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SAN DIEGO

VOL. 48 | NO. 13 | MARCH 30, 2023

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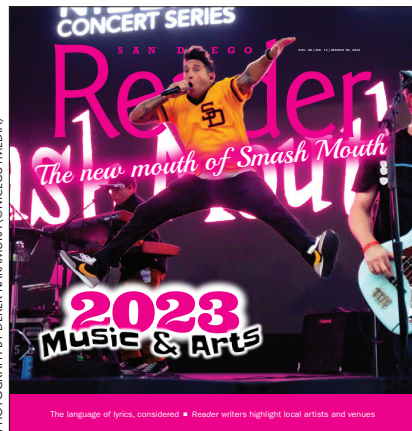
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March 30, 2023



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK NAKAMURA (@NICEGLYMEDIA)

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CREDIT: PEXELS/DAVID BROWN

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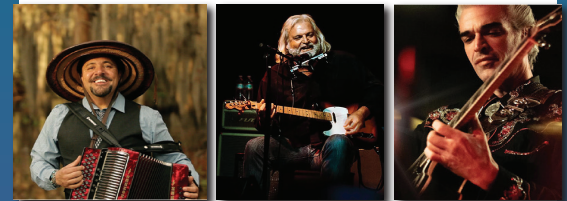
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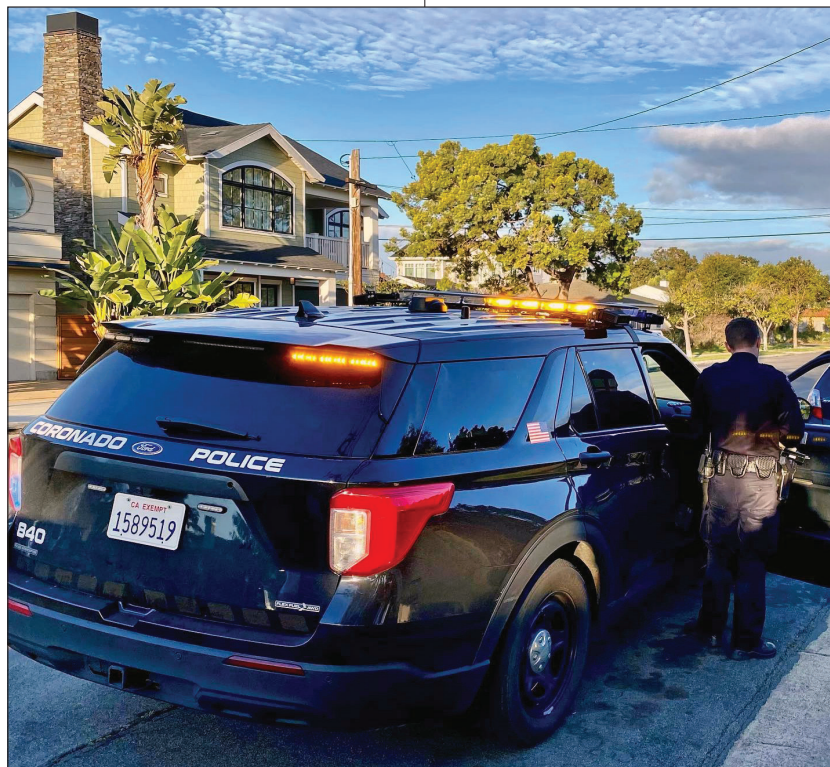
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

CORONADO

Stalled by stick Would-be car thief can't handle manual

A lawbreaker was caught near the Hotel Del Coronado earlier in the month because the would-be thief couldn't drive a stick shift, according to an online police report. The pursuit began when Officer Chan of the Coronado Police Department noticed a Jeep stalling and the driver failing to stop completely at a stop sign. "The Jeep was just stolen from 10th Street and A Avenue, and the officer found burglary tools inside the stolen vehicle," continued the report. (The police officers also found a parking receipt for another stolen Jeep parked in a parking garage by the Otay Mesa Port of Entry.) "The driver was arrested and booked into San Diego County Jail for vehicle theft and possession of burglary tools." The police



"And that's an extra ticket for being dumb enough to steal what you can't drive."

the manipulation of a stick shift and extra foot pedal while driving. This is reflective of a change in driving trends in the U.S.: in 2020, the car dealer Carmax reported that only 2.4 percent of the used vehicles

cle occupied by two teens at Fox Canyon in City Heights, reported NBC 7 news, and demanded that the teens inside disembark. "Police said the suspect revved the engine several times and tried to drive away, but found the car wouldn't move. Investigators believe the man was stumped because he didn't know how to drive the manual transmission vehicle. He got out and ran away."

Car builders and racers know these signs of the times, and they are rushing to scoop up vehicles equipped with manual transmissions. Because while a gear shifter and the clutch pedal may deter car thieves, they allegedly help drivers pull a faster quarter mile than they could with the same make/model car equipped with an automatic transmission.

Plus, they provide a cool aesthetic and out-of-the-box feel when driving.

"I am looking for a vehicle equipped with a manual transmission for our teenage daughter," said Steve Johnson in a recent interview with me. "I'm looking at the Honda S2000s, VW GTIs, and Porsche Boxsters." (As this article goes to print, Carmax in San Diego has a 2015 Porsche Boxster with a six-speed manual transmission for \$45,000.) "When I borrow our teen's car, I can shift the gears and take it to the redline limits. With an automatic, you

can't redline the vehicle. Plus, I will not intentionally tint the front windows, so if anybody considers jacking the car, I hope the thief realizes it's a stick shift so they can move onto another car to steal. Manual transmissions are the best theft deterrent in 2023," Johnson concluded. "And some cars with manual transmissions sell for more than normal."

Johnson was referring to Ferrari 430s, particularly the ones equipped with a six-speed gear shifter, which sell for almost double what their paddle shift counterparts sell for, according to *Carscoops.com*.

MIKE MADRIAGA

AT THE WEENIE ROAST

Arson at the A-frame? Why do Wienerschnitzels keep catching on fire?

A former Wienerschnitzel A-frame building in Chula Vista caught on fire three weeks ago, marking the tenth reported blaze at a California-based Wienerschnitzel building in the last couple of years. Right before 11:30 am on March 9, the closed-down hot dog restaurant on 493 Broadway in Chula Vista ignited. The mid-century style A-frame building was engulfed in flames when the Chula Vista Fire Department arrived, as depicted on a video posted by *619 News Media*. "The cause is under investigation, but according to CVFD, there have been issues with transients occupying the structure in the past," reads the news outlet's caption. "There were no reports of any injuries."



For that real smokehouse flavor...maybe go somewhere else.

This is the second fire at this shuttered hot dog shop, part of a chain originally known as Der Wienerschnitzel when it was founded in 1961. The first blaze came December 2021. "A small fire created by three transient men Sunday morning to keep warm broke out of control," reads the *Chula Vista Today* report on the 2021 incident. About a year earlier, and up the 805 north in Kearny Mesa, another Wienerschnitzel on Convoy Road caught fire. Janet Telumbre, a Wienerschnitzel employee at the time,

continued on page 3

"I can shift the gears and take it to the redline limits.
With an automatic, you can't redline the vehicle."

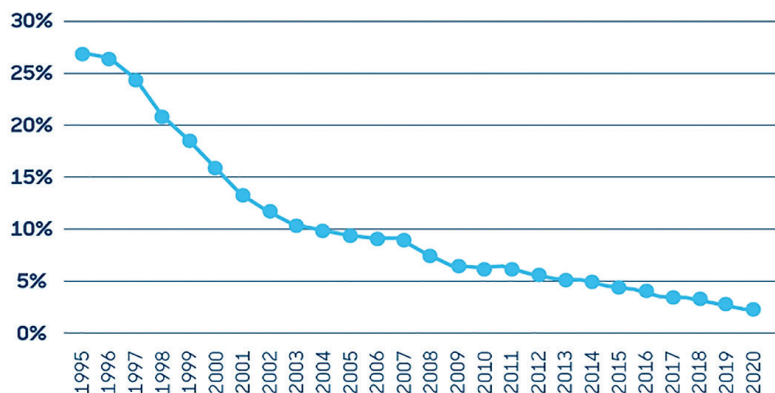
returned the two vehicles to the owners.

Car thieves nowadays are not up to speed when it comes to driving vehicles with a manual transmission, which requires

they sold had manual transmissions. In 2018, manual transmission cars made up 3.7 percent of their sales.

Also in 2018: a man walked up to a vehi-

CarMax Manual Transmission Sales



Data from CarMax purchases from 1/1/1995-8/31/2020.

CARMAX

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

said she first heard a “small explosion” in a Fox 5 San Diego interview. “And I saw the smoke coming out of the top... I saw [it] in the camera, like smoking.”

Another abandoned Wienerschnitzel A-frame building at West Washington Street in Hillcrest was occupied by “houseless folks” in 2016, according to Steve J.,

Santee. And there are other thriving San Diego Wienerschnitzels in Pacific Beach, City Heights, La Mesa, Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, Spring Valley, Escondido, and Oceanside. The restaurants are best known for their hot dogs, burgers, and chili fries, and while they don’t make their namesake breaded cutlets anymore, they do offer breakfast, sandwiches, and Tastee Freeze desserts.

And remember the Kearny Mesa Wienerschnitzel that caught on fire in 2020? “It’s nice to see they are up and

“According to CVFD, there have been issues with transients occupying the structure in the past.”

who used to purchase chili dogs there. “It was tagged, and we worried this place might catch on fire,” he said, “but luckily, it didn’t. Instead, it became a cute purple coffee-and soda-place.”

Robert Neal frequents the El Compadre Taco Shop on North 2nd Street in El Cajon. “The building was the old Wienerschnitzel,” he recalls. “Always brings back memories going to this place.” But of course, Neal can always go to the Wienerschnitzel on Mission Gorge Road in

running again after the fire they had,” commented Natasha Y., an Elite 2023 Yelp reviewer. “[The] food is like every other Wienerschnitzel — so not bad, not great. Chili dog and chili cheese fries were hot and good and still came out fast.”

Elsewhere in California, a Sacramento locale burned twice; in 2021, a San Jose Wienerschnitzel burned for a fourth time; and that same year, a Bakersfield location caught on fire.

MIKE MADRIAGA

Put Your Palate in Print!

Are you a food writer-in-waiting? Do you savor words the way some people savor dessert? Do you parse your entrees the way some people parse Proust? Most importantly, do you explore the San Diego restaurant scene the way some people explore the wilds of Instagram?

Now’s your chance to test your taster and make your mark: our restaurant critic Ian Anderson is taking a brief break, and we’re looking for *Reader* readers who can take his place at table and in our pages while he’s away.

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UNDER THE RADAR

Saving Sara House Democrat **Sara Jacobs**, facing a possibly tough reelection challenge from conservative Republican Mayor **Bill Wells** of El Cajon, has dispatched one of her assistants to a conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, courtesy of World Vision, Inc., according to a March 6 disclosure filing with the Clerk of the House. “World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God,” says the group’s mission statement.



Bill Wells opposes abortion, just like Jacobs’ aide’s hosts World Vision.

Arion Laws, a domestic policy advisor to Jacobs, took the free, \$947 two-day junket starting February 23. “As the legislative assistant for Representative Jacobs, I am responsible for advising the Representative on the foreign policy issues that will be discussed on the trip,” wrote Laws on the disclosure.

Entitled the “World Vision NYC Congressional Staff Learning Trip,” the getaway to Manhattan included a “working dinner” with World Vision Senior Director of Government Relations **Lisa Bos**. Per World Vision’s website, “Bos serves as the point person for World Vision’s advocacy and education efforts with Congress.” The group is seeking to overhaul the U.N.’s famine task force to include more private big money givers such as itself in its ranks.

“The International Rescue Committee, Action Against Hunger, and World Vision want the task force, established by the secretary-general in 2021, to expand its membership and include [non-governmental organizations], donors, and international financial institutions, so they have a voice in drawing up famine response plans to ensure they are more preventative,” says the website *devex.com* in a March 6 dispatch.

In 2014, World Vision announced it was open to hiring gay and lesbian workers who were in same-sex marriages but soon flip-flopped, as reported by the *New York Times* on March 27 of that year. “World Vision’s move was swiftly denounced by some prominent evangelical leaders as a ‘disaster’ and a devil-inspired betrayal of biblical morality. Christians proclaimed online that they had canceled their child sponsorships. Less than 48 hours later, World Vision reversed course, calling the decision a ‘mistake,’ and pleading for forgiveness.” Said an official World Vision statement: “We are brokenhearted over the

pain and confusion we have caused many of our friends, who saw this decision as a reversal of our strong commitment to Biblical authority. We ask that you understand that this was never the board’s intent.”

On the topic of legal abortions, favored by Democrat Jacobs, World Vision says on its website: “World Vision is pro-life. We believe that life begins at conception, and World Vision does not provide, recommend or refer women for abortions or methods of birth control that are proven to be abortifacient.” In February 2018, running against then-incumbent GOP House member **Duncan Hunter**, El Cajon’s Wells told KFMB-TV that he opposed abortion.

Maienschein money talk Talk about planning ahead: ex-San Diego city councilman **Brian Maienschein** wants to get elected as San Diego City Attorney next year. He also wants to run for California Attorney General in 2030. So shows a February 28 campaign filing for a political committee calling itself Maienschein for Attorney General 2030, which lists \$5500 received February 23 from Californians for Fair Housing. Donors to that group include H.G. Fenton Company, a San Diego developer and upscale residential landlord giving \$10,000 on December 5, 2022, along with a host of other apartment owners around the state.

Maienschein is termed out of his current gig as a Democratic member of the Assembly, thus explaining his need to hustle up a new job back in his hometown. If elected city attorney next year and reelected in 2028, he could run for attorney general in the middle of his final term in San Diego. Maienschein was a Republican before flipping parties on January 24, 2019... Ex-San Diego mayor **Kevin Faulconer**, who came in a dismal third in his 2022 recall gubernatorial bid against **Gavin Newsom**, has finally shuttered a statewide



Brian Maienschein, a former Republican now eyeing state office.

political fund that called itself Rebuilding the California Dream, San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer’s Ballot Measure Committee. On March 9, the fund’s remaining \$3851.09 was given to Faulconer’s political effort, the San Diego Safe Shelters and Clean Streets Act committee, which registered with the San Diego city clerk’s office the next day. Meantime, the committee backing **Toni Atkins**’s bid for Lieutenant Governor in 2026 picked up \$9100 from Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

continued on page 4

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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.

Spy slip spied

In this week's San Diego In Books section, "Spying on America" ("Spying On America", San Diego In Books, March 23) is not continued on page 11 or on any other page of this week's Reader. I guess there was a mistake there, just pointing it out so that the next time you can make sure that it is completely in the paper. Thank you.

Patrick Macintosh
San Diego

Spy slip spied, redux

In the 23 March edition, the San Diego in Books article was incomplete ("Spying On America", San Diego In Books, March 23). It was a very interesting article called "Spying in America". It said it continued on page 11, but it did not. I'd like to read the rest of the article some time in the future.

Kelly Gunning
Fallbrook

We regret the error. Here is the conclusion to the March 23 San Diego in Books excerpt on Spying on America. Thanks for the heads up!

Under the radar

continued from page 3

on March 20. Last year, Graton announced it wanted to expand its Rohnert Park gambling emporium, already the biggest in the Bay Area, and add another tower to its hotel. The group also raised objections to the proposed entry of another Native American group, the Koi Nation, into Sonoma County's high-stakes casino development world...San Diego County Democratic Supervisor **Nathan**

Spying

continued from March 23 issue

Around the same time as the cartoon mailing, the San Diego field office placed anonymous calls to Panther members, falsely advising that others in their group were police informants.

The violence continued. On March 17 a Panther member was hit by US gunfire and critically wounded at a rally near Carver High School in Los Angeles. A counterattack followed: Panthers fired several rounds into the home of a US member.

The San Diego FBI office followed up with another mailing of inflammatory materials to Panthers in Sacramento, Los Angeles, and New York.

Tim's Trump tirade trashed

Angry Tim Taylor has his vindication, thanks to Victoria Phillips ("Stumping for Trump thumper", Letters, March 23), who "[wants] to praise" his pathetic piece of "prose." It was nothing more than a spiel of self-righteous nonsense attacking a great president who did a lot for our country. Nevertheless, Tim's letter "expertly codified [her] feelings about Trump." Now I know what qualifies as an "expert" in voicing regurgitated anti-Trump character assassinations. (As for "codified," sounds like another leftist talking about Roe v. Wade...) It's old, it's stale, but, hey, according

Fletcher, who has dropped out of next year's race for state senate, continued until recently to tank up on special interest money for his now-ended 2024 campaign. On March 15, the Anesthesia Service Medical Group Advocacy Fund of San Diego came up with \$5500.

— 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/.

to Victoria, it's "honest." To be clear, it never crossed my mind that Timmy was holding back on how he "really felt" Honest, to a fault, as the saying goes.

She "sent copies to several friends and relatives." What a way to lose friends, and alienate family members! Send them copies of Tim from North Park's verbose, acrimonious critique of President Trump. Personally, I'd rather spend my evening reading, and re-reading, the DIY directions on how to assemble a 50-piece pressed wood desk. Much more interesting.

Annie C
Chula Vista

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

Gonzo Report: Dodging the storms at La Jolla Community Center

Gonzo Report, Mar. 16, 2023
The story was well written and informative, with the usual Robert Bush quality and detail that we expect. However, blaringly and glaringly aren't interchangeable or clever as presented here. Surely Mr. Bush deserves better subtlety.

—Miff Mole
March 20, 2023

Jacumba – the next Palm Springs?

Cover Story, Jan. 11, 2023
The resort was decent before it closed last time. 2 pools, hot tub, nice bar and restaurant. The rooms were nice also. I don't get the complete renovation. I wish the new owners all the luck but like the article says, it's a dream.

—Wishfully Hoping
March 21, 2023

Cholos broke out in attack at San Dieguito High, but why?

June 14, 1979
Anglos.... and that word isn't racist, particularly when used repeatedly?

—Everything Is Racist
December 20, 2022

continued on page 41



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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

If you think modern presidential politics have become a bit messy in the country over the last decade and change, let me tell you a story about Mexico 100 years ago. In 1923, outgoing president Alvaro Obregon tapped Plutarco Elías Calles as his successor. Calles, who was suspected of remaining under the influence of Obregon, seemed to prove folks right when he pushed through a constitutional reform in 1926 that allowed the re-election of presidents, so long as they didn't serve consecutive terms. (Previously, an individual was allowed to serve only a single term as Mexican president.) Sure enough, Calles threw his weight behind the re-installation of Obregon, who handily won election for a second term in 1928. Obregon did not, however, become Mexico's first repeat president, as he was assassinated months before assuming office.

Seeking a way to maintain power but still unable to serve consecutive presidential terms, Calles formed a new political party, one which would eventually become known as the PRI and also maintain a solitary grip on Mexican politics for decades to come. He then installed Emilio Portes Gil as interim president until new elections could be called, at which point his selected candidate Pascual Ortiz Rubio won handily (if the disputed official election



All of the decorative painting by Ignacio Martinez Rendon is either incredibly well preserved or has been touched up over the years.

results are to be believed, that is).

Ortiz Rubio didn't stick around, however: after surviving an assassination attempt of his own early in his term, and failing to establish any independence from Calles' PRI (which he called "a thinly-veiled dictatorship" in his memoirs), he resigned the presidency in 1932 and exiled himself to the United States for several years.

I'm telling you this ridiculously oversimplified story because the Zillow remarks for this week's house tell us that the Spanish Colonial Revival mansion in Kensington "was once in the hands of" Ortiz Rubio. It was built in 1928, so he likely wasn't the first owner, but it's also quite possible that this is where he chose to spend at least part of his self-imposed exile.

So, since this is a column about houses, let's talk about the house: 4321 Alder Drive has four bedrooms and four baths spread across a little more than 4000 square feet of living space. The first photo is of a brick-encased, carved wood front door that the

listing bills as "elaborate and unique." We get a few more shots of the front yard — covered in dry, brown grass — and the detached garage, along with a couple of street scenes, before we get inside.

Here, we are told, the home's "colorful past is matched with the incredible artwork of renowned Mexican artist and set designer Ignacio Martinez Rendon in the front enclosed loggia." While it looks like there is indeed a vibrant and colorful mural on the ceiling, we unfortunately don't get any shots that give us a very clear look at it before we're shunted off to a rather pedestrian-looking (if quite large) laundry room. Still, if the murals on the wall are any indication, Martinez Rendon probably did a nice job up high as well. (All of the work is either incredibly well-preserved or has been touched up over the years, I can't really tell.)

Back outside, we see a large, partially-covered second floor deck overlooking canyonland, with what looks like an outdoor kitchen and a central fountain. This would make for a

great place to host a Great Gatsby-esque debauched cocktail party, as I hope Ortiz Rubio had occasion to do back in the '30s. Then a bunch of outdoor shots follow, including a few of a hallway that leave me unsure whether we're indoors or out, since the Saltillo tile seems to follow us everywhere. I do like the river rock retaining walls and staircases down to several lower terraces, however.

