

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 48 | NO. 35 | AUGUST 31, 2023

# Reader

## ***Beer Is One Reason to Go to Hell***

Eating, drinking,  
and searching  
for Little Satan  
in Mexicali

Imperial Beach's post-Post Office future? ■ Unpocketed listing in La Jolla ■ Jorted moshers at Quartyard



# TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR

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FRI, SEPT 1

Christopher Dragon, conductor  
Steven Lin, piano  
San Diego Symphony Orchestra

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SAT, SEPT 2

# Selena

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**FRANK TURNER**

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SUN, SEPT 3

# Buddy Guy

THE LEGEND

## Damn Right Farewell

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Blowers gonna blow

Leaf blowers banned in '24? ("Noise is a necessary obscenity", Cover Story, August 24) Not a chance my friend; This is gonna be another example of a law on the books that WILL NEVER BE ENFORCED.

Patrick T Hillcrest

Preening produces nausea

Your cover photo of two preening thugs was nauseating ("The Other Side of San Diego", The Other Side of San Diego, August 10). These imbeciles are nothing but domestic terrorists, bringing not "pride" to their "turf," but crime, drugs, mayhem and misery to the decent residents. Please do not milk these punks' inflated senses of import and perverted sense of self. You should have had a positive visual representation of a caring neighborhood citizen. Not this trash...

Eugene King  
San Diego

Candidate promises lane change

During the Wisconsin Spring of 1958 on Milwaukee's Southside, my French mother bought me a shiny Schwinn with training wheels. The memory is seared into my mind of riding on the sidewalk for about 15 minutes then taking off the little boy wheels. This prophetic moment launched a 70-year love of cycling and then the sport of triathlon. From the rolling hills of Brittany, where I crashed into a brick wall at the age of 8 to the far away Island of Reunion 50 years later where I completed a triathlon 12 time zones removed from San Diego, I

have seen it all, including my interviews with many Tour de France riders. There is more but for sake of brevity, I will cut it short. ("Gloria Likes Bikes", SD on the QT, August 25) Mayor Gloria has got this all wrong and make no mistake, I am friendly to cycling but friendlier to the truth. Riding a bike takes human energy and this is the genesis to why the mayor's position on bikes doesn't make sense. I believe my eyes and must repeat, I believe my eyes. Cyclists on bike lanes in most areas of the city are nonexistent. Diehard cyclists are rare. Riding a bike to mitigate climate change is not going to happen in San Diego unless pigs have wings. What don't you accept about this fact? It's all happy talk and castles in the air. As a candidate for San Diego Mayor, I will remove at least 70% of the bike lanes in San Diego. It is the judicious thing to do. Finally, for the third time, I believe my eyes.

Daniel Smiechowski  
Bay Ho

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

San Diego Union-Tribune to move printing to Riverside

News Under the Radar,  
Aug. 16, 2023

Ace Parking has the valet concession outside the La Jolla Music Society's "Conrad" concert hall on congested Fay Avenue in the center of "the village" and charges \$30 a pop for the service, before tip. That's a record-high steal, in my opinion. But then again, the venue was approved for construction a few years ago without a single dedicated parking space and most Music Society patrons are too old to scooter over for a performance.

-monoghan

A Robert Rundo rabbit hole reminder

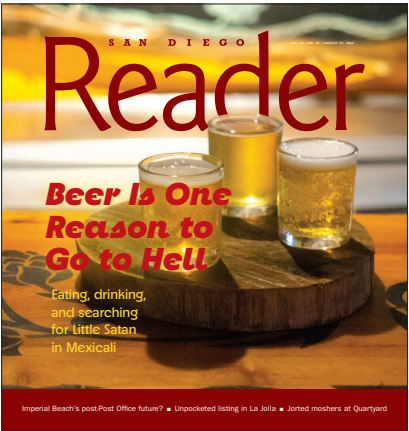
Golden Dreams, Aug. 16, 2023  
Most informative article in the Reader this week. Some really insane people

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San Diego  
Reader

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August 31, 2023



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

IMPERIAL BEACH

## Mail fail?

**Residents fear closure of city's sole post office**

Imperial Beach has found itself to be ground zero in San Diego County for changes being made to the United States Postal Service delivery network, and the city plans to fight back. On August 16th, the city plans to adopt a resolution denouncing any modifications of service or operations to the Imperial Beach post office.



Closing the post office? What's next? Some sort of virtual, electronic mail?

The city sought help from Rep. Juan Vargas, whose 52nd District includes Imperial Beach. The mayor said the postal service's "lack of communication and transparency" continues to unnerve the community. And as

"This isn't something that's an extra amenity, It's not a Starbucks coffee shop. This is a necessity."

The biggest planned change involves moving letter carriers from post offices to large sorting and delivery centers. In this case, that means moving from the only post office in Imperial Beach, located on Donax Avenue, to the main post office in Chula Vista, where mail is sorted.

While the US Postal Service isn't saying the city's 18,000-square-foot post office will close, mayor Paloma Aguirre said in a recent council meeting that attempts to communicate haven't gone far since the city heard about the changes from the postal union in June, despite attempts to learn more details. In the absence of information, the questions fly. Will mail be delivered on time? Or at all on any given day? Will there be a line out the door?

"You're gonna lose your post office," said Bob Waterhouse, president of American Postal Workers Union in the San Diego area, which represents more than 1400 postal employees and retirees. "I rise to speak about what began in Imperial Beach and will soon spread across the United States." It happened two weeks ago with the temporary closure of the post office in Rock Cave, West Virginia, he said, and it's going to gather momentum like an avalanche.

Aguirre said local post office leadership declined the city's request to discuss operations or attend the council meeting. Instead, a general statement was provided about the sorting and delivery center initiative, which was unveiled in 2022 and is one of the changes noted in the Postal Service's Delivering for America plan. The 10-year plan is meant to "achieve financial stability and service excellence."

Vargas wrote in a July 28 letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, the fear is that relocating mail carriers will result in the post office closing entirely once the building lease expires. Residents see closure as the end game once only a few employees are left in place. "In my conversation with the representative, I did ask about the lease, and he said that's between us and the leasor," Aguirre said. "Our city manager has been in contact with the landowner and we're trying to find out more," she added. "What is very clear in our community is that we want zero changes."

The sorting and delivery centers are intended to reduce transportation and mail handling costs, and will still function as a destination delivery unit, "except on a larger scale and with much greater efficiency, operational reliability and staffing flexibility." But efficiency is hardly what residents can expect if their local post office closes, or if the changes instead require people to pick up packages at the Eastlake post office, which is one rumor that has reached the city's ears. The Imperial Beach location is 5.6 miles from the main post office in Chula Vista, while the Eastlake location is a 30-mile round trip. Either option would prove a burden for residents without cars, and city officials added that there are no clear bus routes that make it all the way to Eastlake. And even if there were, getting on the freeway and going to an entirely different city can't compare to walking a few blocks.

"This isn't something that's an extra amenity," said councilmember Jack Fisher. "It's not a Starbucks coffee shop. This is a necessity."

SHEILA PELL

ON THE ROAD

## Willy-nilly wheelies

**Bike life enthusiasts stunt it up despite outrage and injury**

On August 12, @sandiegoville posted a video to Instagram showing a motorcyclist popping a wheelie on the I-5 freeway heading northbound, then wiping out and falling to the pavement, just feet away from a fast-moving car. According to 619newsmedia, the California Highway Patrol commented that the crash "occurred around 3:40 pm on I-5 northbound



Large groups ride motocross bikes, 4-wheelers, street bikes, Honda Groms, electric and gas-powered scooters, motorized bicycles, ATVs, and old-school 3-wheelers.

north of Main/Division [streets]. The rider fled the scene before officers arrived....Stunting activities such as wheelies and ghost riding are reckless, unsafe, and unlawful and pose an extreme danger to those participating in the activity and to other motorists and bystanders."

A wheelie is a trick in which a bicyclist or motorbike rider yanks the handlebars upward so that the front wheel is lifted off the ground and the bike/motorcycle rolls on only its rear wheel. "Ghost riding" means driving a motorbike and then jumping off, so that it appears as if a ghost must be controlling the vehicle.

Busting wheelies, even on public streets, has long been popular, thanks in part to famous

folks, from Evel Knievel in the 1960s-1970s to Tom Cruise's character in the recently released *Mission Impossible 7*. More recently, wheelies and other stunts have made for popular social media content. One YouTuber, James&MoVlogs, recently followed his buddy Ric on his 3-wheeler from San Diego to Glamis; in one part of the March 2023 video, Ric pops a long wheelie on a side street. Over on Instagram, the 664stunts account posted videos from August 19th's Tijuana Nights, which followed motorcyclists from both sides of the border on a street bike cruise and stunt excursion around the border city. In one post, dozen of motorcyclists are shown riding wheelies for up to a minute on city streets and Tijuana highways. Two other posts from the account show motorcyclists crashing while performing wheelies on busy roads.

Whether or not it is fueled by social media, "bike life" (another name for the urban stunt riding scene) is gaining ground in major cities across America. Large groups of poeple, riding motocross bikes, 4-wheelers, street bikes, Honda Groms, electric and gas-powered scooters, motorized bicycles, ATVs and old-school 3-wheelers, run amok through downtown streets and neighborhoods. San Diego is no exception. And many of the stunt-riders in these groups pop wheelies while others in the pack film their antics.

About two years ago, El Cerrito resident Garrett M. heard the buzz of motorbikes approaching his home. He pulled out his phone and filmed what he estimated to be "20 quads and dirt bikes" ripping around a street corner just a few feet away from him. One rider on popped a wheelie as he passed Garrett. That rider was followed by quads and additional motocross bikes, plus two motorcycle cops and two SDPD SUVs in pursuit of the group. "Holy fu--ing shit," Garrett yelled before ending the clip and posting it to NextDoor.

The group grew in numbers after it passed Garrett. "My family [was] surrounded by 100s

continued on page 3



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

of [motor] bikes and 4-wheelers on Fairmont all the way up to Montezuma,” commented College Area resident Lisa Johnson. “They were running lights to stay together, going between cars and in the emergency lanes. Most

up over nothing. A motorcycle hitting a car does not typically injure those in the car. A motorcyclist knows that. So it's unlikely they would get close enough to hit a car. It's likely the ones doing stunts are experienced riders, or they wouldn't be doing it. Also, remember, in CA, they are allowed to split lanes.”

Spring Valley's Tiffany W wrote, “It's fun. I'm the mom of the group, and I ride as well.” But it's not always fun when people stunt. Many



What goes on three wheels in the morning, but two wheels all the way to Glamis? This guy!

didn't have helmets on, and they were confusing drivers. It was dangerous and scary. They weren't just riding as a group. They were being reckless. That's what was illegal about it. We saw them jumping curbs and driving on the wrong side of the road. It was scary, and I had my kid in the car.” Other videos on Instagram and TikTok show the group popping wheelies on freeways around town; one even showed the stunters riding along the MTS trolley tracks.

While commenters were furious at the “wilding out,” some gave the stunters a thumbs-up. Kensington resident Linda M. wrote, “OMG, everyone [is] getting worked

of the social media timelines from stunting crews and off-road groups in San Diego and Tijuana include memorials to fallen motorbike members. One Redditor saw the @sandiegoville motorcycle crash video and wrote, “I hate when I see people doing this. First, because it's awful to see a crash happen no matter what the cause is, and second because you immediately have to start slowing down and figure out how to give this person as much room as possible while staying safe — because I don't want to be the person to run them over, even if it wouldn't legally be my fault.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

## UNDER THE RADAR

### Gloria's fat funding loophole

San Diego mayor **Todd Gloria** won't have to recuse himself from vetoing any city council actions involving his bevy of campaign contributors, but he does have to disclose that he got their money, according to a July 12 advice letter from the state's Fair Political Practices Commission. The letter, from FPPC General Counsel **Dave Bainbridge**, responds to questions posed by **Adrian Granda**, Gloria's Director of the city Department of Government Affairs, regarding how the mayor's big-money campaign style might be cramped by last year's state Senate Bill 1439, which is now law. The measure bars elected officials in California from raising political cash from those involved in governmental proceedings and requires that the officials recuse themselves from actions involving their donors.

“Because San Diego ordinances and resolutions take effect after ten days if the San Diego Mayor takes no action, requiring the San Diego Mayor's recusal would effectively still involve the San Diego Mayor approving each City Council decision via inaction,” notes the letter. Thus, Gloria is still allowed to act. But that exception doesn't apply to the new requirement for full disclosure, the state watchdog adds. “We recommend that when the San Diego Mayor intends to exercise their veto power pursuant to the legally required participation exception and despite receipt of an otherwise disqualifying contribution, they include a disclosure containing the necessary information as part of the meeting agenda. If the veto

is done outside the context of a public meeting, we recommend the disclosure be posted in a conspicuous manner on the appropriate City website and a copy of the disclosure be filed with and maintained by the agency official who maintains the agency's statements of economic interests, or other designated office for the maintenance of such disclosures, within 30 days of the making of or participating in the decision.” Calling the recusal exemption for Gloria “narrow,” the letter opines that “the San Diego Mayor would still be prohibited, for example, from soliciting, directing, or receiving a contribution exceeding \$250 from a party, participant, or agent thereof while the proceeding is pending and for 12 months thereafter.”

**Blood money** Drug maker Bristol Myers Squibb of Tampa Florida came up with a \$5000 contribution to the 2026 Lt. Governor

Campaign fund for San Diego state Senate Democrat **Toni Atkins** on August 19th. Two years ago, on August 17th, 2021, the company agreed to pay \$75 million to settle charges by California Democrat **Rob Bonta** and other state attorneys general that the company had “underpaid the drug rebates owed to Medicaid and other state Medicaid programs,” per Bonta's news release. California's share of the cash was \$2,356,842. Then on June 16 of this year, Bristol Myers Squibb sued the



Mayor Gloria has one less reason to say, “Recuse me.”

Biden Administration to void Medicare's new ability to negotiate lower drug prices under the Inflation Reduction Act, according to CNBC. “Bristol Myers Squibb argued the federal government is forcing the company to enter negotiations and eventually agree to a heavily discounted price. The company claims this violates Fifth Amendment protections against the government seizing private property

without just compensation. The drugmaker also claimed HHS is forcing the company to publicly present the program as a negotiation over a fair price. The company called the negotiations a sham and claimed the federal government is forcing the drugmaker to ‘parrot its preferred political messaging’ in violation of the First Amendment.”

Notes the post: “The law is the central pillar in the Biden administration's efforts to control rising drug prices and was a major victory for the Democratic Party.” On the list of Biden-required price negotiations are those for Bristol Myers blood thinner Eliquis, “used to treat clots and strokes,” per the account.

“The company generated \$11.8 billion in revenue from Eliquis last year, about 25% of the company's \$46 billion in total revenue for 2022.”

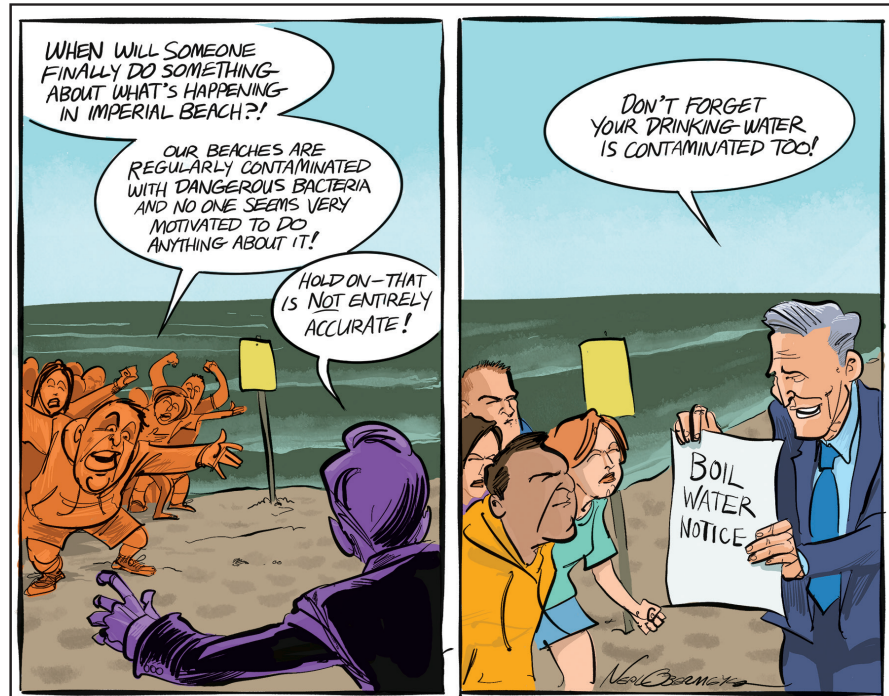
### Death by LA paper cuts

Things are getting to be so dismal at the financially beleaguered *Los Angeles Times* that its top external critic, ex-Times sportswriter **T.J. Simers**, declared a week ago Monday that he is quitting

his widely read blogging about the paper's rapidly failing sports department. “Maybe the last straw came in a twitter message Monday from former *San Diego Union-Tribune* sports editor **Jay Posner**: ‘I know it was exhibition and I know it's only the Chargers, but did you notice their game yesterday ended just before 7:20 and not a single word in the *Times* print today. Not even anything explaining why the game was played when city and state officials

continued on page 29

### Neal Obermeyer





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♥ Reader ♥

# BEST

♥ of 2023 ♥

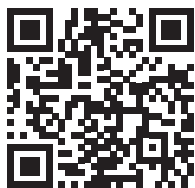
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## LETTERS

*continued from page 1*

out there. They make the most violent homeless seem like Mary Poppins in comparison.

*-Scary Poppins*

**How long do the Imperial Beach, Ocean Beach, Crystal, and Oceanside piers have?**

**Cover Stories, Aug. 16, 2023**

Good article Mr. Anold. We share a love of piers and especially the piers in San Diego. I first fished the Crystal Pier in the '50s and in the '60s began fishing Shelter Island, Ocean Beach, Imperial Beach and Oceanside. I've branched out to other piers but these piers will always have a special place in my heart.

*-Ken Jones, Pier Fishing In California, pierfishing.com*

According to the blurb about the IB Pier, Mexico is to its South, but the Coronado Islands are to the NORTH? Just looked at a map and the Coronado Islands are south of the Border which explains why they are part of Mexico. Maybe the author was confused with Coronado, CA. Which is to the North via the Silver Strand, but is not an Island!

*-Phil Johnstone*

The Mossad agents and money-laundering Bolsheviks that colonized OB will probably let the pier crumble and replace it with some hideous brutalist monument. There are so many people openly wearing IDF T-shirts there that I wouldn't be surprised to see them try to get rid of the American Veteran's Monument as well.

*-Chaim "Gene Simmons" Witz*  
Yeah, wearing IDF t-shirts is a little insensitive in a town with a Veteran's Memorial when one takes into account the U.S.S. Liberty, the Lavon Affair, Julius and Ethyl Rosenberg, Susan Rosenberg, Jonathan Pollard, Selling our military secrets to the CCP on multiple occasions, playing both sides with their cozying up to

China, and using their influence on America's government and industry to hustle us into multiple B.S. wars for their benefit while we're scraping by on food stamps, and finally, using their influence on our government to take away what's left of our civil liberties while forcing questionable medical treatments on people while stealing our tax dollars to fund their mob.

Talk about colonizing OB? They've colonized the U.S.!

*-Mary Phagan*

**White House tour bud**

**Golden Dreams, Aug. 16, 2023**

Would love to meet this writer who likes to show his ego in his exaggerated stories. Luis is a low level writer I'm sure the Reader can do better.

*-Skeptic Reader*

**Bolt's new location in Old Town**

**Booze News, July 19, 2023**

Your story suggests that there is no other brewery in Old Town. That is not correct. Societe brewing has had a tasting room at 2415 San Diego Ave. for about a year now. I'm happy that Bolt will be coming. Beer tasting great option to have in Old Town.

*-scottbme*

**San Quintin - Baja's fishing secret**

**Cover Stories, July 12, 2023**

What a wonderful read!! Spent some time there thirty five years ago on the 4th of July. Brought down a 120 quart ice chest full of confiscated fire works source confidential. I was fortunate to have worked for the City of San Diego as a Fireman and the station I worked at housed our BOMB SQUAD. We were a group of approx. ten souls aged two years old to late fifties. On the fourth of July we ate and drank at the Restaurant with the local cowboys, fellow travelers and locals. After enjoying a great meal

*continued on page 29*

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# UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

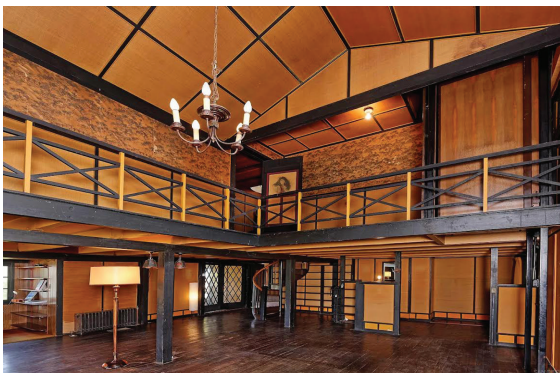
Let's start off this week by disclosing a little secret: while there are plenty of outlandish homes for us regular folk to gawk at on Zillow and similar real estate sites — especially in a diverse county with as many wealthy enclaves as San Diego has — we're not seeing everything.

There are clear advantages to listing a home for sale on the open market, at least for most sellers. You want to get as many eyeballs on your property as possible, in the hopes of finding someone will-



Far East, meet West Coast.

peek into your home. And not everyone is okay with that. Thus, the "pocket listing," handled by a well connected agent who makes sure only the right sort of potential buyer ever sees or even hears about it.



