

SAN DIEGO

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Reader

San Diego SOS


PART 1:

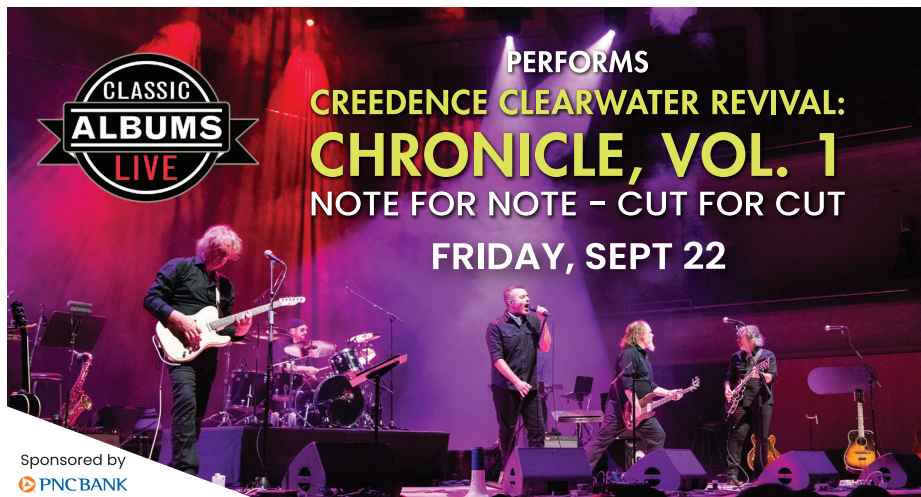
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LETTERS

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

Restaurant noise

On the topic of "aural invasions" ("How will the Padres fix Gallagher Square?", Cover Story, August 23): One thing that bothers my wife (German) and I (expatriate Californian) when we visit the US lately is the overwhelming loudness of music in restaurants. Calm conversation is impossible; shouting is the norm. At the risk of sounding snobbish I'd nevertheless say European restaurants are far more congenial in this respect — eateries with music keep it in the background. I was surprised that Thomas Larson didn't mention this baneful situation in his article, unless everyone in the US is too musically oversaturated to notice anymore?

MarkDC
Germany

Border smell

Karine Jean-Pierre go back to your job at the White House and take your Chanel dress with you. ("Biden Administration seeks to reassure South Bay Residents in wake of recent rumors", SD on the QT, September 8) I have lived in San Diego for 70 years. The human shit and trash runoff from Tijuana is not "Bullshit" But you are bullshit walking and spewing bullshit out of your mouth. White House Press Secretary my ass. Peddle your bullshit somewhere else, People here have been living with this "Bullshit" for decades, the horrible smell, the poisons flowing into the ocean. Oh and living with the lies from our "un stinking" government.....oh yes..... we will give you millions, billions or our left nut to fix this issue! When Pigs Fly .

The morons who are run-

ning just about every job in the United State could give a crap about the people who live in the USA. Perhaps you should put your focus back where it belongs.....HERE IN OUR UNITED STATES!

Joe Biden, mighty big of you to give a whopping \$700.00 per person/family on Maui after the fires after how many millions, billons and maybe both your nuts. I'm so glad I voted against you.

L.G. Brandon
Lemon Grove

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

When crystal meth was big in Lakeside

From the Archives, Sept. 2, 2023
They don't do crystal there. It's all about the fentanyl.
-Unaware of how time works

Asian Arts & Crafts in the pocket of La Jolla

Unreal Estate, Sept. 1, 2023
For more than 50 years I have loved this old Chinese-style house with a lushly landscaped corner yard in La Jolla. It's the closest thing we have to the beautiful Green&Green wooden bungalows of Pasadena. It was rumored to be occupied by an aging local indigent woman, maybe a relative of the owners, who used to be seen regularly around town with a shopping cart, white hair tied in a knot on top of her head, sometimes wearing a fur jacket in cold weather. She seems to have disappeared. And now the house will be sold. I hope the House of Dreams survives rapacious redevelopers.