When we finally make it back inside, we're in a very small dining room; there is bare enough space for a four-top table. What really interests me are the drawers that seem to be

built into the wall — *how deep must that wall be, to have drawers inside it?* The baths seem to be well-maintained and all original, with tile work that extends up the walls even outside the shower. "The kitchen with vintage appliances will please any chef," we're told, but it appears to have been updated at some point, and while the appliances do look old, I suspect they're some sort of retro-modern reproductions. (I'm not aware of dishwashers having been a thing in the 1920s, for example.) Later, we get to a large formal dining room — the little one we saw earlier was actually a breakfast nook, it seems. That's good, because this looks like a house for parties, and that tiny space would've been no good for company.

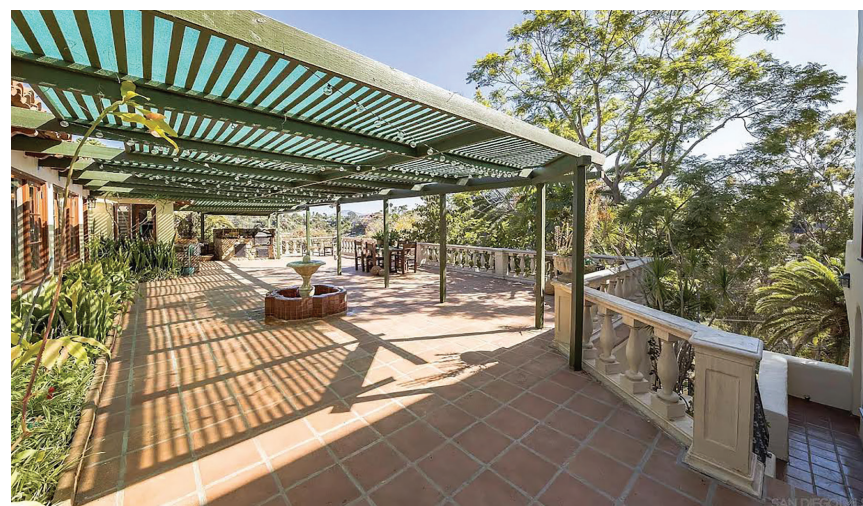
The "magnificent step-down living room with beamed ceiling, majestic fireplace and ample room to create a few seating areas" is as advertised, though my own living room also has space for "a few seating areas," if we're counting a couch and a couple of chairs as constituting an "area." Personally, I'm more interested in the secondary family/living room, the one with coffered ceilings and intri-

cate floral patterns between the beams.

The bedrooms are all fine and fairly spacious given the home's vintage, but then we come to a very odd bathroom, which I assume is part of the main suite — but I can't be sure. There's a doorless passageway that leads down a half flight of steps to a landing with a stuffed chair looking at a tub, separate shower, and pedestal sink all sitting on a raised platform, and another tiled nook that I assumes holds a toilet without a door. What is this space for? Is someone just going to sit in that chair and watch me take a bath? I don't like this.

We finish with some aerial exterior shots that illustrate the home's position on the edge of a canyon; the setup offers a bit of privacy for those in the backyard — which yard is much more finished than those belonging to the neighbors.

Public records show the Alder Drive estate last sold in April 2022 for \$2.5 million; the asking price then was \$2,679,000, and the buyers were Michael and Rhonda Teggins. It was re-listed in mid-February with an asking price of \$2,499,000 that remains unchanged to date. ■



The perfect spot for a debauched, Gatsbyesque affair.

Tales from Tijuana

Jorge Hank Finally Talks

After Gato was blown away and Vera Palestina disappeared, Hank was never willing to say much about the affair. He doesn't trust the Mexican press; and as long as Zeta kept reprinting Gato's old columns and publishing a black page on which the writer asks, from beyond the grave, "Hank, why did your bodyguards kill me?" he didn't feel he could get a fair hearing from Tijuana reporters. But Hank agreed to talk with the *Reader*. – Neal Matthews **MAY 10, 1990**

Newsburgers Hot Off the Grill

El Big, on Agua Caliente Boulevard, opposite the downtown bullring, is the 24-hour coffee shop/restaurant where politicians, cops, government spies, businessmen, and journalists gather for an unspoken waltz, with an agreement that this is neutral territory where tips, plans, warnings, and information can be swapped. Dora Elena Cortés comes here because, she says, this is where "the news comes to you." Cortés ought to know. She is the chief Tijuana correspondent for Mexico City's respected *El Universal*. – Bill Manson **MAY 13, 1999**

Zero Tolerance in the Morning

Isn't this all too cozy to be taken seriously as an independently reported political debat-

ing forum? Zeta political columnist Adela Navarro Bella doesn't think so. "It's a very serious group. Serious and respectable. Businessmen from the traditional, established families of Tijuana. They try not to define themselves [politically]. They try to be open and middle-of-the-road, in the best sense. They invite speakers of all different colors. These rooms become stages for politicians to talk about their platform." – Bill Manson **FEB. 17, 2000**

The Sport with No Clock

Mexican baseball, like the Mexican economy, is just a half-step ahead of the creditors. The precipitous decline of the peso against the dollar has virtually destroyed the league's ability to attract decent U.S. talent. Mexico is



Jorge Hank: "After my brother died, I started growing the beard and the hair."

the only Latin country with two professional seasons. The Pacific League operates in the winter, representing the main towns along the northwestern coast. The more popular and established league plays all summer, running its games concurrently, defiantly, with the majors up north. – John Krich **APR. 13, 1989**

Porno King Tied to T.J. Hot Spot

Reached by phone on May 14 at his residence

in Rosarito (he also owns and rents a gated luxury condo in Tijuana, directly behind the American consulate building), Wiener denied that he owned a piece of Baby Rock (although four different sources say he told them otherwise) or of ever having owned a business in Rosarito. He claims he is out of the San Diego pornography business and that he moved to Mexico "for peace and quiet." – Bob Owens **JULY 10, 1997**

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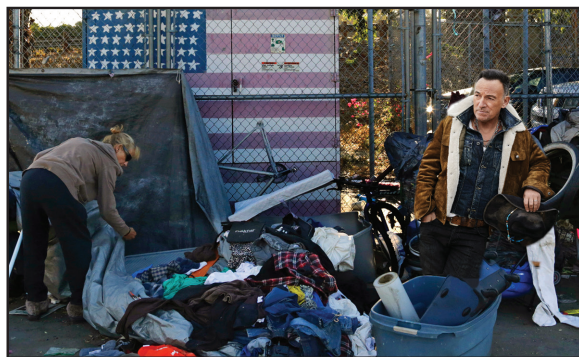
SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Boss Stop

Springsteen adds San Diego tour date in response to homeless crisis

“Ordinarily, I wouldn’t bother bringing a tour to a pleasant paradise sort of place like San



Forlorn in the U.S.A.: The Boss casts a mournful eye over the scene on the streets of San Diego, as an image of the American flag gradually fades away in the background.

Diego,” said Bruce Springsteen at a press conference announcing the surprise addition of a Pechanga Arena concert during his upcoming tour with the E Street Band. “It didn’t do my image any favors when I got photographed frolicking in the surf on that Australian beach a few years back. I’m supposed to

be a working class hero; what was I doing so far from the Jersey Shore? So what would be the point of visiting San Diego, just so I could get photographed feeding tigers at the Zoo in the celebrities-only area? But then I started hearing about the homeless problem: tent cities, transient killers, patient-dumping, people freezing to death in the park. That’s the kind of hard-luck living I sing about, that’s the kind of pain that moves product. So I knew it would do me some good to stop by and soak up the scene.” Tickets for the Springsteen concert start at \$120 and range up to \$2300.



The Rev. Dr. Caleb J. Lines, flanked by two persons of the Most Holy Trinity while spreading the super-good news via TikTok. “The Holy Spirit was there as well,” attests Lines, “but you can’t see him because he was moving within me.”

God is Not Frocked?

Pink God and Gay Jesus come to the defense of local pastor

Progressive Christian pastor Caleb J. Lines, Senior Minister at University Christian Church in San Diego, gained national attention recently for his proclamation that “Drag is holy” on social media. Some conserva-

tive Christians objected to the message, but Lines was quick to note that many such people have the unfortunate tendency to “make God in their own image,” and that God was definitely on his side in this case.

The High Cost of Forgiving La Mesa settles lawsuit with protestor partially blinded by bean bag

On May 30 of 2020, La Mesa police detective Eric Knudson fired a bean bag round at Leslie Furcron as she took part in a protest outside the La Mesa Police Department. Protestors were throwing rocks and bottles at police officers gathered outside the building, and when Furcron threw her empty can of Red Bull, Knudson mistook it for a rock and fired in response. Neither the La Mesa Police Department nor the County of San Diego determined that Knudson had acted improperly from a legal and policy standpoint. But there were other factors to consider. “We might have done okay in court,” explains La Mesa Mayor Mark Arapostathis. “Ms. Furcron is on video encouraging protestors to burn the police station down. But those protests were organized in the wake of George Floyd’s death at



La Mesa Mayor Mark Arapostathis presents Leslie Furcron’s attorney Dante Pride with a very large check. “Our officer may not have done anything wrong,” he said during the ceremony, “but we hope this makes it right. Next time a large crowd of angry protestors comes to our town, surrounds our government buildings, and starts throwing rocks and bottles, I promise that no police officer will shoot anyone in the head with a bean bag. Mostly because this \$10 million had to come out of our public safety budget, and so we just don’t have the manpower for that sort of thing. But also because we are definitely not racist!”

the hands of a police officer in Minnesota. And they were centered in La Mesa because one of our officers got filmed being too aggressive with a black suspect a few days later. So I sat down with Ms. Furcron’s attorney and asked, ‘How much is it going to take to make La Mesa not racist?’ Turns out it was a pretty big number.”

WHO PLAYS WHO

HOTEL MOLESTERS EDITION



In *Miracle on 34th Street*, **Edmund Gwenn** played Santa Claus, who helps make a little girl’s dream come true with the gift of a home.



Homeless man **Michael Inman** allegedly made an underage girl’s life a nightmare by bringing her to a hotel for sexual assault.



In *Ron’s Gone Wrong*, **Zach Galifianakis** plays a defective robot who tries to befriend the middle schooler who brings him home.



Homeless man **Larry Cantrell** believed the juvenile woman that Inman brought him was a minor, but sexually assaulted her anyway.



On *Seinfeld*, **Philip Baker Hall** played a civil servant who hated the thought of pee-pees and wee-wee in public library books.



El Cajon mayor **Bill Wells** is not happy that sexual assaults are taking place in hotel rooms paid for by the public.

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“Well, like anything else, showing up is half the battle,” says Smash Mouth singer Zach Goode. Goode, a longtime local musician, is talking about the voiceover work he’s done for commercials, including a Taco Bell ad that was a Screen Actors Guild gig. But together with his belief in “the power of saying yes,” it serves as a pretty good summation of his entire career, as long as you note that showing up has always been augmented by his drive to compete for a gig regardless of the odds. “Before covid, it was a little bit easier,” he notes, “but then everyone was home for two years. So instead of competing against Joe Schmo, you’re competing against Will Ferrell and Jack Black and whoever else is sitting at home.”

You know Smash Mouth. You know Smash Mouth, because you know “All Star,” their weirdly enduring 1999 mega-hit, which has the uncanny power to spark people into spontaneous singing of the chorus and — as I discovered when telling friends that I was interviewing Goode — busting out dance moves to

2023 Music & Arts

Hello to the show

Paeans to post-pandemic performances

On May 11, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services will end the covid public health emergency. But the bureaucratic behemoth is a slow-footed beast; John Q. Public knows the pandemic ended some time ago — though there may be some debate about exactly what it was that tipped him off. Does spring begin with the first robin, the first desert wildflower, or the

first grunion run? Did covid end with the mask mandate repeal, the return to live theater, or the blaring rebirth of live music? Here at the *Reader*, we’re going with the latter two, and in honor of the upcoming End of the Emergency, we’re highlighting a few personal favorites in those departments — including one or two you might have missed.

match. It’s an overplayed earworm, but I get why it succeeded, and I will definitely take those dance moves over some dipshit singing “Beth” in gradually escalating volume when they see my KISS tattoo, because that song sucks.

Who knows, you may also know Smash

Mouth for their earlier hits “Walkin’ on the Sun,” “Why Can’t We Be Friends,” and “Can’t Get Enough of You Baby.” Or from former lead singer Steve Harwell’s health-related onstage meltdown in late 2021, which was swiftly followed by his stepping away from the band. That’s where Goode

came in: during the pandemic shutdown, he took to posting cover versions of songs on YouTube, close to one every other day. That’s what got him noticed by the band, and ultimately, that’s what led to his debut with them in May of 2022, to a crowd of 40,000 in Guadalajara Mexico. (Most of

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the band's gigs are fly-ins, performing one show to a large crowd and flying back home. Not a bad way to tour if your band can command that.)

Theater kid takes the stage

Guadalajara is a long way from San Diego, and even further from Goode's early stomping grounds as a New York theater kid who did time in Provincetown after his parents split up. That's where he became hooked on the Beatles and acting — attending theater camps, performing in shows, and forming bands. His willingness to take risks and travel may come from his having been on his own since he was a teenager. "Around 15 years old, I started hanging out with the wrong crowd, staying out late, doing things I shouldn't be doing and having authority issues with my mom. It eventually came to a head, and I moved away right after I turned 16. I lived in a hippie house called 128 where all the other local misfits lived, joined a band, got a night job, and finished the last two years of high school on my own before moving to Hawaii."

On the Big Island, he worked in a pizza shop owned by the parents of high schooler Jeremy Ronstadt, with whom he would jam. The two hooked up with drummer Doug Alston and bassist Marcus Lowe, but the four of them found themselves frustrated with Hawaii's lack of opportunities. Ronstadt and company had intended to go to Seattle, but ended up in Tacoma for a year before deciding to move

Mythraeum

San Diego's Mythraeum represented the U.S.A. this past summer at Wacken Open Air, the most highly regarded festival of its kind in Germany. Getting to the fest meant making conquests in a battle of the bands, with two shows in San Diego and one in Los Angeles.



Mythraeum: Willkommen to Wacken

les. That reserved a spot for the band and merited a thousand-dollar check from the organizer. But the balance of fare, plus the cost of accommodations, was on Mythraeum. Merch sales and donations covered part of the remaining costs, but each band member still wound up paying \$750 out-of-pocket. According to vocalist Plague (Anthony Vivoli), it was worth it. "Wacken is the heavy metal holy land. All of us have dreamed of attending this festival for as long as we've loved this kind of music. To say that our first-time attending was as performers is beyond surreal." The band's latest offering, *Halls of Mythras*, is available through M-Theory audio, and they'll be playing Brick by Brick on June 17.

— Spike Steffenhagen

Gary Wilson

Amiable weirdo and longtime SD resident Gary Wilson has fourteen albums under his belt — when he wears one. He's discoursed long and sinister over real and/or fantasized girlfriends, real and/or fantasized late-night walks and drives, and his long-running duck fixation. His chaotic live shows often feature paint and/or flour, dumped out in front of whirling floor fans. But for his new album, he's tackling a new favored obsession. *The Marshmallow Man*, scheduled for release this summer, harkens back to his childhood in Endicott, New York. "As a child, I enjoyed marshmallows," he reminisces. And the new outing promotes "perhaps another side of Gary Wilson. A more gentle side." The



Gary Wilson goes gentle

Hillcrest local, who played almost all the instruments on *Marshmallow*, takes in some local color for inspiration as well. "I still enjoy the original Filippi's on India Street. Recently did some San Diego shows at the Observatory and the Casbah. I enjoy late night walks to Ralph's grocery store." For heavy artistic inspiration this time out, our man cites "watching the 1959 movie *A Summer Place* and listening to 'The Lark Ascending' by Ralph Vaughan

continued on page 16



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to Lowe's hometown after parting ways with their original singer. Recalls Goode, "They said, 'Hey, we're gonna move to San Diego if you want to join.' They sent me a demo tape, and I liked it. It was really weird: kind of like metal reggae, funky, like nothing that was really going on at the time. So I sold all my stuff and drove my car across the country by myself and ended up in San Diego. That was right around Halloween of 1991. When I landed, I met the guys in the band and asked them if they'd heard this new band called Nirvana. I said, 'This album is amazing.' And they were like, 'Those were our buddies.'"

The band that formed from that meetup was Ghoulspoon; almost immediately, they became friends with other San



Ghoulspoon quickly found a home at the original SOMA location in downtown San Diego, gaining opening slots in the club's infamous underground room known as the Dungeon.

Diego bands like Buck O' Nine and Sprung Monkey. Goode's presence altered the band's sound from what Ronstadt describes as "death

metal reggae." Continues Ronstadt: "We all had so many influences that the writing process was always a bit different. Most of the first album

was based on songs and riffs that Marcus and I had already been working on, as well as some fresh new jams during the initial gelling of the

four of us. We had been more of a death metal group with funky reggae breaks and some surf style sounds. Zach brought his love for

hip hop and rap music into the mix, as well as some more traditional rock influences."

Their first gig was an opening slot at the Casbah for Lucy's Fur Coat and Deadbolt: the original support act cancelled and Ghoulspoon was, in classic Goode fashion, prepared to show up. After that, they quickly found a home at the original SOMA location in downtown San Diego, gaining opening slots in the club's infamous underground room known as the Dungeon. (When there were no bands playing down there, metal heads made do by playing Slayer records and piling into violent mosh pits. "SOMA was a magical place," says Goode. "We were super lucky to get there at the exact right time. You had to play an opening spot at the Dungeon first



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2023 Music & Arts

continued from page 12

Williams.” As for new gigs, “Most likely. About flour and paint, you never know. It could happen.”

— Andrew Hamlin

Charles Lloyd

Saxophonist Charles Lloyd has long been revered in jazz, ever since he broke into the national consciousness in the mid-1960s. All these years later, he continues to inspire audiences with performances that border on spiritual experiences. When Lloyd and his



Charles Lloyd:
performances that
border on spiritual.

much younger bandmates (Gerald Clayton, piano; Anthony Wilson, guitar; Larry Grenadier, bass) casually arrived on stage at the Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall on March 17, the sold-out crowd seemed captivated before the first note was played. Lloyd began *a capella*, with slow, deliberately pensive and breathy tones. The band began to fill

in with support around him. He took a long, pointed solo, followed by virtuosic statements from Wilson and Clayton. We were 20 minutes into the first piece before I really noticed that there wasn't a drummer on stage. That's how effective Grenadier was in holding things together. The hall seats more than 500 patrons, and the sound in the room was crystal clear. Lloyd used the opening piece as a template for the evening, which concentrated on ballads — with the exception of one spritely tune on the flute in a Latin-tinged vein. Afterward, many patrons commented on the church-like spirit of it all.

— Robert Bush

The Aviara Trio

Ines Irawati is one of San Diego's brightest classical music stars. As a teenager, the pianist came to the United States from Indonesia to study at the Cleveland Insti-



Aviara Trio: “I had no idea a group of this caliber was on hand in San Diego.”

tute of Music. (She confesses to having struggled with English vocabulary assignments — because she didn't know what the word “vocabulary” meant.) For several years, Ines was the go-to coach for opera singers, but in recent days, she has focused on being a concert pia-

continued on page 20

WED. MAR. 29

HEMLOCK
Parasitic Existence,
DeadRise



THU. MAY 11

MOONSPELL
Eleine
Oceans Of Slumber
Vintersea

THU. MAR. 30

SOLAR FAKE
Blaklight

WED. APR. 19

EVERY AVENUE
Makeout
Unwell

FRI. MAY 12

NECROT
Mortiferum
Deathgrave
Unidad Trauma

FRI. MAR. 31

**TEJON STREET
CORNER
THIEVES**
Them Coulee Boys,
Scotty Bones

SUN. APR. 23

**TEENAGE
BOTTLEROCKET**
Broadway Calls
Strike Twelve

SUN. MAY 14

ELDER
Ruby The Hatchet
Howling Giant

SAT. APR. 1

**SLIM JIM
PHANTOM TRIO
(OF THE STRAY CATS)**
Rip Carson & The
Carcin-O-Genics
The Ramblin'
Sweethearts

WED. APR. 26

ICON FOR HIRE
Hooked Like Helen

MON. MAY 15

A SKYLIT DRIVE
Scarlet O'hara
Sunsleep
Sullen Eyes

SUN. APR. 2

KOFFIN KATS
Crazy & The Brains,
The Strikers

FRI. APR. 28

PLINI
Sungazer
Jakub Zytecki

FRI. MAY 19

**SUGAR:
THE NU-METAL
PARTY**

FRI. APR. 7

**SABBATH
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TUE. MAY 2

COLD
Divide the Fall
Awake For Days
Signal to Noise
Proteus

SUN. MAY 21

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WED. APR. 12

L.A. GUNS
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WED. MAY 3

UGLY KID JOE
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TUE. MAY 23

HAKEN
Arch Echo

THU. APR. 13

KNOLL
God is War

THU. MAY 4

**HARAKIRI FOR
THE SKY**
Ghost Bath
Unrequited

THU. MAY 25

CURRENTS
Like Moths To Flames
UnityTX
Foreign Hands

FRI. APR. 14

PYREXIA
Embryonic Autopsy
Yotuma
Regurgitated Entrails

FRI. MAY 5

**WOLVES IN THE
THRONE ROOM**
Hulder
Veneraxiom

FRI. MAY 26

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FIRE**
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SAT. APR. 15

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SAT. MAY 27

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MON. APR. 17

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Decrepit Birth
Unidad Trauma

WED. MAY 10

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SUN. MAY 28

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and walk around outside telling people to say the band name at the door, because you got a dollar for everyone that did that. If 100 people said your name, you got to play the main floor. So we did that. We played two shows there, and after the second show, we got to play the main floor. I don't even know what the capacity was, but it had to be close to 2000 people. It was sold out, with a whole balcony and crazy mosh pits. There weren't a lot of bands that were our genre back then.” Perhaps as a result, they wound up as direct support for other oddball acts: “We played a lot of weird lineups, with bands like The Dead Milkmen, Agent Orange, and FIREHOSE.”

