lesson to his whiny son, but actually spoken as a reassuring creed in the face of crumbling faith. “Man could face his enemies with hope! The gun was life itself! It allowed freedom, trust, loyalty, mutual respect, enlightenment! When we shoot, we rise from barbarism to enlightenment!” But alas, there’s no sense in being sane when the whole world is crazy. ROUSTABOUTS AT MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Monsters of the American Cinema When Remy, a black man, finds himself not only the owner of his late husband’s drive-in, but also the guardian of his straight, white teenage son, the two forge a relationship around the classic horror movies they regularly screen for the public. However, the grief they harbor over their shared loss threatens to fracture their bond just when they need each other the most. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Neat by Charlayne Woodard On a bare stage, this storyteller spins Charlayne Woodard’s own real-life

remembrance of her brain-damaged aunt, Neat, and the profound change she brought to Charlayne’s life. Neat, with her enormous love, energy, simplicity and magnificent clarity, teaches the young Charlayne what it means to cherish life. San Diego actor/director/community leader, Kandace Crystal, stars in this production accompanied with dance by Nicole Diaz-Pellot. (Content Advisory: deals with issues related to the civil rights era, police violence). Written by Charlayne Woodard and directed by Claire Simba, coproduced with Loud Fridge Theatre Group. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

The Outsiders It’s been a while: since the 1967 novel from S.E. Hinton about the struggles of a bunch of underclass young Greasers in an Oklahoma town ruled by wealthy Socs, as related by the observant orphan Ponyboy. And since the 1983 film that helped make stars of Matt Dillon, Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, etc. Now, playwright Adam Rapp has drawn from both to give us a musical version, directed by Danya Taymor. There is much to admire, but too much time to admire it — too much time when the action loses its grip on the viewer, making spectators out of what should be an enraptured audience. Admirable: the staging is full of brilliant, memorable bits. There’s the opening scene, that turns the theater into a movie palace, with our hero sneaking into a showing of *Cool Hand Luke* and ushers shining accusatory flashlights into the audience. There’s the abandoned church that serves as a hideout for two kids on the run, suspended in midair to highlight their isolation and doomed dreams of transcendence. And there’s the rumble in the rain, which finds a way to create a dance fight that doesn’t echo *West*



Side Story: Mixed: the songs — which spend a lot of time in minor-interval, introspective, alt-country territory with occasional ventures into the anthemic — do a lot of work raising subtext to text. Sometimes this works, as when Ponyboy simultaneously reveals his literary bent and dreams of something finer with “Great Expectations.” Sometimes it doesn’t, as when it makes the manly Darrel sound like a whining whiner as he sings about how hard it is to give up your dreams to take care of your ungrateful younger brothers. That gets at the real trouble here: the acting is fine, but the play feels a step removed from the people it seeks to portray. It serves up moments, but misses the men who inhabit them.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T
When I was a boy, I used to visit an elderly neighbor to keep her company. 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, and wept along with, and which now took her back to those halcyon 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 heard a bit of biography or a dollop of history:

Buffy Sainte-Marie’s “Universal Soldier” even got some politically-tinged backstory. (Who sends the soldiers to do their killing? The politicians. And who elects the politicians? Why, we do!) But for the most part, there was no story at work, 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 got to close the show with “the #1 song of all time as ranked by *Rolling Stone*.” The theatrical magic came from the performers’ embodiment of so many different artists — not just the vocal invocations, though they were impressive, but hair, makeup, movement, *manner*. They got help from the artists themselves, whose images were 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 THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 2PM & 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

The Roommate
The Odd Couple meets Breaking Bad in this wickedly funny comedy. With a recent divorce and her son living across the country, Sharon posts a listing for a roommate to fill the empty space of her Iowa home. Enter Robyn, a fascinating woman who needs a place to hide and the chance to start over. When Sharon begins to uncover Robyn’s secrets, she taps into a deep-seated desire to abandon her comfort zone and live a life of

danger and adventure.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 8PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Slowgirl
The story of a teenager who flees to her reclusive uncle’s retreat in the Costa Rican jungle to escape the aftermath of a horrific accident. The week they spend together forces them both to confront who they are as well as what it is they are running from.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The XIXth (The Nineteenth)
Mexico City, 1968. Two Black American sprinters, the fastest men on Earth, raise their fists in protest. Inspired by real events from the historic 19th Olympic Games, and directed by Carl Cofield (Seize the King, The Bacchae), this suspenseful world-premiere play by Kemp Powers (Pixar’s Soul, One Night in Miami) chronicles the intersection of sports and activism, and shows the life-changing repercussions of being a champion who chooses to speak out.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM TUESDAYS.

Streaming
Daisy Jones and the Six — Did you like A Star is Born? It feels similar in some ways, because it’s the story of a band forming, making music together, and navigating the complicated lifestyle of working in the industry — plus romantic tensions,

of course! The actors are good and apparently it’s based on a book, which I think usually makes the storyline more legit. It probably helps to have some amount of music appreciation but the original songs could make or break it for you. (2023) — A.T. (AMAZON PRIME)

Outlast — It’s like Alone meets Survivor, without the game show host or voting ceremony. In this one, people get dumped in the wilderness, each having varying degrees of survival skills. They form teams of 4 to start but are allowed to switch along the way, which is when the drama goes down. I find it inspiring and impressive to watch, but only in the sense that I have no desire to try any of it myself. With these types of reality/challenge shows, once I get a few episodes in I have to finish if only to see who wins. (2023) — A.T. (NETFLIX)

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.

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). Queasy 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 Wife talk about the other people they banded 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 character 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.” 2023. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Creed III — For his directorial debut, star Michael B. Jordan dips back to *Rocky III* for the “challenger from the streets vs. civilized/retiring champion” story (plus a little “rebounding from personal loss”), and also back to the original *Rocky* for the “give a bum a chance” bit, mashing them together into the thoroughly imposing figure of Damian Anderson (Jonathan Majors, once again classing up the joint), Creed’s childhood friend and inspiration. The two did time in a home together way back when, but went their separate — and deeply disparate — ways, thanks to a bit of unlucky, impulsive violence and the disapproving eye of those in charge. Now they’re on a collision course...eventually. First, there’s a proxy fight to arrange, plus a couple of time-killer detours into family life. Darling deaf daughter gets into a fight with a mean girl at school, and maybe there’s something to be learned there, some larger lesson for our hero about how “you can’t just punch you way through life.” But wait — no, no there isn’t. Ditto the seemingly significant line about how Creed “can find another way.” Ditto the bit about turning his deficiencies into advantages. It turns out what really matters is letting go of whatever was and walking into what is. Who knew boxing was so mindful? The two Final Fight combatants are fearsome and beautiful to behold, and Jordan does his best to get visually creative with the big finale, but there’s more drama in the training montage — possibly because it’s the only place where his character feels vincible. (2023) — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)





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the inside track blurt

Blue Largo guitarist takes it slow Blue Largo bandleader Eric Lieberman, who describes the group as Americana Soul, first met singer Alicia Aragon in 1982, while he was in the King Biscuit Blues Band and his future wife was a cocktail waitress for the Mandolin Wind at Third and University. (He says she turned down

nia, a neurological disorder that results in symptoms such as involuntary muscle movements or contractions in an isolated part of the body. Though it often afflicts writers and musicians, it's caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, and you can get it in your neck, jaw, eyes, vocal cords, wrists, hands, or fingers. Shortly after



Blue Largo: brought back by Bonnie, still going strong.

his first attempts at dating because “she wanted to keep it professional.”) Alicia’s musical background comes from singing in her church choir. They formed Blue Largo around the turn of the century, and currently play three to four times a week at venues such as Tio Leo’s, Humphreys Backstage, and The Riviera Supper Club.

Though he and his wife have managed to keep their musical endeavor both professional and personal, the road for Lieberman hasn’t always been smooth. Around 16 years ago, while playing a gig, his guitar pick started flying uncontrollably out of his grip. “I basically lost coordination in my right hand, so it was difficult to even play in time, much less play with any confidence or authority — or as we musicians say, ‘play in the pocket.’ Even when the pick wasn’t flying out of my hand, I couldn’t control it the way any normal guitarist can.”

In 2006, Lieberman was diagnosed with Focal Dysto-

he was diagnosed, Lieberman went to see Dr. Nancy Byl at UCSF; she has a PhD in physical therapy and specializes in musicians’ Focal Dystonia. She advised him to stop playing. “That’s like telling a carpenter not to build anything ever again [or] a writer not to write anymore,” recalls Lieberman. “Despite her advice, I couldn’t force myself to stop playing.”