Home sweet home or set for sweet martial arts movie fight scene? You decide!

ing to pay your asking price, or better still, starting a bidding war that will drive up your home's sale price. And the easier it is to find your house on the local MLS (or the myriad other publications that draw their information from it), the more likely it is you'll get your wish. But widespread attention is not always the goal, especially in the realm of high-end property. Because the thing about letting everyone peek into your home is that you're letting everyone

That brings us to what the agent's remarks on Zillow bill as "La Jolla's 'House of Dreams'" at 1428 Soledad Avenue. Reportedly, the property is hitting the open market for the first time in over a century. Built in 1911, the "Asian Arts & Crafts style" home sits just a few blocks from the Pacific and spans just less than 3100 square feet, and the very first photo on the tour makes it clear why it hasn't needed publicity to attract new owners. The wood shingle siding

looks good — if a little concerning, given how wary we are of fires in this day and age — but the green trim on the windows and doors, the bright red and yellow on the lattice in the roof gables...this is stuff we don't see every day. More's the pity.

We get a couple more outside shots before moving inside, where I can see a glass-walled room on the third story that must be the "crow's nest bonus room" the listing mentions. A rather generic mud room is the first indoor space we encounter, but from there, we're immediately whisked into a cavernous living space with rough-hewn wood floors (that might be original) and a spiral staircase leading up to an open landing that wraps around the lower level. There's a lot of brown and orange in here, and while I'm not sure I love this color combo up against a bunch of black trim, I don't hate it, either. What's more, I am not sure how to do better.

A large rock fireplace fills one corner, flanked by a lot of cross-hatched single pane windows and

doors. These probably aren't great for insulation purposes, but visually, they work in the space a lot better than white vinyl dual panes. Besides, I'll bet if you can afford to buy this house, you can probably pay someone to custom fabricate something that functions like new while retaining the vintage aesthetic. Or you can just wear a sweater.

A closer look at the staircase makes me appreciate the craftsmanship that went into the woodwork, but seeing the backside of the run from the second floor up to the third is a little dizzying. There's some sort of MC Escher-esque mind trick going on here, and I can't

tell if it's intentional. As it is, I *think* we're still on the second level when we get to a glass-walled TV room — it looks like it would be quite difficult to avoid screen glare in here, given all of the incoming light, but absent the television, it also seems we'd be getting an excellent view of the yard, with its gently-sloping grass lawns surrounded by old-growth trees and shrubs. Maybe find another spot for the boob tube? The crow's nest room up top is sadly empty, but we get more great views from up here, including a peek at the ocean over the roofs of our neighbors. I'd want to make a way for these windows to open, then I'd sneak a chaise lounge up here and enjoy the breeze and scenery pretty much all summer.

Moving on, we get a few more exterior shots and a glimpse inside the studio apartment that's built over the detached garage. It's more modern than the main house, and seems to be in decent shape, but it's also hardly bigger than an economy hotel room. The bed's being turned at an angle doesn't do much to make use of what limited space there is, either.

We're told the estate comprises two separate parcels that make up a total of over a half-acre

of land, which is a decent plot for a home this close to the coast. What we don't see, however, are any bedrooms in the main house — heck, we don't even get to see a kitchen or bathroom! My suspicion is that this means there's room for a bit of updating, which is quite understandable for a 110-year-old house, but I'm still a bit disappointed.

Public records list a Marilyn Orr and Beverly Helm of Colorado as the current owners of the Soledad estate. Given that the assessed value of the property is a paltry \$195,000 it certainly tracks that the home hasn't been transferred outside of the family in decades, though a listed 2015 "effective build date" suggests that some extensive remodeling work was done in the recent past. That makes it all the more confusing that we don't see much of the interior.

Anyway, the home was first listed in mid-June; it carries an asking price of \$6,245,000 that remains unchanged to date. Even if you have to put a little work in to get the house move-in ready, you'll still end up with one of the most unique residences I've seen after a full decade of doing this. Just please don't change the exterior paint. ■

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# We bought Peter Pan voodoo

## John Brizzolara's Last Column

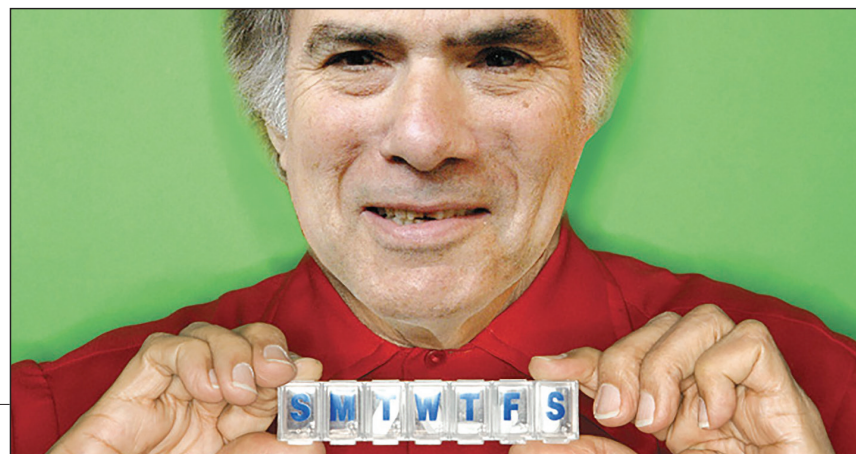
"Hey, brother. Can you give me a clean pee sample?" One neighbor, whom I don't know from Adam, came to my door one night with a small, transparent container and (without introducing himself) asked me, "Hey, brother. Can you give me a clean pee sample?" I stood there for a good while with a look on my face that must have resembled a pole-axed flounder, and the guy (turns out his name is Turrell) says, "I'll give you five dollars." Reaching behind the door to the kitchen table, I picked up my weekly med dispenser with about 30 pills for AM and about the same for PM. I showed him the contents and told him, "Can't help you, man. I take, like, 40 Vicodin a week, Percocet, let's see..." — *John Brizzolara* **MAR. 21, 2012**

## Reckoning in the Heavens

Nary has a Christmas gone by without my thinking of a string of years — in the late '70s and early '80s — when my then-wife and I would prepare ghost stories — or stories of the supernatural, at any rate — to be read to each other on Christmas Eve. It is one of several nostalgic dredgings I have set aside for smiling rumination in my dotage. Some of these stories wound up in print: places such as *Weird Tales* and *Twilight Zone Magazine*. The idea was not an original one; Victorian British weirdsmith M.R. James among others (Dickens) engaged in the practice. — *John Brizzolara* **DEC. 22, 2010**

## Old and in the Way

For well more than a decade now, I've wondered, "What are we going to be like as a country when over half of us are doddering oldsters?" The picture is shaping up, all right; and probably its first major manifestation is the health-care boondoggle. It is clear that to some degree my peers and I really did assume we were not going to get old. On some level, we bought a kind of Peter Pan voodoo that would sprout from happy mushroom thoughts or wheat grass and good vibes or solar-powered Orgone boxes and macrobiotics. — *John Brizzolara* **MAR. 16, 2011**



"Maybe I could come back later and we could do some bidness."

## A Fear of Cold and Dark

One theory (and I am no anthropologist) is that the sun-worshipping cult of Southern California has a genuine, underlying fear of the cold and dark. This may well be born of the cold, long winters from which we have emigrated or, in the case of the native San Diegan, a fear of the little known. I am among the former, having arrived from Chicago via New York, but my superstitions are more along the lines of what I call a duty-free set of Catholic sensibilities. — *John Brizzolara* **NOV. 4, 2009**

## Loosening Family Ties

As for my own immediate family: relationships with my grown son and ex-spouse were somewhat successful for several years, and though I didn't see my son often for many years (until recently), I believe we still maintain a good relationship. The same applies with my ex, but the fact remains that the marriage ended in divorce.... — *John Brizzolara* **NOV. 11, 2009**

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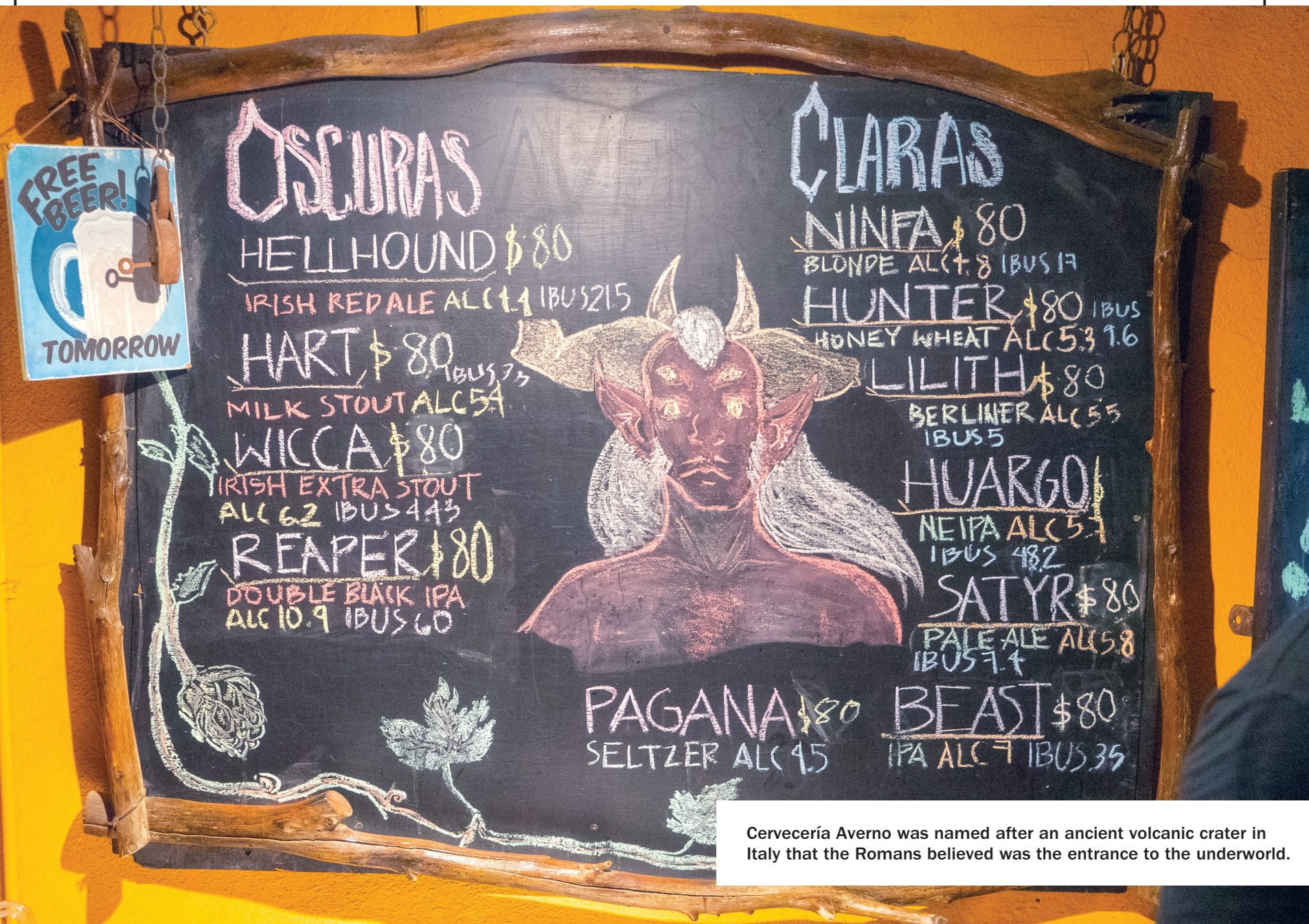
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# Beer Is One Reason to Go to Hell



Cervecería Averno was named after an ancient volcanic crater in Italy that the Romans believed was the entrance to the underworld.

## Eating, drinking, and searching for Little Satan in Mexicali

In 2014, *Reader* beer writer Brandon Hernández visited Mexicali, and wrote: “Our driver, whose humor was as dry as the Baja desert, jestingly told us he was taking us to ‘Hell.’” Brandon suffered temperatures of 105°F, but he liked the beer. Beer is one reason to go to hell.

My former roommate Chad Deal also covered the Mexicali beer scene in 2014 and 2015. He once wrote, “Mexicali’s known for sweltering hot summers, a relaxed, rural demeanor, Chinese food and

an abandoned underground Chinatown, carne asada, outlandish music, and beautiful women (some attribute it to the immense volume of water one drinks to survive).” Beautiful women are another reason to go to hell.

Recently, I developed a crush on a petite tattooed model who calls herself Little Satan on her social media. Little Satan kept posting that she wanted a boyfriend taller than 6’, despite her tiny stature of only 4’10”. I’m 6’4, so I volunteered. To my surprise,

she replied. After a couple of weeks, I told her I was visiting her in hell. Our schedules dictated a mid-July meetup, a time of year when temperatures in hell — sorry, Mexicali — can reach 125°F.

To make sure I didn’t back out of my Mexicali plans like I have a dozen times before, I booked three non-refundable nights at the Hotel Colonial — total, \$228. Getting there is easy: 120 miles east on Interstate 8 to Calexico (pop. 40,000), and through the brown border fence into Mexicali (pop.



1,200,000 and growing). But my car was not up for the journey, so I rode the bus from Tijuana. Three hours and around \$25 after my 12:40 pm departure, I arrived in hell.

#### Day 1: Thursday

Hotel Colonial was a 15-minute walk from the bus station. But after feeling the 114 degrees of heat outside, I summoned a \$3 Uber. Once I was settled in my hotel room, I texted Little Satan. She replied, "I would pick you up, but I have to run some errands for my grandma." I told her not to worry; I had an interview set up with Luis Larios of Cervecería Fauna, Mexicali's largest brewery.

The ride to the brewery took me away from the city and into the industrial areas of Mexicali, home to its roughly 180 *maquilas* (factories). My first impression of Mexicali was not



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

**I tried eight different beers at Amante, and the big winner was Marie, their Saison, a very well-balanced beer with earthy tones and citrusy flavors, without the funky yeast flavor that other farmhouse beers give.**

a pretty one.

At the entrance of Fauna's warehouse, co-founder Luis Larios was ready to receive me. Luis is bald with a long grey beard. His brother, fellow co-founder Alejandro, is the opposite: clean-shaven and keeping as much hair as possible. "I

believe we brew around 60,000 liters a month," said Luis as we walked around the facility's large fermenter tanks of 45 and 60 BBLs (and other smaller ones). Then we retreated to the recently opened bar adjacent to the warehouse to drink and chat.

Compared to the brewery's other tap rooms around Mexico, the bar was simple: a place to drink a beer after work and get the rest to go. It made sense: only beer nerds like myself would make this trek. Luis agreed: "We don't get tourists like Ti-

juana or Ensenada. No one comes here. Our beers are for our people," (Fauna's taproom in Tijuana closed in 2017 when Plaza Fiesta stopped being about craft beer and turned into crappily bars with loud music.)

He gave me a little history. "Mexicali craft beer started with Cerveza Cucapá [in 2002], but they sold out [in 2014 to Grupo Modelo] and they don't even brew in Mexicali anymore. Later on, Dos Pistones with Pepé Martínez. That place used to be called Cervecería Reforma, it was one of the first here after Cucapá. Then 3B (Big Bad Brewery), then us (Fauna) — and Amante came around the same time. The brewer of 3B is now working in Alaska at 49th State Brewing; they just won an award at the Beer World Cup. As for Pepé Martínez, he doesn't even brew anymore. He is making knives or some-

thing interesting like that, but no more beer."

Luis poured me four ounces of Vi, their guayaba Berliner-Weisse. I remarked that it tasted lighter than I remembered. "It's because of the different seasons of guayaba," Luis said. "There is guayaba all year; summer and winter guayabas give the beer a different character." He poured another. "We made this beer with a brewery I thoroughly recommend to you, but you are shit out of luck; they just closed their taproom last week," he continued. It was an IPA they made with Cervecería Malbicho called Ipanema. The nose gave me heavy tropical notes with a lot of *maracuya* (passion fruit).

On the first sip, I knew it was something special and so far, my favorite beer of 2023. "That's what thiolized yeast does!" Luis explained. "We are very privileged to have our own

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yeast laboratory called Lev-Mic. They make excellent yeast; before that, we used White Labs. We went heavy on the mash hopping, and you will never guess what hop we used: Saaz!” Saaz, a noble hop, is usually used for lagers and pilsners, not IPAs.

Luis kept pouring. “This is a Belgian single; we were trying for a Belgian white, but it got clarified so it ended up as a single.” Another: “Our last batch of our Hazy Lycan also got clarified, so it’s not that hazy. We bought different brand of oatmeal because we couldn’t find the one we always use, and that was enough for the result to look different.”

I told him I was thinking of visiting Calalexico Brewery across the border. “Calalexico is fucking horrible, don’t go,” he replied. “I haven’t gone in years. I don’t even go to Wal-Mart. The only reason to go is to pick up things we need for the brewery, but I don’t cross. Still, the border is calmer than in Tijuana, because no one wants to cross when it’s over 100 degrees. You should come back in November for Mexicali’s Beer Fest. The weather is much better, and we get all sorts



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

**I got to meet Caty Rocha and Moisés Sánchez, the couple that runs Cervecería Colmena. Moisés has been brewing for over a decade, but under the name Cerveza Península. They opened their new space during the pandemic.**

of beer celebrities that no other festival in Mexico gets. Last year, Stan Hieronymus came to the fest; he is the writer of *Brew Like a Monk*. People are fighting to be on the judges’ panel for the fest. We have the best beer festival; props to the guys that organize it, because I don’t do shit but show up. Also, the whole city’s attitude changes during winter. People go outside and do stuff.” Mexicali’s 11th Beer Festival is set for November 11, 2023.

Luis drove me back to town and dropped me off

right outside Cervecería Ícono — situated in the former home of Cervecería Mexicali, which ran from 1923 to 1973, and site of the second biggest beer garden in Mexico. On the drive, I texted Little Satan to let her know my plans. “Perhaps I’ll see you tomorrow night,” she replied. “But it will most likely have to wait till Saturday!” I supposed it was time for more beer. The place was packed — more women than men — and I ordered a pint of their “Nueva” (new) Neipa and people

watched. Nice, solid, and juicy, packing a hoppy punch — what you’d expect from the style. From there, I walked half a mile through the hot, flat city to Fauna’s tasting room — an old house steps away from the border wall. Packed again. I got a pint of their not-so-hazy Lycan.

I was hungry as a wolf, and for 80 pesos (\$5), I was served a basket of grilled red sausages with burnt edges with salsa Valentina and lemon slices. Something 10-year-old me would cook. Still, it was an okay snack, and gave me strength for the walk to Pintito Cerveza Artesanal. I arrived around 9:30 pm to find a well-decorated and large space, but I was the only person there (besides the bartender). The brewery is named after the Mexican idiom “*el hijo del tigre pintito*,” which translates to “the son of the striped tiger,” meaning, “like father like son.” In late 2018, father and son, “Trino” and Josué “Trinito” Valadez joined forces. Josué started brewing with Calalexico Brewing before moving to San Diego to brew with Bal-last Point. He came back

to brew with his dad.

I got a flight of four: Sour, Kölsch, Brut IPA, and a Hazy IPA. I remember I wished the sour had more of a punch and that the Brut could be dryer, but they were all good. Even when drunk, I remember either a bad beer or an excellent one. These were fair standards.

By this point, I had been joined by a couple of friendly locals I had met online: Icono brewer Gilberto Lomeli, and local beer fan Berenice Cabuto. I have foggy memories of our 10-minute drive there to Cerveza El Sarmiento, but clearer ones of the food menu: interesting offerings like beef head gyozas, beef tongue bao tacos, mole *chun kun* (spring rolls), togarashi fries, and more. However, the kitchen was closed when we arrived. I got another flight of beers: Berrynice Blonde, a New Zealand light lager, a Belgian haze IPA, and an American IPA. I liked them all but made special reference to the fruity blonde ale with blueberry and raspberry, calling it the perfect introductory beer for girls who tell me that they don’t like craft beer. After that, Berenice drove me back to my hotel, where I gave her a signed copy of my book.

#### Day 2: Friday

I woke up at 9 am to take advantage of the hotel’s complimentary breakfast. After that, with nothing to do in the blistering 115-degree heat, I took a quick dip in the pool and swam some laps to tire myself out for a nap. Before napping, I texted Little Satan to see if we would meet that day. I woke up around 1:30 pm to Little Satan’s text: “I’m not sure if I can see you today. I’m going to see a friend of mine sing at BolBol. But I’ll let you

know when I’m free.” I told her not to worry; I had another list of breweries to visit. And my friend Adly, a local who I met over 10 years ago through an old Tijuana roommate. She used to come party in the city and crash on my couch. These days, she shows up in Tijuana once a year and I take her to my newest food finds. Now it was her turn.

Adly suggested we meet at MOMO, a place she hasn’t tried but heard good things about. Before I could leave, I heard from a Tijuana friend, Willy. “Hey! I just got to Mexicali for work. Let’s grab lunch, I’m outside your hotel in 10 minutes.” I knew work was just an excuse. Like me, Willy had driven to hell to meet a woman.

The menu at MOMO was mostly Japanese and Mexican seafood fusion, with offerings like ceviche, aguachile, tacos, poke, sashimi, clams, oysters, seafood cocktails, and more. I was dubious. I was supposed to be eating Chinese food. “Yes dude, we have great seafood here,” said Adly when I asked about the quality. “Mar de Cortez and Laguna Salada are right there. The Pacific is not that far either. And we’ve had an influx of Sinaloenses, and though they ruin sushi, they bring with them great seafood.” So I ordered the *callo* ceviche for 205 pesos (\$13). It offered copious amounts of scallops bathed in serrano vinaigrette, with cherry tomatoes, fried onions, Persian cucumbers, avocado, cilantro, and hibiscus tapioca. I’ve never seen hibiscus tapioca. In fact, I’ve rarely seen tapioca in Mexico (though my mother made a fantastic vanilla tapioca pudding). And I’ve never thought about pairing it with seafood. But the combination

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worked. Adly and Willy had less luck, but we were all pleased by the surprise offer of free drinks and a gratis serving of fresh tuna on top of a big tostada cut in the shape of a pizza with ponzu mayo, red onion, truffle oil, and microgreens. The oil enhanced the tuna flavor, leaving a pleasant lingering taste over the whole palate.