That's showbiz

From the outset, Goode saw the importance of hustling as well as rocking. Long before he put himself out there by posting all those songs to YouTube, he says, “I was really ambitious. We made all our own merch. We did a mailing list, and I would sit there and lick stamps after every show and send out postcards and make stickers. Then I would go out on off nights to support our friends' bands. It was a cool community. I was just 21 years old from a small town. I had never played any big venues, and within three or four months, I was playing in front of thousands and thousands of people who knew all the songs and bought every T-shirt.”

I ask Goode how he has managed to avoid L.S.D.; he smirks, as if to ask if I mean just this year or over his entire life. I explain that I'm not talking about psy-

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MAY 10 – 27 | 8:00 PM

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JUNE 7 – 24 | 8:00 PM

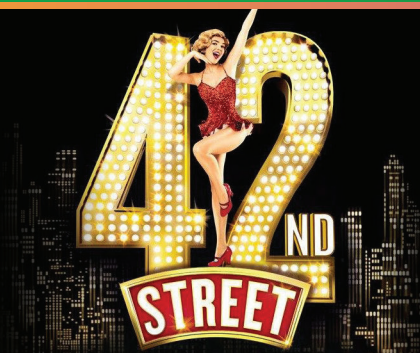
It's 1985, and rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. He's the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own until a winsome waitress wins his affection. Based on the hit Adam Sandler movie, *The Wedding Singer* takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up, and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room.



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JULY 19 – AUGUST 5 | 8:00 PM

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AUGUST 16 – SEPTEMBER 2 | 8:00 PM

The iconic tap extravaganza *42nd Street* celebrates Broadway, Times Square and the magic of show biz with wit, humor and pizzazz. The score is chock-full of Broadway standards, including "You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me," "Dames," "We're In the Money," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" and "Forty-Second Street."

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SEPTEMBER 13 – 30 | 7:30 PM

Based on the beloved 70's throwback film and featuring the timeless hits of the Bee Gees, classic disco tracks, and new original songs, this reimagined version of *Saturday Night Fever* transports you back to the era of disco balls, platform boots, and white suits. Featuring songs from the bestselling movie soundtrack of all time, including "Stayin' Alive," "How Deep Is Your Love," "Night Fever," "Tragedy" and "More Than a Woman," as well as 70s favorites "Boogie Shoes," "Disco Inferno" and many more.

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being the front man definitely made him seem a bit pushy at times. But he always had good intentions and a heart of

When SOMA lost its lease a couple of years later, Ghoulspeen felt the impact. "That re-

recalls. "Some of the other bands like Buck O' Nine, P.O.D., Unwritten Law, and Sprung Monkey all had management

Despite their tenacity and accomplishments — winning a San Diego Music Award for best Hard Rock/Metal performance and moving over 10,000 units with no major label — Ghoulspoon morphed into Divided by Zero in 2001. Once



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OCTOBER 8

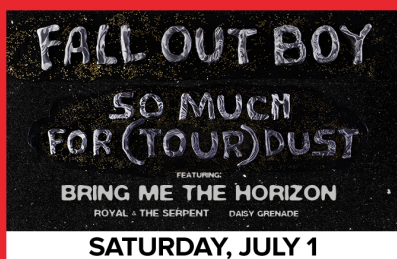
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again, they were recognized by SDMA for their brand of hard rock, but it was clear that San Diego would not be the next Seattle — Divided by Zero was not going to shape the nation. “At the time, I thought, ‘Hey, it should have been us.’ And I wish we had gotten a bigger career based on all the work we put in. But I look back, and we didn’t have that big song that could have been a hit.” And whatever happened (or didn’t happen) for him, Goode doesn’t think America’s Finest City was left behind. “I think San Diego really got the last laugh in the long run. Everyone from blink-182 to Jason Mraz to Jewel to Bring Me the Horizon and Pierce the Veil and Slightly Stoopid, who headlined over Snoop Dogg. What an incredible variety of bands came out of there.”

The Geezer crowd pleaser
Divided by Zero went on indefinite hiatus in 2007, giving way to The Secret Seven, whose debut record *Turn Your Back to the Sea* was nominated for best rock album by the SDMA. Goode also joined Geezer, a band that founder Adam Gimbel describes as “a grandpa-era musical comedy act that started back in 2005 when my band Rookie Card covered the first Weezer album. Our bassist suggested we dress as old men for the show. We brought it back a few years later when FM 94.9 needed a band to audition Weezer fans to be onstage with the band. When our original bassist wasn’t available, Zach stepped in.”

Once again, showing up was half the battle, and Goode and Gimbel’s

2023 Music & Arts

continued from page 16

nist. She is also active as a chamber musician with the Aviara Trio. I was blown away when I caught one of their performances at a San Diego Library Concert. I had no idea a group of this caliber was on hand in San Diego. The Aviara Trio performs extensively in Southern California, including the Hollywood Bowl, where they were a part of the LA Philharmonic’s 100-year anniversary celebration. They’ll be playing at the Del Mar Civic Center on April 6.

—Garrett Harris

North County stage truck

It was in the early days of covid when Kevin Williams, his wife Summer, and their son Reagan set out to keep the music alive. All three are stalwarts of the North County music scene, with a preference for roots, rockabilly and blues. Clubs were closed, and bands had no place to play. So Williams, who lives in Carlsbad, put his mechanical skills to the test and built a stage, complete with lights and sound, on an old flatbed truck. In no time at all, he and his family were cruising around town, parking the truck in the village or at the beach, and jamming with such celebrated musicians as Thomas Yarsley of the Paladins, Chicago bluesman Mondo Cortez, slide guitar hero Johnny Vernazza, and Oceanside’s own Stevie Salas. “I did it out of anger,” Williams says. His son suffers from colitis, and was in and out of hospitals as a child. Music was his lifeline. “He was playing three to five nights a week. Then, bang, nothing. So I did something about it — I didn’t want anything to stop Reagan from playing.” These days, clubs are back open, but the Williams family’s traveling concerts remain a weekly fixture at parties and events throughout North County. “It’s become kind of its own thing,” Williams says.

— Thomas K. Arnold

Pacific Lyric Association

The Pacific Lyric Association was founded by Carlos and Terry Oliva. The organization puts on at least one fully staged opera per year and has a monthly Fourth Wednesday concert at Forgotten Barrel Winery in Escondido. Their most recent opera production was



Pacific Lyric Association presents opera that people love, like *Carmen*!

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— Garrett Harris

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chemistry was instant. “I’d only known him a few months, but we immediately had old-timey comedy duo chops that rivaled the greats,” says Gimbel. “He only sang lead on a few songs each set, but it always felt like we were co-front men, because he’s such a big presence and powerful singer. When we started rapping mid-set, he was clearly the best of us, having fronted popular local rap-rock bands in the ‘90s.” Goode’s strong chops earned him respect, and added a dimension to yet another SDMA-nominated band. “I’d wanted us to sound more like old men,” Gimbel explains. “But when people tearfully thanked him for sounding so much like [Beastie Boy] Adam Yauch, we let him do his thing. Zach is hilarious, so he came up with some of our best bits. I thought it would be fun to do AC/DC’s ‘T.N.T.’ as ‘O.L.D.’ and gave it to him to write and sing. When he screamed, ‘I’m O-L-D like Samsonite. O-L-D. I missed my flight,’ it literally never got old.”

Rap aside, Gimbel appreciated Goode’s respect for his vision, a trait that would go on to serve him well in Smash Mouth. “Zach has more than enough ego to fill a band with his own ideas, but he was always very gracious and thankful to let me shape what the band was and then give him plenty of room to shine. Having done most of the work in his bands for years, he was happy to have me do the lion’s share, but it was great to have someone who knew how to get things done when I needed help. He liked having little assignments to do within the fun ideas I’d come

2023
MUSIC & ARTS

Wong’s Dragon Room

I have likely driven by this place a gazillion times since we moved out here in 2020, but even though the building’s outer façade is about as loud and inviting as an outer façade can be, I had never really noticed either the Dragon Room or its adjacent restaurant, Wong’s Golden Palace. Then I accepted an invite from my buddy to check out Joey Harris and The Mentals performing at



Somewhere under the rainbow...

the venue in early February, and I was shocked by how close the venue was to our house. Once we entered the bar, it was love at first site. There are the dingier, modern bars that people refer to as “dive bars,” and then there are true, trapped in a time-warped DIVE BARS. The Dragon Room definitely falls into the latter category. Catching Joey Harris there on that night and listening to him performing some songs from his old band, the Beat Farmers, felt about as close to experiencing a 1980s-era Beat Farmers gig as you could get. The interior design motif seems about as influenced by the Double Deuce bar from the 1989 film *Road House* as you are likely to find in San Diego. It’s loud, it’s sweaty, and people are drunk and dancing to loud rock music and spilling drinks and having a grand old time. The only thing missing is the chain link fence protecting the band from flying beer bottles.

— Dryw Keltz

The Merrow

Paul Smith took over the Hillcrest space formerly occupied by the San Diego Sports Club way back in 2008. The bar he opened was initially called The Ruby Room, but



The Merrow: a potent mix of theme nights, local acts, and bigger events.

it had transitioned to the Merrow by 2013. The venue isn’t too far removed from other local bars-with-a-stage such as Soda Bar, the Casbah, and Space Bar, but

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up with, and like me, he loves singing harmony. Sure, he'd always innocently suggest songs he sang lead on when we were making up the setlist. But it made doing three or four sets a night a lot easier to have someone with such a strong voice stepping up every few songs."

**"That makes
PERFECT sense."**

Ultimately, both Goode and Geezer relocated to Los Angeles, where Goode pursued solo work and voiceover acting in his "spare time." That's when, and where, Smash Mouth found him. "They had me do a couple video auditions singing the hits, and then flew me up to San Jose to meet with management and Paul [De Lisle], the bass player, just to see if we vibed — and we did. He's a little bit older than me, but we have very similar taste in both music and back-story. Like Ghoulspoon, Smash Mouth was a band that didn't really fit in musically — they had a bunch of different styles. They had ska, punk, reggae, pop, lounge, some exotica influences. The difference is, they came out with 'Walkin' On the Sun' and it became a number one single, and that changed everything."

Goode and De Lisle "talked about influences, like punk, and Fishbone, and the Pixies. Their first tour ever was with Buck O' Nine, and I'm like, 'Yeah! I know those guys!' It's a small world. I learned a bunch of songs, and they flew me back up there to do a formal audition with all the band members. At that point, they had trimmed it down to four potential applicants, so I started think-

**2023
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it does seem to fly a bit more under the radar — making it something of a hidden gem. The Merrow has had success with underground dance nights such as Club Hemlock, Club Sabbat, Ascension, and the free-of-charge Blue Monday while still serving as showcase for local bands such as Fistfights With Wolves and national acts such as Boris Pelekh of Gogol Bordello. The parking lot next to the venue is an added bonus. For most of the year, it serves as a potential opportunity for patrons to actually score a parking spot in Hillcrest, but on a handful of dates, it gives the Merrow an expanded space to host larger crowds for events such as the US Air Guitar Championships.

— Dryw Keltz

The Pour House

It's Saturday night, and I'm at the Pour House in Oceanside — one of the few San Diego area nightclubs that books mostly local rock bands that write and play their own music. The stage is crammed into a corner, and you have to maneuver yourself past a pool table and an L-shaped bar to get to the live music area. Tonight's a special night, as two of the three bands have family ties. My middle son, Conner, plays bass with Almost Restricted, an alt-rock band led by guitarist-singer-songwriter Andrew Bush and featuring Sean Gahman on drums. And my youngest son, Hunter, plays



**Pour House: a haven for local bands
that write and play their own stuff.**

drums with the Renters, an Oceanside punk ensemble led by guitarist-vocalist Johnny Sudetta and featuring guitarists Seth Ahumada and Tyler Miller, and bassist Jacob Sepe. (Sudetta, incidentally, is the grandson and namesake of the instrumental surf-rock pioneer who recorded as Johnny Fortune). As I position myself on the fringe of the dance floor and see a mass of bodies one-third my age in the makeshift mosh pit, I am transported back more than 40 years, to the time I was the rock critic for the *Los Angeles Times* and *San Diego Magazine* and spent most weekends at the Spirit, which, like the Pour House, was a haven for original live music. It's somehow comforting that unless I look in the mirror, it could be 1981 again.

— Thomas K. Arnold

Opera Wednesdays

Opera Wednesdays at The La Jolla Community Center started in the spring of 2014 as a response to the proposed shutdown of the San Diego Opera by then-general director Ian Campbell. Nine years and one pandemic later, they are still going strong. Opera Wednesdays, which take place on the second Wednesday of the

2023 Music & Arts

month, focus on presenting Southern California opera talent. The format can vary from month to month. On any given Opera Wednesday, one might hear a soprano, a mezzo, a tenor, and a bass or baritone sing selections of arias. It's also possible to hear two sopranos and a baritone do duets or full scenes from operas. Art songs and *Lieder* are also on the menu from time to time. The setting is casual, with an indoor/outdoor area providing the operatic stage. Refreshments are served.

— Garrett Harris

Slow Death Promotions

Not since The Industry boarded up shop (due to too many noise complaints) in 2017 has the South Bay had a go-to spot for hungry punks to perform/mosh. Drip-



Slow Death Promotions lets 'em get as loud and rowdy as they damn well please.

ping from a similar vein as The Industry, home-grown punk Elton Bernache started the promotion Slow Death last April for local San Diego acts to have a place to call home. The new all-ages promotion operates out of the Fraternal Order of Eagles community center in National City, and recently secured an outdoor venue with non-profit organization Vision Culture for a second space to host shows. Vision Culture is a foundation with values rooted in youth empowerment and community; the collaboration between the two makes sense, given each organization's community outreach efforts. Over the past year, Slow Death has put on several benefit shows, as well as multiple food and toy drives. Since opening the doors, the National City promotion has hosted over twenty events, with no end in sight — and they can be as loud and rowdy as they damn well please. Bernache just asks that no more holes get punched in the walls: between running a new punk promotion, working full-time, playing in multiple bands, and being a new dad, it's tough for him to get in there to patch that shit up.

— Andrew Hamlin

Moxie Theater

Theater people are notoriously superstitious — viz. ghost lights, “break a leg,” The Scottish Play, etc. So I’m hesitant to say anything about Moxie while the women-centric theater is in something of a delicate condition — co-founder and executive artistic director Jennifer Eve Thorn has announced plans to step down next June, and it’s always a tricky business when a creator entrusts her creation to someone new. But the end of an era is a fitting time for encomiums, and I’m happy to report that during my (admittedly brief) run as theater critic here at the *Reader*, no small theater — and

ing, “Wow, I might actually have a shot at this.”

At the audition, Goode sensed that magical things were happening. “We played six songs together, and it sounded great. I could tell they were liking what I was doing. I flew home to L.A. the night before Christmas Eve 2021. That night on Instagram, it was like, ‘So-and-so started following you.’ One by one, each band member started following me. The next day, the manager called and asked if I could hop on a call [the following day], so that was my Christmas present that year — which was way better than my Christmas present in 2020, which was covid. Apparently, it was unanimous, and it just turned out to be a good fit, which kind of took me by surprise.”

Ghoulspeen and Divided by Zero bandmate Ronstadt shares his reaction to the news. “He called me on the hush-hush about the opportunity when he first found out about it. At first, I was very surprised. Not my idea of what I thought was his style of music. But he’s always been working hard on his art, and an opportunity like that doesn’t come around every day. Kind of funny! Of course, I was super stoked for my brother, but there was this feeling of, ‘Wow, no way!’ It was kind of surreal, but totally in line with him and his personality.”

Geezer’s Gimbel was not quite as surprised. “He told a few friends about it in late 2021, and everyone who knows him had the exact same reaction: ‘Holy shit. That makes PERFECT sense.’ No one had any doubt that he had the

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX MATTHEWS

Goode also joined Geezer, a band that founder Adam Gimbel describes as “a grandpa-era musical comedy act that started back in 2005 when my band Rookie Card covered the first Weezer album.”

talent it would take to do it. He’s a bigger guy, with tattoos, and he can be funky on a mic. His old bands might not have sounded just like [Smash Mouth], but they had similar elements. Having someone who looks danger-

ous but is fun, funny, gracious — and has his act together — must be a huge relief for them. I couldn’t have been prouder or more excited to see it all get started and watch him absolutely destroy, which is exactly what he did. I

only told a few people, just so I could see their reaction and watch them go through all the same stages of shock, acceptance, and excitement.”

Goode’s San Diego debut with Smash Mouth came in September 2022; Gimbel was one of the

many friends and former bandmates who attended. “We’ve seen him do two shows so far, and smiling that hard hurts my face,” he says. “It is the craziest experience to watch one of your best friends sing some of the most famous songs in the last 25 years with what is now ‘his band’ and have thousands of people lose their marbles. They played a surf contest in Oceanside on my birthday, and he actually remembered my name in the middle of their set. Not very Geezer of him.”

It doesn’t suck when everyone knows the words

Goode is going through some stages of his own, and excitement and acceptance are definitely among them. First, the excitement. “We’re working on a new album now, going song by song, and I want to present a few that are appropriate for their style. They really are one of the most diverse bands. Maybe No Doubt is another example of a band like that. They have the retro throwback ‘60s vibe that Ghoulspoon had. They’re super into *Twin Peaks* and David Lynch, and we used a lot of that stuff on our artwork in Ghoulspoon. So I’m trying to lean into that mindset when I write songs that I think would be appropriate for Smash Mouth: analyze what elements make up my favorite songs of theirs, and write in that mode consciously.” The practice has given him new regard for previous songwriter Greg Camp’s work. “I didn’t really appreciate how great of a songwriter he was and is until I really deep dived into their catalog. They

2023 Music & Arts

perhaps no theater, period — has been as consistently excellent in its selection and presentation of material. Thorn’s star turn as Joan of Arc’s mystified mom in *Mother of the Maid* stands out in memory, but it’s all been solid stuff: the clash of politics and generations



Mother of the Maid, just one of Moxie’s recent successes.

in *IRON* and *Birds of North America*, the small-scale effects of a large-scale disaster in *The Children*, and the funnily frank sexual investigations of *The Pleasure Trials*. I’m naturally suspicious of “theater of a certain sort,” which makes their success all the more remarkable. Here’s hoping Thorn’s successor keeps up with the leg-breaking.

— Matthew Lickona

The Old Globe

Where Moxie does a lot with a little, The Old Globe does a lot with a lot. So yeah, maybe it’s a bit silly to go gushing over San Diego’s most famous theater. But their recent productions of *Under a Baseball Sky* and *Bob Fosse’s Dancin’* served as an excellent reminder of just how good the Globe is at all the aspects that, ahem, set the stage: sound, lighting, costumes, and oh my goodness yes, set design. Theater is magic: it doesn’t take much to make an audience believe that a couple of fake walls and a few chairs constitute a fully furnished house. But when the Old Globe puts its considerable resources to work building an urban showcase for a dance visionary or giving felt life to the story of a



The Old Globe: somehow putting baseball on stage.

haunted vacant lot, the results are, at least occasionally, so immersive that your humble critic has to remember to pick up his pen. Of course, you’re not supposed to let all that scenery chew the actors, but next time you attend, maybe take a moment to appreciate the way it enhances their efforts.

— Matthew Lickona

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had a lot of interesting elements to their music and his lyrics. He has a lot of third and fourth verses, which a lot of bands don't. If he writes a song about a car, it's every aspect of that car, and it all adds up in the clever wordplay."

As we talk on Zoom, Goode and I are both listening to the same random Smash Mouth playlist. When their cover of Let's Active's "Every Word Means No" comes on, his energy is palpable, despite the screens between us. "I don't know if they ever played that one live. They haven't with me yet, and I'd love to do it!" Smash Mouth is known for several of their covers, and Goode made his recording debut with the band in June of 2022, singing on a cover of the web-weaponized Rick Astley hit "Never Gonna Give You Up." (That was followed by the original "4th of July," on which he and the other band members shared a song-writing credit.)

On to the acceptance. "It's hard when you have a couple of huge radio smashes," says Goode, "because they get overplayed and you become known for that one thing. You become That Band. But they have a deep catalog of a lot of really good songs" besides the one that makes people "50 and up see us as 'that Shrek band.'" That's the magic of the movies. "But then the ones under that age group know all the songs, and have actually listened to the records." And overplayed or no, "it doesn't suck to have several hits and walk out to everyone knowing the words to the songs."