Dr. Byl also recommended that Lieberman learn how to read braille, because Focal Dystonia is a somatosensory condition which takes away the sensations of pressure, pain, and warmth. Touch-centric activities such as reading braille can help. To that end, Lieberman also started taking piano lessons. As for guitar, he has adjusted his style by playing slowly and deliberately. And due to the loss of coordination between his thumb and forefinger, he now uses a thumb pick. “Great crutch,” he says. “It sometimes feels good and sometimes not.” He doesn’t think he plays as well with a thumb pick, however,

and so he is determined to overcome that dependency. Blue Largo did not record from 2003 through 2015. It was a 2014 Bonnie Raitt concert at Copley Symphony Hall that inspired Lieberman to work on something new. “It was a powerful, emotional concert,” he says. The resulting *Sing Your Own Song* full-length, released in 2015, would be the band’s first album of all original songs. Lieberman says he gets his ideas and inspiration — for songwriting, melodies, and chords — while he goes on bike rides.

When Blue Largo got together to record “Disciple of Soul,” Lieberman’s tribute to Steven Van Zandt, they figured that if they were recording one song, they might as well tape a few more. Six months later, they had eleven new tracks. In 2022, Blue Largo released its fifth album, *Got To Believe*, featuring ten original songs, plus a cover of Nina Simone’s “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood.” A video was produced for the album’s lead track “A World Without Soul,” released just as the album debuted at number 26 on the Relix/Jamband radio chart.

Band member Taryn Donath describes the album as “original, but sounds familiar.” Donath, who plays piano, keyboards, and Hammond organ, has been with the band since she was fifteen years old. (Her parents would accompany her to gigs and sometimes wait until one or two in the morning to bring her home.)

Lieberman knew for sure that his band’s return was being welcomed by both Donath’s (no-longer sleep deprived) parents and his fellow local music lovers when *Got To Believe* earned a San Diego Music Awards nomination for Best Jazz or Blues Album, a triumph that felt both professional and personal for him. “These songs are about our lives, and exude soul and love,” he says.

— Gabriel Garcia

Find Blurt online at 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.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Alila Marea Beach Resort:
Thursday, 5pm — Keni Yarbrow.

Balboa Theatre:
Saturday, 7pm — The Kingdom Choir. \$25-\$75.

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
Friday, 6pm — Mike Myrdal.

Beach House Grill:
Sunday, 8pm — Tuxedo.

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

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, 8pm — The War and Treaty. \$26-\$45.
Friday, 8pm — Red Not Chili Peppers. \$18.
Saturday, 8pm — The Mother Hips. \$20-\$35.
Sunday, 8pm — Scary Pockets and David Ryan Harris. \$25.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Somewhere Like Shoreview. \$9-\$16.

Bonsall West Elementary:
Friday, 4pm — Cowboy Jack. Free.

Brick by Brick:
Thursday, 7pm — Junkyard and Little Caesar. \$14-\$18.
Friday, 7:30pm — Nebula and the Atomic Bitchwax. \$15-\$20.
Saturday, 8pm — Morbid Angel and Revocation. \$30-\$35.
Wednesday, 7pm — Hemlock. \$12-\$15.

Cannonball:
Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.
Tuesday, 5pm — Ben Benavente.

Casbah:
Thursday, 8pm — Andy Frasco and the UN and Big Something.

Wed, 3/22 @ Soda
STRAWBERRY FUZZ SANDS

Thu, 3/23 @ Soda
WEEDEATER
HIGH TONE SON OF A BITCH
ADAM FAUCETT

Fri, 3/24 @ Soda
FREE THROW
CAN'T SWIM
HEART TO GOLD • EARLY HUMANS

Sat, 3/25 @ The Quarryard, 6pm
COPELAND
KEVIN GARRETT

Sat, 3/25 @ Soda
TAKE ON ME
A RETRO BOS PARTY

Mon, 3/27 @ Soda
BLAK EMOJI
WHITNEY TAI
KAROLINA ROSE

Tue, 3/28 @ Soda
RIVALRY
BLOOD HANDSOME
MELLOW CODE • SNAPGHOST
LOWPRAH • D.WREX

Wed, 3/29 @ Soda
GIRL GOD

Thu, 3/30 @ Soda
THEO KANDELL
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Friday, 8pm — Adi Oasis. \$19.
Saturday, 8pm — Delta Rae. \$28.
Monday, 7:30pm — Daring Greatly and We The Commas.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Daniel Rodriguez. \$18.
Wednesday, 8pm — Vanessa Carlton.

Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach:
Sunday, 4pm — David Wilcox. Free.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints:
Saturday, 7pm — Free Easter Concert: Lamb of God. Free.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Gay Saints:
Sunday, 7pm — Free Concert: Lamb of God. Free.

Crafted Culture:
Friday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.

Diversionsary Theatre:
Tuesday, 7pm — Katrina Aguilar: Part of Your World. \$15.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
Friday, 7pm — Churro Loops -. Free.

Saturday, 7pm — La Boogie Buena and Strange Creature. Free.
Sunday, 1pm — Bluegrass Jam. Free.
Tuesday, 7pm — SD Jazz Collective. Free.

Duke's La Jolla:
Friday, 3pm — Ke'Ahi.
Sunday, 4pm — Divina Jasso.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
Friday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.
Saturday, 6pm — Whitney Shay.

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

Farmer & the Seahorse:
Friday, 4:30pm — TJ Moss.
Saturday, 11am — Gabriele Dagrezio.
Sunday, 11am — Freddie Walton.

CARMEN MORALES & MICHAEL LENOCI
(HBO, Fox, Comedy Central)
Fri, 3/24 @6:30pm & 8:30pm
Sat, 3/25 @6:30pm & 8:30pm

CALEB SYNAN
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James P Connolly
Fri, 3/31 @6:30pm & 8:30pm
Sat, 4/1 @6:30pm & 8:30pm

LACHLAN PATTERSON
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Kevin Davis • Joe Giliello
Fri, 4/7 @6:30pm & 8:30pm
Sat, 4/8 @6:30pm & 8:30pm

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, Hillcrest:
Sunday, 7:30pm — Mali Irene & Joshua White. Free.

Fraternal Order of Eagles National City:
Saturday, 5pm — Court Order and Spiritual Warfare. \$5.

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

Grand-Ritz Theater:
Saturday, 7pm — California Flower Power Tour.

Helix Brewing Co.:
Saturday, 6:30pm — 8 East Band. Free.

House of Blues:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Spencer Sutherland. \$22-\$29.
Friday, 7:30pm — Parokya ni Edgar. \$122-\$16.
Saturday, 8pm — Harry Mack. \$52-\$57.

Jacumba Hot Springs Resort:
Sunday, 8pm — Clinton Davis by Candlelight. \$20.

Jazz Lounge:
Sunday, 2pm — Douglas Kvandall Hammond Organ Trio & Jam. Free.

L'Auberge Del Mar:
Thursday, 5pm — Jemille Violet.
Friday, 7pm — Marelle.
Saturday, 7pm — Helena Holleran.
Sunday, 11am — Farrah Camu.

La Jolla Community Center:
Friday, 7pm — Dr. Marshall Hawkins & Joshua White. \$25-\$35.
Tuesday, 6pm — Jacquelyne Silver: They're Playing Our Song. \$20-\$80.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, 5:30pm — Mike Myrdal.
Friday, 6pm — Helena Holleran.
Saturday, 11am — David Shyde.

Madam Bonnie's:
Thursday, 7pm — Mar Picao Jazz Fusion. Free.
Saturday, 7pm — The Mad Hat Hucksters. Free.

Mission Bay Resort:
Thursday, 6pm — Ben Benavente.
Friday, 6pm — Israel Maldonado.
Monday, 6pm — Ben Powell.
Tuesday, 6pm — Kai Kalama.

Morgan Run Resort and Club:
Friday, 5pm — David Shyde.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 9pm — The California Rangers.
Friday, 9pm — The Edge.

Music Box:
Friday, 8pm — KBong and Johnny Cosmic. \$25.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Shygirl. \$27.
Sunday, 8pm — Caloncho. \$30.

Nick & G's:
Friday, 6pm — Perry O'Neal.
Saturday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.

Nova SD:
Friday, 7:30pm — Alan Walker. \$55.

Pal Joey's:
Friday, 8pm — West of 5. Free.

Panama 66:
Sunday, 3pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Garage Kitchen + Bar:
Friday, Mar. 31 — Adam Bergoch.

House of Blues:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Colony House and Little Image. \$27-\$44.
Friday, Mar. 31 — Eric Bellinger. \$20.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Dirt Monkey & Jantsen.

Humble Heart:
Friday, Mar. 31 — Someday Bloom, Getaway 95, Sweet Myths. \$10.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Friday, Mar. 31 — West of 5. \$5.

L'Auberge Del Mar:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — David Hyde.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Johnny Martin.
Sunday, Apr. 2 — Rachel Jay.

La Valencia Hotel:
Friday, Mar. 31 — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Perry O'Neal.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Zach Churchill.
Sunday, Apr. 2 — Jesse Johnson.

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Indian Music & Dance Festival. \$30-\$40.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Indian Music & Dance Festival. \$30-\$40.
Sunday, Apr. 2 — Indian Music & Dance Festival. \$30-\$40.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:
Friday, Mar. 31 — DevvLov.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Marelle.

Madam Bonnie's:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Nimbus Jazz. **Free.**
Friday, Mar. 31 — Andrea Loraine Quartet. **Free.**
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Karlos Paez Trio. \$1-\$100.