After lunch, Willy went to “work.” I hopped in Adly’s car to go to her favorite brewery. We paused at the classic drive-in diner Merendero Manuet’s for a michelada and some people watching, then headed for Amante Brew Company, situated side by side with Gato Gordo Brewery. The green, grey, and brown space was decorated with hop-shaped lampshades, local art, and a small merch shop. I tried eight different beers, and the big winner was Marie, their Saison, a very well-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Giant micheladas with the Mexicali crew at Cervecería Mandala.

balanced beer with earthy tones and citrusy flavors, without the funky yeast flavor that other farmhouse beers give. Their blonde beer, appropriately named Marilyn, was also one that I’ll be seeking again. (I also tried Diana, a light barley wine that seemed to miss the

mark, and a disappointing Imperial Russian Stout named Prima Nocte. Adly remarked, “I don’t think there is a single good stout in this town.”)

We drove around the city, Adly narrating the whole time, and ended up at a place named Haiku, near the border in old

downtown Mexicali. The small establishment was squished between a Haitian eatery and a cleaner’s. Inside was a bar, an art gallery, and a traditionally decorated Japanese restaurant. Adly explained that the owners are first-generation Japanese-Mexican, and the family pictures on

the wall were of their ancestors back home. We sat by the bar and got the tofu and hibiscus *inarizushi* as well as three pieces of *karai maguro temaki* (hand-rolled cone with spicy tuna). Haiku also offered their house beer, a tall can of Matcha IPA brewed by Hornet Brewery. It poured neon green, almost like a Mountain Dew, but darker. From the pour and the nose, I had a bad feeling about it. It didn’t taste like matcha, it didn’t taste like an IPA, and it barely even resembled a beer. It was the first Mexicali beer that I didn’t finish.

While at Haiku, Berenice texted me that she wanted to join the party. I told her where I was and shortly after, she showed up with her 24-year-old daughter, Vania. We journeyed from the old downtown to the new downtown, and reached Cerveza Urbana, another

well-established Mexicali brewery from more than a decade ago. They are home to two of the most recognizable hop-forward brews in Baja: Crossover IPA and Mosaico Session IPA. They had only four house beers: two Berliners named Shon Penn and Yoli Rancher and two nameless beers, a light lager, and a brown ale. Their most famous beers were not to be found. I disliked Shon Penn as much as I dislike the person it was named after. Yoli Rancher was sweet as the red Jolly Rancher with a nice sour bite. The nameless beers were forgettable. I was disappointed.

Happily, just 200 yards away from Urbana, there was a warehouse shared between Coralillo Brewing Co. and Desertor Cerveza Artesanal. Though it was only a three-minute walk, Adly decided to drive. Once there, she told me she was going to go hang

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out with her boyfriend, and left me at the mercy of Berenice and Vania, the mom-and-daughter drinking duo. It was past midnight, and the warehouse was packed with people (as usual, several tables with pretty women). “Beer straight from the tank” is the slogan from Coralillo. A handful of fermenter tanks of 3 BBLs and smaller are situated right above the bar and two big mashing tuns were on the side. The girls got half pints and munched on the free popcorn, I got a flight of 5 beers: an unnamed IPL, 1846 (Kölsch), Goofy (Vanilla Blonde), San Patricios (Weissbier), and a West Coast IPA. The first four were forgettable; the west coast IPA was very well done.

A three-minute drive took us to Media Sangre Cervecería just before 1 am. As we sat down at one of the back tables, Berenice realized she had left her phone at the previous brewery and bolted out. I got a chance to talk to Vania. She had worked as a bartender at Casa Alta with Malbicho, the place that closed the week before I arrived. She told me that Malbicho left with plans to do something big-



Malgro had a watermelon seltzer I didn't care for and five beers on tap: Grecia (blonde ale), Honey (honey blonde), Bangkok (Belgian blonde), Kiss the Sky (hazy IPA), and 7 am (coffee stout).

ger and better. She also praised their brewer Alfredo “Freddy” Rodríguez as one of the best brewers in town.

The blackboard at Media Sangre displayed a list of nine house beers and it read that July 1st was their fifth anniversary. I got a sampler of four: Por Sangre (gose + sangrita), Sandra Dee (watermelon Berliner), unnamed rice ale, and Black Snake Moon (vanilla bourbon imperial stout). I’ve been a massive fan of sangrita since I was a kid. It translates to “little blood,” a non-alcoholic drink made of citrus juice

and peppers, giving it a red appearance. It is usually accompanied with tequila. As a kid growing up in Mexico, I took shots of sangrita during holidays when saying cheers with the grown-ups. This sangrita gose nailed the taste of my childhood nostalgia. The watermelon Berliner was also a nice puckery sour. Stout and rice ale were forgettable. I tried a sip of Vania’s “Lazy Daisy” hazy IPA, it was good, yet another hazy of thousands.

There was a drunk American in the bar, a big bald guy with a long

grey beard. He was trying to fight the bartender, shouting that he had been overcharged. His two female companions tried calming him down and dragged him out the door. But he was adamant, and rushed into the bar again. I was ready to help in the fight, but this guy was huge. Luckily for everyone at the bar, the two women came back and dragged his ass out again, apologizing profusely. Berenice came back with her phone, but before she could order a beer, the bar started kicking everyone out.

### Day 3: Saturday

I woke up around noon. I already had a text from Little Satan, sent at 11:14 am. “Where are you going to take me today?” I told her I needed coffee, and the list of breweries I still planned to visit, but it was her choice. “Well... It’s my best friend’s birthday today. So I’m not sure when I’m going to be free. I have to run errands and pick up my cousin so I don’t think I could meet up for coffee. What time are you leaving tomorrow? Perhaps early tomorrow.”

It didn’t seem like I was going to meet her at all. I still wanted coffee, I texted Berenice and Adly for recommendations. Berenice replied promptly. She told me she was getting out of yoga class and could take me for coffee and brunch. She was at the hotel lobby shortly thereafter.

Berenice took me to a trendy bakery in a strip mall called Plaza Vista Hermosa. We got a couple of Americanos and decided to split a croque madame panini: sourdough, roasted garlic aioli, ham, Swiss cheese, fried egg, and béchamel sauce. I’m glad we split it, because the sandwich was

pretty big and it came with copious amounts of fries. The savory factor of the croque madame was on point, but the sourdough was extremely chewy, to the point I couldn’t cut it with the knife and could barely tear it apart with my teeth. What could’ve been a great sandwich was downgraded to just good because of the bread.

Because of the heat, most bars and breweries don’t open until 4 pm or later. Shortly after Cerveceria Colmena opened at 5 pm. I arrived and met Caty Rocha and Moisés Sánchez, the couple that runs the place. Moisés has been brewing for over a decade, but under the name Cerveza Península. They opened their new space during the pandemic. They had eight beers on tap and I asked for a flight of all eight: Zumbale collaboration with Hornet (double hazy IPA), Bala Negra (black IPA), Junior (session IPA), To-stada (brown ale), Xoco (oatmeal stout), Coffee & Cream (golden stout), and an unnamed gose and Berliner. The big winner was the gose brewed with cilantro. It might be the heat that pushed me into loving the gose-style beers, or it

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

**"We don't get tourists like Tijuana or Ensenada. No one comes here. Our beers are for our people," says Luis Larios of Cervecería Fauna, Mexicali's largest brewery.**

could be that Mexicali just makes damn good goses.

Adly picked me up at Colmena around 6:30 pm. I needed dinner and asked if we should get some Chinese food. "Fuck Chinese food, I'm going to take you to my favorite Korean restaurant," she replied. "Yes, we have great Chinese food. But you know how in Mexico we call anyone who is Asian a *Chino*. Well, when I say Mexicali has the best Chinese food, I also include Thai, Japanese, and Korean." She took me to Choga, a restaurant located in... you guessed it, another strip mall with three other Asian restaurants and a casino. It gave me the same feeling as walking into Chon Ju Jip or many of the great Korean restaurants on Convoy Street. The menu included all the Korean standards: *teokbokki*, *gimbap*, *bulgogi*, and the like. We settled for a 10-piece of fried *mandu* and 500 grams of

*samgyeop-sal*, grilled pork belly (500 pesos, around \$32). The pork belly was grilled at our table with onions, jalapeños, and garlic. It also included side dishes: kimchi, daikon salad, sliced potatoes, noodles, lettuce, and orange slices. The pork was tender, juicy, salty, and outright delicious, but we over-ordered and couldn't finish it.

Adly drove me to Cerveceria Once Perros, situated in a warehouse next to an Oxxo on Justo Sierra Avenue, a block before the border wall (the new downtown area). The place was decorated with surfboards and skateboards, pictures of happy drinking people, art, and colorful murals. It was busy when we got there at around 8:30 pm. We sat at the bar and I ordered a flight of the eight beers they had on tap. All their beers are named after dog breeds: Irish Terrier (Irish red ale), German

Shepherd (hefeweizen), Golden Retriever (kölsch), Perro del Desierto (Mexican cream ale), Great Dane (IPA), and more. The taps are in the shape of bones. The IPA was passable, the rest were not good.

Just a block away, we found Cerveceria Averno, named after an ancient volcanic crater in Italy that the Romans believed it was the entrance to the underworld. All their beers are named after mystical hellish creatures: Beast (IPA), Hunter (honey wheat), Wicca (Irish stout), Hellhound (milk stout), Nymph (blonde ale), Lilith (Berliner Weisse), Warg (NEIPA), and more. There was a live band of old hardcore anarchist punks named Contrapoder playing on a small stage, yelling political charge lyrics over heavy power chords. It was loud (and I loved it) but it made it difficult to communicate with the waiter when I told them I wanted to sample all their beers. He brought me the first five samplers but couldn't tell me which was which. He then brought me the other five and told me he repeated a style, but again, didn't tell me which was which. I figured out what beer corresponded to what style. They were all on point except the milk stout, which was plain bad.

Little Satan finally texted at 8:57 pm: "I'm almost free, where are you?" I informed Adly that a date might happen. At 9:44, Little Satan texted, "I like Averno. I'm leaving my house, I'll see you there." She finally made it at around 10:30 pm. There she was. The tiny succubus in the flesh. Wearing a tiny black dress with white stripes, jet-black hair, chains around her waist, platform shoes making her slightly taller, big black eyes, multiple piercings and tattoos, full red

lips, and freckles painted on her nose and cheeks. I was immediately smitten.

She asked if I was drunk. I lied and said I wasn't. We went to the upstairs patio of the brewery that I had failed to notice. We had a couple of beers each. I drank the Warg NEIPA and she drank the Nymph blonde ale. The date went smoothly for an hour, but it was cut short by the closing time of the bar. Little Satan drove me to the hotel past 1 am. I invited her into the room, but she refused, telling me her cousin was alone in her apartment. I tried to steal a kiss goodnight, but all I managed was a peck on the lips. "Goodnight, perhaps I'll see you tomorrow," she said, and then drove away.

I texted Adly that the date was over and that I was back safely in the hotel. She texted back, inviting me to a bar called "Crazy Horse." She said she had a ton of beer someone bought her, and there were a ton of pretty women. Craving more Mexicali adventure, I called a ride. Crazy Horse seemed to be a horrible dive bar. It was empty except for four not-pretty prostitutes who sat lonely at a table, and a handful of waiters. This

didn't seem like it was the place Adly told me she was at. But when I exited, I noticed a crowd of people on the terrace, dancing to electronic music. "Grab a beer," said Adly when I found her, "I have no idea who bought them but we gotta drink them all!" She was with a handful of her friends, who were indeed all pretty women. But just thirty minutes after I got to the party, everyone was kicked out. One of Adly's friends yelled there was going to be an after-party at her house. We said we were going, but as soon as we got to Adly's car, she said "Fuck that party, I'm taking you back to your hotel."

#### Day 4: Sunday

My Sunday plan was simple. Check out of the hotel at noon, grab a coffee and breakfast, and head back to Tijuana via bus. But then my friend Willy texted me: "I'm going to Mexicali to drop off my date, ride back with me later today." So I informed Little Satan that I had more time in hell.

"My cousin is going to be with me all day. She wants ramen, you want to join us?"

"Sure," I said.

"We won't be ready un-

til 2 pm... Also, her boyfriend is coming as well, also my friend Diego."

With time to kill, I grabbed my things from the hotel and called an Uber to downtown Mexicali. Cine Curto (a movie theater) was founded in 1946 by Adolfo Curto, a Spanish businessman. It went on to become an icon of the city, receiving the biggest Mexican celebrities and actors of the '50s and '60s. But modern cinemas pushed the old theater out of business. By the turn of the century, it was abandoned. With the help of the government, it was refurbished in 2021. It is now called Mercado Cine Curto. Between the tiles, the chandeliers, the art, the old thick concrete walls, the large mirrors, it feels like a building from Mexico City. I grabbed an espresso Americano from the lobby (good coffee for \$4) and walked around. Momma Bakery had free samplers of their croissants, and after taking a small bite, I knew that was my breakfast. Though I only had one baked good in Mexicali, my chocolate croissant was better than any I've tried in Tijuana.

Outside, I saw a sign that read "Mexicali Rose." Af-



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PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

The menu at MOMO was mostly Japanese and Mexican seafood fusion, with offerings like ceviche, aguachile, tacos, poke, sashimi, clams, oysters, seafood cocktails, and more.

ter some research, I found out that it's one of Baja's oldest songs — perhaps the oldest. It was written by Jack B. Tenney in the 1920s when he worked as a musician in Mexicali. It is supposedly about a big old lady who drank and cried at the bar Tenney's orchestra was playing. It became a hit in 1935, thanks to Gene Autry's version, which in 1939 became a movie with the same name. Filmed in California, the movie is an hour long. It's about a singing cowboy who saves an orphanage from bad oil salespeople. It's free on YouTube.

I was drenched in sweat after walking around just

a few blocks and headed back to Cine Curto just for the air conditioning. Two breweries of the four were opened, and luckily for me, they were two I hadn't tried before. Malgro Cerveceria had a watermelon seltzer I didn't care for and five beers on tap: Grecia (blonde ale), Honey (honey blonde), Bangkok (Belgian blonde), Kiss the Sky (hazy IPA), and 7 am (coffee stout). The Mexicali pattern held: the IPA was solid, the honey blonde was the tastier one, and the stout was bad.

Hornet Brewery redeemed itself after the bad matcha IPA. They didn't have samplers, but I talked the beertender into letting

me borrow their glasses. There was a gose with kiwi, starfruit, and guayaba on the board and I was excited to try it, but they informed me they had run out. They poured me three beers: a pale ale, an IPA, and a hazy IPA. As I sat down to drink them, Little Satan texted me that she was outside. I chugged all three; the hazy left me with a good lingering hoppy taste as I ran out of the Cine Curto.

Little Satan and her party of four picked me up just after 2 pm, and Little Satan drove us to Ichiban for ramen. Berenice had told me that the place was no good, but I didn't say anything. We were looking at the large menu when

suddenly Little Satan said: "Let's go, I do not want to eat here." We got back into her car and drove to Umai, a restaurant owned by the same group as MOMO. Similar to MOMO, the place was spacious, clean, and nicely decorated with Japanese fixtures. The menu had sushi, ramen, noodles (including pad thai), and rice bowls. Both the girls got the pork belly ramen, and both the guys got the same tempura sushi, which they covered in different sauces. I got the Maguro roll: tuna, cucumber, shrimp, furikake, and bonito flakes. I accompanied it with a Sake Fizz: house sake, ginger syrup, lemon juice, fig liquor, and aquafaba (to give it the fizz, imitating egg white). Little Satan gave me some of her ramen to try. It was rich and flavorful. Though I didn't try the other sushi, I am confident that I made the better choice.

From Umai, Little Satan drove us five miles east, towards the end of Mexicali, near the second border crossing. On the drive, the party sang loudly along with the radio to songs by Calle 13, Molotov, and Arctic Monkeys. On the corner of another strip mall (Plaza Duara) is Nuvo Café, we found a small coffee shop, and sweet goods bakery. I got a cortado, Little Satan got an iced latte, the cousin got a tiramisu, the cousin's boyfriend nothing, and Diego a chai matcha. We all sat at the coffee shop as a couple going on a double date (plus Diego), chatting, taking selfies, and making fun of our height differential. (As I was decade older than the group, I also felt the age differential.)

It was getting late, and my friend Willy was nowhere near Mexicali. As it happened, there was an accident on La Rumorosa, the treacherous road con-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

The pork belly at Choga was grilled at our table with onions, jalapeños, and garlic.

necting Mexicali to Tijuana. Willy would be stuck in traffic for hours. With more time to kill, the group asked me what other place I haven't visited.

Cerveceria Mandala? It turned out we were less than a mile away from their tasting room on the second floor of Café Proyecto Xocolate. A neon sign read #TomaConciencia, a play on words: take conscience and drink conscience (*toma* can mean both drink and take). They didn't offer tasters, but the beertender was kind enough to give me a sample of all their beers for free: Mantra (Belgian blonde), Dharma (coffee lager), Goldfish (golden ale), Sunshine (hefeweizen), Elixir (IPA), Frida (hibiscus red ale), and Onix (stout). Plus a hibiscus red ale which they didn't have on tap. Though the coffee lager was excellent, I was done with coffee drinks and opted for the Elixir IPA, a solid standard. The rest of my crew were not craft beer drinkers and ordered giant Micheladas instead. Little Satan got the Mantra Belgian blonde at my suggestion, which was on the sweeter fruitier side

of a Belgian with less malt flavor. I ended up drinking most of it.

After Mandala, we dropped off her cousin at the far end of the city in the neighborhood of Valle de Puebla. This was where Mexicali got ugly. It was dusty and grey with small houses that repeat forever. Burnt mattresses littered the street where the dogs slept. Somehow, there were still well-done art murals untouched by graffiti.

Willy finally made it to Mexicali at around 9 pm. He was hanging out at Ícono Cerveceria with his date. Little Satan dropped me off at the brewery. I said my goodbyes and gave her a tight hug.

I found Willy and his date drinking beer and eating ribeye. I grabbed a beer (the same hazy IPA from days prior) and started telling them about my Mexicali adventures. We dropped off Willy's date and started the drive back to Tijuana. I finally made it home at around 1:30 am. Smile on my face. Obsessed with beers from hell. Infatuated with Little Satan.

—Matthew Suárez

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# Calendar

## Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

### Friday | 1

#### ALI WONG LIVE

Ali Wong is a comedian, writer, actress, and director known for her Netflix stand-up specials *Baby Cobra* (2016), *Hard Knock Wife* (2018), and *Don Wong* (2022). She has starred in the romantic comedy film *Always Be My Maybe* (2019) and in the Netflix dark comedy series *Beef* (2023). She was one of *Time*'s 100 Most Influential People of 2020 and 2023.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 1; Saturday, September 2; and Sunday, September 3; 7:30 pm and 10 pm

**WHERE:** San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue, Downtown. [sandiegotheatres.org](http://sandiegotheatres.org)

#### BARONA POWWOW

Join the Barona Band of Mission Indians for a weekend of contest dancing, gourd dancing, drums, and cultural immersion. Also, a fun run 5K! Dry camping permitted. All drums and dancers welcome. Opened in January 2000, the Barona Cultural Center and Museum is San Diego's first museum on an Indian reservation dedicated to the local Kumeyaay-Diegueño Native culture. The Museum's collection represents thousands of years of history — some objects dating as far back as 10,000 years.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 1; Saturday, September 2; and Sunday, September 3; 1 pm to 11 pm



**WHERE:** Barona Cultural Center and Museum, 1095 Barona Road, Lakeside. [barona-nsn.gov](http://barona-nsn.gov)

### Saturday | 2

#### JULIAN GRAPE STOMP FESTA

Once upon a time, wine grapes were mashed by foot prior to fermentation. Now it's your turn to stomp and sip! Local wineries will offer sips to sample, and there will be food, shopping, music, dancing, a Lucy look-alike contest, and



a bounce house. Ticket includes wine glass and one tasting, stomping, and entertainment. Additional tastings are \$1 each.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 2, 11 am to 5 pm

**WHERE:** Menghini Winery, 1150 Julian Orchards Drive, Julian. [visitjulian.com](http://visitjulian.com)



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: BARONA POWWOW

#### ZIGGY ALBERTS

29 year-old Australian singer-songwriter Ziggy Alberts is best known for his studio album *Laps Around the Sun*, which peaked at number two on the ARIA Charts for Australian Artist Albums in 2018. He's currently in the middle of The Rewind Tour, supporting his fifth studio album *Dancing in the Dark*. The show will be opened by fellow Aussie Kim Churchill.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 2, 7:30 pm

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



### Sunday | 3

#### UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL: DANCING, SINGING, AND FOOD

Treat yourself to traditional Ukrainian home-made food such as potato and cheese vare-nyky with sour cream and fried onions, nalysnyky (blintzes) with sweet cheese, kovbasa sandwiches,

salads, watermelon, and drinks. Enjoy our lawn program (2 pm – 3:30 pm): entertainment from the Chervona Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Group from Los Angeles, Ukrainian singer Iaroslava Caracosa, and traditional Bandura music. All proceeds will be used for humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 3, 2023, 11 am to 4 pm

**WHERE:** House of Ukraine, 667 Pan American West Road, Balboa Park. [houseofukraine.org](http://houseofukraine.org)



# SHEEP AND GOATS

## I ANSWERED THE CALL

### Coastlands Community Church

**Contact:** 3552 College Ave., San Diego; 619-630-8315;  
www.thecoastlandchurch.net

**Membership:** 120

**Pastor:** Jacob McDonnell

**Age:** 41

**Born:** Ferguson, MO

**Formation:** St. Louis Christian College, St. Louis, MO (since closed); University of Missouri-St. Louis; California State University-East Bay; Biola University-Talbot School of Theology, La Mirada

**Years Ordained:** 10

**San Diego Reader:** How long do you spend preparing your sermon?

**Pastor Jacob McDonnell:** It can be anywhere from four hours to 40 hours. Our sermons are usually expository, exegetical, and Bible-based.