— Spike Steffenhagen

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the inside track blurt

Block boy breaks out “Lil Maru” Macias is among the most lit rappers in San Diego — at least, judging by the 19-year-old’s social media. A combination of melodic rapping, singing, and mumbling has pulled the hip-hop artist some staggering internet numbers: as this piece goes to print, his TikTok vids have earned over 12 million plays. “After TikTok, bro, that

liked school, I was always skipping class.” On March 14, Maru’s TikTok included footage of school kids having fun and dancing to the song, along with an older person — perhaps a teacher or parent — who danced in unison with the grooms. The 619 rapper’s snippet went viral, and drew widespread attention to his Spotify channel, where listeners could hear



Marumania? Lil Maru says his influences include the Fab Four.

shit went crazy,” Macias said in a recent *On The Radar* radio interview. “It went up a different type of way.” Lil Maru’s stage name is a play on Maru Uchiha, a character in the *Naruto* anime universe after whom his peers nicknamed him in middle school. His first upload to TikTok was in July, when he posted a 20-second clip from his “On the Block” music video. The post thanked listeners, and was embellished with a “For Your Page” hashtag, which invited folks to reuse and share his work. He then uploaded a shorter clip from the same video, along with a “Who is that?” pop up caption that yielded the answer, “I’m an 18 year-old Mexican artist.” Thousands of listeners worldwide posted their own TikToks featuring “On the Block,” thanks in part to lyrics like “*Ay, I be on the block with my gang, blowing gas / I never*

his other songs, including “Change Up,” “Been 2 Gone,” and “Save Me.” All told, his Spotify has garnered over 42 million plays. Maru scored an additional seven million plays on YouTube with the full three-and-a-half minute “On the Block” music video. He appears in the video clad in an all-white outfit and an iced-out necklace as he sings on the San Diego streets and alleys with a bottle of Hennessy in hand, rapping lyrics like “*You said that’s your girl / then why the hell she at my shows?*” His 2021 single “Issues” earned some national press, and he teamed up with fellow local Lil Weirdo on a video for “Money in the Bank.” An EP dropped in late 2022: *From Me 2 You*. His videos have racked up around 45 million total YouTube views, which helped bring the “Nothing into Something” artist into stardom; he’s parlayed his fame into sold-out out shows across the

country. Lil Maru and fellow San Diegan 22Gfay recently toured 15 cities with GirlzLuh-Dev for their *From Me 2 You* tour. Video clips are surfacing online of younger concertgoers stampeding the San Diego rappers.

After a few of Maru’s recent drops, including “Soda Shopping” featuring Fenix Flexin, and “Feel Aight,” some online comments indicate that listeners can’t quite pinpoint his vocals. They wonder if Maru cranks up the Auto-Tune on his computer, if he’s using a vocoder, or if his high-pitched vocals are 100 percent all-natural. And it’s not just teens checking out the bass-infused

melodic rap music; millennials are also down. “I don’t know what this [vocal style] is called, but I’m going to say it is Auto-Tune,” says local millennial DJ Ricky ZMan. “Or it could be TC-Helicon VoiceLive, it’s almost like a talk box and Auto-Tune.” ZMan grew up listening to the late Roger Troutman and T-Pain, who similarly

altered their voices in their popular tracks. “Maru’s sound, it’s badass,” he concludes. Maru has mentioned in previous interviews that he was influenced by The Beatles, a unique choice for a Gen Z rapper. To me, he seems not so much swayed by The Beatles’ musical catalogue, but by their pulse-pounding celebrity, the “mania” they were able to inspire. That’s something he aspires to emulate. And judging by the sheer amount of fan response in his online comment sections, Lil Maru may be the next local boy gone global. As he raps in “On the Block,” “*I’m a block boy, yeah, I came up from the mud / I’m rapping on the weekends, I just have it in my blood.*” — Mike Madriaga

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 — Helena Holleran. Saturday, 5pm — Christian Taylor.

Amplified Studios: Friday, 5pm — Topeka Clementine and Doll Riot. \$10.

Balboa Theatre: Saturday, 8pm — Joanne Shaw Taylor. \$35-\$75.

Barefoot Bar and Grill: Friday, 6pm — Israel Maldonado. Saturday, 6pm — Sam Cary.

Bellamy’s Restaurant: Thursday, 6pm — Jake Taylor Smith. Saturday, 6pm — Helena Holleran.

Belly Up Tavern: Thursday, 8pm — Mason Jennings. \$25. Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Super Diamond. \$27-\$48. Sunday, 7:30pm — Ronstadt Revival. \$20-\$35. Monday, 8pm — Rayland Baxter. Tuesday, 8pm — Lucero and The Shackletons. \$32. Wednesday, 8pm — Brooks Nielsen. \$35.

Bloom Nightclub: Saturday, 8pm — Snakehips.

Brew Coffee Spot: Saturday, 9am — Java Jazz Quartet. **Free.**

Brick by Brick: Thursday, 7:30pm — Solar Fake. \$18-\$22. Friday, 7:30pm — Tejon Street Corner Thieves and Them Coulee Boys. \$16-\$20. Saturday, 7:30pm — Slim Jim Phantom Trio. \$25-\$30. Sunday, 7:30pm — Koffin Kats and Crazy & The Brains. \$15-\$18.

California Wild Ales OB: Saturday, 2pm — Jefferson Jay.

Cannonball: Thursday, 5pm — Puro Feeling. Tuesday, 5pm — Israel Maldonado.

Casbah: Thursday, 7:30pm — Lead Pony and Ten Bulls. \$10. Friday, 8pm — Michigander. \$15. Sunday, 7:30pm — smells like nirvana and Dead Original. \$23. Monday, 7:30pm — Bobby and The Pins. \$13. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Blair Gun and The Microblades. \$10.

Duck Foot Brewing Company: Friday, 7pm — Amanda Portelo Duo. **Free.** Saturday, 7pm — Adeumazel. **Free.**

Duke’s La Jolla: Friday, 3pm — Orion Song. Sunday, 4pm — Kai Kalama. Tuesday, 4pm — Dalton Gazette.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa: Saturday, 6pm — Farrah Camu.

Tuesday, 6pm — Puro Feeling. Wednesday, 6pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar: Friday, 6pm — Dave Schulz. Saturday, 6pm — David Shyde.

Farmer & the Seahorse: Friday, 4:30pm — TJ Moss. Saturday, 11am — Andrew Pena. Sunday, 11am — Justin Froese.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, Hillcrest: Sunday, 5pm — SD Children’s Intermediate & Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choirs. **Free.**

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

House of Blues: Thursday, 7:30pm — Colony House and Little Image. \$27-\$44. Friday, 7:30pm — Eric Bellinger. \$20. Saturday, 7:30pm — Dirt Monkey & Jantsen. \$25-\$75. Wednesday, 7pm — The Lagoons. \$20.

Humble Heart: Friday, 7pm — Someday Bloom, Getaway 95, Sweet Myths. \$10.

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

Kava Lounge: Wednesday, 8pm — Brooks Nielsen.

L’Auberge Del Mar: Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde. Saturday, 7pm — Johnny Martin. Sunday, 11am — Rachel Jay.

La Jolla Community Center: Tuesday, 6pm — Jacquelyne Silver: They’re Playing Our Song. \$20-\$80.

La Valencia Hotel: Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow. Saturday, 11am — Perry O’Neal. Saturday, 6pm — Zach Churchill. Sunday, 11am — Jesse Johnson.

Lakehouse Hotel & Resort: Saturday, 4:30pm — Prince Again. \$45.

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center: Thursday, Saturday, & Sunday, 6pm — Indian Music & Dance Festival. \$30-\$40.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort: Friday, 7pm — DevvLov. Saturday, 7pm — Marelle.

Madam Bonnie’s: Thursday, 7pm — Nimbus Jazz. **Free.** Friday, 7pm — Andrea Loraine Quartet. **Free.** Saturday, 7pm — Karlos Paez Trio. \$1-\$100.

Mission Bay Resort: Thursday, 6pm — Jemille Violet. Saturday, 6pm — Jason Hibler. Sunday, 6pm — Farrah Camu. Monday, 6pm — Andrew Peña. Wednesday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.

Mr. Peabody’s Bar & Grill: Friday, 9pm — Custard Pie. Saturday, 9pm — Big Time.

Music Box: Thursday, 7pm — Half Hour Late, Joe Marson, Jaden. \$12. Friday, 7:30pm — Soulfly. \$27. Saturday, 7:30pm — Reggie Watts. \$42. Sunday, 7:30pm — O Berkley, Where Hart Thou.

Nick & G’s: Saturday, 6pm — Lele Rose.

Nicky Rottens: Sunday, 4pm — Top SUNDays. **Free.**

Observatory North Park: Friday, 7pm — Unknown Mortal Orchestra. \$119-\$205. Saturday, 7:30pm — Eddie Zuko. \$47-\$139.

Open Air Theatre: Monday, 7:30pm — Dead Can Dance.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ: Saturday, 7:30pm — Foolish Stories & Songs. \$15-\$18.

Prohibition: Monday, 9pm — Liquid Bricks Jazz Trio.

ReBru Spirits: Saturday, 7:30pm — Drunkard’s Dream Arts & Music Festival. \$30-\$40.

Rustic Root: Tuesday, 4pm — Johnny Martin.

San Diego Marriott Del Mar: Friday, 6pm — Jonny Tarr. **Free.**

Sandbox Pizza: Saturday, 9pm — SeoulFul KPop/KMusic Night. **Free.**

Side Yard: Saturday, 6pm — Matt Aukerman. Wednesday, 6pm — Olivia Rohde.

Soda Bar: Thursday, 7:30pm — Theo Kandel. \$18. Friday, 7:30pm — Thumpasaurus. \$18. Saturday, 7:30pm — The Havnauts and Sam Ritchie. \$12. Sunday, 7:30pm — Xiu Xiu. \$25. Monday, 7:30pm — Band Argument and Loolownigen. \$15. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Emily Nenni. \$18. Wednesday, 7:30pm — Cryogeyser and Kraus. \$18.

Soma: Tuesday, 7pm — Mac Ayres. \$30.

South Carlsbad State Beach Campground: Thursday, 5pm — Lasley and Randolph. Friday, 5pm — Sonic Nectar. **Free.**

Star Theatre: Saturday, 6pm & 8pm — Rock N Lasers. \$30-\$35.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre: Friday, 8pm — Free Fallin. \$29-\$39.

Tidal: Saturday, 5pm — Calli Grace.

Til-Two Club: Friday, 8:30pm — The Wee Beasties and Beta 7.

Union Kitchen & Tap: Sunday, 9pm — It’s Just Noize. **Free.**

Waterbar: Thursday, 4pm — Marcela Mendez.

Waterfront Park: Saturday, 6pm — Boots In The Park. \$129-\$349.

Westfield University Towne Centre: Thursday, 12pm — Ben Benavente.

THE GONZO REPORT

SPIKE STEFFENHAGEN

Trauma in the Sunshine

Sad Silent Comedy doc premieres in Oceanside theater

"Where the fuck is the red carpet?" I think to myself as I mosey into the lobby of the Sunshine Brooks Theater. My ticket for this segment of the Oceanside International Film Festival clearly states, "Opening Night World Premiere Film Event & Red Carpet Reception," and yet the carpet is dark blue and no one is asking me who designed my outfit. For the fashion record: I'm wearing a hoodie with the logo for *True Blood*, the old HBO series. Miffed that I won't be able to deliver my planned pontifications on vampire rights, I decide to focus on my real reason for attending: the premier of the documentary film *I Am Alright: Music, Madness, and the Fall of the Silent Comedy*, an event which

is supposed to include a performance by the titular local band.

I meander around, chatting with other attendees, people like Temecula-based singer Joanna Pearl, who wears black clothing that reminds me of Catwoman, with pearls sewn onto her gloves instead of sharpened claws. (She denies ever using the gloves as mollusk knuckles to hit someone.) I end up chatting with her companion, who will identify himself only as "That British Guy." The music industry knowledge he displays gives him away as an insider, but I respect his desire for anonymity.

I go outside to smoke and see a woman whose nametag identifies her as film director Nicole Emiliana Mendez, and we talk about her entry for the festival. The short film is called *Bad Child*, and addresses Mendez's sexual abuse, a subject made even more intense by her filing charges against her childhood assailant while creating the film. It's not being screened tonight, but she shares a viewing copy with me. (Later, I find it matches the focused resolve and anger I sensed in her voice and eyes when we chatted. It's weaponized trauma.)

Inside the theater, Joshua Zimmerman of the Silent Comedy and director Krista Liney introduce *I*



Alright, alright, alright: Joshua Zimmerman performs at premiere

Am Alright. Zimmerman tells the audience that the film deals with mental health, and that if anyone needs a break, it's alright to step outside. My eyes roll involuntarily at the mention of "trigger warnings," and I internally scoff at the notion of "safe spaces." The film tells a story that is so familiar it has become hackneyed: brothers make music together, more members join, and it catches on, leading to recording contracts and

the challenge to artistic integrity brought on by corporate greed and demands for trend-chasing that threaten to destroy what made the band special to begin with. When the members talk about paying for the recording of their own album while signed to a recording contract, I want to yell at the screen, "Fucking run, dudes!" They all mention a manager, but never reveal the manager's name, which may hint that they are still somehow under the thumb of whoever it is. And then the recordings are played. These aren't songs, they're the voices of Joshua and his brother Jeremiah, captured on a ranch in Texas, where they were paying to make a record.

Footage capturing Joshua in the throes of a mental breakdown was used to prove the gravity of

the situation to their father — to influence him to get help for his son. I step out to piss, but not because I need a break. Still, the decompression washing over me isn't about my bladder. It's a relief from the intensity of the film. Later, when 91X's Lou Niles hosts a Q&A with Joshua and others, an audience member asks if they can ask a question. But there are no questions. Instead, people are sharing their own mental health struggles, thanking the filmmakers, and thanking Joshua.

The Silent Comedy performs shortly after, and it's a triumph when Joshua sings the last song, "I Am Alright." Part of me wants to give the man a hug, but there are too many people around him in the lobby. I chat with That British Guy, wondering who the deliberately unnamed Silent Comedy manager is. He tells me, "It's easy enough to find out, but it doesn't matter. They're all the same." It's a bleak and mostly accurate statement.

Bad Child and *I Am Alright* get nominated for a combined six awards at the festival, with *I Am Alright* winning one for Best Original Score. But art isn't measured by awards; it's measured by how it provokes and moves the audience. With smartass red carpet antics now the furthest thing from my mind, the conversations of departing attendees about mental health and the similarities of all our struggles carry me on a comforting wave to my car. ■

Find The Gonzo Report online at sandiegoreader.com/gonzo

Friday, Apr. 14 — Tyler F. Simmons.

Farmer & the Seahorse:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Gabriele Dagrezio.
Friday, Apr. 7 — Kristi Krause.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Alex Elisabeth.

Sunday, Apr. 9 — TJ Moss.
Thursday, Apr. 13 — Sean McCole.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Danielle Angeloni.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Blaise Guld.

Five Suits Brewing:

Saturday, Apr. 8 — Into The Void. Free.

Grand Ole BBQ Flinn

Springs:
Friday, Apr. 7 — Clinton Davis String Band. Free.

Harry Griffen Regional Park:
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Spring Harp Fest. Free.

Holding Company:

Friday, Apr. 7 — Jonny Tarr Album Release.

House of Blues:

Saturday, Apr. 8 — Steel Panther

and Crobot.

Sunday, Apr. 9 — Felly.
Tuesday, Apr. 11 — Babyface Ray.
Wednesday, Apr. 12 — Pop Evil.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Latrice Royale.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Chelsea Grin and Carnifex.
Monday, Apr. 17 — Pouya with Fat Nick.
Wednesday, Apr. 19 — Felly and Thankgod4cody.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Saturday, Apr. 15 — 3 Car Garage.

Humphreys by the Bay:

Wednesday, Apr. 12 — They Might Be Giants.
Thursday, Apr. 13 — They Might Be Giants.
Monday, Apr. 17 — Christine &

the Queens.

Tuesday, Apr. 18 — FKJ.

Kava Lounge:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Brooks Nielsen.

L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — David Shyde.
Friday, Apr. 7 — Alex Elisabeth.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Jemille Violet.
Friday, Apr. 14 — Marelle.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Jarred Matthew.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Jesse Johnson.

La Jolla Community Center:
Friday, Apr. 11 — Jacquelyne Silver: They're Playing Our Song. \$20-\$80.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Jackie Foster.
Friday, Apr. 7 — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Rachel Jay.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Jonny Tarr.

Sunday, Apr. 9 — Helena Holleran.
Sunday, Apr. 9 — Brian Pierini.
Thursday, Apr. 13 — Brian Pierini.
Friday, Apr. 14 — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Johnny Martin.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Tolan Shaw.

Landings at Carlsbad:

Saturday, Apr. 15 — West of 5. Free.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

Friday, Apr. 7 — Nathan Welden.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Dalton Gazette.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Kekoa.
Friday, Apr. 21 — Farrah Camu.

Madam Bonnie's:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Ghost Jazz Trio. \$1-\$100.
Friday, Apr. 7 — Andrea Loraine Quintet. \$1-\$100.
Thursday, Apr. 13 — DJ & Saxophone Collaboration. \$1-\$100.

Friday, Apr. 14 — Liquid Bricks Classic Jazz Trio. \$1-\$100.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Mar Picao Latin Jazz Fusion. \$1-\$100.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Friday, Apr. 7 — Kenny Metcalf: Elton John Tribute.

Mesa College:

Wednesday, Apr. 12 — Justin Grinnell Jazz Trio. Free.
Monday, Apr. 17 — Jazz in the Courtyard. Free.
Wednesday, Apr. 19 — Dr. Todd Rewoldt. Free.

Mission Bay Resort:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Christian Taylor.

Friday, Apr. 7 — Matt Aukerman.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Lauren Leigh.
Sunday, Apr. 9 — Lele Rose.
Monday, Apr. 10 — Jesse Johnson.
Tuesday, Apr. 11 — Gabriele Dagrezio.
Thursday, Apr. 13 — Blaise Guld.
Friday, Apr. 14 — Mike Myrdal.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Michael LeClerc.
Monday, Apr. 17 — Ben Powell.
Tuesday, Apr. 18 — Helena Holleran.
Wednesday, Apr. 19 — Jemille Violet.

Moonshine Beach:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Kylie Morgan. \$15-\$20.

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Friday, Apr. 7 — Johnny Martin.
Friday, Apr. 14 — Christian Taylor.

Music Box:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — X. \$40.
Friday, Apr. 7 — Mustache Harbor.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — SunSquabi.
Thursday, Apr. 13 — Bumpin Ugles and Kyle Smith.
Friday, Apr. 14 — Anesthesia.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Health and Author & Punisher.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Drew Zingg & Tom Scott: Music of Steely Dan.

Navajo Live:

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

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Saturday, Apr. 15 — Spiritbox.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Murder City Devils.
Monday, Apr. 17 — Jxdn and Beauty School Dropout.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
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Monday, Apr. 10 — Muse.

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Saturday, Apr. 8 — Kodak Black and NLE Choppa.
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Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
Saturday, Apr. 8 — ABBA-Mania.

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Monday, Apr. 17 — Liquid Bricks Jazz Trio.

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Monday, Apr. 10 — Keshi.

Rustic Root:
Tuesday, Apr. 11 — David Shyde.
Tuesday, Apr. 18 — Tolan Shaw.

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

San Diego Civic Theatre:
Thursday, Apr. 6 — Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott. \$40.

San Diego Marriott Del Mar:
Friday, Apr. 7 — Christian Taylor.

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

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Lori Bell Jazz Trio. Free.

Seabird:
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Keni Yarbro.

Seven Grand:
Wednesday, Apr. 12 — Amy Annelles.

Side Yard:
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Mike Myrdal.
Wednesday, Apr. 12 — Blaise Guld.
Wednesday, Apr. 19 — Andrew Peña.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Modern-day Mozart's new musical

Like many classical music fans, I was introduced to Alma Deutscher several years ago via a *60 Minutes* report. I was struck by her musicianship and her devotion to creating melodies. I have lamented long and hard about the demise of melody in modern classical compositions. In Alma Deutscher, I saw the champion that melody needed. On March 4, her new operatic musical premiered. I am happy to report that Alma has evolved into an 18-year-old paladin for melody.

For those not familiar with Alma, she is, in many ways, Mozart reincarnated as a precocious British girl. She plays the violin and piano at a concert

level — like Mozart. She has composed a concerto for each instrument and performs them herself. She improvises like Mozart. And now, like Mozart, she has moved to Vienna.

In 2019, she debuted to a sold-out audience at Carnegie Hall. The concert was dedicated to her compositions, and it was a resounding success. (Her *Waltz of the Sirens* from that concert is available on YouTube, and I found it to be a revelation.) Before the performance, Alma explained that she's been told that melody and beautiful harmonies are not acceptable in serious classical music because "in the 21st Century, music must reflect the ugliness of the modern world. In this

waltz, instead of trying to make my music artificially ugly...I went in exactly the opposite direction. I took some ugly sounds from the modern world and I tried to turn them into something more beautiful, through music."

Is there a better definition of the role of art in society? An artist takes the ugliness of the world and transforms it into something sublime and beautiful. I was always under the impression that one of classical music's primary roles was to show the potential beauty of the world. Alma's *Waltz of the Sirens* does just that.

The musical that premiered in Vienna on March 4 is called *The Emperor's*



The champion that melody needed: Alma Deutscher at Carnegie Hall.

New Waltz. In it, Alma draws parallels between the function of classical melodies and popular tunes. The villain of the piece is a musical academic who pushes ugly modern classical music. In this, she is also like Mozart. Mozart had a cultural axe to grind and grind, it he did in both *Don Giovanni* and *The*

Marriage of Figaro. Alma is doing the same thing. She has identified her cultural issue and is making her case with her music — and it's not an abstract issue, such as global warming. Rather, it's one with which she is intimately involved, and her heart is in it — and that's the seed of something great.