Mission Bay Resort:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Jemille Violet.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Jason Hibler.
Sunday, Apr. 2 — Farrah Camu.



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IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Sound and vision at the Civic Theater

I heard a rumor about the San Diego Civic Theater receiving an overhaul at some point in the future. Having just seen both an opera production and a symphony concert at the 56-year-old venue, I hope to all that is holy that the rumor is true. The San Diego Symphony concert at The Civic Theater on Saturday, March 11 was quite grim — at least in appearance. The music-making was worthwhile, but the optics were awful.

The orchestra was situated at least 15 feet upstage. This allowed room for a piano, but it felt like an extreme distance when the piano wasn't present. (There was a piano or two during the Symphony's concerts up in Escondido, and the gap between the foot of the stage and the orchestra was

far smaller.) The stage floor was both black and not black at the same time. The lighting for the orchestra appeared to be the same work lights used by the crew to set up. The concert looked like a rehearsal. Fortunately, for the most part, the music was being performed and not rehearsed.

The concert began with a selection from *Nixon in China* by Californian composer John Adams. I was in *Nixon in China* with San Diego Opera back in 2015 and came to love the work. "The Chairman Dances (Foxtrot for Orchestra)" is taken from the third act of the opera. Edo de Waart, a champion of John Adams, conducted. This is great music, and the performance was stellar. John Adams has a musical identity with which audi-

ences can connect.

Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 23* was up next. The orchestra was on point, but pianist Ingrid Fliter never quite settled into the performance. Her opening phrases were exquisite and the legato was flawless, but from time to time, the line became a just bit jagged.

The final piece presented was Rachmaninoff's super sexy *Symphony No. 2*. The opening harmonies in the woodwinds were juicy in their dissonance. The strings, after Rachmaninoff decided to stop wandering, were luscious. I was impressed. Yet the climax of the first movement came off as somewhat subdued. This is when I began to take stock of the concert setup and its influence on my experience. The brass and percussion were so far upstage that



Conductor Edo de Waart greets concertmaster Jeff Thayer under the Civic Theater work lights.

they may as well have been off-stage. The second movement felt a bit long, but the third and fourth movements were solid.

What I noticed the most was the effort being put in by the players. Given what I know of him, I would not imagine that concertmaster Jeff Thayer is a fan of histrionics. However, I have never seen him more expressive than he was during this symphony. The rest of the

orchestra followed suit. I was pleasantly surprised.

The conducting of maestro de Waart was straightforward. At age 81, he is no longer a rambunctious leader, but Rachamaninoff's symphony is rambunctious at times. Perhaps this was the reason for the expressive nature of the orchestra. That's pure conjecture, but the performance felt as if it generally needed just a bit more rigor.

Classical Music this week

Bach Collegium Presents St. Matthew Passion J.S. Bach's vivid musical account of Christ's passion, which combines a striking drama and devotion forming a pinnacle of the vocal works composed for the Leipzig churches. Friday, March 24, 7pm; Saturday, March 25, 7pm; \$15-\$60. All Souls' Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Boulevard.

Bach's Birthday Celebration Enjoy an All-Bach Music Concert to celebrate the famous composer credited as the greater among the great. Performed by San Diego Civic Organist Raúl Prieto Ramirez. Sunday, March

26, 2pm; **free.** Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado.

Early 20th-Century Composer Alice Barnett Stevenson Soprano Katina Mitchell and pianist Yewon Lee will perform selected works of Alice Barnett Stevenson, an early 20th century San Diego woman composer. Friday, March 24, 6:30pm; \$25-\$40. San Diego History Center, 1649 El Prado, Suite 3.

Jeanine De Bique & Concerto Köln: Mirrors The San Diego Early Music Society presents Concerto Köln with

renowned Trinidadian soprano Jeanine De Bique in "Mirrors," a program of arias by Handel, Graun, Riccardo Broschi and others. Friday, March 24, 7:30pm; \$10-\$50. St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street.

San Diego New Music: Stoicheia/Elements San Diego New Music presents San Diego Symphony principal oboist Sarah Skuster. Inspired by the ancient Greek concept that the universe is comprised of four elements (earth, water, fire and air), *Stoicheia/Elements* explores

how these elements are used to share musical stories and create innovative musical landscapes. Friday, March 24, 7:30pm; \$12-\$30. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street.

San Diego Opera: Tosca *Tosca* is Giacomo Puccini's gripping drama filled with torture, treachery, lust, execution, and suicide. *Tosca* has some of opera's most beloved music, and one of opera's most gripping plots. *Tosca* welcomes the return of soprano Michelle Bradley in the title role, and Greer Grimsley in his signature

role of Scarpia. Argentinian tenor Marcelo Puente makes his San Diego Opera debut as Cavaradossi. Directed by Alan Hicks and conducted by Valerio Galli. Saturday, March 25, 7:30pm; \$13-\$240. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

Sleeping Beauty Ballet The East County Ballet Conservatory proudly presents Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*. Friday, March 24, 6:30pm; Saturday, March 25, 6pm; \$18-\$23. Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Avenue.

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Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Friday, Mar. 31 — Custard Pie.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Big Time.

Music Box:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Half Hour Late, Joe Marson, Jaden. \$12.
Friday, Mar. 31 — Soulfly. \$27.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Reggie Watts.
Sunday, Apr. 2 — O Berkley, Where Hart Thou.

Navajo Live:
Friday, Apr. 7 — Nights Like Thieves and Ikana. \$8-\$10.

Nick & G's:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Lele Rose.

Observatory North Park:
Friday, Mar. 31 — Unknown Mortal Orchestra. \$119-\$205.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Eddie Zuko.

Open Air Theatre:
Monday, Apr. 3 — Dead Can Dance.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Thursday, Apr. 6 — New Edition.

Petco Park:
Friday, Apr. 7 — John Summit &

Green Velvet.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Kodak Black and NLE Choppa.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Foolish Stories & Songs. \$15-\$18.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
Saturday, Apr. 8 — ABBA-Mania.

Prohibition:
Monday, Apr. 3 — Liquid Bricks Jazz Trio.

ReBru Spirits:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Drunkard's Dream Arts & Music Festival.

Rustic Root:
Tuesday, Apr. 4 — Johnny Martin.

Saddle Bar:
Thursday, Apr. 6 — Into The Void. **Free.**

San Diego Civic Theatre:
Thursday, Apr. 6 — Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott.

San Diego Marriott Del Mar:
Friday, Mar. 31 — Jonny Tarr. **Free.**

San Diego Natural History Museum:
Friday, Apr. 7 — Fairy Tale Ball: Dance Party. \$50-\$75.

Sandbox Pizza:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — SeoulFul KPop/KMusic Night. **Free.**

Side Yard:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Matt Aukerman..

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Theo Kandel. \$18.
Friday, Mar. 31 — Thumpasaurus. \$18.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — The Havnauts and Sam Ritchie.
Sunday, Apr. 2 — Xiu Xiu.

Soma:
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Yeat.

South Carlsbad State Beach Campground:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Lasley and

Randolph.
Friday, Mar. 31 — Sonic Nectar. **Free.**

Star Theatre:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Rock N Lasers. \$30-\$35.
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Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:
Friday, Mar. 31 — Free Fallin. \$29-\$39.

Thornton Winery:
Friday, Apr. 14 — Brothers Igniting a Groove.

Tidal:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Calli Grace.

Til-Two Club:
Friday, Mar. 31 — The Wee Beasities and Beta 7.

Tio Leo's:
Friday, Apr. 7 — 3 Car Garage.

Union Kitchen & Tap:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — It's Just Noize. **Free.**

Waterbar:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Marcela Mendez.

Waterfront Park:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Boots In The Park.

Westfield University Towne Centre:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Ben Benavente.
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Mikael Pederson.

Whistle Stop Bar:
Thursday, Apr. 6 — Torpedo.

Winstons Beach Club:
Thursday, Mar. 30 — Alific Album Release Party. \$15-\$20.
Friday, Mar. 31 — The Jam Berries and Turtle Logic. \$10.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Saturday, Apr. 1 — Deja Yo Album Release Party. \$5-\$10.

THE GONZO REPORT

Shaking it with King Britt

Not a dance class, but a class with dancing

There are so many musical venues on the gargantuan campus of UC San Diego, it's hard to pick a favorite for catching a memorable show. My first concert at UCSD was an astonishing performance by British guitarist John McLaughlin, leading an all-Indian ensemble known as Shakti, back in 1977 at the Main Gym. That one still resonates.

Did I mention that the campus is huge? So huge, in fact, that I've gotten lost more than once searching for a venue, such as the time I missed an Art Ensemble of Chicago performance back in the 1980s at the Che Café. Since then, I've become a regular visitor, and I rarely get lost anymore — especially since they opened the Con-

rad Prebys Music Center in May of 2009, directly across from the Gilman Parking Structure.