We have a serious emphasis on the Bible. The way I say it is, we teach the Bible with the Bible, “manner and mode.” That’s a quote from the novelist Flannery O’Connor, who said the basis of all art is truth, both in manner and mode. So, essentially, what we teach and how we teach are the Bible. For this reason, we call ourselves a Bible-believing church.

**SDR:** What is your favorite subject on which to preach?

**PM:** The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the atonement for sins and the sole mediator between God and man. Salvation — that’s what I would preach on every time. It was the message that changed the world.

**SDR:** What is the mission of your church?

**PM:** We have a fourfold value system. We are Bible-believing, which means we take a serious approach to the Bible and don’t attempt to modify the Bible; we allow the Bible to modify us. We are gospel-centered, which means we believe the gospel is the primary mechanism by which God changes the heart of man and the world — as stated in the Bible. We are spirit-filled, which means we accept what the Bible teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit in converting the heart of man and producing fruits and gifts. We are community-serving, which means we are not a closed-

off church; we engage the community. We have San Diego’s oldest Celebrate Recovery, which is a Christian 12-step program. We also have several half-way houses for people coming out of addiction, and we’re working on more community projects, including a teen center.

**SDR:** What book (other than the Bible) has had the greatest impact on your ministry?

**PM:** If I can’t pick the Bible, Aristototele’s *Nicomachean Ethics*. I appreciate objective philosophy: men coming to true conclusions through honest intellectual investigation—and Aristotle is definitely the Western standard in that way.



Jacob McDonnell

**SDR:** Where’s the strangest place you found God?

**PM:** In my own heart. I found it surprising that he would choose to save me. That’s my greatest awe.

**SDR:** Where do you go when you die?

**PM:** It’s generally agreed upon that there is going to be a final judgment and

each man and woman will stand before God and be held accountable for his or her deeds. Then there will be reward of eternal life with God as described in Revelations or eternal separation from God. There is a cultural concept of hell, but I don’t know if that’s what the Bible says it is, a lake of fire, etc. Biblically speaking, hell would be a waiting place before that final judgment. I take a Biblical approach; my view of ministry is not to invent something new or synchronize Christianity with pop-philosophy or cultural phenomena, but to preach the Gospel that Jesus Christ taught.

— Joseph O’Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns at [SDReader.com/worship/](http://SDReader.com/worship/)

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

## ANIMAL FRIENDS

**Octopus behind-the-scenes tours** For guests looking for an unforgettable animal experience, the aquarium is offering an exclusive behind-the-scenes encounter with a Giant Pacific Octopus. The tour costs \$110 for aquarium members and \$125 for nonmembers. Each tour is limited to four guests allowing for a more intimate experience. From May 28 to September 4, the aquarium will be open most days from 9am to 7pm. Thursdays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; through Thursday, August 31, \$110-\$125.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

## ART

**ENVZN Urban Art Takeover** ENVZN23 Urban Art Takeover will transform numerous warehouses, industrial spaces, and other urban areas of the Commercial Street corridor in Logan Heights with multi-sensory art interventions by creatives from both sides of the U.S./Mexico border. Programming will change every 30 minutes. Saturday, September 2, 6pm; \$20-\$125. Commercial Street from 30th St-32nd St

**Paint Like a Famous Artist** Explore the art of famous artist Henri Matisse. Learn about color, line, pattern, subject matter and composition. Then create your own version of Matisse’s “The Persian Robe” with acrylic paint. Register in advance, instructor/Artist Irina Koren. Thursday, August 31, 3pm; \$45-\$50. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

**The Gaslamp Artisan Market** More than 30 local artisans will offer carefully-curated homemade and unique local products. Situated in the heart of the historic Gaslamp Quarter, with jewelry, hand crafted items, and home goods to be on display. Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; Fifth Ave from Island Ave to J St. and Island Ave from Fourth Ave to Fifth Ave

## AUTOMOTIVE

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

## BEER

**BBQ, Blues & Brews** Local artists performing live. Sunday, September 3, 1pm; **free**. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

**Birding & Brews Eco Tour** Join Ocean Connectors for a guided birding, e-biking, and brew tasting Eco Tour in South San Diego Bay. All equipment provided including: e-bikes, brews, binoculars, and field guides. 16 years of age or older. Saturday, September 2, 1pm; \$65. San Diego Bay Refuge, 535 Florence Street. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

**Craft Beer Festival** Enjoy more than 100 craft brews. Sample domestic and local California favorites. Plus, savor food items paired to match your preferred brew. Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; Mondays, 10am; through Sunday, September 10, SeaWorld, 500 Sea World Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

**Saturday Sessions: Toranzo** Toranzo performs Saturday, September 2, 7pm; **free**. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

**Throwback Thursday** Visit the Mess Hall Bar and travel back in time for decade-themed specialty cocktails and beats. Thursdays, 5pm; through Thursday, December 21, Liberty Public Market, 2820 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**Jonathan Maberry: Cave 13 and Long Past Midnight** Jonathan Maberry will sign his two books, *Cave 13* and *Long Past Midnight*. Saturday, September 2, 3pm; **free**. Artifact Books, 603 S. Coast Hwy. 101. (ENCINITAS)

**Warwick’s Author Livestream: Gina Barreca** Warwick’s will host Gina Barreca as she discusses her new book, *Fast Fallen Women: 75 Essays of Flash Nonfiction*, in conversation with Caroline Leavitt. Tuesday, September 5,

4pm; **free**. [warwicks.com/event/barreca-2023](http://warwicks.com/event/barreca-2023). (ONLINE)

**Weekends with Locals: Ken Schafer** Weekends with Locals will be hosting Ken Schafer, author of *An Otherwise Perfect Plan: A Novel of Mystery, Love, and of Chocolate that Defies Description*. Sunday, September 3, 2:30pm; **free**. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Weekends with Locals: Kristin Beck** Weekends with Locals will be hosting Kristin Beck, author of *The Power I Found*. Sunday, September 3, 12pm; **free**. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**30-Pound Batch Soapmaking Live Demo + Q&A** Donate to Soap Donation Center to Attend this Donor Appreciation Event View a 30-pound batch soapmaking live demonstration by Kerri Mixon and David Perez of Pallas Athene Soap Sunday, September 3, 1pm; \$60-\$80. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

**Belly Dancing Beginner Class** Learn to Belly Dance in a fun and friendly environment. Tuesdays, 6:30pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$20. Dorothea Laub Dance Place Studio, 2650 Truxton Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Free Beatmaking Classes For Teens** Media Arts Center San Diego in partnership with University of California San Diego will offer free workshops for Beat Making at the City Heights Idea Lab starting in July. The Beat Making class will have a stipend of \$300 per session. Tuesdays, 11am; through Thursday, September 28,

**free**. Digital Gym Cinema, 1100 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Free Film Composing Classes For Teens** Media Arts Center San Diego in partnership with University of California San Diego will offer FREE workshops for Film Composing at the City Heights Idea Lab starting in July. The Film Composing class will have a stipend of \$150. That means that students are paid to participate as long as they meet minimum attendance requirements. Saturdays, 2pm; through Saturday, September 30. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, September 26, **free**. Digital Gym Cinema, 1100 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Higher Self Meditation** Experience the transformative power of receiving Divine Light from your Higher Self to bless uplift your auric field and life. Mondays, 9am; through Saturday, December 30, **free**. Spiritual Arts Institute, 527 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

**Meditation** Expanding Consciousness with Sound Meditation hosted by Teresa Thursday, August 31, 7pm; **free**-\$20. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

**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)

**Pumpkin Wreath Workshop** Using poly burlap mesh and a pumpkin wire wreath, learn how to create a charming autumn wreath, step by step. No experience needed. All materials included in the price. Saturday, September 2, 2pm; \$50. 18 and up. Grafted Cellars Winery, 2379 La Mirada Drive. (VISTA)

**Slate Etching Workshop** Learn the technique of working with

Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association Presents

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Saturday, September 2nd  
10AM - 4PM

Readers, Healers, Vendors, and more!

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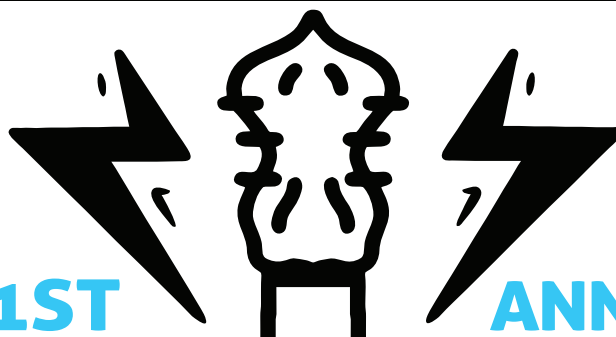
**23**

**10 AM - 10 PM**

**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER**

**24**

**10 AM - 6 PM**



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EARL THOMAS & THE GOSPEL AMBASSADORS • THE PRICE OF DOPE • THE CREEPY CREEPS  
LA DIABLA • BEYOND THE LAMPLIGHT • SHOODA SHOOK IT**



ALVINO & THE DWELLS • THE AMALGAMATED • ANTHONY CULLINS BAND • ASH EASTON & THE PROPER • THE BAND COPE  
THE BEARD & THE BIRD • BLAME BETTY • CHLOE LOU & THE LIDDELLS • COWBOY TV • DAVE GLEASON TRIO • THE DIZ  
DJ A-BOOGIE • DJ BEATNICK • DJ CHRIS CUTZ • DJ MONI LOCA • DOLL RIOT • EARTH TONES • EUPHORIA BRASS BAND • FARM TRUCK  
FOOLS & FABLES • THE FREMONT • GABY APARICIO • HELENA HOLLERAN • THE HOWLIN ROOSTERS • THE JUKE\$ • KIMIKO  
KYLER J • LADY DOTTIE & THE DIAMONDS • THE LONESOME HOUNDS • MARIELA • THE MIGHTY 388'S • MINIATURIZED  
MOCHILERO • MOKOTO • MONTALBAN QUINTET • THE MOTHMEN • MR. HEK • NUBELLA HONEY • PUENTE • QUINTETO CABALLERO  
REY WOLF • THE RUED • RYAN BLUE • SAMER BAKRI • SANDS • SARA PETITE BAND • SHELBI BENNETT • SMOKE & MIRRORS SOUNDSYSTEM  
SON OF KANE • SOUL ABLAZE • SOUL SHACK DJS • SUE PALMER & HER MOTEL SWING ORCHESTRA • SUN BURNETTE  
THE SWEDISH MODELS • SWIVE • TARYN DONATH TRIO • THE TIGHTEN UPS • T.K. & THE DEADLIST • TRAILDUSTER  
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vinyl stencils and etching cream to create your own permanent designs. You'll have the choice of etching onto slate coasters or slate serving board. Your experience includes a comprehensive project walk-through. Friday, September 1, 6pm; \$65. 18 and up. Grafted Cellars Winery, 2379 La Mirada Drive. (VISTA)

**Spirituality Class** Classes on spiritual topics from Tarot, Crystals, Smudging to Shadow Work, Daoist Alchemy & more. Thursday, August 31, 6:30pm; **free**-\$5. Divine Bubble Metaphysical Boutique and Healing Center, 4639 30th Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**Stages of the Path Meditation Retreat** Labor Day weekend meditation retreat. Each session will explore a different Buddhist meditation, which when put together create a coherent worldview and path to enlightenment. Led by Buddhist nun Gen Kelsang Lhadron. Friday, September 1, 10am; Saturday, September 2, 10am; Sunday, September 3, 1:45pm; Monday, September 4, 10am; \$5-\$50. Kadampa Meditation Center San Diego, 3502 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**Yiddish: Go Light, Go Easy** This class with Avi Fried gets you started reading and speaking Yiddish from the very beginning. No previous knowledge required. Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, November 12, \$300-\$350. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (ONLINE)

## COMEDY

**Alex Warren** Internet star Alex Warren Tuesday, September 5, 7:30pm; House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Ali Wong** Ali Wong is a comedian, writer, actress, and director known for her comedy specials *Baby Cobra*, *Hard Knock Wife*, and Emmy-nominated *Don Wong*. Friday, September 1, 7:30pm and 10pm; Saturday, September 2, 7:30pm and 10pm; Sunday, September 3, 7:30pm and 10pm; \$46-\$266. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**All Hands On Deck** Improv game show powered by audience

# OUTDOORS

## Colder than usual ocean temps, Blue supermoon this week

**Ocean Temperatures Have Been Colder Than Usual** this month. Summer 2023 may have been the hottest ever recorded, but you wouldn't know it from a visit to your local beach, where water temperatures have been in the mid 60s. This time last year, our oceans were a more typical 69° — and we're used to seeing temps into the 70s through September. As fall approaches, shorter days and increasingly oblique solar radiation will mean less energy supplied to ocean



SUPER FULL MOON RISING OVER CHULA VISTA AT THE OTAY RIVER VALLEY.



THE RECENT COLDER-THAN-AVERAGE WATER TEMPS MAY LEAD TO LESS TEMPERATE COASTAL CONDITIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

waters. Our coasts usually stay balmy for several weeks after summer's end, thanks to the ocean's shedding of thermal energy. But if ocean temperatures stay cooler than the air, that may not happen this year.

**We Will Have A Blue Moon on August 30.** "Blue moon" is the name for the second full moon in a given month. On Wednesday, August 30, the full moon will peak at 6:35 pm. Besides being blue, it will also be the closest supermoon of the year — just 222,043 miles away. The next full supermoon this near to Earth will arrive on November 5, 2025, when the moon will be a mere 221,817 miles from Earth.

**And As Always, As the Full Moon Arrives, So Do Tidal Peaks.** Fittingly, the surge will be more super than usual, peaking at 7.51 feet at 8:52 pm on August 29 and retracting to -1.41 feet at 3:44 am the following morning.

suggestions. Mature audiences. Fridays, 9pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$15. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

**All Hands On Deck** Improv game show powered by audience suggestions. All ages. Saturdays, 7:15pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$15. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Comedy Under the Stars** Headliner TBA Saturday, September 2, 7:45pm; **free**-\$10. 21 and up. Bolt Brewing, 8179 Center Street. (LA MESA)

**Gaslamp Comedy Open Mic & Happy Hour** No cover. No

drink minimum. \$5 Happy hour. Sign-up between 7:30-7:50 for stage time. Tuesday, September 5, 7:30pm; **free**. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Improv VS Standup** Standup comedians perform, then improvisers hit the stage with improvised scenes based on the comedy sets. Mature audiences. Saturdays, 9pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$15. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Indie Night** Local improv teams perform, explore and try new formats. Sundays, 7:15pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$5-\$20.

Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Katherine Blanford** Seen on *The Tonight Show* starring Jimmy Fallon, *Cheaties* Podcast & more. Sunday, September 3, 7pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Mike Vecchione** Seen on NBC's *The Tonight Show*, Conan & more. Thursday, August 31, 8pm; Friday, September 1, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, September 2, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$10. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

ber 2, 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, September 3, 2:30pm and 7:30pm; \$40-\$45. City Heights Performance Annex, 3791 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Coffee With a Trauma Informed Coach** Meet a coach for coffee. Thursdays, 10am; through Wednesday, December 27, Brew Wave, 4967 Newport Ave., Suite 1. (OCEAN BEACH)

**D. Yoder Family Sundays: All About Casa History** Enjoy free admission and learn all bout Casa Romantica's history. There will be stationed docents discussing the different areas of the house. Sunday, September 3, 10am; Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

**Film Forum Coronado: Take the Money & Run** *Take the Money & Run* (1969, 85 minutes): Woody Allen's first film as actor, director and writer is this zany, absurdist screwball comedy about a bumbling bank robber (Allen), destitute and in love, who attempts to lead a life of crime to provide for his beloved wife (Janet Margolin). Wednesday, September 6, 6pm; **free**. 18 and up. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

**SD Fixit Clinic Volunteer Open House** Are you handy around

appliances, electronics, bicycles, and textiles? Do you like helping friends, family, and the community? Consider volunteering with the SD Fixit Clinic. Tuesday, September 5, 5pm; **free**. Fallbrook Library, 124 S. Mission Road. (FALLBROOK)

**Step Right Up: Circus Trains** Summer Exhibit, Step Right Up: Circus Trains, is full of fascinating and colorful model trains, railroad cars, and animals. Tuesdays, 10am; through Sunday, November 19, **free**-\$19. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Warwick's Livestream: Tea-time Recommendations** Join Warwick's booksellers and publishing reps for their latest book recommendations on Facebook Live. Monday, September 4, 4pm; **free**. warwicks.com/event/tea-time-230904. (ONLINE)

## FARMERS' MARKETS

**Little Italy Wednesday Mercato** Little Italy Wednesday Mercato offers a selection of farm fresh produce, pastured eggs, poultry, meat, fish, baked goods, dips and spreads, yogurt and select local arts and crafts brought to the neighborhood by California farmers, fisherman and artisan foodmakers. The market occupies three blocks on West. Date Street between Kettner



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[sandiegomarkets.com](http://sandiegomarkets.com)



Boulevard and State Street including the Piazza della Famiglia. Wednesdays, 9:30am; **free**. Piazza della Famiglia, 523 West Date Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

## FOOD & DRINK

**86th Annual Deep Pit Barbeque** Experience an old fashioned BBQ with food and drinks, beers on tap, children's games, and door prizes. There will be craft booths and live country music featuring The Horseshoe Lucky Band. Two Grand Prize Drawings for \$500, and Grandpa's Attic, with thousands of treasures. Sunday, September 3, 11am; **free**. Our Lady of Light, 9136 Riverside Drive. (DESCANSO)

**Bourbon & Blues** Designed for bourbon lovers and foodies alike, the evening will include Elijah Craig Bourbon with curated tapas stations featuring delicious creations from Chef Josh Mouzakes, such as California smoked white stone seabass and wagyu Coulotte, each paired with a dedicated bourbon station. Live tunes will be provided by Whitney Shay and her band. Thursday, August 31, 6pm; \$120. 21 and up. ARLO, 500 Hotel Cir North. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Cutwater Cocktail Classic** Cocktail Classic benefiting the San Diego Food Bank Humphrey's Outdoor Concert Lawn: customers will enjoy waterfront live music from The Knocks (with additional

entertainment TBA) while working their way through a curation of Cutwater cocktails & food pairings crafted in partnership with three San Diego bartenders and restaurants. Saturday, September 2, 6pm; \$50-\$70. 21 and up. Humphreys by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. (SHELTER ISLAND)

**Deep Pit Barbeque** Experience an old fashioned BBQ with food and drinks, children's games and door prizes. There will be craft booths and live country music featuring San Diego's The Horseshoe Lucky Band. Prizes include two \$500.00 cash prizes, as well as a bundle of the Deep Pit barbecued beef. Sunday, September 3, 11am; \$15. Our Lady of Light, 9136 Riverside Drive. (DESCANSO)

**Del Mar Wine & Food Festival** Enjoy six days of culinary experiences featuring an all-star lineup of culinary talent, curated wine experiences, walkaround tasting adventures, immersive lifestyle events, and more. Wednesday, September 6, 4pm; Del Mar Surf Cup Sports Park, 14989 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)

**Dragalicious Brunch** Saturdays and Sundays. Saturdays, 12pm; Sundays, 12pm; through Sunday, December 31, Lips Restaurant, 3036 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

**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)

**Julian Grape Stomp Festa** Celebrate the 26th anniversary of the Julian Grape Stomp Festa with local wineries offering sips to sample, a variety of food and shopping opportunities, music, and dancing. Saturday, September 2, 11am; \$25. Menghini Winery, 1150 Julian Orchards Drive. (JULIAN)

**Labor Day Weekend Garden Party** Enjoy fun activities, delicious culinary creations and libations and a live concert with the Jessie Ray Smith's Trio featuring American classics. Quench your thirst with local beers, fine wines, and handcrafted cocktails. Indulge in wood-fired dishes, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. Little ones will delight in their own popcorn, cotton candy, and a candy and gelato bar filled with treats. Sunday, September 3, 3pm; \$30-\$150. Fairmont Grand Del Mar, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (CARMEL VALLEY)

**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 1.5-2 miles. Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 31, \$69. Jasmine Seafood Restaurant, 4609 Convooy St., Suite A. (KEARNY MESA)

**Stranahan's Whiskey Dinner** Guests will be welcomed with a signature cocktail and then be treated to five courses, each with a paired cocktail. A flight of Stranahan's various whiskey labels accompanies the pairings to allow guests to experience the whiskeys neat. Xander Brown, will guide guests through the tastings, while

Chef Aldo Negrete discusses the food pairings. Thursday, August 31, 6:30pm; \$185. 21 and up. Desmond, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**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)

**Summer Sunset Live Music Series** Hosted at Layover, the hotel's aviation themed rooftop bar and lounge. Saturdays, 4pm; through Saturday, September 2, **free**. 21 and up. Intercontinental

Hotel, 901 Bayfront Court. (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)

**Vista Vegan Food Pop-up** Over 30 vendors including pizza, burgers, donuts, noodles, tacos, sushi, wings, dumplings, nachos and more Friday, September 1, 12pm; **free**. Local Roots Kombucha, 1430 Vantage Court Suite 101. (VISTA)



# MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

**WIN GIFT CARDS**



**WIN VIP TICKETS**



**WIN DRINK TICKETS**



Win gift cards for San Diego Restaurant Week.  
Deadline to Enter: Wednesday, Sept 13 at 1pm

Win a pair of VIP tickets to La Mesa Oktoberfest.  
Deadline to Enter: Friday, Sept 15 at 1pm

Win beer tickets to the Adams Avenue Street Fair.  
Deadline to Enter: Monday, Sept 18 at 1pm

Enter to win at [sandiegoreader.com/contests](http://sandiegoreader.com/contests)

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FOOD, FUN & OPA!