Classical Music this week

SD Civic Youth Ballet: Midsummer Night's Dream

This concert will present a short advance of San Diego Civic Youth Ballets' rendition of William Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The SDCYB presentation will be an abbreviated version of the full performance, directed

by SDCYB Artistic Director Danika Pramik-Holdaway, preceding its show run at the Casa del Prado Theatre, April 6-8. Following the preview, San Diego Civic Organist Raúl Prieto Ramirez will perform premier Mendelssohn selections. Sunday, April 2, 2pm; **free**. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado.

San Diego Opera: Tosca

Tosca is Giacomo Puccini's gripping drama filled with torture, treachery, lust, execution, and suicide. Soaring and sensuous, filled with such beautiful arias as *Tosca's* "Vissi d'arte", Cavaradossi's "Recondita armonia" and the

powerful choral piece "Te Deum", *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. Friday, March 31, 7:30pm; Sunday, April 2, 2pm; \$13-\$240. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Soda Bar:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Two Another. \$27.
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Tidal:

Saturday, Apr. 8 — Joanna Gerolaga.

Til-Two Club:

Wednesday, Apr. 12 — Funky Thigh Collectors.

Tio Leo's:

Friday, Apr. 7 — 3 Car Garage.

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Saturday, Apr. 8 — David Shyde.

VYBZ Nightclub :

Thursday, Apr. 6 — The Industry TakeOver. \$20-\$75.

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Thursday, Apr. 13 — Puro Feeling.

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Saturday, Apr. 8 — Jackie Foster.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Blu Gruv.
Thursday, Apr. 20 — Ben Benavente.
Friday, Apr. 14 — Olivia Rohde.
Sunday, Apr. 16 — Blu Gruv.
Thursday, Apr. 20 — Ben Benavente.
Friday, Apr. 21 — Jesse Johnson.
Saturday, Apr. 22 — Mike Myrdal.

Whistle Stop Bar:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — Torpedo.
Wednesday, Apr. 19 — Night Beats.

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, Apr. 6 — King Margo and Gabe Lee. \$10-\$12.
Saturday, Apr. 8 — Eggy. \$12-\$15.
Thursday, Apr. 13 — Bill & Jillian Nershi featuring Jason Hann. \$25.
Friday, Apr. 14 — SD Music Awards Showcase. \$10.
Saturday, Apr. 15 — Indubious and Sierra Marin. \$15.

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Lyrical Literacy

A writer reads rock 'n roll

[Editor's note: This is a condensed version of an article by Alexander Theroux that originally ran in the Reader on July 20, 1995, titled *The Grammar of Rock 'n Roll*.]

Rock 'n' roll music, any old way you choose it, is one of the things I know I'll most miss when I'm on my way out. I love it, and have from the beginning, even its attractive imbecilities. I tended to concentrate on the lyrics, which I more or less took as a form of reading. I didn't mind nonsense. There was no end to it, but deliberate lunacies often made a song what it was. What I particularly enjoyed — even found myself listening for over the years — were certain phrases and squibs in various songs, usually hip, that compiling in my mind could be read as a documentary of slang (and somehow paraliteracy's) progress, if not in modern America, then at least in my high school and among my friends. *Evangeline* and "The Highwayman" were poetry. This was real life.

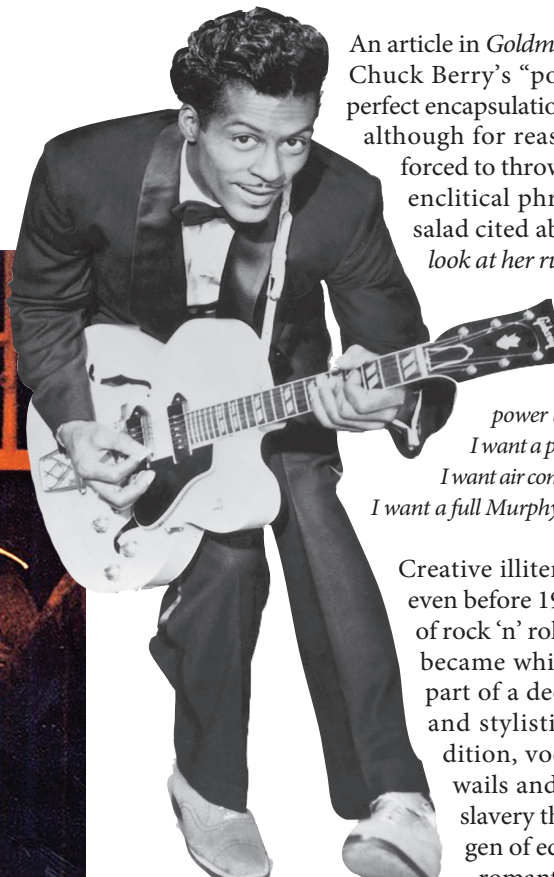
I remember, for instance, deliberating what Chuck Berry meant us to understand in the song "School Days" when he sang:

Back in the classroom, open your books.

Cheat, but the teacher don't know I mean she looks.



The author on Chuck Berry. "He had no education. Why would that matter? Many great songwriters hadn't. But he wasn't lazy, never repeated pronouns, and always looked for the identifiable and, above all, concrete detail."



An article in *Goldmine* (January 29, 1988) cites Chuck Berry's "powerful facility for letter-perfect encapsulation," which is generally true, although for reasons of rhyme he is often forced to throw in not only the odd semi-enclitical phrase, such as in the word-salad cited above or the line "watch her look at her run, boys" in "School Days," but, as in the song "No Money Down," even to reverse them:

*I want power steering and power brakes,
I want a powerful motor with a jet-off take,
I want air conditioning, I want automatic heat,
I want a full Murphy bed in my back seat.*

Creative illiteracy, of course, goes back even before 1945, to the very beginnings of rock 'n' roll — long before pop music became whitened and mechanized... part of a deep and heartfelt, soulfully and stylistically undiluted fold tradition, vocal harmonies and gentle wails and shouted blues, born of a slavery that prevented even a smidgen of education for 400 years. The romantics among us — or is it the romantic in each of us? — will add that certain phrases can be properly turned only in a moment of true inspiration, when we have



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- Or find the contact the closest center to you, using ClinicalTrials.gov (Study NCT05217628)
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lost our self-consciousness and calculating natures, and thereby can express our authentic selves.

A whole vocabulary — in one sense, an entire language — has come from such music and the pioneering black radio stations (like WERD in Atlanta, WYLD in New Orleans, WLOU in Louisville, WDIA in Memphis, known throughout the South as the “Mother Station of the Negroes,” etc.) that in the late ’40s and ’50s pushed and played it, and consequently we’ve been left a lovely great catalogue of finger-poppin’ R&B words like hincty, zoo-zoos, whuppin’, juice-head, poontang, hamfat, gleeby, mogatin’, motorvatin’, lickin’ stick, jelly roll, scronch, poppa-stoppa, dicty, spo-dee-o-dee, good booty, shag on down, and meekin’. (“Funky” can’t legitimately be listed. Charles Dickens was the first to use the word in *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*.)

Chuck Berry’s lyrics, charming, and naïve, represent a certain primitivism (what Richard Goldstein in *The Poetry of Rock* calls “accidental art”), particularly in his innocent notion that poetry should rhyme and that all rhythmic spaces should be filled, even if filling them necessitates juggling words or even the creation of new ones. Berry’s work is expressed as functional, resulting in, because born of, simplicity. In “Too Much Monkey Business,” for example, every verse rhymes, and when words cannot fill the existing spaces, the artist fills them with a flexible “aah,” which concludes each verse change each

time it is verbalized. In one case, it implies a sigh of disgust, and in another, a type of sullen indignation. The language of Berry’s verses may or ordinary, but he employs it naturally and without phony attitudinizing. He had no education. Why would that matter? Many great songwriters hadn’t. But he wasn’t lazy, never repeated pronouns, and always looked for the identifiable and, above all, concrete detail. “*The coolerator was crammed with TV dinners and ginger ale.*”

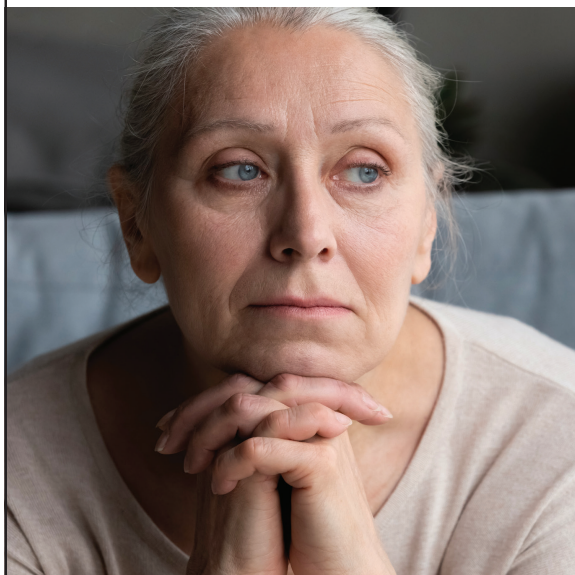
It was modish, especially in the latitudinarian ’60s, to speak of the lyrics of rock as “poetry.” And to a degree, a certain few lyrics — quixotic, inventive, careening, or reflectively lyrical — came sufficiently close. We tend to listen to lyrics,

ponder the words, heed and harken to their advice. “And rock is also educational,” said Frank Zappa. “How to ask a girl for a date, what love is like.” And oh the deep, wide, far-ranging questions we faced, from Jimmy Clanton’s “What am I gonna do on Saturday night?” to Jimi Hendrix’s “Have you ever been experienced?” Do you wanna dance? Am I blue? Will you still love me tomorrow?

It was all somehow deeply important to me: all that music, all those lyrics. I’ll take a moment here to mention that I still don’t know what a “beguine” is or have the foggiest idea what happens when one begins. And as for the word “bromidic,” as in the Rodgers and Hammerstein lyric “I’m in Love with a Wonderful Guy” from *South Pa-*



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cific, “I’m bromidic and bright as a moon / Happy night pouring light on the dew” — bromidic? — I can honestly say after a lifetime of reading, even with a special interest in words, I might add, I have never once come across that word any other time or in any other context, even studying chemistry. I might add that it doesn’t make an appearance in *Webster’s International Dictionary* (Second Edition), one of the most comprehensive dictionaries in the world.

There is, of course, such a thing as poetic license. No, it shouldn’t be “Love me Tenderly” or “All Shaken Up.” The song “Is You Is or Is You Ain’t My Baby?” is exactly as it should be. *Vox populi*. Same with Wilbert Harrison’s “I’m gonna be stand on the corner/Twelfth Street and Vine” and Sam the Sham’s oxymoronic “I don’t think little big girls should / go walkin’ in these spooky old woods alone.” The kind of hip jargon and flip soulfulness that as part of the cool aesthetic allows for Wilson Pickett to say, “Yes I is” and Little Richard to

sing, “I ain’t never,” language that grows from inner cultivation, popular life, is a far different thing from the artless boobery and almost malicious stupidity in a pop lyric that actually robs it of style — flat and unedited pretensions that provoke laughter rather than create mood. And there remains one of the major distinctions in rock lyrics.

Paul McCartney, in his song, “Live and Let Die,” possibly gave us the greatest one-line tautology of the 20th Century, “...in this ever-changing world in which we live in.” Redundancy in popular music, which shouldn’t be confused with repetition, is not only one of its most glaring faults, but to my mind almost always less a problem of haste than haplessness. It is invariably the result of some poor dweeb sitting down and trying to “fill” a line for rhythm the way old linotypists used slugs of lead, and often with much the same result, such as Junior Walker’s “What does it take to win your love for me?” or the Beach Boys with that line in “Surfer Girl” that goes, “And so I

say from me to you.”

Should we really be surprised to learn that Cole Porter himself once advised Jesse Stone, one of Atlantic Records’ guiding lights — and author of the Drifters’ “Money Honey,” Joe Turner’s “Shake, Rattle, and Roll,” and the Clovers’ “Your Cash Ain’t Nothin’ but Trash” — to purchase a rhyming dictionary, noting, “If you’re going to dig a ditch, you use a shovel, don’t you?”

The lyric tradition in America has long since gone by, according to Gene Lees in his book *Singers and the Song*: he believes it was destroyed by Elvis and the Beatles. No one, in his view, can write lyrics without knowing and revering the language, the crooning tonalities of its vowels, its aptitude for rhyme, its emotional vocabulary, the variety of its accents. And even if one thinks Lees is exaggerating or is unfair, a good case could be made for the prosecution. Not only were lyrics once an integral part of music, and keenly listened to, they were *read*. It mustn’t be

forgotten that the record industry began as a stepchild of the sheet-music business. Popular tunes, prior to World War I, were consumed primarily through that medium. And yet it seems that with a new sort of leveling we’ve gotten further and further away from the notion of that integrity.

There is a list of howlers in popular music so long, clunkers of such scope and magnitude committed so often — but usually in songs of the Suzie-Is-the-Girl-for-Me school, a waste of shellac, invariably loping along after all those C, A minor, F, and G chords — that one has to wonder whether the composers were merely in a rush, simply had no talent, or were just plain dumb. Half the time, it’s as if, when facing the problem of trying to decide between rhyme and reason, they in fact chose neither.

Such shoddiness — shamelessness, really — didn’t always fly. For example, in the original recording of Nat “King” Cole’s version of “The Christmas Song,” he sang the last line of

the bridge, “To see if reindeer really know / How to fly.” After the first pressings were released and the song became a hit, Mel Tormé, who cowrote the song, pointed out to Cole his grammatical error. Cole, a perfectionist, quickly re-recorded the song, properly singing “reindeer.” The second version is virtually identical to the first, but those early first pressings have since become collector’s items.

Folksinger Bob Dylan, troubadour of the ’60s and nonconformist (“Everybody must get stoned”), to my mind underscores the truth of the theory advanced in Fyodor Tyutchev’s most famous poem “Silentium.” One should hide one’s thoughts in silence, since verbalization cheapens or simplifies them. Dylan sings in “Just Like Tom Thumb’s Blues”:

*If you’re looking to get silly,
You’d better go back to from
where you came*

The line, at least to me, becomes the lyrical equivalent in music of having webbed feet.

Dylan’s lyrics are often so subjective and in-

accessible and privately symbolic as to be almost totally meaningless, like the dim and unrelenting verses of Simon and Garfunkel, who, having developed formidable defenses against logic at a very early age, somehow manage to mix and mingle bombast, bathos, an platitude in equal measure all at once. But whether it’s “Sad-Eyed Lady of the Lowlands” or “The Sounds of Silence,” “I Pity the Poor Immigrant” or “Mother and Child Reunion,” the irrational jabber in such songs never fails to remind us that while almost a moral fault, incompetence in bad lyrics does more to confuse than provoke. What allegorical interpretation, for example, can give meaning to that hopeless concatenation of images evoking the thief, the joker, the wildcat, and the watchtower in Dylan’s “All Along the Watchtower”? Or to Mrs. Robinson’s connection to cupcakes and Joltin’ Joe? Or to Reid and Brooker’s “Whiter Shade of Pale” with its pretentious muddle of allusions to playing

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cards, Chaucer's "Miller's Tale," and roman vestals? Can anyone say what's going on?

Overwriting is of course a major hobble with a lot of songwriters. Da Vinci once said that it took two artists to do a painting, one to do the painting the other to take the brush away. Great turgid songs full of mixed metaphors and incomprehensible allusions, like "MacArthur Park," "The Windmills of Your Mind," "I Am a Rock," etc., always tend to sound far worse with all their heavy-footedness than those, say, with the opposite problem, as for example, "On the Wings of Love," "People," or (raised claws) "Feelings." Strange to say, perhaps, but the best lyrics are often the ones, it seems to me, that are the plainest, or, better, simply don't try to say more than the slim frame of rhythm or melody can contain.

Lennon and McCartney's early lyrics, like "All My Lovin'" "Please Please Me," and "I Feel Fine," for example, are thin and conventional, but are nevertheless quite effective. The

boys' early success, in an opinion of Philip Larkin's which I share, "was displaced by surreal lyrics, mystic orientalia, peace messages, and anti-American outbursts. The trouble was that as surrealists, mystics, or political thinkers, the Beatles were rather ordinary young men again. Their fans stayed with them, and the nuttier intelligentsia, but they lost the typists in the Cavern."

As Ezra Pound noted in his *ABC of Reading*, "Incompetence will show in the use of too many words." A popular defense of such stuff, of course, the notion commonly advanced, that it is the best way to express the disintegration of modern civilization — Lennon, Springsteen, Joni Mitchell, Joan Baez, and Dylan all have made noises in that direction — is what critic Yvor Winters calls "the fallacy of expressive form." The irony is that, more often than not, it's a virulent form of anti-intellectualism. It's big on nature mysticism. "We learned more from a three-minute record, baby / than we ever learned in

school," sings The Boss in his song "No Surrender." And what better proof could be offered than the following bit of *haemorrhagia purpura*, wherein he proceeds to prove it:

Madmen drummers bummers and Indians in the summer with a teenage diplomat

In the dumps with the mumps as the adolescent pumps his way into his hat

There are no doubt those who think grammar isn't important. But it's not true. "This reception has meant much to Mrs. Willkie and I," said candidate Wendell Willkie, an ungrammatical gaffe that cost him tens of thousands of votes and, some say, the election. Good writing is an assault on cliché, bending language in order to give it new force. What's remarkable is that the vast number of barbarisms in pop music that are so obviously bad could be so easily rectified. The bad grammar, that is. The other things — the bathos, windy splurging, anemia, and bombinating, the obstipation, the inability to hold the key



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of inspiration — are another matter entirely.

There are more lyrical offenses against grammar than can possibly be counted. In her 1989 hit “Straight Up,” for instance, Paula Abdul (and her songwriter) badly abuse the technique of enjambment by singing “...are you really hot for me / or am I just another page in your history / book?” with the last, insufficiently integrated word falling off the line like a steaming turd from a cart horse. Paul Anka’s fatuous and overblown composition “My Way,” virtually the signature song of both Sinatra and Elvis Presley, each of whom presents it, by the way, as if he were singing the *Stabat Mater*, also has the multiple distinction, for all the solemnity it appropriates, of offering not only one of the most

repulsive lines ever put down on paper (“I ate it up and spit it out”), but also surely one of the most fat-witted solecisms in the history of popular music:

*Regrets, I've had a few,
But then again, too few to mention.
I did what I had to do,
And so it proved without exemption.*

Exemption? *Exemption?* Paul Anka, who has always seemed to be verifiable proof that the average human head needs something removed from it rather than something inserted, means “exception,” of course — “exemption” means “immunity, freedom from charge or burden” — but the words are pages apart in the dictionary, he badly needed a rhyme, and, in the Age of Shoddy, anything goes. Who knows,

maybe that’s one of his few regrets. One of mine is he doesn’t have more. No, I’m not asking for High Seriousness. Nor am I asking for classicism, symmetry, or the Aristotelian “unities.” I’m asking only for a workman’s true art.

It may legitimately be asked whether popular music is in constant need of rebarbarization, as Max Lerner once said literature was. A case could be made, I suppose. It is the nature of pop music to be rebellious, and, among its practitioners, not only acceptable but even required. And while mistakes of the more pronounced sort do have (as Henry James once said of a musical comedy star) a certain cadaverous charm, one may also be driven to wonder if, um, exemptions repeated enough

won’t become the rule.

It should be pointed out, finally, if not out of fairness, then for the sake of relief, that the lyrical mode not only can be done right, but also done admirably. One of the most brilliant lyricists for me has always been Buck Ram Nash (an unlikely name, but the Lord, as Mailer points out, is a great novelist) who was the manager-songwriter for the Platters. Buck could write metaphor like nobody else, a baroque master unique in rock literature — “*When purple-colored curtains mark the end of day, I’ll see you, my dear, at twilight time,*” and

*Deepening shadows gather
splendor as day is done,
Fingers of night will soon
surrender the setting sun
...*

But what Buck Ram does that very few others do — Dylan Thomas in “Do Not Go Gentle” is another example that pops to mind — is to play, to pun, with the syntax of words. In Chomskian terms, he varies the deep structure of a syntactical element. In “Remember When,” the

title tag introduces many of the lines:

*I loved you then, and I still do,
I can’t remember when I didn’t love you.*

It’s wonderful. The verb’s mood has changed from imperative to indicative, further suspended by the negative of “can’t” (*What! After all this, there’s something the speaker can’t remember?*) which is deliciously reversed by the second negative of “didn’t.” That’s style with sass. Buck Ram Nash double negatives work.

He does another “deep structure shift” in his huge hit “Only You,” where the title tag is used as the grammatical subject in a number of different lines — “Only you can make this change in me,” for example — but concludes by shifting it, almost chiasmus-like, to a predicate nominative, as well as easing it into a cliché, thereby bringing the cliché back from the linguistic dead:

*You’re my dream come true,
my one and only you.*

Simple and unpretentious, yet done with grace and magic, that’s the way

a song should unfold.

I realize this approach to pop music leaves me open to various charges, particularly, that I’m breaking a butterfly upon a wheel. It’s considered reductive to ask intelligence of it and snobbish to seek an altitude of sense, clearly. And in this failed world of ours, there certainly can be found examples of richer and much ampler incompetence. But there is already too much bad taste around, and it’s getting worse. Industry tampers with both nature and art — accepts anything — until one ends up, sadly, preferring prints to paintings, department stores to the Cape Cod dunes. Mine is not a plea for the stunningly mental, merely an attempt, as Nabokov said in another context, “to ensure a dignified beat of the mandarin’s fan.” If you think it’s asking too much, so be it. I say it takes a concerned mind to make an analysis of the obvious; and ungrammaticalness, like the word, while grammatical, is nevertheless ugly.