On March 3, an unseasonably cold Friday night, I was lucky enough to hitch a ride with new music champion Bonnie Wright. We both share an aversion to being late, so after our early arrival, we killed a little time by wandering down the long center hallway, checking out the photo portraits of notable faculty and former students.

Back outside, we ran into Jessica Flores, the Production Manager of the Music Department, who was setting up the table in front of the smoked glass doors to the Experimental Theater. We were here to check out a production by the polymath UC assistant professor King Britt. Britt arrived here four years ago, and I've heard nothing but accolades for his class *Blacktronika: Afrofuturism in Electronic Music*. His career includes being the original DJ for the Dignable Planets, and collaborations with everyone from De La Soul to Meredith Monk and Tyshawn Sorey.

Ms. Flores let us know up front that we were about to enter a drastically retooled Experimental Theater. They had retracted the familiar bleacher-style seating to convert the entire footprint into a dance floor. Apparently, neither Wright nor I had heard about this. I struggled to pull my paper ticket out of my pocket and, sure enough, it read: *Blacktronika: Club Experience*



PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA FLORES

Dancing room only in Experimental Theater

Pop Up. I hadn't been to anything organized around dancing since attending my girlfriend's Senior Prom in a previous life, and my dance moves remain lame enough to make Donald Trump look like Savion Glover. Still, I was excited to check out Britt's concept in action — as a listener.

We were still quite early, but the queue behind us had grown to more than 100. At somewhere around 7, the young woman manning the door at the end of a long dark corridor motioned for us to enter. She held the door open, and we could

hear the music playing long before we got inside. Once we arrived, we found it very dark, save for the glow emanating from the copious electronic gear piled high on Britt's DJ table and the manic swirling polka dots that careened around the room from the impossibly high ceiling and down across every square inch of the dance floor. Ten steps in and the lights started messing with my depth perception. I felt my legs getting rubbery. I momentarily feared I might be on the verge of one of those "acid-flashbacks" they used to warn us about. But we made it to the far side of the room, where I found a solid wall to lean on while I acclimated to the lights.

The music was layered and rhythmically propulsive, and seemed to evolve on its own timetable. Early on, Britt took the microphone and requested, "No lights, no flash. Let's keep it sexy." Or at least I think he said that. I tried to concentrate on how he was making music on all of these machines, but I was a fish out of water. People kept streaming in, and eventually, 250 folks had gathered. The dance floor filled up. About an hour in, my back started screaming (I have three fractured vertebrae due to a fall from a rooftop during my carpenter apprentice years). We slipped outside, and I resolved to attend more Britt productions in the future, especially the ones that involved sitting down.

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The Sushi Stand packs rolls like confections

There always seems to be something new at Liberty Public Market. Of the 35 vendors currently doing business in the Liberty Station food hall, only eight remain from its original 2016 lineup. Like the constantly replenished cells in the human body, dozens of food stalls have turned over during the past seven years, yielding something ever-familiar yet ever-new. Some vendors were felled by the pandemic, others by the naturally high attrition rate of the restaurant business.

Though the turnover is great for those individual businesses, I'd argue it's been good for the food hall in general. I've visited several times per year since it opened, and to my eyes, the place has never looked better than it does now. For one, there are more appealing things to eat — enough to make me want to return more often. But the aesthetic has evolved as well, with more user-friendly signs and a structure making the place easier and generally more pleasant to inhabit.

Maybe it's

But serving sushi in a food hall works a little differently than doing so at an upscale restaurant. Here, people may be taking their meals to go, or transporting their sushi to separate seating areas both in and outside the complex. In such an environment, you can't exactly send sushi rolls out on designer plates.

Sometimes, portable sushi means plastic tray packaging, the kind you see with grocery store sushi. But that kind of presentation doesn't really suggest 15 dollars well spent, and The Sushi Stand has wisely avoided it. Instead, it's opted for a different style of packaging, one that's *almost* over the top. The Stand serves its sushi rolls in long, sleek cardboard boxes, the sort usually filled with bougie cookies or other confections. The boxes slide open when you push at either end. On one side, you find nine pieces of maki roll; on the other, the requisite accoutrements: soy sauce packets, pickled ginger, and a dab of wasabi. There's even a small paper ramekin for dipping.

Located in the southwest corner of Liberty Public Market, The Sushi Stand ironically occupies one of the few areas with dedicated seating.

But these little branded boxes are almost too cute to open within sight of the stand's (similarly branded) blue counter. You almost want to walk around carrying these things, to show them off, perhaps present them to a loved one at a picnic.

Priced around \$13-18 apiece, these sushi rolls aren't anything extraordinary. They stick to a handful of familiar fish —

tuna, salmon, yellowtail, shrimp, and *kanikama* (aka krab). But they are satisfying in multiple ways,

usually combining sushi standards with

healthful ingredients, and most often topped with microgreens and citrus. Take, for example, the Fresh Prince roll, which features spicy tuna and avocado inside, with salmon on top, plus lemon slices, micro cilantro, and sesame seeds. Or my personal favorite, the Black and Yellow, which tops spicy tuna roll with yellowtail and lemon — both seared — and features tempura-fried shishito pepper.

A sushi roll ready for take-out, from Liberty Public Market vendor The Sushi Stand.

coincidence, but a clean aesthetic topped the list of what drew me to The Sushi Stand, one of its newer vendors. Now, it's an inarguable fact that seeing sushi on your plate never gets old. (It's no accident that two of San Diego's four Michelin-starred restaurants are sushi joints.)



A new food stand in the southwest corner of Liberty Public Market.

The rolls aren't made with premium cuts of fish any more than they're presented on premium service-ware. But they're not entirely conventional either. In a way, they reflect the early days of sushi, before it went upscale, when it was a conveniently packaged street food. And they definitely match up with the latest rendition of San Diego's longest-running food hall.

by Ian Anderson



One end has the sushi, one end has the stuff that goes with sushi.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Barrio Logan Vegan Food Pop-up Enjoy over 40 vendors, with traditional Mexican dishes, such as sopes con chorizo and birria tacos, plus burgers, loaded fries and stuffed waffles and vendors offering Ethiopian, Japanese, Indian, Mexican, Mozambican, Vietnamese, Turkish, and Chinese cuisine. Saturday, March 25, 12pm; **free**. Mujeres Brew House, 1983 Julian Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Game Night Happy Hour Game Night Happy Hour for Chess/Backgammon & Cards. If you have a board, please bring it. RSVP online. Wednesdays, 5:30pm; through Wednesday, December 20, \$20. Sammy's Woodfired Pizza Del Mar, 12925 El Camino Real. (CARMEL VALLEY)

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

Joann & Julia: Women's Month Cider Pairing Dinner Cider pairing event in honor of Women's Month, featuring Chef Joann as she recreates iconic dishes by chef Julia Child, from her Boeuf Bourguignon to her Ratatouille, paired with a selection of Bivouac's ciders. Wednesday, March 29, 7pm; \$65. 21 and up. Bivouac Ciderworks, 3986 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Live Music & Wine Wednesday Enjoy half off select bottles of wine at Graze by Sam. Wednesdays, 5pm; through Wednesday, December 27, **free**. Little Italy Food Hall, 550 West Date St., Suite B. (LITTLE ITALY)

National Cheesesteak Day Enjoy 25 percent off any cheesesteak or cheesesteak fries. Friday, March 24, 10:30am; Giorgio's, 1237 28th Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

National Chip & Dip Day: Free Chips & Guac Free chips and guacamole to Rubio's Rewards members, with any order. Thursday, March 23, 10am; Rubio's - East Mission Bay Dr., 4504 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

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 Convo St., Suite A. (KEARNY MESA)

San Diego Magazine Brunch Bash Enjoy unlimited eats, bottomless beers, brunch cocktails, & hot coffee. Sunday, March 26, 11am; \$70-\$75. 21 and up. Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

Sip & Shop on the Rooftop Explore local, women owned businesses. Saturday, March 25, 6pm; Andaz San Diego, 600 F Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Taste of Third Participants will have a chance to enjoy a variety of flavors, bites and sips from all over the world all while listening to live music and walking around the South Bay neighborhood. Once checked in at Memorial Park on Third Ave., attendees will receive their Taste of Third Passport which allows them to make a stop at participating businesses. Thursday, March 23, 4pm; \$40-\$45. Third Avenue Village Association, 353 3rd Avenue. (CHULA VISTA)

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)

Wine Sommelier Night Get a bottle of wine for the price of a glass and learn about wine from a professional. Wednesday, March 29, 6pm; Crushed, 967 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

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DEAR JOE This time last year we shared corned beef & a Lucky Charms milkshake at Rudolf's. The next day we had fun at Black's Beach Lookout & Belmont Park. I miss those kinds of things with you. Wishing you fun, happiness & healing. With love.

A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH to give you everything you want, is strong enough take everything you have.

IF A LAW IS UNJUST, a person is not only right to disobey it, they're obligated to do so.

LORDY Please send good energy to help me get through the insanity I've brought upon myself! Thank you!

THE CONTEST IS NOT between us and them, but between good and evil, and if those who would fight evil adopt the ways of evil, evil wins.