SEPT. 9-10, 2023

SAT. 10AM - 10PM

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San Diego Reader August 31, 2023 19



## FOR KIDS

**Baby Storytime** Enjoy songs, fingerplays, books, and more with your baby. All children are welcome. Geared toward pre-walkers. Mondays, 11am; through Tuesday, December 19, **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

**Dance Party Storytime** All children are welcome. Geared toward toddlers - 3. Saturdays, 10:30am; through Saturday, December 30, **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

**Kids Happy Hour** Enjoy kid-friendly entertainment and snacks to create a festive event for the whole family. Entertainment will include magic shows, storytime, bubbles and more. Additional details abd a full schedule can be found on venue website. Thursdays, 3pm; through Thursday, August 31, **free**. One Paseo, 3725 Paseo Place. (CARMEL VALLEY)

**Little Women the Musical** Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March. Friday, August 25, 7pm; Saturday, August 26, 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, August 27, 3pm; \$15-\$30. Theatre for Young Professionals, 7960 University Avenue Suite 240. (LA MESA)

**Teen Tuesday** Hangout with friends at the library. Enjoy games, crafts, and fun. Tuesdays, 4pm; through Tuesday, December 26, **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

**The Worst-Case Scenario** Prepare for a thrilling journey of survival strategies and escape tactics based on the internationally acclaimed Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook series. Immerse yourself in heart-pounding challenges and mind-bending

puzzles that equip you with essential skills for unexpected real-life scenarios. Thursday, August 24, 10am; Friday, August 25, 10am; Saturday, August 26, 10am; Sunday, August 27, 10am; Monday, August 28, 10am; Tuesday, August 29, 10am; Wednesday, August 30, 10am; \$19-\$24. 3 and up. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Thursday Storytimes** Preschool Storytime on the patio. All children are welcome. Books, songs, and more are geared toward 3-5 year-olds. Thursdays, 10:30am; through Thursday, December 21, **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. Location: Community Room Thursday, August 31, 10:30am; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

## LECTURES

**NASA Talk** NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador, Neil Farber talks about real missions that explore our solar system. Wednesday, September 6, 5:30pm; **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

## NATURE

**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. Learn how the plants adapt to the heat. Walks start from the Visitor Center, are free and

open to the public, with no reservations required. The trails used are easy, but have uneven surfaces and some involve steps, so be sure to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining Saturday, September 2, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Laguna Mountain Living History** The Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association presents a re-enactment of life in the Laguna Mountains going back in time from the early 1900s. Visit with Native Americans and rugged cowboys. Meet the first Laguna Forest Ranger, and relive the travels of a 1908 pioneer family from Imperial Valley. How did they survive back then without cell phones? Saturday, September 2, 9:30am; Sunday, September 3, 9:30am; **free**. Redtailed Roost, Sunrise Highway mile marker 22.5. (MOUNT LAGUNA)

**Mindful Walk** The Torrey Pines Docent Society offers a free guided walk. Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, December 31, **free**. 18 and up. Torrey Pines State Beach and Reserve, 12600 N. Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

**Savage Gardens** The exhibition will explore the bizarre and captivating world of carnivorous plants. In addition to a collection of real carnivorous species on display, visitors will get a bug's-eye perspective with three larger-than-life installations inside and around SDBG's 8,000 square foot, glass-enclosed Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. Vendors will also be featured on select weekends selling plants, potting materials, and other merchandise. Thursdays, 9am; Fridays, 9am; Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am;

Mondays, 9am; Wednesdays, 9am; through Sunday, October 29, **free**-\$18. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**51st Annual Barona Powwow** The Barona Band of Mission Indians invites the San Diego community to a three-day cultural celebration. Friday, September 1, 6pm; Saturday, September 2, 1pm; Sunday, September 3, 1pm; **free**. Barona Cultural Center and Museum, 1095 Barona Road. (LAKE SIDE)

**Brazilian Day Festival: Devoted To Youth** Brazilian Day Festival is a huge event with live performances, food, drinks, fashion, and more all with a Brazilian bend. Ticket includes a Backstage Pass, Open Bar and Feijoada Buffet. Saturday, September 2, 10am; \$10-\$300. Liberty Station Marketplace, Truxtun Rd., between Womble and Roosevelt. (LIBERTY STATION)

**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)

**Ukrainian Festival** House of Ukraine in Balboa Park presents Ukrainian Festival 2023. Treat yourself to traditional Ukrainian home-made food. Enjoy our lawn program featuring the Chervona Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Group, Ukrainian singer Iaroslava Caracosa, traditional Bandura music and more. Discover, enjoy, share and support Ukraine and celebrate

culture. All proceeds will be used for humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Sunday, September 3, 11am; **free**. House of Ukraine, 667 Pan American West Road. (BALBOA PARK)

## SPOKEN WORD

**Downtown Escondido Toastmasters** Toastmasters is an international organization that helps people improve their public speaking, practice effective communication, and build leadership skills. Thursdays, 12:05pm; through Thursday, June 27, 2024. **free**-\$53. 18 and up. Escondido City Hall, 201 North Broadway. (ESCONDIDO)

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**80s Fitness Dance Party** Costumes encouraged for a high energy, 80s themed dance fitness class. Free to B&B members & a suggested donation for everyone else. Wednesday, September 6, 7pm; **free**-\$10. 18 and up. Blossom & Bloom, 7400 El Cajon Boulevard Suite 101. (LA MESA)

**Gaslamp Skate Sunday Series** The Sunset Roller Club is a diverse group of skaters at every level. Sunday, September 3, 5pm; **free**. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Portuguese Heritage Night: Padres vs. Giants** Join the Portuguese community in San Diego, along with the Padres, to celebrate Portuguese Heritage. With your Theme Game package, you'll receive a special limited-edition Padres hat that reflects the Portuguese heritage, along with a ticket to the Giants vs. Padres game. Thursday, August 31, 6:40pm; \$44-\$176. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

**San Diego Wave FC vs. Houston Dash** Sunday, September 3, 5pm; Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Yoga Class** Breathe better, look younger, feel flexible with yoga. RSVP solyoga@yahoo.com Tuesday, September 5, 9:30am; \$15-\$20. La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

## MOVIES

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, Ryan Brothers, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unrereviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

**Barbie** — In the enchanting realm of Barbie Land, every day is the best day. That is, until midway through a dazzling disco-dance when Barbie (Margot Robbie) asks her fellow Mattel-mates, "Do you guys ever think about dying?" What follows

is a philosophical voyage that leaves behind a pink-hued Oz as Barbie and her not-boyfriend Ken (Ryan Gosling) embark on a real-world adventure in an attempt to reconcile her identity. It's a fitting twist for a doll that has spent over six decades inspiring young girls (and boys) to look inward and explore their identity, now having to confront her own existential crisis. Yes, Barbie may be a plastic toy, but she also symbolizes the unrealistic standard of feminine beauty and embodies the prescribed roles in a patriarchal society. As Barbie struggles with the problems that women in the real world have to handle daily, director Greta Gerwig uses the opportunity to delve into some weighty themes uncommon in typical summer blockbusters — most notably the lack of autonomy experienced by women in a male-dominated world. The message of womanhood is not discrete nor does it need to be. There's no peeling back the pink-hues to get to the subtext. Gerwig effortlessly unveils the profound truth of patriarchy's harmful impact on both women and men, as if unboxing a cherished Barbie doll. (2023) — R.B. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**Oppenheimer** — Small men, big bombs. Not for nothing do the three main movers and shakers in writer-director Christopher Nolan's very magnum opus refer to themselves as "a humble physicist," "a humble soldier," and "a humble shoemaker." (The first is Robert Oppenheimer, director of the American effort to beat the Nazis to weaponized nuclear reactions; the second is Leslie Groves, Oppenheimer's military overseer; and the third is Lewis Strauss, the former chair of the Atomic Energy Commission, whose confirmation hearings for Secretary of Commerce — long after the bomb's invention and use — provide the occasion and framework for the time-hopping narrative.) Naturally, none of them mean it, but it's the truth: here, they're just frail cogs in a mighty historical machine. Robert Oppenheimer may have quoted Shiva when he said, "Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds," but the film treats him as more of a brilliant organizer and pitchman than as a god or even a genius — a brainy strategist in the mold of Steve Jobs. He may get the title — and the cover of Time — but he joins the rest of the characters in the scrum of a story of ordinary men and women caught up in extraordinary times. What they created really did, as the movies like to say, "change the world," but no one here rises to the level of hero, or even tragic hero, and even the villainy on display is more vanity than anything else. Oh, the humanity, indeed. As a result, the three-hour runtime involves an awful lot of talk about impersonal science and highly personal relations, punctuated by one truly spectacular, overwhelming happening. Nolan is a past master at cutting up events and fitting them together to dramatize the former, and also at the kind of grand-scale visuals that do justice to the latter. But the inevitable affect is somber bordering on sour: a well acted, gorgeously shot downer. (2023) (2023) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)



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## THEATER LISTINGS

*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.*

### A Weekend with Pablo Picasso

Writer/performer Herbert Siguenza keeps it light and laugh-y at the outset: *you want an intimate session with an artistic colossus? How about we start with him in the bathtub? Very intimate!* It's a good thing, because while the script is liberally peppered with Picasso the Performer's self-amused commentary on work, women, art, children, etc., the story is heavy-hearted: the Soviets have decimated Hungary, and the communist Picasso must reckon with the fact that the fascists aren't the only ones deserving of a modern nightmare like his anguished Guernica. He's not about to repeat himself, but neither can he keep silent and still adhere to the vision of himself as an artist that he established after losing a high-stakes bet with God. Fortunately, he has obligation to help with his inspiration: a wealthy client has asked for six paintings and three vases by Monday morning, and while he insists that is not a factory, he very much believes in both work and success. The show is scattershot but never slack, serious but never somber — and it makes first-rate use of the theater's projectors, especially in the sequence tracing one painting's evolution from curious child to anguished artist. Siguenza gives us a man who, like Whitman, is large enough to contain multitudes; viz. his vacillating attitude about his power over a painting vs. its power over him during the act of creation. He is also on his best behavior here — a rascally great-uncle instead of a brilliant monster — and so he remains a reliably entertaining host. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

### August: Osage County

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Best Play Winner of the 2008 Tony, Drama Desk, & Outer Critics Circle Award of Best Play Meet the Westons. A vanished father. A pill-popping, scathingly acidic matriarch. Three sisters harboring shady little secrets. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. Holed up in the large family estate in Osage County, Oklahoma, tensions boil over in the ruthless August heat. Mix it all up and you've got a play that exposes the dark side of the Midwestern American family.

TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

### Cry It Out

Or, *So When Are You Going Back to Work?* Molly Smith Metzler's play concerns three new moms, but the drama is less about changing family dynamics and more about extant

economic realities. It's a smart set-up: working class Lina can't afford to live in Port Washington, Long Island, but her mother-in-law has lived there since forever, so it's a good place to stay and save — if only Mom didn't drink so much. Lawyer-on-leave Jessie is next door in what is, for her, a starter home, the place she and her husband-from-a-rich-family can afford in today's crazy real estate market. If only her in-laws weren't so hellbent on their joining the upper crust. And Adrienne the jewelry designer lives high above them both, in the ritzy community that looks out on the bay. If only her husband would stop looking down at the happy moms meeting for coffee every day in their backyard. It takes only a tiny bit of narrative work to bring these three women from three very different economic classes into believable contact and conversation. And it's good conversation, really good — almost entirely free of false notes. It starts out about the struggles of motherhood, but gives way to the struggles of not getting to be a mom as much as you'd like, or maybe even not getting to be yourself as much as you'd like. Lina and Adrienne get the more extreme moments, so it's left to Jessie in the middle-class to manage the quieter sort of desperation, winningly and affectingly portrayed by Katee Drysdale. It's not a big drama, but it is a real one, and as such, does not need to deliver any ending that rises above the miserably mundane to achieve its desired effect.

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

### Evita

Well now, looky here: an embittered, occasionally outraged, but still strangely sympathetic musical about a populist politician who is maybe more interested in herself than in the people who adore her, who is fond of grand gestures but tends to behave in small, selfish ways, who would rather be regarded as a saint than do the work of good governing. As the narrator sings at both outset and closing: "Things have come to a pretty pass when someone pretty low class can be respected and admired." So yes, points for timing! Also for staging: *Evita* is a big show, and Cygnet puts it on without either a big cast or a big set, relying instead on creative choreography and excellent music. At times, the speed and spread of the lyrics and notes get the better of the cast, especially when they're in motion. But they hold still and get it right for the big moments: "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina," "Another Suitcase in Another Hall," "I'd Be Surprisingly Good for You," and the closing Lament, in particular.

CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

### Little Women the Musical

Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, *Little Women* follows the adventures of sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March. Jo is trying to sell her stories for publication, but the publishers are not interested — her friend, Professor Bhaer, tells her that she has to do better and write more from herself. Begrudgingly taking this advice, Jo weaves the story of herself and her sisters and their experience growing up in Civil War America. THEATRE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, 7960 UNIVERSITY AVENUE SUITE 240, LA MESA. 7PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

### The Merry Wives of Windsor

Sudsy Shakespeare, set in the soap-

bubble cleanliness of the '50s. The rotating set, which takes us from soda shop to happy home to pleasant park (with a door to a motel tellingly added, if never employed) is almost as much fun as the goings-on, which have to do with fat John Falstaff's attempt to bed not one, but two married women in well-behaved Windsor. But women talk, don't you know, and in no time, they're plotting to prank the lumbering lothario. The telling line: "Wives may be merry, and yet honest, too." That helps makes sense of the setting: ten years later, that sort of honesty might have been seen as submission, or denial, while a night with the Knight might have come across as brave, or at least adventurous. And the jealous husband would have been a bad joke, while here he's a good one. The really bold bit comes in the script department, via frequent insertions of era-appropriate lingo. "A soda jerk is a good trade." "Razz my berries." "Tuna casserole? Nummy nummy nummy!" But it's all so frothy and free of consequence that it hardly seems like violence to the Bard's genius — even if it only occasionally feels like a genuine addition. (Shout-out to Schlitz.) The actors follow the script's lead and play it big and broad,

but this is the good old Globe, so it stops short of over the top. Jenn Harris shows special expertise in this department as Mrs. Quickly — and boy howdy, is she. A regular Benzedrine queen, all tics and quirks and reliably funny. Tom McGowan's bumbling rascal Falstaff practically comes off as straight man by comparison.

LOWELL DAVIES FESTIVAL THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

### Nonsense

The Little Sisters of Hoboken face the deadly dilemma of burying dozens of fellow nuns on a budget. Naturally, the most logical move is to stage a variety show against a backdrop of *Grease the Musical*, right? The zany sisters work their way through organizing a Vaudevillian-esque production, utilizing the past talents — Reverend Regina was a former carnie — and current circumstances — Sister Mary Amnesia's memory loss makes for great conversation. Nonsense Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

### The Untitled Unauthorized

**Hunter S. Thompson Musical**  
Anarchy. Ambition. Peacocks. Who was Hunter S. Thompson? He changed journalism. He defined counterculture. Equal parts philosopher, clown and genius, he was armed and dangerous with a typewriter as his preferred weapon. Careening from the 1940s to his death in 2005, this gonzo musical blasts into the life of one of America's most influential and destructive icons. In relentless pursuit of the meaning of the American Dream during an era of political and social upheaval, Hunter S. Thompson cultivated a new form of journalism that for better or worse injected his subjective view into the heart of the story. Now, in another, even more severe moment of fake news, propaganda and polarization, Hunter's story helps explore how we got here, and how to keep fighting. Set to Joe Iconis' anarchic and tune-ful score, this musical is a rock 'n' roll portrait of an artist seeking greatness and coming to terms with his own legacy. It's a heartfelt trumpet call to the moral idealists, the outraged, the outlaws and the outsiders.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM

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

### Vanguard Presents:

#### Midsummer Night's Dream

Performances are in the amphitheater below the church. Patrons are encouraged to arrive early. Bring chairs, cushions, blankets, and a jacket for when the sun goes down. Admission is on a donation basis.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 3598 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-223-3193. 7PM FRIDAY, SATURDAY, & SUNDAY.

#### Vanya Sonia Masha & Spike

Middle-aged siblings Vanya and Sonia share a home in Bucks County, PA, where they bicker and complain about the circumstances of their lives. Suddenly, their movie-star sister, Masha, swoops in with her new boy toy, Spike. Old resentments flare up, eventually leading to threats to sell the house. Also on the scene are sassy maid Cassandra, who can predict the future, and a lovely young aspiring actress named Nina, whose prettiness somewhat worries the imperious Masha. This show contains bits of adult language and situations.

LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-

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BARRIO STAR	CUATRO MILPAS	GNARLEY NACHOS	LOLITAS		
BBQUSION	CUEVA	GRINGAS TACOS AND CATERING	LUCHA LIBRE	SUNNNIES OB LOCAL MEXICAN CUISINE	TAKO BAR
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# First blossom blooms

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## The Michelin-adjacent Japanese treats of Hatsuzakura

Hatsuzakura; 2123 Adams Ave., University Heights. Considering the array of idiosyncratic treats on the menu of Hatsuzakura, I've ordered the boring stuff.



Chicken yakisoba

This occurred to me as I watched a batch of emerald-green matcha tea being hand-whisked to life across the counter from my barstool. And again, as I spotted an unfamiliar small appliance

dispensing finely shaved ice, the base of a syrup-sweetened dessert called *kakigōri*. And not for the last time when the customer sitting next to me received her order; dubbed an *omurice*, it's an omelet, stuffed with fried rice, and topped with a tomato-based sauce.

It was a youthful and more fun side of Japanese cuisine than we're used to seeing in San Diego restaurants, balanced between comfort food and the sort of things Japanese schoolkids might eat at home. Think mochi ice cream, macaroni caseroles, and white bread sandwiches, cut into triangles and trimmed of their crusts.

That it felt so youthful makes sense, given that it's an offspring of another University Heights restaurant, the Michelin-starred Soichi Sushi. *Hatsuzakura* translates as "first cherry blossom," and one of its operators is first-time restaurateur Sakura Kadoya, a young daughter of the sushi restaurant's namesake chef, Soichi Kadoya. You needn't look far to find Hatsuzakura, either: the younger chef's restaurant has recently bloomed right next door to her dad's place.

It's a similarly intimate shop, with a smattering of small tables set up around a main dining counter. Hatsuzakura is modeled after *kissaten*, a Japanese café tradition that puts an emphasis on



A "hamu sando" and other Japanese snacks.

coffee, tea, and snacks. Meaning, really, I should have started with a matcha latte, or better yet, an *hojicha* latte: likewise whisked from green tea powder, albeit a darker hue, ground from more mature tea leaves.

Instead, I spent my entire budget on two meals' worth of more familiar items. Not because Hatsuzakura is expensive — quite the opposite, really. Everything on the menu is under \$20 (though it's easy to spend more, should you embrace each dish's suggested wine pairing). However, I loaded up on "the boring stuff," because I couldn't resist any of it.

Let's start with the fried chicken, Chef Soishi's *karaage* (\$12). One of the elder Kadoya's contributions to the menu, this popular item didn't seem like something I could ignore, despite its bland at best photo-op. The panko-crusted nuggets were practically a lesson in subtlety.

After several years allowing Nashville hot chicken to assail my palate, it was tough to pinpoint what made these so appealing. They're not spicy, not too salty — they don't taste like any one thing, so while they're made for sharing, I finished an entire plate by myself before I could figure out why I like them so much.

Next, I ordered one of those crustless, Japanese sandwiches, *aka* sandos, bypassing the more conventional egg salad (\$10) for the "hamu sando," (\$12) made with Swiss cheese, cucumber, and lettuce. But most important were the thick, fluffy slices of crust-free milk bread. It was a simple and fairly boring sandwich that was otherwise perfect.

And I will not apologize for spending my next \$14 on the chicken *yakisoba*. Even in San Diego, *yakisoba* is far too easily found to be considered interesting. Yet I order it from just about every Japanese restaurant I visit, hoping to conjure memories of the stir-fried noodles I devoured on weekly basis while living in Japan. Tangy, savory, slightly sweet, this one finally nailed it, automatically making it my favorite *yakisoba* in San Diego.

Finally, with a last chance to find excitement on the little nostalgia trip Hatsuzakura provided, I tackled the *onigiri*. The thickest of the shop's snacks at \$6 apiece, *onigiri* are seaweed-wrapped rice balls stuffed with the likes of fish, curry, or pickled plum. We used to pick up the triangular morsels from convenience stores, often after a night out clubbing. Here, they were a little heftier, and a little more upscale than what I recall.

I consider Hatsuzakura a welcome addition to University Heights, whether you're after comfort food or prefer to veer into the unconventional

territory of Japanese spaghetti with bacon, an ice cream parfait made with cornflakes, or a melon soda ice cream float, definitely make a date to bring your inner child.