— Alexander Theroux



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Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 30

LEAD PONY AND TEN BULLS

The founders of dirty blues rock act Lead Pony met while attending art programs at SDSU, later forming a band called Sparrow. The group evolved into its current version in 2017. The bill includes local alt-experimental rockers Ten Bulls (formerly known as Sights & Sages) and Sleepy Pearls, a male-female duo inspired by west coast doo-wop and pop of the '60s and '70s.

WHEN: Thursday, March 30, 7:30 pm

WHERE: The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. casbahmusic.com



LEAD PONY

the obstacle races. Plus, get tips and advice from professionals.

WHEN: Saturday, April 1, 11 am to 7 pm

WHERE: Status Skateshop, 3045 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. statusskateshop.com

PADRES OPENING WEEKEND BLOCK PARTY

Come to the annual

party of all things East Village: local small businesses, live music and entertainment, bites, beer and cocktails, local retail vendors, photo opportunities, family-friendly activities, and a celebration of the San Diego Padres. Local animal rescue, The Animal Pad, will be offering dog adoptions.

WHEN: Saturday, April 1, 10 am to 5 pm

WHERE: J St from 7th to 10th Avenue in front of Petco Park, East Village. eastvillagesandiego.com/block-party



SATURDAY, APRIL 1: OPENING WEEKEND BLOCK PARTY

Sunday | 2

NATIVE SAN DIEGO GARDEN TOUR



See how native plants overcome many of the challenges for San Diego landscaping, such as drought coupled with watering restrictions. These native plants support biodiversity and attract many native pollinator species. The tour showcases over 30 private and public gardens and parks, including one designed by Nan Stermann, KPBS TV host of *A Growing Passion*.

WHEN: Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2, 9 am to 4 pm

WHERE: Sikes Adobe Farmhouse. 12655 Sunset Drive, Escondido. cnpssd.org/native-garden-tour-2023

SAN MARCOS SPRING FLING & STREET FESTIVAL

Join up to 15,000 people at a street fair exploring artisans, crafters, and local

community businesses at more than 200 vendor booths. Children's attractions, games, and carnival rides. Enjoy

a showcase of local talent on the San Marcos Community Stage, and check out the central food court for local

craft beers and wine while listening to San Diego musicians (Jungle Poppins, Surf Kings, Jukebox Junkies, and Bill Magee) at the Rhythm and Brews garden stage.

WHEN: Sunday, April 2, 9 am to 5 pm

WHERE: Along Via Vera

Cruz, San Marcos. chamber.sanmarcoschamber.com



Saturday | 1

SURFSKATE FEST

All levels of surfskaters are invited! Sponsors in attendance with demo boards available include Carver, YOW, Smoothstar, Waterborne, Hamboards, Loaded and SolRide. Over \$1000 in raffle prizes and giveaways are available. Enter the surfskate best run contest or



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

ART

American Sign Language (ASL) Enhanced Tour Tours for deaf or hard of hearing individuals are led by Timken docents who will be accompanied by an ASL interpreter from Palomar College’s ASL-English Translation and Interpreting Studies Program to interpret. Saturday, April 1, 11am; Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Art of the Catholic Reformation (1560-1700) Timken Museum of Art presents a virtual lecture: The term ‘Catholic Counter-Reformation Art’ describes the more stringent, doctrinal style of Christian art developed during the period c.1560-1700. Thursday, March 30, 11am; **free**. timkenmuseum.org/calendar/list/. (ONLINE)

AUTOMOTIVE

Cars & Coffee All cars welcome Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, August 24, **free**. Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

BEER

Craft Cocktails with Fierce & Kind Fierce & Kind Spirits Craft Cocktail Workshop: You’ll learn how to make 3 craft cocktails using Fierce & Kind Straight Bourbon. Small cheese board and 3 sample cocktails included. Friday, March 31, 6pm; \$40. 21 and up. Coronado Tasting Room, 1201 1st Street #101. (CORONADO)

Pure Project: Cellar Sale Barrel-aged bottles from the cellar will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sunday, April 2, 12pm; **free**. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

Rhyme & Verse

Three poems by Harvey Shapiro

Nights

Drunk and weeping. It’s another night at the live-in opera, and I figure it’s going to turn out badly for me. The dead next door accept their salutations, their salted notes, the drawn-out wailing. It’s we the living who must run for cover, meaning me. Mortality’s the ABC of it, and after that comes lechery and lying. And, oh, how to piece together a life from this scandal and confusion, as if the gods were inhabiting us or cohabiting with us, just for the music’s sake.

New York Notes

1. Caught on a side street in heavy traffic, I said to the cabbie, I should have walked. He replied, I should have been a doctor.
2. When can I get on the 11:33 I ask the guy in the information booth at the Atlantic Avenue Station. When they open the doors, he says. I am home among my people.

Oppen

The muffled sea, until you’re at the margin. Fog up and down the beach. Space obliterated, the way it must have been for George—by Alzheimer’s—when we walked from Polk Street where he lived the few blocks to the San Francisco waterfront, and he didn’t know whether he was in China or at sea. At sea, I guess, is what it comes down to, though for most of his life, at sea meant at home to him. He crafted the boats in which he rode out the storms. Needle’s eye was close to where he lived. Then to end that way—compass lost—who knew the materials, built the rough deck.



Harvey Shapiro (1924-2013) was an American poet and editor who wrote twelve books of poems in the course of his career. His style is characterized by a subtle humor and an epigrammatic approach to expressing the experiences of everyday life. He was also an editor at *The New York Times* from 1957 to 2005, mainly

associated with the paper’s magazine and book reviews.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

BOOK SIGNINGS

James M. Zimmerman: The Peking Express Warwick’s will host James M. Zimmerman as he discusses and signs his new book, *The Peking Express: The Bandits Who Stole a Train, Stunned the West, and Broke the Republic of China*. This event is free and open to the public. To ensure seating, pre-order one book per seat @ warwicks.com/event/zimmerman-2023. Tuesday, April 4, 7:30pm; **free**-\$30. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Meet the New San Diego Poet Laureate Celebrate National Poetry Month with San Diego’s new Poet Laureate Jason Magabo Perez, who will read from his books *This is for the mostless* and *I ask about what falls away* and share his love for poetry with the community. Monday, April 3, 6:30pm; **free**. Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library, 215 West Washington. (HILLCREST)

Open Mic Poetry: Joshua Peralta Poets INC (Inland North County) presents Oakland CA poet, author and educator Joshua Peralta, touring in support of his new book *3rd & Orange*, an autobiographical account of the author’s time in Long Beach in the mid- 2000s. Sunday, April 2, 1pm; **free**. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Poet Joshua Peralta Poets INC (Inland North County) present Oakland CA poet, author and educator Joshua Peralta, touring in support of his new book *3rd & Orange*, an autobiographical account of the author’s time in Long Beach in the mid- 2000s. Monday, April 3, 6pm; **free**. Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Weekends with Locals: Penny Payton Weekends with Locals will be hosting Penny Payton, author of *Consciousness is Under the Rubble: A Guide to Unpacking Childhood Trauma and Unleashing Your Inner Power*. Sunday, April 2, 2:30pm; **free**. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Clothing Repair Workshop SD Fixit Clinic is partnering with Sophie founder of Positive Phee to host a Clothing Repair Workshop. Saturday, April 1, 10:30am; **free**. 18 and up. Georgina Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

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 Tax Preparation Clinic The nonprofit Home Start offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. Appointments required via 619-952-7684. Mondays, 1pm; through Monday, April 10, **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Italian for Beginners: 8-Week Course This course gives students the basic tools needed to successfully understand and communicate in Italian. Register at ljcommunitycenter.org/writing-language-classes. Tuesday, April 4, 12:30pm; \$160-\$190. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Master Composter Course Become a Master Composter. Minimize your carbon footprint. Keep food and yard waste out of the landfill to reduce harmful methane gas emissions. Saturday, April 1, 10am; \$25. Surprise Farm Retreat Center, 18892 Old Julian Trail. (RAMONA)

Middle-Eastern Drumming Classes Middle-Eastern Drumming with Frank Lazzaro, all levels welcome. Extra drums available. Mondays, 6pm; through

Monday, December 18, \$15. 18 and up. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Ravioli Cooking Class Learn to make handmade ravioli with bolognese sauce. Tuesday, April 4, 6:30pm; **free**. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

Trauma Healing Series A CIHS Enlighten special 6-week series exploring effective healing techniques In this live trauma healing series over 6 weeks, you will learn the three different types of trauma, the biology of these trauma types, and simple and effective healing techniques for healing each of these three different types of trauma. Tuesdays, 5pm; through Tuesday, April 25, \$399-\$499. California Institute for Human Science, 701 Garden View Court. (ENCINITAS)

WaterSmart Landscape Design Workshop Learn a simple approach to creating a WaterSmart landscape, and the first 50 registered participants receive a complimentary succulent plant. Registration required. Monday, April 3, 5:30pm; **free**. 18 and up. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. (ENCINITAS)

COMEDY

Caleb Synan With James P Connolly opening. Friday, March 31, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, April 1, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Dr. Abby’s Stand Up Comedy Angels Show Wendy Wilkins (headliner), Gina Manning (feature), Pamela Wardrip, Dr Abby November, and host Edna Nerona. Monday, April 3, 6:30pm; \$5-\$80. 21 and up. Athens Market, 109 F Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Kevin James Sunday, April 2, 7:30pm; Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway. (TEMECULA)

Nerd Comedy April Fools Headliner Rob Haze is a comedian from Atlanta, Georgia. Saturday, April 1, 8pm; \$25. Sunshine Brooks Theatre, 217 N. Coast Highway. (OCEANSIDE)

Nick Thune AS SEEN ON: Comedy Central, Conan, Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon & more! Thursday, March 30, 8pm; Friday, March 31, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, April 1, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; **free**. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

One-Year Anniversary Party The evening will feature a variety show featuring all Mockingbird show casts and a party where there will also be opportunities to add your name to the theater as a supporter. Friday, March 31, 7:15pm; \$10-\$25. 18 and up. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

Ryan Davis Who In The Hell Is Ryan Davis Friday, March

31, 7:30pm; \$25-\$55. 18 and up. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth 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 30, 6:30pm; **free**. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Special K & The K-Mart Special Performers include improv duo group K-Mart, featuring Keith Duell and Marty Burtwell. Saturday, April 1, 10pm; \$1-\$15. 21 and up. Finest City Improv, 3746 Sixth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

DANCE

Indian Music & Dance Festival Enjoy vocal and instrumental artists of Indian music along with percussionists, dance ballets, and Carnatic and Hindustani music. Thursday, March 30, 6pm; Saturday, April 1, 6pm; Sunday, April 2, 6pm; \$30-\$40. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Rhythm & Motion Dance Exercise Class A dance-based workout classes for everyone. Your first class is free. Sundays, 9:30am; through Sunday, June 25, **free**-\$15. Dorothea Laub Dance Place Studio, 2650 Truxton Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

SD Civic Youth Ballet: Midsummer Night’s Dream This concert will present a short advance of San Diego Civic Youth Ballets’ rendition of William Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream. The SDCYB presentation will be an abbreviated version of the full performance, directed by SDCYB Artistic Director Danika Pramik-Holdaway, preceding its show run at the Casa del Prado Theatre, April 6-8. Following the preview, San Diego Civic Organist Raúl Prieto Ramirez will perform premier Mendelssohn selections. Sunday, April 2, 2pm; **free**. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Poway Chamber Business Expo & Hiring Event Meet local businesses, Poway Chamber members and hiring employers at the Mickey Cafagna Community Center, Oak Hall. Tuesday, April 4, 5:30pm; **free**. Poway Community Park and Auditorium, 13094 Civic Center Drive. (POWAY)

San Diego Fiverr Freelancer Gathering Monthly gathering to meet sellers and find out more about succeeding on Fiverr. Plus, meet other San Diego freelancers and support each other. Thursday, March 30, 7pm; **free**. 18 and up. Karl Strauss Brewery 4S Ranch, 10448 Reserve Drive. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Tech Industry March Mingle Experience the beating heart of the



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local tech industry at a celebration of all things tech in San Diego. Thursday, March 30, 7pm; \$30-\$40. Prado Ballroom, House of Hospitality, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

EASTER

Easter Eggspress: Egg Quest & Story Time This ticketed before-hours event will immerse children with an egg quest around the museum, special trains running in a Toy Train Gallery, arts & crafts, and story time. Saturday, April 1, 9:30am; Sunday, April 2, 9:30am; **free**-\$20. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

FOOD & DRINK

Elements of Nature Dinner Series Chef Claudette Zepeda explores the four elements – earth, fire, water and air – in both their physical and spiritual forms. Five-course menu and special cocktails highlight local ingredients, ancestral cooking methods and the mystic symbolism of the sun, flame and smoke. Representing light, energy and transformation, connect to your fire within through personal sun sign astrology readings, an intention-setting candle ritual, and soulful live music throughout the evening. Thursday, March 30, 5pm; \$199. 21 and up. VAGA Restaurant & Bar, 2100 North Coast Hwy 101. (ENCINITAS)

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)

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)

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

San Diego Restaurant Week Enjoy 2-course lunch and 3-course dinner menus featuring an outstanding variety of appetizers, entrees and desserts all at special Restaurant Week pricing. Thursday, March 30, 11am; \$25-\$60. George’s at the Cove Ocean Terrace, 1250 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

San Diego Restaurant Week Select one menu item from each course. Thursday, March 30, 5pm; \$60. Desmond, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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San Diego Restaurant Week at Dockside 1953 Enjoy a 3 course meal. Thursday, March 30, 5:30pm; Friday, March 31, 5:30pm; Saturday, April 1, 5:30pm; Sunday, April 2, 5:30pm; \$50. Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

Spring Menu Tasting Event Celebrate new seasonal menu additions with a four-course menu featuring reimagined favorites from past menus and delicious new flavors to kick off the season. Sunday, April 2, 4pm; Monday, April 3, 4pm; Tuesday, April 4, 4pm; \$85. Lazy Dog, 1202 Camino Del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

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

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)



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This Easter, we invite you to the hope and freedom God has for you through life in Jesus. We'll save you a seat!

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Good Friday, April 7
Saturday, April 8
Sunday, April 9

Scan the QR code for service times and information about children's programs.

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FOR KIDS

Crafternoon Come and make crafts every Thursday after school. These crafts are geared toward children ages 6-10. Thursdays, 1pm; through Thursday, May 25, **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Jurassic World: The Exhibition a family-friendly immersive 20,000-square-foot experience. Visitors walk through the world-famous “Jurassic World” gates, explore richly themed environments and encounter life-sized Velociraptors, a Brachiosaurus, and the most fearsome dinosaur of all, the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex. Monday-Sunday, 11am; through Sunday, April 16, Westfield Mission Valley Center, 1640 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

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

Toddler & Preschool Storytime Recommended for ages 2-5, this storytime program includes books, songs, games, and early literacy fun. Thursdays, 10:30am; through Thursday, March 30, **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

FUNDRAISERS

Race for Autism Grab your cape and run or walk through the heart of beautiful Balboa Park in heroic style. 100% of Race donations support San Diego autism programs, services, and hundreds of local classrooms, and help build a more inclusive community. Costumes and strollers welcome. Saturday, April 1, 7:30am; \$20-\$40. Balboa Park, 2500 Balboa Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes b-present Foundation is kicking off Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Awareness Week with Walk a Mile in Their Shoes. Enjoy free yoga and a Sunday stroll in solidarity and in support of young adults with cancer. Sunday, April 2, 10am; **free**. Los Peñasquitos Ranch Adobe, 12122 Canyonside Park Drive. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Walk for Lyme San Diego Bay Area Lyme Foundation and San Diego Lyme Alliance host the annual 5K walk for Lyme and tick-borne disease awareness. Includes t-shirts, live music, booths, tick bite prevention, Lyme education and giveaways. No registration needed. Saturday, April 1, 10am; **free**. De Anza Cove, 3000 N. Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

LECTURES

CreativeMornings: Corruption with Sam Mazzeo A free breakfast lecture series for the

OUTDOORS

May Gray is coming, coastal wildflowers, yuccas blooming

Less Rain, Warmer Temperatures, and Hazier Skies coincide with the subtle onset of San Diego’s spring season. By April’s end, the alternating periods of rainfall and crystal-clear skies we’ve been having will likely be distant memories. The nocturnal, low overcast starting to hug the coast right about now will gradually build into “May Gray” and “June Gloom”— days-long episodes of perpetual overcast that can dog us through the late spring.

The Coastal Wildflower Bloom, a fine one on account of lots of rain and sunshine, will continue through April. One of the best spots for viewing a great variety of flowers is Torrey Pines State Reserve. San Onofre State Beach, just north of Camp Pendleton, should have acres and acres of monkeyflower, in a half-dozen different shades, blooming on the coastal bluffs. On grassy hillsides in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and in Mission Trails Regional Park (especially in the “grasslands” behind the Old Mission Dam),



MOJAVE YUCCA IS A MEMBER OF THE AGAVE FAMILY AND GROWS FROM THE COAST TO THE DESERT, FROM SEA LEVEL TO 8,200 FEET.

NATURE

CNPS San Diego Native Garden Tour See how native plants overcome many of the challenges for San Diego landscaping such as drought coupled with watering restrictions. The tour showcases over 30 private and public gardens and parks. This two-day garden tour will allow you to see gardens in San Marcos and Escondido on April 1 and gardens in Encinitas on April 2. For more information about “Gift-A-Ticket”, student and group discount tickets, contact gardentour@cnpsd.org. Saturday, April 1, 9am; Sunday, April 2, 9am; \$30-\$35. Sikes Adobe Farmhouse, 12655 Sunset Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

El Monte Ecological Preserve Restoration Help clear invasive weeds, downed branches, and watering. Recommend to wear long pants, sturdy, closed-toed shoes, long sleeves, gloves, sunscreen, and bring bring a snack and water. All ages welcome. Saturday, April 1, 9am; **free**. El Monte County

Park, 15805 El Monte Road. (BLOSSOM VALLEY)

Full Moon Hike Full Moon Hikes are for all ages, most hiking levels, and are pet approved. Enjoy San Diego from another point of view and hike to the summit of Iron Mountain during the Full Wolf Moon, with free glow sticks. Wednesday, April 5, 7pm; **free**-\$5. Iron Mountain Trail, 14847-14909 CA-67. (POWAY)

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. Saturday, April 1, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

American Red Cross Blood Drive The need for blood is constant and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. Appointments scheduled online or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Thursday, March 30, 10am; **free**. 18 and up.



CALIFORNIA POPPIES ARE SHADES OF YELLOW OR ORANGE IN THE WILD, BUT GROWERS HAVE THEM IN WHITES AND SHADES OF RED.

you might find carpets of California poppies, purple nightshade, pinkish owl’s clover, blue-colored lupine, and scattered splashes of color from a dozen or more other species of wildflowers. North County residents should check out the huge Daley Ranch preserve in northeast Escondido. Its rolling hillsides and grassy meadows should sport an impressive display of wildflowers by mid-April.

Yuccas of Two Varieties Are in Bloom in San Diego County from now through May. Year after year, the Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) sends up a blunt flower stalk of white, waxy blossoms from the same base -- a rosette of daggerlike leaves. The shimmering white exclamation point that unfolds above “Our Lord’s Candle” (*Yucca whipplei*), on the other hand, is a prelude to the plant’s imminent death. Mojave yucca is widely distributed along San Diego County’s coastal strip and throughout the higher elevations of the Anza-Borrego Desert. Our Lord’s Candle prefers the scrubby coastal foothills and the drier slopes of the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna mountains. The two yuccas coexist with each other in a few areas like Torrey Pines State Reserve and Anza-Borrego’s Culp Valley area.

The above comes from the Outdoors listings in the Reader compiled by Jerry Schadt, author of Afoot & Afield in San Diego County. Schadt died in 2011.

Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Foolish Stories & Songs On April Fools’ Day, San Diego Folk Heritage and the Storytellers of San Diego will co-present a variety show of music, stories, and songs interwoven around a theme of fools and foolishness. Saturday, April 1, 7:30pm; \$15-\$18. Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 2020 Chestnut Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

Friendship Pop Up Shop Market Vendors with candles, crystals, soaps, pet attire, handmade items, home decor and more. Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, December 31, **free**. Chula Vista Friendship Park, Fourth Avenue & F Street. (CHULA VISTA)

Opening Weekend Block Party The East Village Association will be hosting this year’s 11th Annual Opening Weekend Block Party with live music and entertainment, tasty bites, beer and cocktails, local retail vendors, photo opportunities, a variety of fun family-friendly activities, and of course a celebration of East

continued on page 42

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Kiwi coffee talk

Golden Dreams, Mar. 10, 2023

...I think I'm going to like Diane...