THE FURTHER A SOCIETY DRIFTS from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.

"THERE IS NOTHING MORE UNEQUAL than equal treatment from unequal people".

WE LIVE IN A TIME where the intelligent people are silenced so that the stupid people won't be offended.

RMO If you bled, I bled the same, if you're scared, I'm on my way.

CANCER FREE Just want you all to know.....I am Cancer free....I had throat cancer and after seven weeks of intense radiation and Chemo, I am cancer free....They are going to check me every 2 to 3 months, to see if it returns....I quit smoking. Love GMAN.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Sam M., happy birthday dear friend.....you're a class act my friend. Enjoy your special day. May our friendship last another 25 years....WOO HOO....Hugs, Gary and Nancy.

LIL BUDDY I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love for the GMAN....Your support meant everything to me fighting cancer. Love you Jeff S. and Kimberly as well....Peace out...GMAN.

SHAWSHANK Thank you Mrs Jones for you helping me fight my cancer. Your my rock, my everything. You will be rewarded, big time....Love you, my girl.....Gman.

DEAREST KATHERINE, I am in a void at this time and I am looking for a way to escape it. Can only hope for the best. Frank

KANSAS CITY JO Dear Kathy Jo, just want to know that I still think of you often, even after more than 30 years. Thank you for having been my friend when things were hard. Jersey John marmie606@gmail.com

ROBERTO.... I wanna be your slave, I wanna be your master.....you could be the beauty and I will be the monster....

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TWO BEDROOM TRAILER \$1100 a month, (619) 341-9012.



BEAUTIFUL DEL MAR OFFICE SPACE 600 sq ft office space near the Race Track. Plenty of free tenant and customer parking. Suite is furnished with desk, 3 chairs, coffee table, TV and bookshelf or can be emptied for you. Month to month rent, \$950. Space available now! alan@life-sauce.com

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

FOUR BEDROOM TWO BATHROOM with a Jacuzzi 1 acre of property \$1200 month 13 month contract we also do daily and weekly rentals \$100 a night \$500 a week Rosarito and Ensenada La mission (760) 250-7055.

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

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

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

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

NEED AN APARTMENT SHORT TERM? Make your reservations now and Get \$200 OFF every

month. Studio+1BA available. Call for Monthly, Weekly and daily specials, up to 15% OFF. Includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (858) 799-0219. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

REAL ESTATE

LOT FOR SALE at Rancho Costa Verde in San Felipe Baja Mexico California. The parcel number if you want to check it out is 64-44-03, area 64, block 44, Lot #3 phase 2. Street name is Calle Mar Blanco. I'm asking \$25,000 for it. (619) 933-6302

FOR SALE BY OWNER Beautiful 5 star park. 1 block from H-st trolley, 5 freeway, shopping. Low income renters only. Gorgeous big yard and patio, mature plantings, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Perfect for 1 or 2. 2 sheds. Optional patio furniture. Artistic touches. In a big hurry! 26th.... I lose it all! Make me an offer!! Amber (619) 679-3847. Seniors over 55.

MUSIC



GRADO REFERENCE HEADPHONES Reference series model RS2e, mint condition, open back design with larger ear pads provide more comfort, less than 35 hrs use, broken in and incredible sound. Paid \$ 750 plus \$ 80 for the new pads. Asking \$ 400, no low ball offers please. JA311390@gmail.com

NAD 2200 POWER AMP FOR SALE Used amp, 100 watts per channel, fair shape, missing 2 feet on bottom, previous owners name etched on front panel, some chips on front panel. Not pretty but plays, sold as is. Great for garage or spare room. \$ 200, no low balls offers please. JA311390@gmail.com

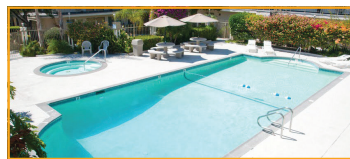
MUSICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SALE "Mackie" 1202 audio mixer-"Drive" EA30 4 speaker practice amp-"Carvin" microphone, cabel, & stand-genuine rosewood recorder-metronome \$125.

MUSICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SALE New "Drive" EA30 4 speaker practice amp-"Mackie" 1202 micro series audio mixer-"Carvin" microphone, stand & cabel- real rosewood recorder- metronome. \$150. Call Dean at (760) 723-4303 in Fallbrook. Leave message. / deandouglassmusic@mail.com

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dards looking for horn player. Thank you my name is Aaron. atr2717@hotmail.com

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



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KEYSTATION KEYBOARD m audio 49es, \$30 USB charge, call (619) 601-3591.

MUSIC REHEARSAL STUDIO Upscale facility, Kearny Mesa. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24- hour access. Monthly rooms available. Adder Studios, (858) 522-9505. www.adderstudios.com.

PETS

HORSE EQUIPMENT show, pleasure trail, silver bits, bridles etc. Riding boots, black high top, back zipper, with tree and bag, Navajo blankets, many many more. (619) 442-4753.

LAB RETRIEVER COLORING BOOK "MAX the DOG Grows Up" a new coloring storybook I made with one of my favorite dog breeds, the Labrador Retriever. amzn. to/3FpDJ9n

2 HORSE TRAILER Brenderup Prestige HB top-of-the-line 2 horse trailer. Dual axel. Excellent condition. Light weight can be towed by small SUV. (619) 201-0715 / Pursuit_of_happiness@cox.net

SPORTS

DART BOARDS Two Dart Bords. One official. One target. one set of darts w/rules. (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

SPORTING GOODS ski bag, ski boot bag, and duffel bag, a set by Marker, \$50. Men's Descents one-piece ski outfit, XL, \$150, and L, \$100. (619) 218-4031

BICYCLES

BIKE EQUIPMENT bike locks, four pack, heavy duty, extra large, never used, \$15. Telescoping frame pump, used once, \$10. Contact (619) 380-4861.

HUFFY Nel Lusso Women's 26" classic cruiser bicycle with perfect fit frame, yellow. Google it! Asking just \$285. Text (858) 790-1636.

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.

GIANT BLUE ATX840 3-SPEED Very good condition cobalt blue giant mountain bike with rock sox and two drink holders. Minor scratches. \$150 or best offer. Must pick up. Bay Park neighborhood. (619) 507-1376 / karenulr@sbc-global.net

BRAND NEW ADULT RED TRI-CYCLE \$250 cash only. Text (858) 733-0770 for pictures.

MOTORCYCLES

1990 ULTRA ELECTRA GLIDE brand new motor in it, doesn't even have an hour on it yet. And spare motor. Runs but needs work. \$2,800 OBO. (619) 258-3541

2020 HARLEY DAVIDSON XL 1200, black. Cash price \$12,000. Too many extras to list. (619) 233-8300.

AUTOMOTIVE

1955 FORD TRUCK F800 rb1t running eng, 5spd, air brakes and horn, factory radio, tach, air gauge, tie. \$3500 (760) 717-1334

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.

1967 VW BUG Strong 1500 all original, new brakes. Wipers need work, a solid and good driving car with extra's. \$8,500. (207) 265-6640

1982 DATSUN 280zx turbo, original California car, must see. (619) 496-4254, \$15k obo.

2002 TOYOTA MR2 SPYDER Silver MR2 Spyder for sale. One owner. Check engine light on but runs great. Body and top in great shape as well. Approximately 130,000 miles. Engine rebuild 30,000 miles ago. \$6,000 firm. Text (619) 417-9741. No calls please before 5 pm.

2016 HUNDAI GENESIS SIGNATURE 2016 Genesis Sedan Signature package with Tech package options. One previous owner, and one of the cleanest examples you will find. Adult-driven and cared for. Smooth as silk V6 is rated at 29 mpg highway, but I routinely see 30-32 mpg. (619) 342-6242 / drenwick@cos.net

4 BIGFOOT A-T TIRES ON WHEELS Big-O All Terrain tires, M+S, LT245/75R16, mounted on 6 lug aluminum wheels, balanced, the wheels are Sprinter wheels, used, \$225., in Escondido, call (760) 746-7209.

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

1989 TOYOYA 4X4 KING CAB 1989 Toyota 4x4 King Cab. Original owner. 4 cylinder. Clean enterer. Must see. Make offer. (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

2017 MERCEDES B250E 2 year 24k miles warranty on New Tesla Motor! >35k miles. All electric leather Sirius XM until May 2 keys

passed all multiple point inspection @ dealer test drive priced for serious buyer 2nd owner clean carfax 90 miles to a charge perfect for Coronado. (619) 866-9169 / usambt@gmail.com

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\$99 A WEEK Toyota Corolla Pay cash get one extra day (619) 233-8300.

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

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RENT TO OWN Thousand dollars down direct payments no credit check 3006 Barnett Avenue Open seven days a week from 9 to 7 (619) 233-8300.

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.