-Ian Anderson

## FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

**86th Annual Deep Pit Barbeque** Experience an old fashioned BBQ with food and drinks, beers on tap, children's games, door prizes, craft booths and live country music. Sunday, September 3, 11am; free. Our Lady of Light, 9136 Riverside Drive. (DESCANSO)

**Bourbon & Blues** Designed for bourbon lovers and foodies alike, the evening will include Elijah Craig Bourbon with curated tapas stations featuring delicious creations from Chef Josh Mouzakes. Live tunes will be provided by Whitney Shay and her band. Thursday, August 31, 6pm; \$120. 21 and up. ARLO, 500 Hotel Cir North. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Cutwater Cocktail Classic** Cocktail Classic benefiting the San Diego Food Bank Humphrey's Outdoor Concert Lawn: customers will enjoy waterfront live music while working their way through a curation of Cutwater cocktails & food pairings. Saturday, September 2, 6pm; \$50-\$70. 21 and up. Humphreys by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. (SHELTER ISLAND)

**Deep Pit Barbeque** Experience an old fashioned BBQ with food and drinks, children's games and door prizes. There will be craft booths and live country music. Prizes include two \$500.00 cash prizes, as well as a bundle of the Deep Pit barbecued beef. Sunday, September 3, 11am; \$15. Our Lady of Light, 9136 Riverside Drive. (DESCANSO)

**Del Mar Wine & Food Festival** Enjoy six days of culinary experiences featuring an all-star lineup of culinary talent, curated wine experiences, walkaround tasting adventures, immersive lifestyle events, and more. Wednesday, September 6, 4pm; Del Mar Surf Cup Sports Park, 14989 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)

**Julian Grape Stomp Festa** Celebrate the 26th anniversary of the Julian Grape Stomp Festa with local wineries offering sips to sample, a variety of food and shopping opportunities, music, and dancing. Saturday, September 2, 11am; \$25. Menghini Winery, 1150 Julian Orchards Drive. (JULIAN)

**Labor Day Weekend Garden Party** Enjoy fun activities, delicious culinary creations and libations and a live concert with the Jessie Ray Smith's Trio featuring American classics. Sunday, September 3, 3pm; \$30-\$150. Fairmont Grand Del Mar, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (CARMEL VALLEY)

**Stranahan's Whiskey Dinner** Guests will be welcomed with a signature cocktail and then be treated to five courses, each with a paired cocktail. Xander Brown, will guide guests through the tastings, while Chef Aldo Negrete discusses the food pairings. Thursday, August 31, 6:30pm; \$185. 21 and up. Desmond, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

**ARLO:**  
*Thursday*, 6pm — Bourbon & Blues. \$120.

**Alejandra's Fine Mexican Food & Cantina:**  
*Friday*, 7pm — JourneyBirds.

**Alila Marea Beach Resort:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — Allen Stone.

**Bang Bang:**  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Victor Calderone. \$20-\$55.

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:**  
*Friday*, 6pm — Orion Song.  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Jehua Evans.

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

**Belly Up Tavern:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — Loving. \$20.  
*Friday*, 8pm — The PettyBreakers. \$22-\$39.  
*Saturday*, 7:30pm — Prince Again and The Contenders. \$20-\$35.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — 80s vs 90s. \$22-\$39.  
*Tuesday*, 8pm — Black Uhuru.  
*Wednesday*, 7:30pm — Foy Vance and Bonnie Bishop.

**Brick by Brick:**  
*Friday*, 8pm — Bongzilla and Kadabra. \$20-\$22.  
*Saturday*, 7:30pm — Psycroptic and Decrepit Birth. \$20-\$25.  
*Sunday*, 7:30pm — (hed) PE. \$20-\$25.

**Cannonball:**  
*Thursday*, 5pm — Ben Benavente.

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*Saturday*, 6pm — She Says So. Free.

**Casbah:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — No Car Garage and Sun Burnette. \$12.  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — Drug Hunt and Pearl Earl. \$10.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Manual Scan and 16 Again. \$15.  
*Sunday*, 9pm — 1984 New Wave Pre-Labor Day Dance Party. \$10.  
*Tuesday*, 7:30pm — Obed Padilla and Winnebago.

**Crafted Culture:**  
*Friday*, 6pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.

**Descanso Junction Restaurant:**  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Daring Greatly. \$12.

**Diamond Palace:**  
*Thursday*, 6pm — Jenny & The Tramps. Free.

**Duck Dive:**  
*Wednesday*, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.

**Duck Foot Brewing Company:**  
*Friday*, 7pm — Drivin' the Bus.  
*Tuesday*, 7pm — Jazz Organ Jam.

**Duke's La Jolla:**  
*Thursday*, 4pm — Anthony Kauka Stanley.  
*Friday*, 3pm — Russell Paihinui.  
*Sunday*, 4pm — Kekoa.  
*Tuesday*, 4pm — Orion Song.

**Epstein Family Amphitheater:**  
*Friday*, 8pm — Craig A. Meyer: Remember When Rock Was Young. \$40.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Marshall Charloff & Purple Xperience. \$40.

**Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:**  
*Thursday*, 6pm — Christian Taylor.  
*Friday*, 6pm — David Shyde.  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Jonny Tarr.  
*Tuesday*, 6pm — Helena Holleran.  
*Wednesday*, 6pm — Puro Feeling.

**F6ix Niteclub:**  
*Sunday*, 4pm — Day Series.

**Farmer & the Seahorse:**  
*Thursday*, 4:30pm — David Shyde.  
*Friday*, 4:30pm — Jason Graham.  
*Saturday*, 11am — Blaise Guld.  
*Sunday*, 11am — Danielle Angeloni.

**Fishtank:**  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Red & Ted. \$5-\$20.

**Giaola Italian Kitchen:**  
*Friday*, 6pm — Johnny Martin.  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Jesse Johnson.

**Golden Island:**  
*Friday*, 6pm — Jenessa Noland. Free.

**House of Blues:**  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — KPop Club Night. \$22-\$30.  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Senses Fail. \$28-\$75.  
*Sunday*, 7:30pm — Kany Garcia. \$50-\$60.  
*Wednesday*, 7:30pm — Yngwie Malmsteen and Glenn Hughes.

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:**  
*Wednesday*, 6pm — Blame Betty. Free.

**Ki's Restaurant:**  
*Friday*, 7pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Free.

**L'Auberge Del Mar:**  
*Thursday*, 5pm — Marelle.  
*Friday*, 7pm — Whitney Shay. Free.  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Joanna Gerolaga.  
*Sunday*, 11am — Helena Holleran.  
*Wednesday*, 5pm — Alex Elisabeth.

**La Mesa Wine Works:**  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Blame Betty. Free.

**La Valencia Hotel:**  
*Thursday*, 5:30pm — Rebecca Jade.  
*Friday*, 6pm — Jarred Matthew.  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Helena

the inside track  
blurt

**Sludge flows better across the pond** “I’m an equal fan of Ratt and Cattle Decapitation,” says Bobby Ferry. “Bottom line, this city has produced some of the best metal music ever made.” The founder/guitarist/vocalist

exponentially, and streaming has really come to dominate the industry. Obviously, we can reach a wider audience now, but the financial returns from streaming are negligible, at least for most artists. Lucky for us, much of our fan base



-(16)-: Sometimes, not fitting in anywhere means you can go everywhere.

for -(16)- fronts a band with an international following; they’re often referred to as the Godfathers of Sludge. They elude categorization in much the same way as they defy newer music distribution models — they’ve earned a rabid fan base willing to snatch up vinyl in the age of streaming. “I’m a huge fan of digital music as a consumer,” says Ferry. “What’s the saying? If Spotify’s algorithm proposed to me, I’d say yes. It’s uncanny how it caters to you and really knows you, like a teenage crush making you a mixtape. And as a band that still makes a bunch of vinyl, honestly, we are doing as good as we ever did with vinyl and merch. I see it as a positive, with fewer promos in the landfill. All music is accessible at any time. Streaming and legal weed blow my mind continually. We are living in the golden age, in some respects.” Bassist Barney Firks (Shot Out Hoods, Taz Taylor Band) was added to the lineup while streaming was still ascending. “I’ve been in the band for 10 years now, and digital media was already pretty dominant when I joined. It has continued to morph and expand

continues to appreciate vinyl, so we move a fair amount of that. The labels we work with always produce limited run and multicolored products, and that keeps the collectors happy.” One such label is Totem Cat Records, a French company that specializes in vinyl issues of underground metal. Because of their reputation, it’s become a badge of honor to have the label release a band’s product. The recently-released *Cadaver Monuments* is double vinyl split four ways between -(16)-, Deadbird, Nightstick, and Fistula. The gatefold item is available in a variety of colors and splatters, all limited to 200 copies, plus a standard black vinyl. The European fervor for bands outside the mainstream has always provided a window to different and extreme music, with a higher level of respect shown for some acts there than in many U.S. cities (including San Diego). “When touring in Europe with a band, they always make you feel welcome and show you so much appreciation for being there,” says Firks. “They always have ample catering backstage, and a hot meal as well. Many of the clubs have ‘artist apartments’

that are part of the same building, or just around the corner, so there are no extra costs for lodging. Another bonus is the drives are usually shorter. You just feel more like a real artist, and that what you’re doing has value. Those two things are kinda rare over here in the States.” Response at live shows overseas is often stronger as well. “We have a good following in Europe. I would say Italy always comes through for us with good crowds. The Netherlands and Denmark are solid as well. Switzerland and Slovenia come to mind.” The band’s brand of proggy metallic sludge is more of a cult genre in America. “We played a small festival in Little Rock, Arkansas back in June,” says Firks. “We’ve gone out there to play more than a few times now, and there’s a pocket of our fans there that always bring it. People right up in front going off hard, that know all the lyrics, and are screaming along, shouting out requests. There’s nothing better than that.” Both Firks and Ferry are unconcerned about appealing to the masses. When asked where -(16)- fits into the metal scene, Ferry tells me “I don’t really know honestly, nor have I considered it. We’re here, and we appreciate all comers. We’re strangely both an international band, and a bit of a struggling local band. There’s always been a bunch of great influential bands in this city since the ‘80s. If we fit in somewhere, great.” Adds Firks, “I think it is to our benefit that we don’t really fit in with a specific genre of the metal scene here. I mean, just in the past few months, we have played shows with Bongzilla, Pallbearer, Cancer Christ, and Pentagram. That’s a pretty mixed bag. We have elements of sludge, hardcore, thrash, doom, and even stoner rock. Sometimes, it’s good not to fit in.” — Spike Steffenhagen

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

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

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Wed, 8/30  
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FASCINATOR • IAN CURTIS

Thu, 8/31 @ Soda  
MONSTERWATCH  
SPOON BENDERS  
SANDS

Fri, 9/1 @ Quaryard, 5:30pm  
TROPICA MAGICA  
PIJAMA PIYAMA  
LOS PINCHÉ PINCHES  
LA COSECHA INTERNACIONAL  
(TEJUANA)

Fri, 9/1 @ Soda  
WE THE COMMAS  
WINNABEGO  
TOPEKA CLEMENTINE

Fri, 9/1 @ The Sound  
SYLVAN ESSO  
REYNA TROPICAL

Sat, 9/2 @ Soda  
TEN BULLS  
KATE DELOS SANTOS  
THE LYLACS • BLUE WORSHIP

Sun, 9/3 @ Soda  
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Bad Ass • The Third Estate

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BATHROOM  
w/ Mike Delgado

Sat, September 2  
ANNELIDA  
Legs. The Band  
Just In Case • Insomnia

Sun, September 3  
SLAUGHTER AND  
THE DOGS  
D.P.I. • Revolt Chix  
Nico Bones  
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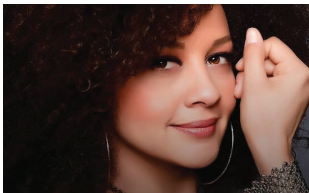
# LIVE *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at [sandiegoreader.com/music](http://sandiegoreader.com/music)

## REBECCA JADE at La Valencia Hotel

AUG 31



Rebecca Jade (Siren's Crush) was the singer for Super Magnetic when that band won the 2010 Ultimate Music Challenge at Viejas Casino. She released her debut album the following year. Her band Rebecca Jade & the Cold Fact earned a 2014 San Diego Music Award for Best Blues Album. Jade topped the list of 2022 San Diego Music Awards nominees with five nominations, winning for Best R&B, Funk or Soul Song and Best Video, both for her track "What's It Gonna Be."

## ANTHONY CULLINS at Music Box

SEPT 1



Guitarist Anthony Cullins, aka the Fallbrook Kid, was still attending Mission Vista High School in Oceanside when he started playing blues rock gigs at venues like House of Blues, Pala Mesa Resort, Valley Fort Steak House, Temecula Music Festival, and Fallbrook Brewery. He won the "10 Under 20" contest at the 2018 Dallas International Guitar Festival and was the subject of a Backstage 360 documentary. The bill includes Helena Holleran.

## DARING GREATLY at Descanso Junction

SEPT 2



Fronted by Dail Croome and his two sons, Patrick and Liam, Daring Greatly describes their music as blood harmony rock. Nominated Best Rock Artist at the 2022 San Diego Music Awards, the group recently released a new album called *Grid Valley*, named for a small town in Fallbrook, in North San Diego County. The Descanso venue welcomes dogs on leashes.

## MANUAL SCAN at the Casbah

SEPT 2



The Secret Society Scooter Club 40th Anniversary concert in Little Italy will be headlined by one of the longest running San Diego mod groups, Manual Scan. Fronted by lifelong scooter driver Bart Mendoza, the band formed in the early 1980s, touring extensively throughout California and Arizona as well as England, Spain, and Mexico. Also appearing will be 16 Again and The Others.

## ASTRA KELLY at Studio West

SEPT 8



Astra Kelly describes her upcoming tenth studio album *Soul Fires* as "folk rock bitten by the south." In advance of the digital release, the songs will be available on CD, download card, private streaming link, and vinyl. The album debuts September 8 at Studio West in Rancho Bernardo. Her full band will perform, including Joshua Taylor on guitar, Sandi King on vocals, Harley Magsino on bass, and Tony Econom on drums, plus guests Jeff Berkley and Cathryn Beeks.

## OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: CHULA VISTA

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JAYALLEN.SANFORD](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JAYALLEN.SANFORD)

Holleran.  
*Saturday*, 11am — Tyler F. Simmons.  
*Sunday*, 11am — Dalton Gazette.  
*Sunday*, 6pm — Michael LeClerc.

**Loews Coronado Bay Resort:**  
*Friday*, 7pm — Shay Skylar.  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Marcela Mendez.

**Mission Bay Resort:**  
*Thursday*, 6:30pm, *Wednesday*, 6pm — Kai Kalama.  
*Friday*, 6pm — Calli Grace.  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Matt Heinecke.  
*Sunday*, 6pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

**Moonshine Beach:**  
*Wednesday*, 7pm — Triston Marez. \$10-\$15.

**Morgan Run Resort and Club:**  
*Friday*, 5pm — Jesse Johnson.

**Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:**  
*Thursday*, 9pm — Freemartin.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — Rick Trotter.

**Music Box:**  
*Thursday*, 8pm — Souls of Mischief. \$27-\$32.  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — Anthony Cullins and Helena Holleran. \$14-\$17.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — Nitzer Ebb and Matte Blvck. \$25-\$150.  
*Sunday*, 7:30pm — Tom Sandoval & The Most Extras. \$29-\$99.  
*Wednesday*, 7:30pm — Terror Reid.

**Navajo Live:**  
*Friday*, 8pm — Totally 80s Band. \$10-\$12.  
*Saturday*, 7pm — The Farmers. \$5-\$7.  
*Monday*, 7:30pm — U2 Tribute: The Joshua 3. \$5.

**Nick & G's:**  
*Friday*, 7pm — Matt Heinecke.  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Farrah Camu.

**North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and Busta Rhymes. \$20-\$649.

*Sunday*, 7:30pm — Summer Block Party. \$25-\$374.

**Observatory North Park:**  
*Saturday*, 7:30pm — Ziggy Alberts and Kim Churchill. \$27.

**Open Air Theatre:**  
*Sunday*, 7pm — Kidz Bop.

**Our Lady of Light:**  
*Sunday*, 11am — 86th Annual Deep Pit Barbeque. **Free.**

**Parq Restaurant:**  
*Sunday*, 9pm — YG. \$45-\$55.

**Petco Park:**  
*Sunday*, 7:30pm — Weezer. \$71-\$523.

**Pure Project Vista:**  
*Sunday*, 1pm — BBQ, Blues & Brews. **Free.**

**Quartyard:**  
*Friday*, 5:30pm — Tropa Magica.

**Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:**  
*Saturday*, 7pm — The Music of Selena. \$22-\$100.  
*Sunday*, 7:30pm — Counting Crows. \$63-\$220.  
*Monday*, 7:30pm — Van Morrison. \$198-\$488.

**Sally's Fish House & Bar:**  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Seaside Sounds.

**San Diego Marriott Del Mar:**  
*Friday*, 6pm — Tyler F. Simmons.

**Side Yard:**  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Alex Elisabeth.  
*Wednesday*, 6pm — Andrew Peña.

**Soda Bar:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — Monsterwatch and Spoon Benders. \$18.  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — We The Commas and Winnabego. \$12.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Ten Bulls and Kate Delos Santos. \$15.  
*Sunday*, 9pm — August Slipped Away: End of Summer Dance Party. \$25.  
*Monday*, 7:30pm — King Dream and Little Heroine. \$18.  
*Wednesday*, 7:30pm — Ariel View and J. Graves.

**Sound:**  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — Sylvan Esso and Indigo De Souza. \$50-\$142.

**Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:**  
*Thursday*, 8pm — Locash. \$59.  
*Friday*, 8pm — 70s Soul Jam. \$79-\$109.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — 90s House Party. \$25.

**Thornton Winery:**  
*Friday*, 6:30pm — Brothers Igniting a Groove.

**Tidal:**  
*Saturday*, 5pm — David Rosales.

**UC San Diego Library, Geisel Library:**

*Tuesday*, 12pm — 23rd Annual Toy Piano Festival. **Free.**

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

**Viejas Arena:**  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — Marco Antonio Solis. \$59-\$664.  
*Saturday*, 7:30pm — Phil Wickham and Brandon Lake.

**Waterbar:**  
*Thursday*, 6pm — Mockery.

**Westfield University Towne Centre:**  
*Thursday*, 12pm — Ben Benavente.  
*Friday*, 12pm — Tyler F. Simmons.  
*Saturday*, 12pm — David Shyde.  
*Sunday*, 12pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

**Winstons Beach Club:**  
*Thursday*, 9pm — Roots of Mine, The Resinators, Indica Roots. \$10.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — Half Hour Late. \$15-\$20.  
*Saturday*, 1pm — Jack Strong. **Free.**

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**710 Beach Club:**  
*September 6* — Open Mic Night

**Amplified Studios:**  
*September 6* — Open Mic Night

**Aquarius Bar & Grille:**  
*September 8* — Novocaine  
*September 10* — Mark Fisher's High Noon Dead Set

**Aztec Brewing Company:**  
*September 7* — Open Mic

**Baba Coffee:**  
*September 8* — The Soto Six

**Balboa Theatre:**  
*September 17* — Kansas

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:**  
*September 15* — Freddie Walton  
*September 22* — Andrew Peña  
*September 23* — Christian Taylor  
*September 29* — Casey Turner

**Beach House Grill:**  
*September 10* — Mochakk

**Bellamy's Restaurant:**  
*September 9* — Andrew Peña

**Belly Up Tavern:**  
*September 6* — Foy Vance and Bonnie Bishop  
*September 7* — Nancarrow and Ash Easton  
*September 8* — The Spazmatics  
*September 9* — Super Diamond  
*September 10* — Don McLean

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# THE GONZO REPORT

## Almost Monday's maybe hit

Happy normie vs. girls sportin' jorts at Quartyard

When my brother came back from his freshman year at Berkeley, he was eager to show me a short video clip he'd taken at a concert up north. "This song isn't out yet," he burbled, "but you've got to hear this synth line; it's so cool." The song was a little thing called "Closer" by The Chainsmokers. "The thing is, it probably won't even sound as cool when it actually gets released," he concluded. "But I still can't wait."

Remember, this was before featured singer Halsey beefed with the boys in the band, before everyone got sick of it, before it was the number one song for 12 straight weeks. This was before it was released. I've always thought it was cool that

my brother grokked its appeal, even if he was right about the recorded version not sounding quite as good as that little snippet on his phone. And I've always wished that I could stumble on a future hit like that. Now, thanks to Almost Monday's August 4 show at the Quartyard, maybe I have.

But first: Hoko! Their first-ever performance at on their first ever tour! They were excited to be there! Lead singer Nathaniel Hoho pulled the cap off his water bottle and sent plumes of liquid arcing over the crowd! Then he followed the tide and left the stage — several times! Once, he even picked up a fan, slung her over his shoulder, and spun her around! Small wonder that his energy inspired some of the younger folks in attendance to start a dance mob!

Speaking of energy: Weathers was up next, and fan Josie said it was her first time seeing them in concert, and that she loved them for their "energy and personality." Personality check: "We're a band about just one thing," singer Cameron Boyer



Hoko descends, Weathers parties, Almost Monday charms

told the audience. "We just want one thing: to fuckin' party. Can we fuckin' party together?" I guess like likes like: Josie brought some energy

and personality of her own to their performance. As Weathers sounded the very first notes of their popular number "C'est La Vie," Josie did not merely scream with enthusiasm, she screamed with enthusiasm while jumping up and down high enough that her head kept popping into the band's sightline, despite her considerable distance from the stage. Game recognized game as Boyer took note of Josie's vertical: "Aw yeah, she knows this one!" By the time the set was over, both she and her friend Bryn said their nerves were shot.