*-don cleeve
March 14, 2023*

Indians, dust, and death along the old Butterfield Overland Stage route

Cover Story, Jan. 12, 1984

Hopefully these Reader articles will remain for eons.
*-Stagecoach Aficionado
December 27, 2022*

San Diego's Bottom Scratchers – grandfathers of scuba diving, fathers of skin diving

Cover Story, Mar. 30, 1978

Bill's name was Johnston not Johnson

*-Adjacent to Bill
January 13, 2023*

After 10 years, Gold Coast Drive finally to be fixed

Neighborhood News, Mar. 15, 2021

Gold Coast Drive Road is getting worse. Hoping they can fix the road ASAP

*-Gold Coast Resident
March 12, 2023*

Today, March 16, Dena Marie Vindiola was sentenced to one year summary (unsupervised) probation, plus 10 days community service (must involve animal care), must not possess nor own any dogs during probation period, must stay away from any dog park in San Diego County, and must stay away from the victim/victim's property. This according to Steve Walker, Communications Director, and Special Assistant to San Diego County District Attorney's office.

*-Eva Knott
March 16, 2023*

Mission Beach – good enough the way it was

Cover Story, May 4, 2022

There were a lot of things the writer touched on here. I wish he had mentioned Eddy Foray, who with his brother Larry, lived above

the Coaster Saloon. Eddy used to go downstairs to the market and buy a loaf of bread to conduct what he referred to as 'sunset service,' where all the kids on the boardwalk would join him, feeding the seagulls. The Oats Band played a few concerts in front of Belmont Park to save the Giant Dipper from being torn down—that was something Eddy organized with the local businesses. I spent much of my twenties there in the early 80s—it was a wonderful time—just as Penny Realty started driving the cost of a rental sky high...Thanks for the article.

*-Stephanie Marino
March 25, 2023*

Campland and Mission Bay RV Resort to pull down fences

Neighborhood News, Sept. 14, 2021

Free camping will turn it into a nice homeless camp. What a shame.

*-Tired of it
March 22, 2023*

A lot of families enjoy Campland. Some can't travel far because of fuel costs. It's a family-centered park with a lot of things to do. The beach is not that big, I don't see people flocking here just for that. Good luck on free camping, it will be great for the homeless. People won't bring their kids to that environment. The Police dept will need more manpower, there will be problems. Why take away something that so many families can enjoy. Work out the issues.

*-DBH
March 22, 2023*

The parallels of Beethoven and Goya

Classical Music, May 8, 2020

Goya's name was Francisco: Francisco de Goya y Lucientes. There's a legend telling Francisco and Ludwig were brothers. Something about their father visiting Spain in his youth. Probably an invention, but their heads

look pretty similar.

*-Friend of Francisco
March 24, 2023*

San Diego cracks down on anyone living in his car

Cover Story, Dec. 16, 2020

This is ridiculous;/ People should be allowed to live however they want without causing a problem!!

*-Not a Home owner
March 20, 2023*

De Anza mobile homes pushed out of Mission Bay

Cover Story, Sept. 14, 2011

What great writing about a tragic situation. I looked this up after running by from one of the dolphin statue places. I laughed and cried.

*-Dolphin-phobic
January 12, 2023*

Ten Reasons Why You'd Have to Be Crazy to Live in Borrego Springs

Small Towns of San Diego, Dec. 24, 2003

Born in NJ and 47-year resident of San Diego, this 1st-time visitor to Borrego Springs found this little gem utterly charming. Presently living in Ramona, we know something about toasty summers & the Santa Anas can be destructive. A little remote but it's all relative, right?

*-Bilypadre
March 14, 2023*

What cartoon character used the phrase, "I hate those meeses to pieces?"

Matthew Alice, July 6, 2000

Rock band The Cure slips in a Jinx / Pixie / Dixie reference in the hit song "Lovecats." Listen closely!

*-Huckleberry Cure
February 25, 2023*

The man behind the Lennon conspiracy van

Neighborhood News, Dec. 26, 2012

This lunatic was behind me in line at the San Francisco DMV raving and annoying everyone with that idiocy.

*-Stephen King fan
February 28, 2023*

A FAMILY FRIENDLY GLOBAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER JOSHUA TREE MUSIC FESTIVAL THIS MAY

**21st ANNUAL
JOSHUA TREE
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TROUBLE IN THE STREETS • MIKEY REYES & THE FEELING
SGT SPLENDOR • CORINNE WEST • DJ MAI GIRL • WHISKERMAN
GISELLE WOO & THE NIGHT OWLS • SASS & HARMONY
BOOSTIVE • STEPHEN LEWIS' BIG FUN DUO
MEGAN SLANKARD & THE WRECKAGE
PSYCODELICS • MTN GRL • LISA SANDERS & BROWN SUGAR
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4 DAYS/NIGHTS OF EXCEPTIONAL LIVE
MUSIC, PLUS WORKSHOPS, YOGA,
ART + MORE

Village’s very own San Diego Padres. Saturday, April 1, 10am; **free**. J St from 7th to 10th Avenue in front of Petco Park

San Marcos Spring Fling & Street Festival 31st Annual San Marcos Spring Fling & Street Festival: Celebrate the spring season with a street festival of 200+ local crafters, retailers, nationwide vendors, and two stages with live music and local bands. Sunday, April 2, 9am; **free**. Along Via Vera Cruz

SPORTS & FITNESS

Breathe & Bliss Certified yoga instructor Jaruska Solyova. Wednesday, April 5, 4:40pm; \$15-\$20. La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Garden Yoga & Coffee Yoga hosted at La Jolla Woman’s Club followed by mingling at Orli next door. Saturday, April 1, 9:30am; \$30. La Jolla Woman’s Club, 7791 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

SAN DIEGO WAVE FC VS. NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE Saturday, April 1, 7pm; Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

San Diego Crew Classic The San Diego Crew Classic rowing regatta for juniors, masters, collegiate and para athletes features three days of 2,000 meter racing for rowers of all levels and abilities. Friday, March 31, 3pm; Saturday, April 1, 7am; Sunday, April 2, 7am; **free**-\$99. Crown Point, 3700 Crown Point Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

San Diego Gulls Home Game Wednesday, April 5, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)



Classical Academy High School proudly presents

Guys & Dolls

Hit 1950s Tony award winning musical high school performance.

March 30 – April 2
Thu: 7pm
Fri: 4pm & 7:30pm
Sat: 2pm & 7pm
Sun: 2pm

For TICKETS and information, visit
CAHSPlay.com



Neat: Finding grace in an unlikely place.

THEATER

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

The 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 Vermolay 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, APR. 1, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAY,

APR. 2.

Into the Woods, The Musical

In the Tony Award-winning musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapin, the story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King’s Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. Everyone’s wish is granted, but there are consequences. THEATRE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, 7960 UNIVERSITY AVENUE SUITE 240, LA MESA. 7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APR. 1, 3PM SUNDAY, APR. 2.

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

Kandace Crystal’s performance in Charlayne Woodard’s memoir play feels a little bit like your favorite middle school English teacher reading you one of those spiky, frank Young Adult classics that is also somehow suffused with a deep sweetness and regard for youthful innocence — except, of course, she doesn’t just read it, or even just do the voices of four generations of black women hailing from Georgia and settling in upstate New York. She also moves — moves all over the bare stage, occasionally backed by a primitive projection and often joined by her silent, sinuous storytelling aide Nicole Diaz-Pellot, confidant that her movements through the world she is describing will make the audience see.

The image of the favorite teacher comes to mind because throughout, Crystal seems to be enjoying herself, delighting in her task, even as she relates a story that is tinged with tragedy and sometimes bluntly awful. The title character is her aunt, brain damaged as a baby, in part because the nearest hospital in 1943 Georgia would not treat a colored child. When Woodard is young, Neat is a charmingly overgrown playmate who sometimes has fits and believes that one day, she will fly. When Woodard is a teen, Neat is an embarrassing relation

whose hair and manners strike too close to home. But she is also possessed of the wisdom of the simple: when Woodard tells her about her Jewish friends’ history, she asks, “Who my people is?” and that starts the girl on a quest for knowledge that ultimately ends in an ugly political battle.

So it goes: Neat’s adventures and misadventures serving as a touchstone for Woodard’s own. There is a definite ending, but this is the story of a beginning, a good old-fashioned coming-of-age, full of gritty particularity. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APR. 1, 2PM SUNDAY, APR. 2.

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. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS.

Present Laughter

Celebrate playwright Noël Coward’s legendary wit and larger-than-life persona. Based on Coward himself, actor Garry Essendine is the star of the London theatrical scene at the height of his fame and adored by legions of admirers—perhaps a little too much. Fans regularly throw themselves at Garry’s feet, drawn in by his charm and charisma, throwing his household into chaos. In the week before Garry is set to embark on an African tour, he is forced to juggle a besotted young woman with stars in her eyes, an unhealed young playwright obsessed with being in Garry’s presence, his best friend’s wife who is determined to seduce him, his manager, his producer,

his secretary, his estranged ex-wife, and an impending mid-life crisis. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

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. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Roustabouts Theatre Co: 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 gunplay 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, 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.

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

2PM SUNDAYS.

San Diego Opera: Tosca

Tosca is Giacomo Puccini's gripping drama filled with torture, treachery, lust, execution, and suicide. Scarpia, the chief of police, wants only two things: to recapture the escaped prisoner Angelotti and to seduce Tosca, an opera singer of incredible voice and beauty. Tosca is in love with Cavaradossi, an artist and sympathizer of Angelotti. After arresting Cavaradossi for harboring Angelotti, Scarpia plays with Tosca's emotions, promising to free Cavaradossi if Tosca will succumb to Scarpia's desires. But Tosca has a plan of her own, all of which unfolds with tragic consequences from which no one can escape. Soaring and sensuous, filled with such beautiful arias as Tosca's "Vissi d'arte," Cavaradossi's "Recondita armonia" and the powerful choral piece "Te Deum," 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.

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. 7:30PM FRIDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, APR. 2.

The Savannah Sipping Society

Four Southern women are drawn together by Fate — and an impromptu happy hour — and discover they all need to create some excitement in their lives.

POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAYS & 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

Swarm — Swarm is an extremely, thinly veiled story about a Beyoncé "BeyHive" member taking things to psychotic new levels. Anyone who follows the Queen Bey (like me) will recognize the references to real-life moments from her music career. Anyone who doesn't, will rejoice in poking fun at the crazy fans... and then maybe sleep with one eye

open. The fact that it was created by Donald Glover gives it serious clout and makes it more than just some wack-a-doodle story, but one with actual psychological complexity. (2023) — A.T. (AMAZON PRIME)

Love Is Blind — It's back, baby! The 4th season started for Love Is Blind, another wonderfully cheesy reality romance show. This one is about people dating and proposing without ever seeing each other, then deciding whether or not to go through with it at the altar. I'm all in, even though the experiment has proven nearly 0% successful. I'm truly grateful for all these people who are willing to put their love lives on blast, so I can pick it apart. It's a fun, dumb watch, but the best part is honestly chatting with my friends about every episode as the drama unfolds. (2020-2023) — 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 banged during their separation ("I had needs!"). Still more off-put when a sweet lil' alien keeps asking about people's holes — their number, uses, and emanations. Sorry for the Bad Bitch whose 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/retying 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 invincible. (2023) — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)



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PERSONALS

ALI BABA I'm moving to Timbuktu.

ANTON IS THE Daguerreo-type master.

BEULAH, FREE WOOD... who does that?

COFFEE, TEA OR ME, Sir Richard? You're too sweet for sugar.

CONNER Super dapper man.

DEAREST BLAKE I'm doing great.

DEAREST KATHERINE Frank is a lying, cheating, no-good scoundrel. He got me pregnant and ran off!

DEAREST PHILLIP S. Missed you in Fiji, still waiting on you @ the Isle of Capri!

DEAR JOHN You do you, Boo!

DOPPELGÄNGER ALERT Have you been stuck in the bottleneck 163 on-ramp, and spotted a person who looks exactly like you? Beware. (619) 781-2431

GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE God lets us know in many ways that we are loved.

JOHNNY B Oh, I dont knooow.

ON YOUR MARK, get set and go now, got a dream let's crush it! April showers bring May flowers!

THERE'S A LADY who's sure all that glitters is nature's first green is gold.

YOU HANDSOME DEVIL YOU! Put on your best shoes and dance the blues!

TO FRANK Bro, I've been wanting to be Frank with Katherine for awhile. So, you say you're in some kind of void...Hmmm...

TO GMAN That could not have been easy. You must be tough. And I believe God has something in mind for you...

WE ALSO LIVE IN A TIME where controversy equals wise men and fools, and the fools know it...

IF YOU EXPERIENCED paranormal activity after visiting Madame Tingley's house in Point Loma, you may be entitled to compensation. (619) 781-2431

DEAR JOE This time last year we shared corned beef & a Lucky Charms milkshake at Rudford'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 & health. With love.

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

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

THE FIRST THING THAT EXISTED had no beginning or created itself from nothing or Jesus said "I am the beginning..." Revelation 22:13

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

NOTICES

ADHD MEETUP GROUP Stop isolating because of the exhaustion of masking. You are not alone! Let's be weird and awesome together. Email the address provided for more meetup information. All diagnosed or undiagnosed ADHD/Autism welcome. foggyfisherman-films@gmail.com

BACKROAD BANDITS RIDING CLUB BackRoad Bandits Riding Club has filed a fictitious business name (DBA) in San Diego County. (330) 307-1204 / backroadbandits619@gmail.com

CHESS PLAYERS welcome at the City of Carlsbad Senior Center. 799 Pine Ave room 15, North Wing, each Tuesday 1-4pm. Play is casual and non-rated. There are no fees or reservations; participants must be at least 50 years of age. 1-442-339-2650 for additional information.

MASSEUSE NEEDED: PHANTOM LIMB Since losing my leg at sea, I have suffered from "phantom leg syndrome." I feel constant soreness in the missing limb. Can you massage it? HolyGhostStories@gmail.com

FINE RIDES & FRIENDS CAR SHOW June 25th, 2023 1 PM to 5pm. Location: Pacific Islander Beer Company 8665 Argent St. Santee, CA 92071 RSVP (619) 253-0524.

DONATIONS FOR VETS AND DISABLED Vietnam veterans and disabled adults are in need of donations of the following: A lift chair, scooter, electrical hospital bed, a complete bedroom set, big screen TV. Any help would be appreciated.

Please call (619) 488-0822. God bless America.

HERPES AND HPV SUPPORT GROUP 2nd Thursday every month at 7 pm. Balboa Park's Casa Del Prado, Room 104, BYOBeverage. We'll provide Bronx Pizza, come get some, support, strength and hope.

READER TACOTOPIA 2023 Join the San Diego Reader in our continued search to find the best taco at the 7th Annual Reader Tacotopia in Golden Hill Park on Saturday, May 6th, 2023. Try signature tacos from local restaurants and vendors in San Diego, TJ and LA as they compete to win the "Best Taco" award. Curated exclusively by our food writers, this event brings together the very best taco vendors and you decide who will ultimately win. ReaderTacotopia.com

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CORONADO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH seeks new members service. Great congregation. Great people come worship with us. 111 Orange Avenue Coronado California. God bless.

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YOUR OPINION Should human beings have the legal right to marry animals, even wild ones? The Center for Applied Critical Thinking CACT (619) 428-1274.

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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 hands-on, quality projects

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

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ROOM FOR RENT (619) 869-5814 / kimae2018@outlook.com

TWO ROOMS & BATHROOM: \$1200 Two rooms with Jack and Jill bathroom (12x10 each room) to one person preferably women. 4 bedroom house close to Otay Ranch Mall, Utilities included (electric, gas, water, garbage and internet). More info. (619) 846- 1177 / yarin5515@gmail.com

MATURE GAL SEEKS ROOM TRADE!!! Looking to find a roof over my head before April! I don't have any. addition issues + I'm drama free & need the same in roommates. I'm clean, tidy, quiet, real, respectful & nice. No pets or kids but I love 'em. Hoping to trade domestic chores 4 rent! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

SENIOR MALE looking for a room to rent. Have references Brad (619) 577-2356.

PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVER AND SERVICE KITTY seeking room to rent. Will cook, clean, laundry, yard work, plus pay up to \$500 rent for a one bedroom, private bath negotiable, parking. Please call Michelle, (619) 228-5843.

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INDEPENDENT LIVING Room for rent. Quiet. Nice view home. Shared room \$800, single occupancy \$1200, possible couple \$1400. Wi-Fi, Meals. La Mesa (619) 750-4447. A place to call home.

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ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY Samsung Semiconductor, Inc. has openings in San Diego, CA for the following positions: Senior Staff Engineer (E75): Define requirements for new features with the customers. Design efficient pipelines that implement image and video processing algorithms. \$224,400 to \$235,170 is the annual salary range for this position & salary will depend on knowledge, skills, experience, education and training; and Staff Software Development Engineer (E77): Perform research and performance analysis on datacenter storage centric networks and systems. \$155,397 to \$197,730 is the annual salary range for this position & salary will depend on knowledge, skills, experience, education and training. For all positions listed, information regarding benefits/total reward package can be found at www.samsung.com/us/careers/benefits/. Please ref. job code and send resume to

Samsung, Attn: ADC, 3655 N First Street, San Jose, CA 95134, or send to. hrmobility@ssi.samsung.com.

LOGISTICIAN sought by a company actively engaged in importing and exporting goods. Worksite: San Diego, CA. Salary: \$36.09 per hr. 40 hrs. weekly. Master degree in Business Administration or, Finance or other closely related req + 24 months' work exp, in same job or, any other closely related in same industry. Mail resume with cover sheet to: Global Ally Customs Brokers, 7577 Airway Road, Suite # 106, San Diego, CA 92154. Attn: Company President.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER Becton, Dickinson and Company seeks a Senior Software Engineer in San Diego, CA to design, code and test software features and functions. Reqs. BS+5 yrs. exp. Salary range for position: \$126,341- 159,300. To apply mail resume to Becton, Dickinson and Company, Attn: Debbie Tucker, 3750 Torrey View Ct. San Diego, California 92130. Must reference Job Title & Job Code: 000030.

FEMALE CAREGIVER NEEDED Retired elderly man with minor mobility restrictions is seeking assistance. with his daily routine. Position requires to open SD IHSS account. \$25/hr 15 hr/week. Rancho Bernardo. Ad is not for unsolicited services or offers. (858) 360-0388 text.

PET SITTER NEEDED Looking for a reliable pet sitter and walker for my dogs while I am at work pay is \$30/hr. Email me on arincobb023@outlook.com for more details. arincobb023@gmail.com

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SPECIAL SERVICES WORKER Provides routine and non-routine labor associated with daily support of conference and special events, moving. Basic assembly and disassembly of furniture. apptkr.com/3988324

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

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THE PLYMOUTH CENTER We provide tools, resources, and a supportive environment to facilitate positive changes in our client's lives. plymouthbehavioralhealth.com/ (508) 830-0012 / zolo-parkaer@gmail.com

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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

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

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JOBS WANTED

GAL 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. House/sitting, housekeeping, etc are good also! I'm reliable, respectful, responsible & real! Thank you. sandiego-lady13@gmail.com

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

WANTED / TRADE

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

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.

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an edible labyrinth to feed folks in need creating a sanctuary for the community to enjoy & learn from. If you own the land, this senior gal will manage all, supplying fencing, irrigation parts & more. YouGoFarmGal@gmail.com

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

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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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NEED MONEY? I will pay cash for your old comic books. Mark, (619) 933-6275.

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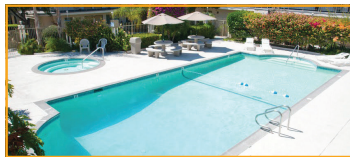
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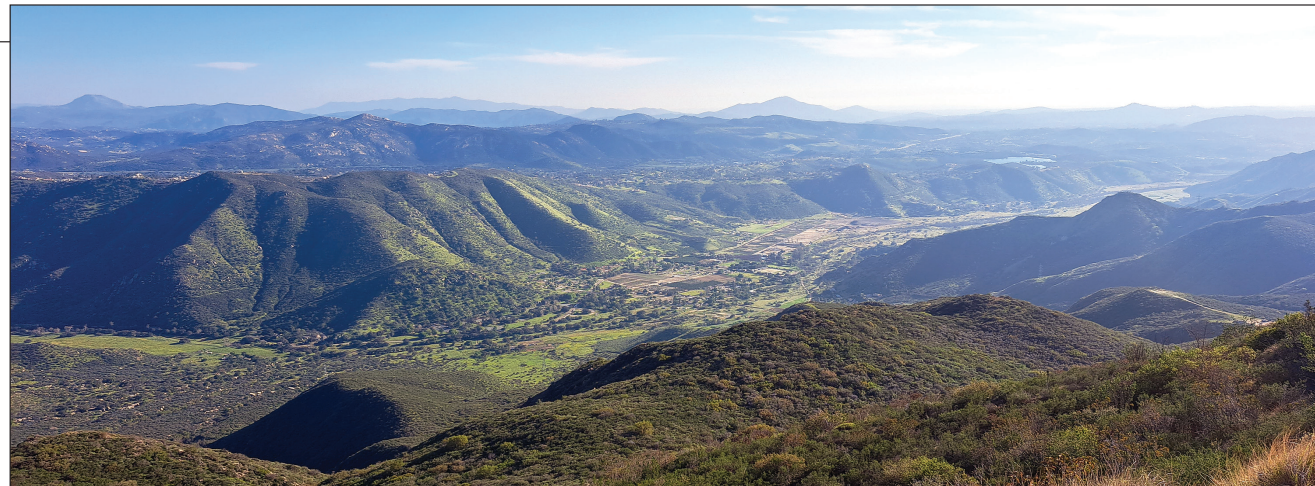
Traveling alone, I turned off Wildcat Canyon Road and parked in the dusty El Capitan Open Space Preserve parking lot. The lot was surrounded by a plain wooden fence, as if to corral the cars and prevent them from wandering off while their owners hiked.