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER. Min. Master's in Architecture. 3D modeling from schematic dsogn. to constr. docs prep.; anylzy. & dvlp. approaches to incorporate dsogn. intent; incorporate prod. & bldg. code analysis to tech. docs; maint. QC of docs, etc. Must be proficient w/ Revit, 3D Studio Max, Rhino, AutoCAD & other archt. dsogn. software. Send resume to H.R. at HPI Architecture, 115 22nd St., Newport Beach, CA 92663. Work loc. at: 12636 High Bluff Dr., #100, San Diego, CA 92130

ENGINEERING Broadcom Corporation in San Diego, CA has openings for: R&D Engineer Software (Ref #794819) to be responsible for development of market wireless cable modem residential gateway and set top box systems. The wage range for this position is \$155,397 to \$185,000. Reference job code & mail resume to: Attn: HR (JO), 1320 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131.

LOOKING FOR IHSS CARE-GIVER Certified IHSS caregiver

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

MANAGER OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING Becton, Dickinson & Co. (BD) seeks a Manager of Mechanical Engineering (MMS) in San Diego, CA to provide technical support to the Mechanical Engineering team. Req. MS + 2 or BS + 5 yrs exp. Salary range for position: \$147,014.00 - \$199,800.00. Mail resume to: (BD), Attn: Cecilia Sam, 3750 Torrey View Ct., San Diego, CA 92130. Must reference Job Title & Job Code: 001085. EOE.

PAID LAB DRAW - \$80 Volunteers needed for a paid blood draw study. Qualified participants will receive \$80 for a one-time blood draw. Call today to learn more - (855) 367-8834. Volunteers must be: 45 years of age or older. / recruitment@artemis-research.com

SALES CONSULTANT Auto Dealer and Repair in San Diego, CA. High School Diploma and 2 years of experience as a Sales Consultant or related required. Annual offered salary is \$39,000. Mail resume: Bayside Auto Inc.: 8050 Armour St, San Diego, CA 92111; Attn: Fukuda

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER Direct Electron, LP has openings in San Diego, CA for 2 positions: Software Developer (Product Improvement Applications) to test hardware and software systems; Software Developer (Imaging Applications) to assist in developing software for image acquisition and image processing. Salary \$89,294/yr. Mail resume: 13240 Evening Creek Dr S., Ste. 311, San Diego, CA 92128/ Apply online: directelectron.com. EOE

SR. MANAGER, EDC DATA-BASE DVPT.: BS in comp. sci., or rel. + 5 yrs of exp. in EDC database dvpt. & Rave. Use Medidata Rave mgmt. & programming; global libraries & standard data tubulation module; project mgmt.; & problem solving skills to build, maintain, & deploy study db to collect clinical trial data, inclu. configuring study db internal module connections & external sys. integrations. Salary range: \$125,008-\$164,800. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, San Diego, CA. F/T. Send CV to resume.com@bms.com & ref. 7292. No calls/recruiters. No visa sponsorship.

STAFF ENGR Renesas, in San Diego, CA is in need of Staff Engr (SP0210) (Salary: 145-150k/yr) Contrib to the des of ICs for 5G and sat comms w/ a focus on very hi freqs. Refer to job#. Apply: us-hr-staffing@dm.renesas.com.

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following positions in San Diego, CA: Manager SWAT Engineering (3453-2219214): Lead a team of highly skilled engineers that push the limits of scalability through our specialized single-shard technology. Telecommuting permitted. Annual salary \$ 203,466-\$ 233,466. Email resume to servicenowresume-SUS@servicenow.com. Or mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 2225 Lawson Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Resume must include job title, job ref. # 3453-2219214, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

FEMALE CAREGIVER NEEDED Retired elderly man with minor mobility restrictions. is seeking assistance with his daily routine. Position REQUIRES IHSS registration. \$25/hr 15 hr/week. Rancho Bernardo. Ad is not for unsolicited services or offers. 858-tre60-0tre88 txt

DISABLED MALE NEEDS housekeeper, start right away after interview. 5025 Collwood Blvd, building #1,Apt #1109 employer: ask for Mr. King.

PAID SCHIZOPHRENIA STUDY Adults diagnosed with Schizophrenia 18-65 are currently needed for an inpatient study. Volunteers will receive 8 weeks of study treatment and will be compensated up to \$6,725.00 for their time. Learn

more: (855) 367-8834. / recruitment@artemis-research.com

PAID RESEARCH STUDIES Artemis research is enrolling volunteers in paid studies for the following conditions; depression, weight loss and heart health, healthy volunteer, knee pain, Diabetic Neuropathy. (855) 367-8834 / recruitment@artemis-research.com

PAID LAB DRAW STUDY Volunteers needed for a paid blood draw study. Qualified participants will receive \$80 for a one-time blood draw. Call today to Learn More - (855) 367-8834. Volunteers must be: men 21-44 years of age women 21 years of age or older. / recruitment@artemis-research.com

MACHINIST NEEDED Johnson Matthey is looking for experienced Machinists! Pay is \$29.00-\$35.00/hr. 2-5 yrs. of CNC type machining experience. Swiss screw experience highly desirable. We offer competitive benefits and 20 days of PTO accrued per year. matthey.com/careers

SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH STUDY is available in Oceanside, California. Outpatient only, ages 18 to 65, must be drug-free. Transportation and compensation will be provided upon qualification. Call Travis (619) 317-4558. Referral number only

DRIVER Drive your own mini-van or SUV. \$23-\$28/ hour when factoring in mileage reimbursement + benefits! Essential and stable employment. Full- & part-time shifts. Immediate openings. (858) 444-2350, or apply in person: 9710 Distribution Ave. SD, 92121.

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

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

JOBS WANTED

GAL NEEDS CASH PAYING GIGS NOW Looking for remote online work or domestic gigs, ongoing or one time thing. I love animals especially dogs so dog walking/sitting, would be ideal. Housesitting, housekeeping, etc are good also! I'm reliable, respectful, responsible & real! Thank you. sandiegolady193@gmail.com

HANDYMAN JORDAN Handyman services: Do you need to get stuff done around your home? Text me for an estimate on any home improvements! You can also visit handymanjordan.com (619) 432-7494 / silvahandymanservices@outlook.com

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will drive to doctors appointments & hospital appointments, will grocery shop, prepare meals, light house-keeping, provide companionship, and more. Please call Carol at (858) 525-1154 or (858) 731-6996.

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.

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

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

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

CASH FOR GOLD SILVER 24HRS Best price paid for jewelry, coins, gold and silver call (760) 815-6709 all of San Diego County.

CASH PAID FOR DIABETIC 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.

PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVER AND MASSAGE THERAPIST with therapy cat, need room for rent, for money and free massages, nutritionist. Ring Michelle (619) 228-5843.

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

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

GOT ANY OLD MOTORCYCLE HELMETS? Bell or Buco. Call me (619) 279-7833

GOT A USED MINI C-PAP for travel? BalboaBlue330@hotmail.com

BUYING RECORDS, CASSETTES, CDs, Tubes. Cash paid for LP & 45 records, vintage stereos/speakers, cassettes/ blank cassettes, CDs, vacuum tubes, reel tapes, 8-tracks. Brands include McIntosh, Marantz, Sansui, Fisher, Scott, Pioneer, JBL, Altec, Tannoy, Western Electric & more. Also buying Sports & Non-sports cards. I come to you! Call/Text (619) 889-5237.

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

YOU NEED MONEY? Sell me your old comic books. Mark, (619) 933-6275.

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

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

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

SEWING MACHINES I buy Singer 221 Featherweight sewing machines. Call (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.

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Baseball cards, old and new, approximately 500,000 cards. Plus miscellaneous stuff. 15 extra large storage bins, sorted and priced. Make offer for all, call Joe (619) 562-1129

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

GREEN BAY WATCH first edition Green Bay Super Bowl fan watch. I wanna sell it for \$60 to a Green Bay fan. Phone number is (619) 309-3159

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

HORSE EQUIPMENT Horse clipper, horse tack, horse hair equipment, and braided raw hide, silver, large mounting block. Mechanical hackamores, and rawhide hackamores, English and Western dressage. You name it I got it. (619) 442-4753.