I guess all the energy and jumping and dance mobbing should have served as fair warning for what was coming when Almost Monday came on stage. I like Almost Monday, for much the same reason as fan Becky: "their summer poppy vibes. You just can't feel bad when listening to their music." Her enthusiasm was infectious enough that she couldn't bring herself to attend without her husband and children Liberty, Cadence, and Paxly, the last still a babe in arms. Becky was, like me, a normie. As a normie, I spend a lot of time dancing weirdly in my room to music I like in front of my mirror. (I know this is normie behavior because I have decided that it is, please do not attempt to disabuse me of this notion.) But it turned out that Almost Monday

*continued on page 28*

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

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<p>WED. AUG. 30</p> <p><b>BATUSHKA</b> Swallow the Sun, Stormruler</p>	<p><b>BRICK BY BRICK</b></p>	<p>FRI. SEP. 15</p> <p><b>JUNGLE ROT</b> Enforced, Phobophilic, Molder</p>
<p>FRI. SEP. 1</p> <p><b>BONGZILLA</b> Kadabra, Forest Lawn</p>		<p>SAT. SEP. 16</p> <p><b>BULLDOZER</b> Deceased, Ares Kingdom, Demiser</p>
<p>SAT. SEP. 2</p> <p><b>PSYCROPTIC &amp; DECREPIT BIRTH</b> Feed the Vulture, Defy the Tyrants</p>	<p>SAT. SEP. 9</p> <p><b>9/11 BENEFIT SHOW</b> Contortion, Cascade Effect, Godhammered, Theosis</p>	<p>SUN. SEP. 17</p> <p><b>ANGELMAKER</b> Vulvodynia, Falsifer, Carcosa, A Wake in Providence</p>
<p>SUN. SEP. 3</p> <p><b>(HED) PE</b> Heathensun, Kella Sin, Joe Dreamz</p>	<p>MON. SEP. 11</p> <p><b>DISIMPERIUM</b> Wearg, Seraphic Disgust, Tideless</p>	<p>TUE. SEP. 19</p> <p><b>THE BODY</b> Troller, Dead Times</p>
<p>FRI. SEP. 8</p> <p><b>DECAYER</b> Saltwound, Inferious, Good For Nothing</p>	<p>THU. SEP. 14</p> <p><b>HAUNT &amp; HELL FIRE</b> Titans Wrath</p>	<p>WED. SEP. 20</p> <p><b>CRYPTOPSY</b> Abysmal Dawn, Visceral Disgorge, Reaping Asmodeia, Warforged</p>

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## Sympathy for the Symphony

I was making some tentative travel plans for November when it occurred to me that the most anticipated cultural event that I can remember was set to take place in November. I am, of course, referring to the opening of the renovated Jacobs Music Center at Copley Symphony Hall, a major project that cost some \$130 million.

I opened the San Diego Symphony app on my phone and went to the calendar. There was the Tchaikovsky Spectacular on September 1. Ok, ok. There was the preview of the symphony's Carnegie Hall concert on October 7, at The Shell. Right, right. (That concert is also part of the California Festival.)

Then there were a few *Star Wars* (a dead brand, by the way) concerts in October. And then I saw what I

was looking for. November 4: "Season Opening Under the Stars." Wait. What's this "under the stars" rigamarole?

The season opener is at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park. Okay. Fine. I scrolled a bit further, expecting to see the grand opening concert with Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection"*. Nope: Friday, November 10, Lorin Maazel's arrangement of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, *The Ring without Words*, at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park.

I fired off a few texts at this point. The Mahler has been pushed to at least next season by delays in the renovation process. Later in November, we get Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and then the hall opens on Saturday, January 13 with Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20* and Richard Strauss' *Aus*

*Italian*. The concert will be conducted by Tianyi Lu.

I suppose it is what it is, but I can't help but feel disappointed for The San Diego Symphony. That is not the opening that was planned.

There are concerts on January 19, 20, and 21, but music director Rafael Payare is not conducting those, either. They're great concerts though. It's hard to beat Jean Sibelius' *Concerto for Violin* and Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6*.

Maestro Payare will make his renovated Jacobs Music Center and Copley Symphony Hall debut on Friday, January 26. He will be conducting Anton Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7*. That is a happy consolation, because out of all the concerts planned this year, that is the one I am most focused



The Symphony: back under the stars at The Shell for the season opener.

on. I want to experience Payare's Bruckner.

Wagner's *Ring without Words* gets an indoor reprise with Payare conducting on February 24 and 25. That's also a nice consolation.

It has been said that life is what happens while you're making other plans. Looking at the life of the

Symphony, I would say that holds true. However, my travel plans for November are good to go — for now, anyway.

## Classical Music this week

**SD Symphony: Tchaikovsky Spectacular** Friday, September 1, 7:30pm; Rady Shell at Jacobs Park, 200 Marina Park Way.

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

### Brick by Brick:

September 8 — Decayer, Saltwound, Inferious

### Cannonball:

September 7 — David Shyde

### The Casbah:

September 7 — Pony Bradshaw  
September 8 — Bit Brigade  
September 9 — White Denim  
September 10 — Nuovo Testamento

### Diamond Palace:

September 7 — Adeumazel

### Duck Dive:

September 6 — Keni Yarbro

### Duck Foot Brewing Company:

September 7 — Dead Heads Night  
September 9 — The B Sections

### Duke's La Jolla:

September 8 — Farrah Camu  
September 10 — Russell Paihinui

### Encinitas Elks Lodge:

September 10 — Marty Conley's Big Band Express

### Epstein Family Amphitheater:

September 9 — Doors of Change Concert of Hope

### Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

September 6 — Puro Feeling  
September 8 — Gabriele Dagrezio

### F6ix Niteclub:

September 7 — TakeOver Thursdays

### Farmer & the Seahorse:

September 8 — Sean McCole  
September 9 — TJ Moss  
September 10 — Gabriele Dagrezio

### First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego:

September 8 — Zane Alexander S.B. & the Holy Ghost Ensemble Album Release

### Golden Island:

September 8 — Gerard Nolan Quartet

### Harrah's Resort Southern California:

September 8 — Anuhea

### House of Blues:

September 6 — Yngwie Malmsteen and Glenn Hughes  
September 8 — Javier Rosas  
September 8 — Best Night Ever: Taylor's Version  
September 9 — Christian French  
September 10 — Maisie Peters  
September 10 — Olive Klug

### Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

September 6 — Blame Betty

### Humphreys by the Bay:

September 7 — Aly & AJ

### JAI at the Conrad:

September 10 — McPherson House Concert

### Josie's Hideout:

September 9, September 10 — Backcountry Music

### The Kraken:

September 10 — The Water Spots

### L'Auberge Del Mar:

September 6 — Alex Elisabeth  
September 7 — Jemille Violet  
September 8 — Rachel Jay  
September 9 — Jarred Matthew  
September 10 — Farrah Camu

### La Jolla Community Center:

September 6 — Opera Wednesdays

### La Mesa Wine Works:

September 10 — Garza Quintet

### La Valencia Hotel:

September 7 — Brian Pierini

September 8 — Keni Yarbro

September 10 — Jonny Tarr

### Little Italy Food Hall:

September 6 — Live Music & Wine Wednesday

### Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

September 9 — Casey Turner

### Madison:

September 10 — Latin Jazz Sunday

### Mission Bay Resort:

September 6 — Kai Kalama  
September 8 — Casey Turner  
September 9 — Jonny Tarr  
September 10 — Helena Holleran

### Mission Cellars Winery:

September 10 — The Younger Cole Band

### Mockingbird Improv:

September 8 — On That Note Musical Improv

### Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

September 7 — Karaoke

### Moonshine Beach:

September 6 — Triston Marez

### Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

September 6 — Wednesday Night Blues Jam  
September 8 — 2lil2late

### Music Box:

September 6 — Terror Reid  
September 7 — Tessa Violet and Frances Forever  
September 8 — Emancipator and DGTL CLR  
September 9 — Easy Star All-Stars: Ziggy Stardub  
September 10 — Blair Gun and Cope

### Navajo Live:

September 8 — Daring Greatly

### Nick & G's:

September 8 — Durell Anthony

### Observatory North Park:

September 7 — Ocean Alley  
September 8 — City and Colour

### Ocean Beach Brewery:

September 6 — The High Road Open Mic Night

### Open Air Theatre:

September 9 — Arcangel

### Panama 66:

September 6 — Castellanos Jam Session

### Petco Park:

September 9 — The Revivalists and Band of Horses

### Pine Valley House:

September 7 — Karaoke  
September 9 — Java Joe's Presents Gregory Page

### Poway Center for the Performing Arts:

September 9 — The Hit Men of Country

### Poway's Irish Pub:

September 7 — West of 5

### Pure Project Vista:

September 9 — Saturday Sessions: Lee Melton  
September 10 — BBQ, Blues & Brews

### The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:

September 7 — Buddy Guy  
September 9 — Bebo & Beyond: Music of Charlie Parker & Dizzy Gillespie

### Rancho Bernardo Library:

September 9 — Around the World with Accordion

### Sally's Fish House & Bar:

September 9 — Seaside Sounds

### San Pasqual Winery & Production Center:

September 9 — Barrel Room Sessions

### Side Yard:

September 6 — Andrew Peña  
September 8 — TJ Moss

### Soda Bar:

September 6 — Ariel View and J. Graves  
September 7 — Veni Sun  
September 8 — Gavin Turek and Val Fleury  
September 9 — Death Cab For Karaoke  
September 10 — Home View and Marble

### Soma:

September 8 — JAMM  
September 9 — Kip Moore  
September 10 — Hockey Dad

### South Coast Winery Resort & Spa:

September 10 — Michael Paulo

### Studio West:

September 8 — Astra Kelly Vinyl Release Concert

### Sunshine Brooks Theatre:

September 9 — Clapton Hook

### Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:

September 9 — Crystal Gayle

### Thorn Brewing Co.:

September 6 — Open Vinyl Night

### Thornton Winery:

September 9 — Rick Braun & Richard Elliot

### Til-Two Club:

September 7 — It's OK and Eventide

### Tin Roof San Diego:

September 7 — Live Band Karaoke

### Tio Leo's:

September 10 — Holly Hofmann Presents Sunday Jazz

### The Tower Bar:

September 9 — Roselit Bone

# THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 27

day had other sorts of fans as well. Moshy sorts. Jortsy sorts. Again: I'm a normie. Maybe that's why I had never seen jorts on women before: the absurdly wide denim legs stopping at the widest part of their comparatively wispy calves. And not just one or two: nearly every girl in that seething mass of feral teen-dom was sportin' jorts.

I have no objection to jorts on women. Well, I do, but to each her own. Except when the moshing jortsters lose all sense of their surroundings and start yeeting each other out of the pit and into the open space where I am dancing weirdly in public. A young woman in the crowd got bumped so hard that she fell down into me. I found myself thinking, "I'm all for teens having fun, but..." which made me feel old. I don't go to shows to feel old.

Happily, when the band started playing its new song "You Look So Good," I stopped feeling old. Not just because it was insanely catchy and fun and smile-making when Dawson Daugherty started sing-singing "You look so good/ Walking your dog through the neighborhood..." But also because it brought me back to that day in early 2016, when my brother showed me that unreleased hit that he'd heard live. ■

### Viejas Arena:

September 8 — Los Angeles Azules

### Waterbar:

September 7 — Ryan Hiller

### Waterfront Park:

September 9 — Boots In The Park  
September 23, September 24 — CRSSD Festival

### Westfield University Towne Centre:

September 8 — Jesse Johnson

### Winstons Beach Club:

September 6 — Club Culture  
September 9 — The Runaway Grooms  
September 10 — SunDazed at the Beach Hip-Hop Show  
September 10 — OB-Oke Karaoke



## LETTERS

continued from page 4

and libations we all proceeded outside to launch our pirotechnics heaven word. The children and horses were in a safe place and the fun began!! What a great place!

-Baja Memories

### Sanguchería means Peruvian sandwiches in Tierrasanta

Feast!, Mar. 24, 2022

We started to enjoy this delicious Peruvian sandwiches about a year ago, found it by another Peruvian friend. What can I say, I LOVE IT, EVERYTHING IS DELICIOUS !...IT'S OUR PERUVIAN TASTE!... All to their perfection !... Yesterday, besides the Asado sandwich (the beef so tender and juicy) and the Beef Empañadas (awesome), they had BUDIN, that I haven't had for years!... You know, only made by my mother's hands!... This one was SPECTACULAR, the moisture raisins and the upside down pineapple in a delicious miel, made it "THE BUDIN"... Now when we want to feel Lima Peru, we go there!...

## Under the radar

continued from page 3

told people not to leave home. But we did get to read about the Angels DH split from Saturday. That's the Los Angeles Chargers, Mr. San Diego, and the LA Times should care about them now. The expectation, of course from Posner was that I would write about it and criticize the LA Times, which doesn't live up to Union-Tribune standards. Then I get a series of tweets from former LA Daily News columnist Tom Hoffarth on Monday about the inconsistencies and poor coverage in the Times. He concludes one message by writing: 'TJSimerspage2 may have thoughts on how this also took a full page of Sunday's tiny print edition.' First of all, it is 'tjpspage2.blog.' But I have given

LOVE IT !... Thank You SANGUCHERIA PSF in San Diego.

-Peruvian local

### Nothing friendly about Hillcrest's Friendship Hotel

Feature Stories, Feb. 17, 2021

HAHAHAHA that was a great read. I know the area very well and I'm fortunate to have chosen the nearby "Plaza Hotel" in downtown.

-Plaza Familiar

### Kyle Turley and other NFL stars stand by marijuana

Cover Stories, Apr. 19, 2023

Though researchers are still working to understand the enormous medical effects and purpose of cannabis, there have already been a lot of positive health results of consuming cannabis. Some of these health benefits include; Lowering blood pressure, Reducing inflammation, Preventing relapse in drug and alcohol addiction, Treating anxiety disorders.

There are benefits to buying cannabis products in person, like being able to talk to a budtender or see some of the product before buying, but there are a number of reasons why buying

cannabis online is increasing in popularity. First, it's plain old convenient. You never have to leave your home to find the cannabis products you want. In addition, many people find that buying cannabis over the internet is less intimidating than a retail storefront. Buying weed on a Cannabis website could help streamline your purchasing experience. Whether you choose delivery, or shipping you can usually skip the line, and get weed delivered to your location.

-Budmall

### Confessions of a San Diego Amazon Flex driver

Feature Stories, Nov. 30, 2022

Thank you for writing this up, most of us have no clue how the Amazon system works. Take care.

-Informed on Flex

### Amtrak won't stop in Encinitas or South Carlsbad

Neighborhood News, Sept. 22, 2017

Once again the US misses the mark in public transportation. Express trains vs local trains seem to be a mystery. That and the culture is so car centric that it's dangerous to walk anywhere. Baffling.

-Choo Choose wisely

up. The LA Times' sports section as it appears in the newspaper is an abomination. The LA Times no longer cares what they deliver in the newspaper, circulation dwindling and fewer and fewer people to read a blog who even know what I am referring to when I write."

Meanwhile, staff shifting continues apace at the Union-Tribune, with longtime editorial chief Matt Hall exiting on a buyout and reporter Lauren J. Mapp announcing through her X/Twitter account on August 21 that "in addition to continuing to cover caregiving/aging and Indigenous communities in San Diego, I am now also covering East County." As reported here on August 16, the paper quietly switched reporter Blake Nelson from working the East County beat to writing about homelessness and other issues affecting

Southern California." The move was acknowledged by U-T Readers' Representative Adrian Vore on August 18. In addition, the paper's PDF facsimile edition, posted online, has been shorn of its LA Times Calendar section. Also, the U-T's "Wheels Sunday" section and accompanying page of car dealer advertising have vanished in recent weeks. The Times and UT were both owned by L.A. billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong until he sold the U-T last month for an undisclosed price to MediaNews Group, controlled by vulture investing outfit Alden Global Capital.

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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

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You can still call in your ad (619) 450-4293, text it to (619) 272-2772 or drop it in the drop box at the front door of the Reader office, 2323 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92102, by 12pm Monday

## PERSONALS

**AND JUST LIKE THAT...** ... I hold all the cards. Who knew?

**DEAREST KATHERINE,** your recovery is going along splendidly. Keep to the program and you will be back to your old tricks in no time. Love, Frank.

**GOD MUST REALLY HATE** the Detroit Lions.

**HAVING HEART** might be a choice for u but it's not for me and I'll fight for mine forever.

**HEY CHANNEL 8:** the Chargers left us! Why do you treat them like they are a local team?

**THE DRIVEWAY SOCIETY** is still waiting for our officials to get back to us. In the meantime, feel free to submit your requests to better our world.

**MEGAN:** if you're going to talk the talk, you had better walk the walk!

**STILL TRYING TO CONTACT** Ema Carney aka Emaja. Nut jobs need not reply. Would love to speak with you Ema, (619) 981-4873

**THE WORST DECISION** is indecision.

**HELLO JOAQUIN!** Hope you have a nice day! :-D

**HAPPY BDAY,** Wendy!! JZ, K & Z!

**HAWAII:** Looters should be shot on sight!

**VERY SHORT AND EFFECTIVE!** Prayer to St. Rita. in Impossible Cases. (YouTube, with Red Lettering) deefrwl@gmail.com

**WORLD-CLASS ARTIST** wants to meet an attractive woman, with a Pit Bull. deefrwl@gmail.com

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

**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. Jackie Feitler. (619) 917-6975

**SENIOR OR OLDER** for some fun activities, call Mario at (858) 933-4645.

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

**YOUR OPINION** Strike out the name The Padres, a name with religious identification. Hit a

home run for a new name. How about the Amigos? The Center for Applied Critical Thinking, CACT. (619) 428-1274.

**HOW DO YOU FAKE BEING SEEN** by 500 people after being crucified? First Corinthians 15:3-6

## NOTICES

**SCIENCE OF SPACE (SOS) CHURCH** Building the consciousness to control climate change. Volunteers/founding members needed. Leave a message at gccubed.com.

**ITREASURESANDIEGO.COM** It's not too late to have a happy childhood. iTreasureSanDiego.Com

**MAC TOOLS CUSTOMER APPRECIATION CAR SHOW** Oct. 1, 2023, 12PM-4PM. Location: BNS Brewing & Distillery, Santee, CA. Must RSVP (619) 253-0524

**FREE SMALL ROCKS** natural rocks from my property, great for creative decorating and pathways, etc. Bring your buckets, (619) 466-8663.

**"OVERCOMING BETRAYAL IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM"** written by free spirit unique....Available Now at... iTunes Amazon Xlibris and Barnesandnoble.com

**FINE RIDES & FRIENDS CAR SHOW & MAC Tools** Oct. 1, 2023, 12PM-4PM Location: BNS Brewing & Distillery. Santee CA 92071 RSVP (619) 253-0524.

## CLASSES / LESSONS

**TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES,** Meditation In Movement. First class is free. Join us outdoors Tuesdays, Thursdays, 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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**WATER FITNESS CLASSES**  
Excellent program SD Parks/ Rec: shorturl.at/bdpG3.  
Fun activity!

**AFFORDABLE 1 DAY REIKI CLASSES** Learn both practitioner levels of Reiki Healing in one day. Help yourself & others heal. Private classes Mon-Sat, 1-6. Indigochakrahealing.com star@indigochakrahealing.com

**DOORWAYS TO SPIRIT AND YOU.** Discover the different gateways to the Spirit Realm and how to unlock its transformative powers. Explore Near Death, Past life experience & between life regressions for change and a fuller life. \$5 donation. Yoga mat or pad suggested. Aug 31, 6:30 pm. (619) 542-9191 / thedivinebubble@gmail.com

**ASTROLOGY, NUMEROLOGY, TAROT** runes, past lives etc, master teacher Anya is back! Croton school of higher metaphysical, education. (619) 964-1695 psychiccancer1@gmail.com.

**BEAUTY SECRETS FOR YOUR SOUL** classes, sessions & retreats. Begin with Restorative Yoga and Qigong in nature. Chula Vista. Text or telephone Catalina (561) 345-1363

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

## ROOMMATES

**GENUINE LADY IN MAJOR NEED!!!!** I'm a mature, quiet, clean, tidy, polite, respectful, kind gal who needs a place/space to catch some ZZZ's & clean up. On a serious struggle bus & would very much appreciate a trade of domestic services for my simple needs! No addiction/anger issues! sandiego-lady13@gmail.com

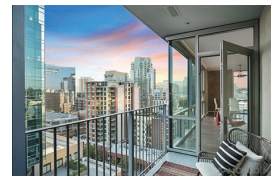
**HELP!!** Trying find a room, older strong healthy female with small steady income, also great cook, clean, peaceful, please call Therese (619) 552-6123.

**LOOKING FOR A ROOM FOR RENT** Room for rent anywhere in San Diego, call (619) 869-5814. (858) 397-3687 / rtgood2016@yahoo.com

**ROOMMATE** Room in new home. \$1150, laundry, pool, gym. Valley Center. Male, responsible, no smoking/drugs. Peaceful,

quiet. (858) 673-4799 / sherry-strawberry@hotmail.com

**ROOM FOR RENT** Allied Gardens. Furnished room. Shared bath. Close to all needs. Senior male preferred. No smoking. No drugs. Kitchen, laundry, cable, internet. \$600/month + utilities. (619) 583-7915



**SHARE DWNTWN CONDO \$1600 MO** Share two bedroom with many amenities, great location near Petco/trolley. Private bedroom and bath. lillianbass@hotmail.com

**FURNISHED BEDROOM FOR RENT** for male tenant in large home near beach in Imperial Beach; \$1200 + \$150 deposit. No pets or overnight guests. (619) 424-6133 / donnamack-ersie@att.net

**PRIVATE BEDROOM FOR RENT** In large home. Very clean and quiet. Near all. Pool and Jacuzzi with off street parking. Laundry room accessible. Furnished. (619) 565-7990 / berniearmas1958@gmail.com

**INDEPENDENT LIVING** Room for rent. Quiet view home. Shared room. \$850. Wifi, Meals. A place to call home. (619) 750-4447.

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**ROOMMATE, \$650** 420 friendly, clean, safe, living space. Natural female/ male. Hip, artsy Eastern spiritual, musical, maybe audio / video, piano, musical skills? reduced rent exchange. (619) 457-8516

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

## RENTALS

**JULY 2024** American high school teacher overseas seeks family rental accommodation in

North County for July 2024 visit. bdonog@gmail.com

**ROOM EXCHANGE FOR CARE AT NIGHT** Looking for a responsible woman who would be interested free housing (bedroom and bathroom in Encinitas) in exchange for being able to cook a good breakfast every morning and preparing once a week a dinner for our elderly mother and being available. catherinetondelli@gmail.com

**\$1500 ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED!** We offer monthly lodging for all our suites. All utilities included-free Wifi and cable!! We are located at 17065 W. Bernardo Drive/ Rancho Bernardo, SD CA 92127. Please call (858) 432-4324 to schedule a tour! andrea@vistainternational.org

**3 BEDROOM 2.5BA TOWN-HOME!** Estancia Apartments has a beautiful 3-bedroom 2.5 bathroom multi-level apartment available with large living room, spacious walk-in closets, separate breakfast dining areas! (760) 294-8730 or email estancia@vistainternational.org andre

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**ROOM VALLEY CENTER** New home, share bath & utilities, garage, laundry, pool, gym. Trustworthy male only. No smoking/drugs firm. Peaceful, quiet. Country living. \$1250 (858) 673-4799 / sherry-strawberry@hotmail.com

**2BDRM DUPLEX BARRETT JUNCTION** Please check the map. 2bdrm, 1 bth, laundry in unit, off street parking, pets with renters insurance. Tours set Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 2 to 6. When replying include your email.