With my trail runners firmly tied and my clothes comfortably fitted, I began up the gray asphalt hill toward the switchbacks, passing a sign that warned of death from exposure for the ill-prepared (and easily spooked). Though I often fall into one or both of those camps, today, I did not. I badly wanted to do this hike and I wondered what had possessed my spirit. As I began the rote journey past the trailhead bathroom and up the side of the squat, green hill, I replayed the trail ahead of me in my mind's eye, recalling its many vistas, twists, turns, dips, and climbs.

El Cajon Mountain is popularly dubbed "San Diego's hardest hike," which is true if you've never journeyed to the local desert and gone hiking. Still, it's obvious why the hike has this title when you look at its elevation profile. While most peak hikes go up to the summit and back down to the trailhead, El Cajon Mountain meanders over gently rolling hills before taking trekkers up and down two steep slopes. Hence, on the return journey you still have to do a bit of climbing to get back over those slopes and hills.

Having run through the hike in my head, I snapped out of my trail trance to emerge from the valley into the highlands. Before me loomed three peaks, laid out in a line, like Orion's belt. The closest was Silverdome, where grass-covered slabs spilled down the slope. Behind it hunched a beige cairn of stone, El Capitan. And far away in the distance floated El Cajon Mountain. It was so far-off from where I stood that it was almost surprising someone had named the trail after it.

Untangling myself from the view, I started on the path, threading myself between the mountains and feeling my soul grow limber through



Looking out on Lakeside.

the steady rhythm of walking. I passed toyon trees, known as *joshik* to the Kumeyaay, that grew like hedges alongside the trail. As my brain quieted, I felt my body remembering how to think again.

I was approaching a dip in the trail when two hikers came into view down below me. They were shirtless, muscular, and wore crew cuts. Military, I figured. They were trading stories and laughing loudly as I caught up to them at the bottom of the hill, where it abruptly turns into a slippery climb.

"Whoa, you came out of nowhere," one of them said.

Sweaty, red-faced, clutching my trekking poles, I could not deny it.

"Trail's pretty muddy from the rain."

Specked in mud, sliding on the trail, I could not deny that either.

"You might want to slow down, you're going to burn yourself out, buddy."

Breathing deeply, feeling the wind in my sails, I *could* deny that.

"Race you to the top," I grinned, before bouncing up the path like a cottontail rabbit.

I could hear them scrambling behind me like lobsters tossed in a pot, but they were built for strength, not endurance, and I left them behind, slipping into a light jog at the top of the hill as



The Instagrammable peak sign.

it flattened. It was a memorable encounter, and I'm glad I met them on the trail and not the weight room, where they would have put me out to pasture.

As the trail began to climb the first slope, I passed by a man my age with a "Hello." He was picnicking on a patch of grass that looked out onto Lakeside, its fertile earth streaked with green in proper pastoral fashion. Only a few square plots of brown had resisted the rains. I began to hear voices. After several minutes, the voices grew louder, but I saw no one approaching on the trail. Suddenly, a large shadow began slithering toward me and I looked up to see a dragon eclipse the sun and hold me in its shadow. In my surprise, I wondered if the creature would scoop me up. But as it drifted away from the sun, I saw it was merely a paraglider teasing me with their shadow. Another appeared soon after and the pair flew over the trail like dandelion seeds caught in a warm summer breeze. High above them, four wheezy single prop planes flew in a V-formation, like a flock of geese migrating north for summer. Even further up, two military jets tracked east toward the desert, leaving a low rumble in their wake. The only earthly birds to take to the sky were two turkey vultures looking for an easy meal.

The backside of the mountain had been soaked by the lingering rains. Never constant, the water took different forms along the trail. Sometimes it frothed and foamed, other times it gushed like blood. But more typically, it flowed smoothly in a stream down the trail; keeping my feet cold and my socks mushy. The water was alive, carving out new paths and exposing the mica-flecked granite stone below.

The final ascent was a slow, muddy affair. It

had been an hour since I'd last seen anyone, and I marched up the muddy chute, passing blooming manzanitas (*jusilh* to the Kumeyaay) and magenta-stemmed warrior's plume. As I pressed on, a woman passed me with a warm smile, but when I looked for her she was gone. Long gone, for I was remembering a distant memory: a friendly woman did pass me, but it was almost a decade ago, during my first ascent up El Cajon Mountain.

I've often found myself encountering these specters on the trail. Perhaps they gravitate to these wild places, or perhaps it's simply easier to hear them away from the urban buzz. As the memory echoed, I thought about how odd it was to carry the memory of a stranger for so long. As I climbed, other specters pursued me, until it felt like I was no longer walking along a slick trail, but through a half-buried memory that I hadn't the heart to stop excavating.

As I began to top out on the summit, several green signs ushered me to the peak. There, I found an Instagram-worthy El Cajon Mtn. sign to pose with. The view was spectacular, as it so often is in San Diego. I decided to stay on the peak for a while, and felt my legs become stone-like as they took root far down into the bedrock.

When I returned to the car corral, only my trusty steed remained. The others must have wandered off, leaving their owners to Uber home. My knees groaned from years of abuse and I wondered to myself: with only the week-ends to relax, why do I do something that isn't relaxing in the slightest? But as the wind eagerly grasps at the pages of an open book, so too did my thoughts turn to what trail I'd explore next in my quest to know this land more deeply.

— Ryan Brothers

EL CAJON MOUNTAIN

Located near Lakeside, El Cajon Mountain is a strenuous hike. Its length of nearly 11 miles and elevation gain of around 3,900 feet mean that the hike will take most people 6+ hours. Dogs are allowed.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 25 miles

Hike length: 11 miles • **Difficulty:** Strenuous • **Season:** Late Fall to early Summer



Silverdome, El Capitan, and El Cajon Mountain.

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.

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LADIES GOLF CLUBS For sale ladies set of golf clubs. Palm Springs model and bag. All excellent condition, \$55. (619) 669-4740.

SPORTS MEMORABILIA SUPERSALE! Visit space G-27 during this Saturday's Collectables Show, Kobey's Swap Meet, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 7am-3pm.

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

HARD SNAP CASE FOR PIXEL 3 Speck Presidio Grip case for Pixel 3 with 2 tough & durable layers of protection and raised bezel screen protection. It has a 10-foot drop-protection with shock barrier. New & never used in original packaging. \$5. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

LONG BOARD SKATE BOARD Water ski long board w/board the struts came from. \$30.00 (619) 390-8216

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks fancy candle holder folding laundry basket, a couple of brand new pants -never worn them. incomplete roller skating pad set price for these items is negotiable call (619) 450-7914. / j.fiffeld31@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL FABRIC JEWELRY BOX This jewelry box (6.25"x 5.5"x 3.75"H) is perfect for your earrings, rings, pins, etc. It has a flip-up decorative top with a mirror inside, 3 top compartments & 3 bottom drawers. Like new in excellent condition. \$15. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

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FRESHWATER PKS of plastic worms new in pkg 2bucks a pk (619) 456-8968.

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

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

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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.

SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SF12 For Cabinet makers, used

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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.

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

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CRYSTALS Moving sale, crystals, metaphysical books, original art, reasonable. Sat, Sunday 12PM-5PM. Normal Heights 4355 37th Street # 11. (619) 564-9309 / rob-biemckee777@hotmail.com

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STAR WARS - BLUEPRINTS No# 686 of 5000 Any collectors out these wanting to own an original Star Wars blueprints: Star Wars: The Blueprints [Deluxe Edition] by J.W. Rinzler. There are a few online - my price is negotiable. jjdarcey@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

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

INVICTA DIVE CASES various colors. 8 slot, \$40. 3 slot, \$25. Star Wars, \$75. DC, \$25. Popeye, \$30. All mint condition, txt (619) 817-1849.

ORANGE PLASTIC TABLE (16"x16") This fun & bright color table has removable legs which can be stored at the bottom. It is faded from the sun but is fully functional and very sturdy. Good for using it on the go for picnics, beach, camping, etc. \$12. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

TABLE LAMP WITH LINEN SHADE This beautiful table lamp has a beige octagon bell shaped shade (7" top, 15" bottom, 11" side), tan/brown decorative body (16") & base (6"x 6"), 27.5" tall overall (30" w/ final). \$45 each or \$75 for a matching pair. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 880-9980 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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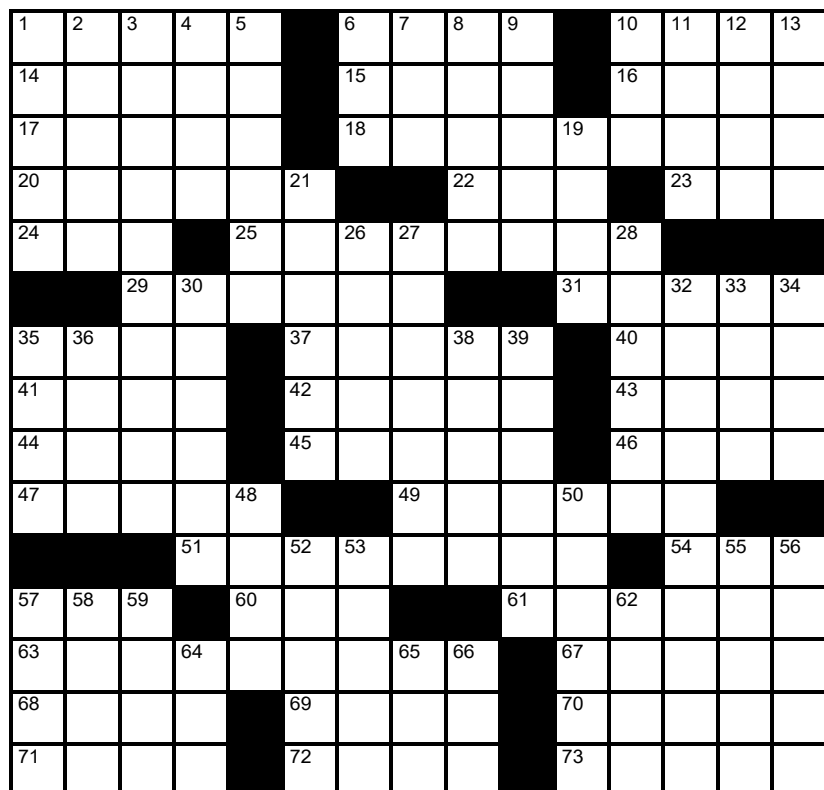
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CROSSWORD



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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/

- 1.** Rome's Fontana di ____
6. Apple computer since 1998
10. Born in ____
14. Like wicker baskets
15. Jedi foe
16. New Rochelle university
17. Word with space or soap
18. 2005 Gwen Stefani hit
20. Chide
22. "You've got mail" co.
23. Ruby of Hollywood
24. Shed tears
25. 2008 Katy Perry hit

- 29.** "The Answer Is ..." memoirist Alex
31. Garden spot
35. Architect Mies van der ____
37. You'd probably RSVP to it online
40. Grand Canyon animal
41. Tel ____, Israel
42. Put in a new carton
43. "Please, don't rub ____!"
44. Done, in Dijon
45. Tiling job supply
46. Sicilian peak
47. Rims

- 49.** Monstrous
51. 1987 Madonna hit
54. "Dig in!"
57. Hogwarts bird
60. Before, in poetry
61. Scooby-Doo's pal
63. 1982 Michael Jackson/Paul McCartney hit
67. Sans-serif font
68. Collapsible shelter
69. El color del mar
70. "____ diem!"
71. Not misled by
72. Pickleball needs
73. Better suited

Down

- 1.** Year in Augustus Caesar's reign
2. "Three's Company" landlord
3. With 32-Down, British duo with the 1994 hit "Missing" (and how to solve 18-, 25-, 51- and 63-Across)
4. Aloe ____
5. How World Cup Final matches never end
6. "Kinda sorta"
7. "Ay, dios ____!"
8. Country album?
9. "Nomadland" Oscar winner Zhao
10. Minor untruth
11. Fork locale

Across

- 12.** Formerly
13. Produce
19. Actor who read a scene of "M*A*S*H" in 2023 that was written by ChatGPT
21. Anita of "La Dolce Vita"
26. "When will ____ learn?"
27. Item of winter gear with multiple straps
28. General assemblies?
30. Go over again, as notes
32. See 3-Down
33. Lena of "Chocolat"
34. "General Hospital" Emmy winner Sofer
35. Actor Spall of "Life of Pi"
36. "Metamorphosis" poet
38. "Deal with it!"
39. Crowd scene participants
48. The Rolling Stones' "____ a Rainbow"
50. Cornell University locale
52. "Women & Money" podcast host Suze
53. Confiscate
55. Slack-jawed
56. U.S. president who had 15 children
57. Bus driver on "The Simpsons"
58. Question of time
59. Gave temporarily
62. National ____ American Heritage Month (April celebration)
64. O.J. trial judge Lance
65. Trail mix morsel
66. Above-the-street trains

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

HARD:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

Family Values

— Tony Toto and his wife, Frances, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, are celebrating 57 years of marriage, WFMZ-TV reported in a feel-good Valentine's Day story. "We have been blessed that we had all these years," Tony said, noting "that one time when we had a rough time." Yeah, that was the time in 1983 when Frances hired teenaged hitmen five times to kill Tony. "I don't think I was thinking straight," Frances said. "It was like it was a love-hate kind of a thing." Of course, the murder attempts weren't successful, and Frances and the young hitmen were arrested. She spent four years in prison, but their love never wavered. A feature film called *I Love You to Death* was made about their troubles, and they became minor celebrities, traveling to movie premieres and giving interviews. Tony and Frances got counseling and committed to better communication, and decades later, have a long marriage to show for their efforts.

The Aristocrats

— On Feb. 11, during an intermission at the Hannover State Opera House in Hannover, Germany, ballet director Marco Goecke shocked even himself when he approached the dance critic from the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* newspaper, Wiebke Hueter, and smeared animal feces on her face. The Associated Press reported that Goecke was unhappy with a recent review of a production he staged in The Hague. Following the incident, he took off through the crowded theater lobby. But

strangely, Goecke seemed to justify his actions in a later interview, saying that after having his work "soiled for years ... Once a certain point has been reached, I disagree." The opera house suspended and banned him from the facility until further notice.

Weird Science

— People who suffer from chronic constipation now have a high-tech treatment option: a vibrating pill that stimulates the colon, CNN reported. The Vibrant capsule, prescribed by a doctor, is taken at bedtime and reaches the large intestine about 14 hours later. Vibrations cause the gut to contract, moving food along. Eventually, the capsule is eliminated and makes its way to a sewage treatment plant, where it's sifted out and sent to a landfill. Dr. Eamonn Quigley of Houston Methodist Hospital helped test the new technology. He said most people couldn't feel it working. "A minority could feel it. None of them felt it was being uncomfortable." But we're uncomfortable just reading this.

Unconventional Weaponry

— Christopher Gaddis, 41, was holding a cat in his arms when he was approached by Metro Nashville Police officers on Feb. 8, WSMV-TV reported. Gaddis had two outstanding warrants, and officers were trying to arrest him when he shoved the cat into the face of one of them, leaving several cuts on the officer's hands. Gaddis also kicked the officer. After being treated for his own injuries from the cat,

Gaddis was charged with resisting arrest and assaulting an officer.

It's Come to This

— In what prosecutor Owen Beale called an "organized criminal matter," Joby Pool, 32, pleaded guilty to theft and criminal damage in Kidderminster, England, magistrates court, *The Guardian* reported. His crime? Pool broke into a warehouse on Feb. 11 and towed away a trailer with about 200,000 Cadbury Creme Eggs, valued at about \$37,000. He didn't get very far; when police stopped him, he "walked toward (them) with his hands up." "This clearly wasn't spur-of-the-moment offending," Beale said. "You don't just happen to learn about a trailer with that kind of value being available." The "Easter bunny," as police dubbed him, will be sentenced in March to about two years in jail.

Bright Ideas

— Austin Bristoe, 26, of Bloomington, Indiana, was sick and tired of people breaking into his 1998 Buick and stealing stuff, Fox59-TV reported. On Feb. 12, when police responded to a car fire, they found Bristoe just standing next to his burning vehicle, and he told them he set it on fire to stop the thefts. "If there was nothing left of the vehicle, then there would be nothing left to steal," Bristoe's logic went. As it burned, the fire caused a small explosion, and Bristoe commented, "I hoped the explosions would be bigger." After arresting him for arson, they searched him, finding several packed syringes and benzodiazepine.

Suspicious Confirmed

— Police in Santa Cruz, California, are warning locals not to "engage" with the Cookie Monster, KION-TV reported on Feb. 15. A man named Adam Sandler (not the actor), known to dress up as *Sesame Street* characters and harass people, has surfaced in Santa Cruz. Resident Sarah Jones said he entices people "to want to take a photo with him," but as soon as they approach, he flips up his costume head and starts yelling. "Based on how dirty his costume was I knew it wasn't going in the right direction," she said. Sandler has not been charged with any crimes.

Weird Fashion

— It's about time! Japanese garment company Takikou has developed a wearable bean bag, *Oddity Central* reported. "This concept was born out of the idea of a cushion that would allow you to totally let go, anytime, anywhere," said the company's Shogo Takikawa. "You can put this on and chill out in your living room or loads of other places." The bean bag is available in different sizes and colors, but it does weigh about 11 pounds (which might make you want to sit down more often). Prices range from \$60 to \$119.

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

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3 PACK
DIAMOND INFUSED
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LIVE
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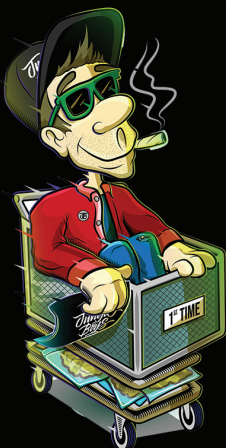


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THE MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATRE

2023 CONCERTS



SpringFest kicks off in March! Get a head-start on summer by enjoying these three concerts outdoors and under the stars.



SELENA TRIBUTE BAND: ANYTHING FOR SALINAS | MARCH 31 | 7:30 PM

The Queen of Tejano music is celebrated in this concert that stars Karol Posadas and the Anything for Salinas Band. Get ready for a concert experience you'll never forget as you sing, dance, and relive Selena!



FOREIGNERS JOURNEY STARRING CONSTANTINE MAROULIS | APRIL 14 | 7:30 PM

Two-time Tony-nominated star of Broadway's Rock of Ages and American Idol icon Constantine Maroulis stars in this electrifying concert, combining the music and energy of two legendary stadium rock bands.



THE GARTH GUY: THE ULTIMATE GARTH BROOKS TRIBUTE | APRIL 15 | 7:30 PM

Dean Simmons is the Garth Guy! This incredible concert experience pays tribute to the beloved modern country music icon. With over 5,000 live performances and over 28 years, The Garth Guy Show is a real sincere tribute Garth Brooks - the man, and his music.

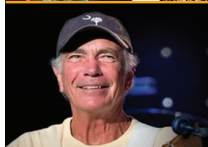


Rock Your Summer Nights at The Moonlight's SEVEN Concert Festival! We Celebrate the Greatest and Most Iconic Rock Sounds Under the Stars! Discounts available!



MICK ADAMS & THE STONES: THE ULTIMATE ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE | JUNE 29 | 7:30 PM

Named one of the Top 10 tribute bands in the world by Backstage Magazine, Mick Adams and The Stones bring you a complete authentic recreation of The Rolling Stones featuring all look-alike performers, custom replica costumes and instruments, full choreography, and video show.



ADVENTURES IN PARROTDISE: A JIMMY BUFFET TRIBUTE | JUNE 30 | 7:30 PM

If you're not already a Parrothead, you will be by the end of this concert! Barrie Cunningham sings all the songs you know by heart including Come Monday, Cheeseburger In Paradise, Volcano, Fins, Changes In Latitudes Changes in Attitudes, and the national anthem of all Parrotheads, Margaritaville.



DEAD MAN'S PARTY TRIBUTE TO OINGO BOINGO & DANNY ELFMAN | JULY 1 | 7:30 PM

For more than a decade, Oingo Boingo tribute band Dead Man's Party has been bringing audiences Boingo tunes the way you remember them! Dead Man's Party always delivers a high-energy and in your face performance that never disappoints!



TUSK: A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC | JULY 2 | 7:30 PM

The number one Fleetwood Mac tribute band is Tusk and they've ascended to that position for their amazing covers and authentic sound as they leave no stone unturned in replicating the music of one of the best-loved and top-selling bands.



QUEEN NATION | JULY 6 | 7:30 PM

Queen Nation preserves the image, sound, and stage persona of vintage queen rocking through such hits as We Will Rock You, We are the Champions, Bohemian Rhapsody, and many more.



YACHTLEY CREW | JULY 7 | 7:30 PM

The titans of soft rock are back at The Moonlight after two previously sold out shows the past two years in a row! Get your tickets early for this show and get ready to cruise through the greatest hits of the 70s and 80s.



WHO'S BAD: THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE | JULY 8 | 7:30 PM

The longest-running Michael Jackson tribute band, Who's Bad's live performance is an unrivaled celebration of pop music's one true King. Their power-packed performance of Michael Jackson's expansive catalog has ignited crowds on every continent and can only be described as a jaw-dropping, musical must-see.

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