MISC FOR SALE Oak medicine cabinet, \$25. Two XL mirrors, \$40 each. Three interior doors, \$15 each. Other building supplies really really cheap. (760) 749-8266

MISC FOR SALE Refrigerator, \$150. Dresser, \$150. Bed frame and mattress, \$80. Two couches, \$100. (619) 701-0558

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

POTS AND PANS \$20 each or less. New, like 1/3 store prices. Luggage, ice chest, other stuff, new in boxes, super cheap. (760) 747-1013

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

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12"X24" PORCELAIN TILES, 8 PCS This beautiful white stone marble look porcelain tile in a classic style has a glazed polished finish with a high sheen for floor, wall & countertop use. 8 pieces or 16 sq. ft. total. New and never used. \$25. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

GRADO REFERENCE HEADPHONES Reference series model RS2E, mint condition, open back design with larger ear pads provide more comfort, less than 35 hrs use, broken in and incredible sound. Paid \$ 750 plus \$ 80 for the new pads. Asking \$ 400, no low ball offers please. JA311390@gmail.com

NAD 2200 POWER AMP Used amp, 100 watts per channel, fair shape, missing 2 feet on bottom, previous owners name etched on front panel, some chips on front panel. Not pretty but plays, sold as is. Great for garage or spare room. \$ 200, no low balls offers please. JA311390@gmail.com



NEW ADJUSTABLE TREKKING POLES These high quality fast-locking poles have carbon steel tips with wrist wrap & comfort grip handles including 2 basket & 2 stopper styles. Adjustable length from 26"-53". New, never used & in excellent condition. \$15. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SCOTTS NATURAL LAWN FOOD 29 LB This lawn food fertilizer (11-2-2) covers 4,000 sq ft. It can be applied any season & to any grass type. It can be used around kids & pets and safe to walk on right after application. Full open bag & never used. \$15. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BLACK LEATHER 13" BOOTS SZ 8.5 This genuine leather wom-

en's ladies high heeled boots (13" tall, 4" heels) with side zippers are made in Brazil. Leather upper, man made sole in excellent condition. \$15. Text or email for more information and/or pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

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

WRIST REST MOUSEPAD CALCULATOR This 7.5"x 11.5" Gel mouse pad calculator with comfort wrist rest is designed to alleviate pressure from your wrists. It is solar or battery powered with easy to read display. Brand new in sealed plastic. \$12. 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

NEW TRANSPORT WHEELCHAIR by Medline. Only asking \$150. Text (858) 790-1636. Pick up in Scripps Ranch. Mira Mesa Blvd. exit off the 15 Fwy.



2013 HYUNDAI SONATA FLOOR MATS Genuine 2013 Sonata carpeted front floor mats. May also fit other years too. Asking \$40. Call/email. (858) 395-5656 / rrbobick5.7@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

A TOTE FULL OF HEADS! Hair styling dummy heads! 5 men 1 female. Men are bearded. Very high end. Shoot me an offer. (619) 679-3847. No Google code! No scammers!

BIG BEAUTIFUL Union Pacific Train engine with two cars, excellent condition, a steal at \$250 or best offer. Big size 62 heavy leather jacket, beautiful, excellent condition, \$150 obo. Call Joe (619) 357-1844, please no texts.

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

GRACO AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER pump, \$35. (619) 735-1181

HOT WHEELS redline cars, purple barracuda, and chrome boss hoss, very nice condition, call for price. (619) 791-0278

MISC FOR SALE Surf boards \$299 each, skateboards \$39 each, bicycle \$245, other items also for sale. Please call (619) 296-4065 can make a deal.

MISC FOR SALE Modern wall art S-\$25,M-\$50,L-\$75! Women's cashmere sweater \$500-\$100. Ladies vintage clothing \$10-\$15. Pocketbooks \$20! And more items! (619) 534-0280 leave message thanks!

MOVING SALE! Flooring, rugs, lion foot couches! Art, plants, etc. by appt. In Chula. (619) 679-3847

OFFICE CHAIR Black Bradford office chair in excellent condition. \$75 or best offer. No rips. only used twice. Call (619) 302-0090. / roylv55@yahoo.com

PETS 9" POOL goldfish only \$10 to gud home lol (619) 586-7736.

QUEEN MATTRESS FOR SALE \$50 with box spring, please call (619) 601-3591.

SEARS KENMORE SEWING MACHINE w pedal, top n bottom loading n sew table w 4 drawers. Extra needles n thread w handle case. \$125 (619) 586-7736.

SONY MINI REFRIGERATOR 3'x2' only \$100 (619) 586-7736.

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

OIL CHANGE Additional 25 cartridge fee. Plus tax, hat waste. 4 engine cover shield removed fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. Special only for 4cyl vehicle. 6-cyl vehicle does not apply.	\$24⁹⁵ most cars
AC SERVICE Diagnostic \$95	\$49 Recharge from
BRAKES Front or rear *Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.	From \$49 most cars
30K 60K 90K Scheduled Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	\$65 most cars
RADIATOR or Transmission Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	\$45 most cars 4 cyl.
TIMING BELT Parts & Labor *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	\$75 most cars 4 cyl.
STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS Plus labor.	\$95 most cars 4 cyl.
FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT 96 and up.	
We'll beat any written estimate! Dents, dings, scratches? Now offering bodywork. B.T. Auto Wrench Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary! 8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C 858-533-8120	

GEORGE FOREMAN GRILLING MACHINE This "Lean Mean Fat Reducing" grill (9"x10") has nonstick cooking surfaces on top and bottom and can grill burgers, steaks, chicken, seafood and vegetables. Simple plug-in electric. Good working condition. \$8. Text or email for more info or pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

KAYAK Get ready for summer! Like new - only used twice! Great for ocean, lakes, harbor. Two storage hatches, shock cords, comfort seat and built in fishing rod holder, plus two more built in holes for rods. Bonus: paddle and life vest included! (760) 498-6319 / johndenim501@gmail.com

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

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

RATTAN WOOD STORAGE ORGANIZER 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

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.

SURFBOARD 6' Great beginner board - light styrofoam construction, tri-fin, leash included. Great shape. Make offer. (760) 498-6319 / johndenim501@gmail.com

SURFBOARD 9' Rocky Point 9' fiberglass, tri-fin, leash. Some chips on end. Make offer. (760) 498-6319 / johndenim501@gmail.com

VINTAGE 1953 WURLITZER JUKEBOX Authentic Model 1650. Vacuum tube amp and controls. Spindle drive shaft is busted. (760) 498-6319 / johndenim501@gmail.com

WETSUIT Junior size. Make offer. (760) 498-6319 / johndenim501@gmail.com

WETSUITS Men's large. Make offer. (760) 498-6319 / johndenim501@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 soft-cover, about 264 cookbooks, some hardcover & some softcover, selling all for \$390., no haggle price, (760) 746-7209.

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following: brand new(never worn) pairs of pants incomplete roller skating pad set blue v-tech house phone fancy candle holder laundry basket these items and more price is negotiable ask for James @ (619) 450-7914.

SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER, SF12 For Cabinet makers, used to bend laminates for counter-tops, 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 ROTO-TILLER, COLT FT 208CC, Model:

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

SMOG CHECK Most cars. Vans, trucks, & European cars \$10 extra. 2000 & up.	\$26⁷⁵ + \$8.25 Cert.	BRAKES Front or rear. Most cars. FREE Shuttle Service w/ repair	from \$50 + Labor
OIL CHANGE & FILTER Up to 5 qts., new filter, 10 point checkout.	\$25 +\$1.00 Waste Fee.	TIMING BELT Starting price, Labor + Parts.	\$195
COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS Most vehicles & light trucks. Service engine soon light, check engine light, hesitation, hard starting, running rough, poor gas mileage, dead battery...	\$30	AXLE SPECIAL Includes Parts & Labor	\$99
MUFFLER	from \$95 + Labor	PREMIUM SHOCKS Monroe or KYB+ Labor	from \$150 per pair
PREMIUM STRUTS Monroe or KYB + Labor	from \$250 per pair	STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR	from \$150 + Labor
*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition *Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing			
Brandon Auto 6670 Miramar Rd. # C, San Diego, CA 92121-2559 858-452-9999			

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\$31⁷⁵*
 +\$8.25 cert

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN AVAILABLE
 Most Vehicles

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL
 from **\$279⁹⁵** 4-cyl. Most vehicles.
 Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE from **\$159⁹⁵**
 Parts & Labor

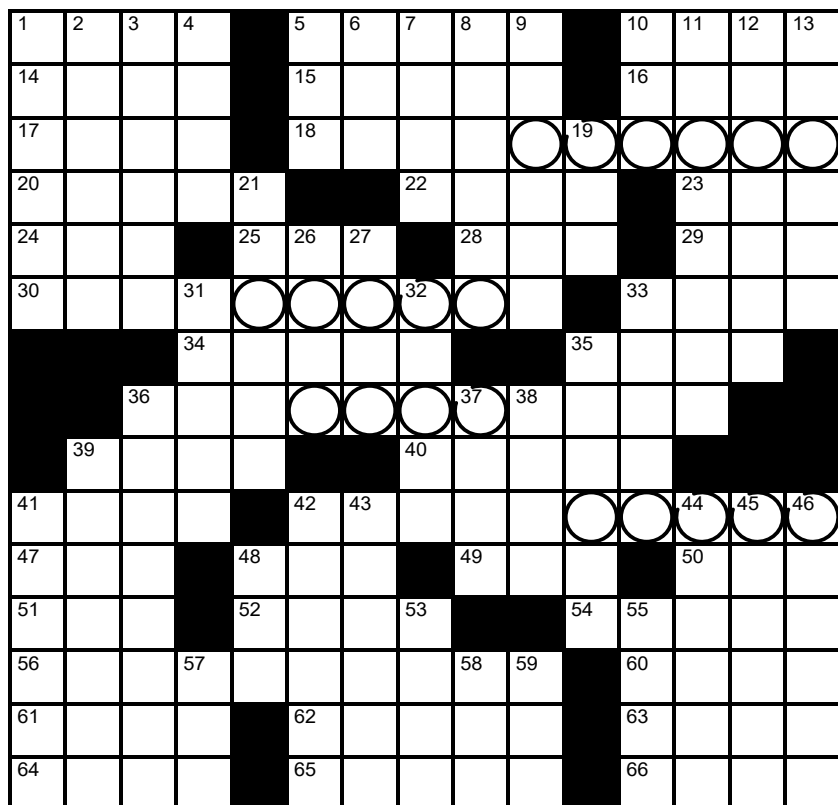
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San Diego Reader March 23, 2023 31