**2BED 1BATH HOUSE PACIFIC BEACH** Sparkling hardwood floors gumwood cabinets, formal dining, spacious bedrooms, 2 colorful bathroom vessel sinks, 1.5 car garage, washer/dryer. Pets are welcome subject to approval. \$3,475/\$2,750. Call now! (480) 710-5751 / monique-spears@pearl.com

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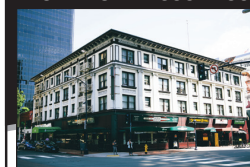
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**\$400/MONTH** long-term directly in front of the river ocean five minutes away 13 month contract. Ensenada a Rosarito LA mission 30 minutes across the border. (760) 250-7055.

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

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

## MUSIC

**PROGJECT & ANTHEM RUSH TRIBUTE** Anthem opens for Progject at the Grand Ritz Escondido 10/6/23. Progject features players from Yes, Genesis, Zappa, and Satriani. Use coupon code "Anthem" for \$5 off tix at [tinyurl.com/43y73fpc](http://tinyurl.com/43y73fpc)

**IPOD NANO & IBASE** First generation iPod Nano 4G and iPhone Homebase. as good as new. \$40 Lakeside. (619) 390-8216 / [robtville5@gmail.com](mailto:robtville5@gmail.com)

**REHEARSAL SPACE MONTHLY LOCK OUT** Rehearsal space 24 hour access, 24 hour lock-out, secure and air conditioned. Monthly rates from \$450 located in Escondido. Parking. In business for over 25 years. Call Scott (760) 855-3551. / [exumre-cording@gmail.com](mailto:exumre-cording@gmail.com)

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

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**LEAD SINGER SEEKING GUITARIST** must have chops and

less ego and more talent. Hoping for original. (619) 228-5843

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

## SPORTS



**SALOMAN X PRO 120 SKI BOOTS** These 27" Energyzer boots provide superior performance using Twinframe shell technology delivering smooth, direct energy and its polyamide chassis for advanced skiers. Clean and in very good condition. \$175. Text or email for more info or pictures. (619) 796-5680 / [cadbcsd@gmail.com](mailto:cadbcsd@gmail.com)

**VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS WANTED** Volleyball players wanted for grass games in Oceanside, CA at 11:00 a.m. Sundays. Long standing group is thinning. B level or above—must have basic skills. Call Steve for details. (760) 390-8168 18 or above.

**LONG BOARD SKATE BOARD** Just for fun. Water ski long board. With board the wheels cam from. \$20 Lakeside. (619) 390-8216 / [robtville5@gmail.com](mailto:robtville5@gmail.com)

## BICYCLES

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

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

**FOLDABLE NAKTO E BIKE** Works perfectly. Fun to ride! 25 mph top speed. 300 lbs max load. ChargerExtra battery. (650) 533-0457 / [jd94510@yahoo.com](mailto:jd94510@yahoo.com)

**BICYCLE FOR SALE** one year old, runs like new, ridden about six times, make offer. Call (562) 846-9299, Steven

## MOTORCYCLES

**FIVE HONDA CB 750 ENGINES** K1, K3, K6, K7, K8, all running normally. \$700 each, carbs not included (619) 917-6244.

**YAMAHA SADDLE** Dual terrain saddle for a Yamaha motorcycle for the Road Star, Royal Star, or B Star 1100 classic. New, in box, never used, for sale cheap. Call (619) 886-2715.

**2004 HARLEY DAVIDSON STREET GLIDE** Screamin eagle with high compression heads bigger cam custom exhaust for sale \$9500 call (310) 600-8920.

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

**2015 NISSAN JUKE** low mileage, great car, fun to drive, won't

be sorry, \$8,500 firm. (619) 343-0173



**1990 FORD CLUB WAGON XLT \$3000** 135,000 miles, in good condition, clean title, new tires, will be smogged before transfer. Call or text Mike Truck (619) 204-8486.



**2011 PRIUS. 81,000 MILES** \$11,000 only 81,000 miles. Kelly Blue Book offer is \$11,500. I am the only owner, leather seats, in-dash CD player. (818) 389-1579



**2010 VOLVO XC90 V6 3.2 \$5999.** 142,000 miles, in good condition, owner passed, no damage, light brown, registration in mail, will be smogged before transfer. Must see to appreciate. \$5999. OBO advertising in various media to sell. (619) 309-8992 / [ceciliaenglish@yahoo.com](mailto:ceciliaenglish@yahoo.com)

**CAR FOR SALE** Running 2008 Scion XB white. Needs minor repair. \$1500 firm. Text (619) 396-9574. / [kathleendana2017@gmail.com](mailto:kathleendana2017@gmail.com)

**2020 GMC HD 2500 DENALI 47K M** All options are on vehicle. FSBO. \$63,000. GMC bought back under lemon law due to trans. GMC just replaced Trans. (760) 468-3245 / [car-doza001@msn.com](mailto:car-doza001@msn.com)

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

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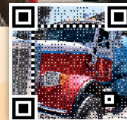
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San Diego Reader August 31, 2023 33



# Black Seabass – A legal take and a healthy population in Mexico.

**Dock Totals 8/20 – 8/26:** 2927 anglers aboard 145 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 1 black seabass (released), 2369 bluefin tuna (up to 260 pounds), 2 bocaccio, 68 bonito, 178 calico bass, 1691 dorado, 1 halfmoon, 3 halibut, 8 lingcod, 1 petrale sole, 2667 rockfish, 65 sand bass, 20 sanddab, 63 sculpin, 90 sheephead, 1 skipjack tuna, 1 striped marlin, 1 croaker, 275 whitefish, 1 white seabass, 172 yellowfin tuna, and 1062 yellowtail.

**Saltwater:** As I sit here mulling over the catch post-Hurricane Hilary, my back sore back from catching a plethora of surf perch yesterday from the beach near my digs at Cielito Lindo just south of San Quintin in Baja, I can't help but think of the last time I was this sore from fishing. Yes, surf perch wore me out. Get your chuckle in. But shore-pounding an all-day consistent bite on the smallest species I target can be burdensome for this old carpenter. Memory sparks to life: the last time I was this sore was last August, when, while kayak fishing the bay mouth here, I landed and kept a 75-pound black (or giant) seabass.

Now, black seabass are listed as Critically-Endangered on the IUCN's (International Union of Conservation of Nature) Red List of endangered species, but that status is being challenged by recent studies that take into account the entire distribution of the species. Their number was estimated at "less than 500" not too many years ago; thus the listing by the IUCN. However, protected as they are in California from commercial and recreational take — and most rightfully so — the previous studies concentrated only on fish found off California. (They are allowed as by-catch in the commercial fishery in California in limited numbers, by the way, and can be found for sale occasionally at some fish markets.)

The problem is that California represents only about one-quarter of their range. Black seabass are actually considered in good health south of the border, where they are fished both commercially and recreationally, with one per angler per day allowed for the latter. As far as black seabass commercially caught south of the border, records going back 60 years show an average of 55 tons taken per year. Even so, typically, when someone posts a catch of black seabass caught in Mexican waters on social media fishing pages, there tend to be a few comments that disparage the angler for taking the fish. Sometimes, the disparagement includes condemnation of lax regulations in Mexico.

In fact, recreational regulations are generally more strict in Mexico than in California, and a lot of that has to do with maintaining the health of the fisheries for the very lucrative fishing tourism that the generally excellent fishing brings to Mexican waters. Dorado is a good example. I volunteered for a kid's fishing clinic as a part of the Bahia Asuncion fishing tournament in 2019, and the suggestion was to keep dorado only if larger than six kilos (13.2-pounds). The recreational take in Mexico for dorado is two fish per angler per day. Often, over the past couple summer-fall seasons off California, thousands of dorado per week have



"My first Black seabass on 40lb test, alongside a nice WSB and good sized yellowtail. Today was a good day." – Chris Pizzitola, fishing with *Cedros Sportfishing and Diving*.



Edward Llewellyn with his 425-pound black seabass caught in 1903 off Catalina Island, a world record at the time.

been caught north of the border, and most of those were under that size. Further, the limit in California is 10 fish per angler per day, which accounts for over 30,000 being caught from San Diego based sportfishing vessels between August 6 and September 3, 2022. That's just one example.

That said, enforcement of both recreational and illegal commercial take in Mexico is a daunting task, given somewhat limited resources and the thousands of miles of rugged coastline. Still, a legal take of a large black seabass in Mexico is an accomplishment for any angler, as the big fish can put up a brutish battle and tend to live near jagged reefs in relatively shallow water to 100 feet or so. Once thought of as a grouper, black seabass are actually classed as the largest species in the "wreckfish" or *Polyprionidae* family — as in, they like the habitat provided by sunken vessels.

Black seabass make for great table fare, with firm white meat that can be prepared grilled, smoked, fried or in soups and stews. On August 25, angler Chris Pizzitola, fishing off Cedros Island with *Cedros Sportfishing* landed a hefty black seabass at around 140 pounds, along with a yellowtail and white seabass (not related to the black seabass) on a relatively light 40-pound setup on the first day of his fishing trip to the Island. His post-catch comment about sums up my experience with the big fish, as I

have caught and released several, and kept one, "I'm sore." Yup, I understand that sentiment.

For those who feel sketchy about keeping a legally caught black seabass in Mexico, that is fine. Many are released. But they can be hard to revive for release, as they will build up a lot of lactic acid during the battle and will typically 'roll' and float up when near the boat after a prolonged fight. Often, keeping one is better than leaving a fish in the water that most likely will not survive. But in recreational fishing in US waters, this is still not allowed. As a heavily protected species in California (and, again, rightfully so), knowing how to revive them is important.

First, you may be tempted to lift one out of the water for a photo. Do not. That, too, is against regulations north of the border. Get your in-water pic, then roll the fish upright. If possible, gently nudge the boat forward to about one knot and hold the fish so that water goes through its mouth and gills. (Gloves help.) Eventually, if the fish is in good relatively shape, it will kick and be able to swim free back to the undersea realm, in which it has no predators and can live up to 75 years and grow to well over 500 pounds. Once over-fished to near extinction in California waters, they are showing good signs of recovery. Sportfishing and commercial fishing takes were heavy in the early- to mid-20th-century, and posing with a giant caught fish seemed almost a fad at one point. Citing their rapidly-declining numbers at the time, the famous free-divers of the Bottom Scratcher's club quit taking them around 1955 or so. If people are allowed to take them in California, even with a one-fish limit, the extreme pressure might just endanger their population again. But if in Mexico, current science shows that within legal limits, taking a black seabass is not going to be the issue many may think it is based on outdated and selective studies. They're out there, so go get 'em!

DANIEL POWELL

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### But Why?

— Seattle police were called to a home on Aug. 18 for a reported burglary, KOMO-TV reported. A young woman inside the home said someone was trying to break in with a stick. Officers went into the home and found the victim hiding upstairs. The suspect, who was identified only as a 40-year-old male, was discovered in the garage, in one of the homeowner's vehicles, where he was guzzling gasoline from a jerrycan. He refused to leave the car, so police broke the driver's side window and took him out. He was charged with attempted burglary.

### Recent Alarming Headline

— Sheila Ortega, 72, hadn't been heard from for about a month before her family requested a welfare check on Aug. 15 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Sheriff Tony Mancuso told KPLC-TV that his officers "went to the house. No car in the driveway, no signs of foul play." Five days later, Ortega's family reported her missing, and that day, Christopher T. Cater, 41, was pulled over as he drove Ortega's SUV. The deputy asked Cater if he knew Ortega's whereabouts, and he said he had dropped her in Arkansas to visit some friends and was due to pick her up in a few days. On the following day, Ortega's van was seen in the parking lot of Prien Lake Mall, and deputies took a closer look, "finding her body in the car," Mancuso said. When they confronted Cater, he admitted to killing Cater about a month ago and getting

several loans using her information. He said he was unsure what to do with her body. "We have never seen someone drive around with a dead body in the SUV for 30 days," Mancuso said. Cater's bond is pending.

### Crime Report

— Porch pirates, meet your leader. Robin Swanger of Arno, Georgia, was charged with felony theft after he allegedly stole an entire porch from a neighbor's yard, Fox News reported on Aug. 22. The 8x10-foot wooden porch was left on the property when the house was moved away, but investigators said Swanger ignored "no trespassing" signs and removed the "very well-constructed" structure. "Some people may shrug their shoulders and say it's not a big deal," said county investigator Chris Stapler, "but when you take someone's property without their consent and the value of this porch is \$3000, you can't just go and take stuff off someone's property." Well said.

### News You Can Use

— Along with all the other natural oddities going on this summer, people are reporting exploding watermelons, NBC New York reported. What? "My melon was on the counter and it must have already been bad when I got it and the next day I came down to an awful smell and rotten melon everywhere," one person commented on a Facebook post about the phenomenon. Keith Schneider, professor in the Food Science and Human Nutrition De-

partment at the University of Florida, said the explosions are "probably due to the heat. The fruit, if slightly damaged, can begin fermenting. If enough fermentation occurs, which produces gas, enough internal pressure may build up for the watermelon to crack or pop." And don't eat it! "The watermelon is undergoing decay, so it's best to bring it back to the store and get a replacement or just toss it," Schneider added. Put that melon in the refrigerator before and after cutting it, experts advise.

### Ewwwww

— Thomas Howie of Madison Heights, Michigan, has become "increasingly depressed" and "paranoid about food served by others" since a March incident at a Detroit Olive Garden restaurant, *The Detroit News* reported. Howie filed a lawsuit on Aug. 18 against the restaurant for "tangible and intangible harm" to the tune of \$25,000 in Macomb Circuit Court, claiming that he ate a spoonful of minestrone soup with a foreign object in it. When he felt a "stab," he spit out the offending object, which appeared to be the foot of a rat with fur and claws. "My stomach just heaved; I threw up right in the restaurant," Howie said. "Until this happened, this was my favorite restaurant. I still can't believe it." Olive Garden isn't buying it: "We have no reason to believe there is any validity to this claim," a representative said. Howie had a tetanus shot to treat the cut in his mouth and took the foot to police.

### News That Sounds Like a Joke

— Dog ownership in Iran is frowned upon in many circles (dogs are considered "unclean"), but authorities took their biases to another level after a couple transferred the title to their apartment to their little white dog, Chester. The couple have no heirs, and Chester "signed" with an ink-covered paw. *Yahoo! News* reported that on Aug. 19, Iranian police "arrested the head of the real estate agency and shuttered the firm," according to deputy prosecutor general Reza Tabar. The sale "seeks to normalize the violation of the society's moral values" and "has no legal basis."

### It's Come to This

— Suffolk (England) police have issued a special request to the town council as it considers its "Turning Our Town Around" project, the BBC reported. The area of focus, Arras Square, includes St. Stephen's Church and graveyard, which police say is a site with "high levels of crime" and antisocial behavior. In particular, the tombstones are being used "as tables to consume alcohol and drugs ... (and) sometimes the site of sexual activity." Police recommended that individual tombstones be enclosed or surrounded by small railings along the top edge to deter such activity. The council said the recommendation is under consideration.

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

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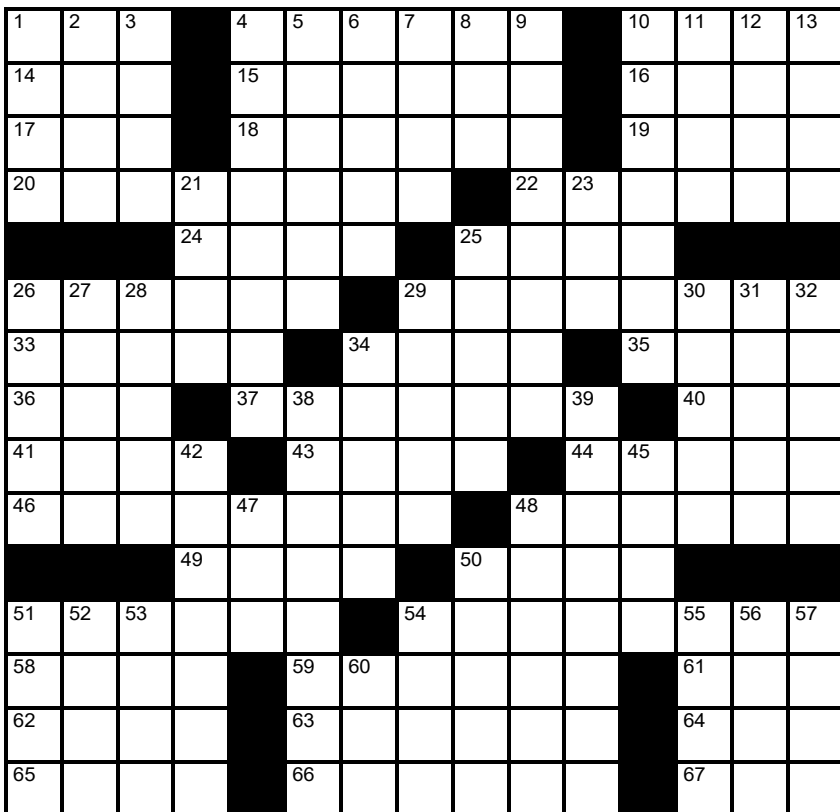
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# CROSSWORD



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## Across

1. "Hey, ewe!"  
 4. Enabling, like a security system  
 10. Shapeless shape  
 14. Lawyer's title: Abbr.  
 15. Simple shelter  
 16. Right hand  
 17. Wed. follower  
 18. Earth's fourth-highest peak (behind Mount Everest, K2 and Kangchenjunga)  
 19. Apt name for a Dalmatian  
 20. 1989 Winona Ryder movie  
 22. 1943 Humphrey Bogart movie  
 24. "\_\_\_\_, fa, sol, la ..."  
 25. "Woo-hoo! The weekend's here!"

26. Vegas casino with bars named Dublin Up, Lucky and Blarney  
 29. Earn a diploma  
 33. Longtime baseball card rival of Topps  
 34. Director Paul  
 35. One in a pride parade?  
 36. Chicago's \_\_\_\_ Center  
 37. 2013 Melissa McCarthy movie  
 40. NYPD rank  
 41. Trail mix  
 43. About .914 meters  
 44. Anesthetic since the 1840s  
 46. The "sacred disease," to ancient Greeks  
 48. "Cobra Kai" practice  
 49. Came down

50. Gospel great Winans  
 51. With 54-Across, promotional language about where to see a movie upon its release ... or where all the letters within 20-, 22- and 37-Across appear  
 54. See 51-Across  
 58. Outdo  
 59. "-ing" word  
 61. \_\_\_\_ de Janeiro  
 62. "I can't believe \_\_\_\_ the whole thing!"  
 63. American rival  
 64. Extra WNBA periods  
 65. "Jurassic Park" dino  
 66. Tissuelike  
 67. Singer with the 2017 #1 R&B album "Ctrl"

## Down

1. One of Alcott's Little Women  
 2. Arthur who wrote "A Hard Road to Glory: A History of the African-American Athlete"  
 3. Blue shade  
 4. Full of compassion  
 5. Does more tailoring on, as a skirt  
 6. Source of the word "kiwi"  
 7. QB stats  
 8. Some Windows systems  
 9. Absolutely loses it (over)  
 10. Quick to blush  
 11. "Levitating" singer Dua

12. Smell  
 13. Glitchy app phase  
 21. Baobab or beech  
 23. Help  
 25. Had a taste of  
 26. Not requiring a fake ID  
 27. Single-masted boat  
 28. Painter Matisse  
 29. Frank who designed Walt Disney Concert Hall  
 30. Tyler of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"  
 31. "What's not \_\_\_\_?" ("It's pretty obvious")  
 32. French for "between"  
 34. Sumptuous meal  
 38. Heavily promoting

39. Container for oolong or chai  
 42. 18 Hour Bra brand  
 45. Old weight allowance  
 47. Manning with two Super Bowl rings  
 48. Actress Catherine  
 50. Water slide  
 51. Departure announcement?  
 52. Approach  
 53. After the whistle  
 54. Voyage  
 55. Cupid's Greek counterpart  
 56. Cracker brand since 1934  
 57. Only player with three 60+ home run seasons  
 60. "Bambi" aunt

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.

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

# SUDOKU

## MEDIUM:

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

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

## HARD:

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





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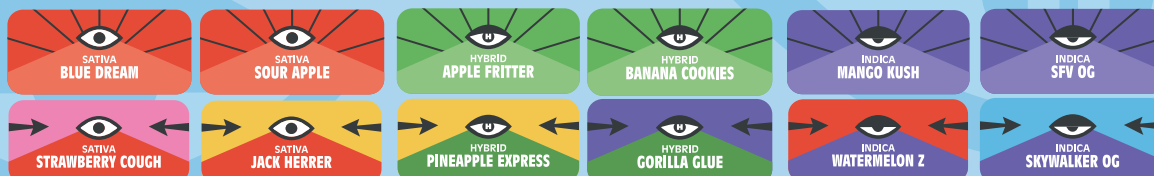
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**University Dental** (College Area)  
6324 University Ave, San Diego, 92115  
**619-319-9640**  
[UniversityDentalSanDiego.com](http://UniversityDentalSanDiego.com)

\* Treatment plans vary case by case, restrictions may apply. Call office for details. Offers cannot be combined. Offers for cash patients only. For insurance patients, insurance fees apply. Offers good through 10-2-23. \*\*No-Needle system cannot be used on all cases. Use of conventional anaesthesia may still be required. \*\*\*Not all patients qualify for same day implants. Questions can not be answered over phone. Implant consult appointment is required. CT x-ray and bone graft not included.



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