CROSSWORD



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- 1.** Animated sort
5. Start of some "Jeopardy!" answers
10. Does a hit on
14. Architect Mies van der
15. "I'm ready to be dazzled by your presentation"
16. Vex
17. _____-Free (contact lens solution)
18. Hold that's illegal in amateur wrestling
20. Holy hymn
22. Barflies
23. Realm from 800 to 1806: Abbr.
24. German "a"

- 25.** Something up one's sleeve
28. AARP members: Abbr.
29. Involuntary action
30. Like something that really captures the spirit of a cultural moment
33. Grandma
34. Dizzying MoMA works
35. Karaoke bar needs
36. Lead-in to a know-it-all's opinion
39. Protected
40. Resident of 123 Sesame Street
41. Cots, e.g.
42. Line that was drawn north of the South
47. Prefix with skeleton
48. Young boxer, e.g.
49. _____ Paulo, Brazil
50. Green: Prefix
51. Where Gal Gadot was born: Abbr.
52. _____ food movement
54. High-def flat screen
56. Acute uneasiness ... or this puzzle's theme
60. Line score in a football shutout
61. French for "evening"
62. Lightened (up)
63. Apt. building manager
64. Makes a choice
65. Arduous journeys
66. What soccer teams often play to

- Down**
1. Saint-_____ (French resort)
2. "I made a boo-boo!"
3. All-Star pitcher/hitter Shohei
4. Playwright Simon
5. Conservation org. with a panda logo
6. The Rockets, on scoreboards
7. Harry's Hedwig and Ron's Pigwidgeon, e.g.
8. "Start from the beginning"
9. Watch party?
10. The Magic, on scoreboards
11. Mexican restaurant item
12. Old Italian coins

- 13.** Iroquois Confederacy tribe
19. End for prophet or priest
21. Bird in the crow family
26. Copy machine stack
27. Oscar winner Sorvino
31. Aristocratic types, in British slang
32. Ocular woes
33. Second-generation Japanese-American
35. Die-hard fan's cry
36. "What a lovely gift!"
37. Some cheap hotels: Abbr.
38. Vogue editor Wintour
39. Once-common Times Square establishment
41. "Go ahead," in Shakespeare
42. "Party in the back" hairdo
43. Lacking + or -, electrically
44. Crossed off the list
45. Squid relatives
46. House rejection
48. Three-pronged Greek letter
53. Like a sage
55. It's a thing in Mexico
57. QB targets
58. Shriek after a squeak
59. 1960s campus activist grp.

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/

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

MEDIUM:

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

21B34M871, purchased new, never used, \$575., (760) 746-7209.

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

BRAND NEW DANNER BOOTS in box w tags sz 13.5 and ladies 4.5. \$20 a pair or 6pairs \$100 (619) 456-8968.

DUMBK DRUM 21 inch tall dumbek drum with wooden base in excellent condition \$250 or best offer, contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

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

MOTHER EARTH NEWS MAGAZINES Over a hundred issues starting with issue one. Includes issues 1 thru 5, 8 thru 11 etc. Several issue indexes and special editions are included. A total of 118 magazines. 100 firm I can deliver within 10 miles of Mira Mesa (619) 818-1120. / dernst@netzero.net

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

REDBULL BACKPACKS \$20 each, brand new real nice ones. RV wheel covers, two packs for 4 tires total, \$30 for all. (760) 749-8266

STEREO EQUIPMENT Sansui TU-919 and AU-919, original owner, manuals, packaging original. Visually mint, works great, low hours, \$1500 for pair. Text (619) 817-1849.

CAMERA BARGAINS Nikon S, cameras working and for parts, from \$25-50. Also lenses and accessories from \$1-50. (760) 757-5445

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

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

MARCUS MILLER M2 Sire Bass, 5 string, white, brand new. \$400 (619) 980-6008.

MEN'S DESIGNER XXXL dress shirt \$134.35>\$25. Professional golf clubs, bag, balls \$220>\$35. New: walker \$70.95>\$25, walker/wheel-chair \$232.20>\$75! (619) 384-4960.

SPEAKERS large and small, RC planes, water jugs, six horse Mitsubishi engine, more. (323) 598-1157

WASHER/DRYER STACK space saver, huge full size! GE cream color, like new, excellent condition, \$395 firm. (619) 466-8663

PORTABLE LAP DESK holds up to 17 inch laptop. Light weight, portable, new in opened box, make nice gift, \$20 1-858-484-4483.

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.

BEDDING- TWIN DUVET COM-FORTER COVER only, with matching pillowcase, shades of blue, ideal for child, good condition, \$12, Rancho Penasquitos (858) 484-4483.

DINNERWARE 20 piece china set, like new, dishwasher and microwave safe, \$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.

SERVICES

SPRING FIBER ARTS WORKSHOPS! Come learn a new fiber art at San Diego Craft Collective this Spring! Learn Macrame, Warp & Weave on a Rigid Heddle Loom, Sewing Fundamentals, Sewing with Knits, Intuitive Weaving, & Intro to Natural Dye! Save your space today at sandiegocraft.org! (619) 273-3235 / team@sandiegocraft.org

APPLE/WINDOWS COMPUTER REPAIR Computer and network repair. Desktop, laptops, iMac, Mac-Book, software, hardware, internet, routers, WiFi, printers. Certified. Serving all of San Diego. Same day appointment available. Northpark-computers.com (619) 299-2407

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MAGIC OF PUPPET MAKING WORKSHOP Fun for all ages! Learn to make your own unique puppet with colorful, surprising supplies with a teacher who learned the art of puppet making from a Jim Henson Muppeteer. You're

never too old to have fun! Save your space today at sandiegocraft.org. (619) 273-3235 / team@sandiegocraft.org

SPRING BREAK KIDS CRAFT CAMPS! Come craft with us this Spring Break! Camps are filling up fast! We offer week-long, half-day crafting fun for your child, with a mix of ceramics, woodwork & more. Kids make quality, take-home projects each day. Ages 6-years. Visit sandiegocraft.org! (619) 273-3235 / team@sandiegocraft.org

THE WOVEN STOOL WORKSHOP Join us for this 2-day intensive, crafting your own woven stool from beech wood while learning the basics of woodworking, furniture design and traditional weaving techniques. Visit sandiegocraft.org & save your space today! (619) 273-3235 / team@sandiegocraft.org

WANNA LEARN TO WHEEL THROW?! Join us in this 4-class series for a fun intro to wheel-thrown ceramics. You'll learn throwing, trimming & glazing at take home your own unique finished pottery. No experience necessary. Ages 18+ welcome. Sign up at sandiegocraft.org today! (619) 273-3235 / team@sandiegocraft.org

D&L ARBOR CARE (619) 807-4002 Arborist expertise without the cost. Offering affordable Tree services, I also have a program called "I cut you clean service" meaning I'll do the trimming or removal and you take care of the clean up. Text or call. Thank you!

DO YOU NEED A HANDYMAN? McKinley brother's offers quality work at an affordable price with excellent communication and customer service. taking care of that to-do list in one visit, from painting your living room to replacing your kitchen faucet or ceiling fan. (619) 900-8625 / mbppsd@gmail.com

CUSTOM IT SERVICES Tired of calling IT to fix your computer? Pegler Technology Services takes a proactive approach to IT, helping reduce your calls to tech support. No matter how well designed, any IT system will eventually go down

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NON INVASIVE BODY SCULPTING Loose inches and sculpt your body. No down time. Enhance your workout routine and see results. @contourbykat619 (619) 368-6204 / contourbykat619@gmail.com

STUMP GRINDING Have an ugly tree stump in the way? Call or text William for a quote today! (619) 820-4238

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.

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ROOFING all types of roof repair. I fix any leak, flat roofs, commercial, residential. Free estimates. (619) 907-3077, Chris.

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\$39.95
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Free Inspection

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Includes filter,
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30K/60K/90K/120K mile SERVICE SPECIAL

Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil,
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suspension lubrication, tire rotation,
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Plus tax & hazardous waste fee, 4 cylinder, most cars, regularly \$200
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- New oil filter
- New spark plugs
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- 4-cyl. Most cars

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25% OFF

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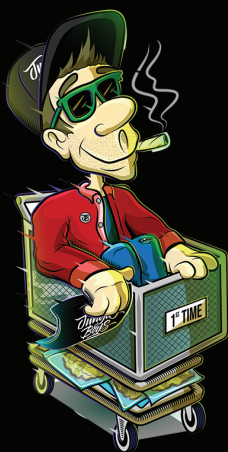


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