-Monaghan

Was violent East Village bike thief same as one on 30th and Grape?

Neighborhood News, Aug. 29, 2023

Yes. Obviously the same person. Probably part of an organized group that is growing.

-20/20 vision

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San Diego Reader

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September 14, 2023



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ENCINITAS

The new beach bums

Coastal town sees worrying trends in unhoused population

Encinitas, like other cities in the region, is grappling with a shifting unhoused population, one that now includes more families, more first time homeless, and more seniors. While the 2023 WeAllCount count showed a slight decrease in the total number of unhoused people in Encinitas this year compared to last — from 76 to 73 — the agencies that work with those people still point to negatives. “For every ten people we house in our system, 13 more are experiencing homelessness,” said Tamera Kohler, chief executive officer of the San Diego Regional Task Force, one of the



If you think it's hard finding a house in Encinitas, just try holding on to one.

needed to help seniors, who may have health issues and are unlikely to increase their income, Kohler said. Those at risk of homelessness will go without medicines or utilities in an effort to hold onto their housing.

From February 21 to June 2023, the Jewish Family Services Safe Parking program served 131 households, including 14 children, two college students and eight veterans; 72 clients were 55 and older, said spokesperson Nicole McKeown. “The largest portion of our popula-

thing but useful. “I called 211 when the county issued the weather emergency, opening shelter beds for the hurricane. If you gave them an Encinitas zip code, you got told that it hasn’t been activated. If you give them Rancho Santa Fe (the unincorporated county), you did get transferred to a service provider. I gave up after waiting for 15 minutes.”

The county shelters more people than Encinitas, Vaughn added. Here, he said, it’s less than 10 percent. “We need beds. We don’t have beds in Encinitas.” He disagreed with the latest plan to possibly open a homeless navigation center in Vista, where multiple services would be found under one roof. “Shipping people off to Vista” is not the answer, he said. “We need to bring the resources to the community.”

Mayor Tony Kranz said the city has spent billions of dollars on the problem, “and we don’t seem to be making any headway. In fact, things seem to be getting worse.” Several residents supported the plan to place services elsewhere, and asked that the city not provide resources to the newly homeless in Encinitas.

SHEILA PELL

OCEANSIDE

Coffee clash

Will locals yield to chains as city changes?

Oceanside’s civic leaders used to fret over unwanted businesses. They would complain over the many barber shops and dry cleaners that served Camp Pendleton Marines. But gradually, gentrification squeezed out downtown honky-tonks, which some locals saw as too rough or raunchy. Once, the city was home to three topless bars. Now there are none.

Coinciding with its massive upscaling over the last decade, Oceanside is now seeing an explosion of coffee shops. And this frappuccino frenzy is drawing mixed reactions. Regarding the opening of a new Starbucks on Coast Highway last week, Robert Fry posted online:

“Oceanside is such a sellout. Coast Hwy is starting to become all corporate business... There goes three mom and pop coffeehouses down the street.”

From Bounds Coffee in South Oceanside to the newly-opened Starbucks 12 miles north, there are now 29 coffee shops on Coast Highway or on adjacent streets. That number includes the pending arrival of a new Pannikin, now being built out in the historic Bunker House, a building the city says is “a designated historical resource.” The city has also received plans to convert two longtime eateries into franchised coffee shops; those plans call for the Hillcrest-based Better Buzz chain to take over the space of an Angelo’s cafe on Coast Highway and the El Pollo Loco near Oceanside High School. Both restaurants have been serving Oceanside locals for decades.

The invasion of corporate cappuccino cafes has caused some long established independent coffee houses to cry uncle. One independent operator who did not want to be named said that the new influx may just end up sinking his longtime cafe. “Locals don’t want all this gentrification. It is killing the soul of Oceanside. These corporations are coming in and killing the independent operators. Just look at what’s happening down here,” he says of the existing and planned residential high-rises. “The city seems to think that everything is now all about tourism. This is not our Oceanside.”

Another proprietor who asked not to be

Seniors 55 and older now make up almost half of the homeless population in Encinitas. Countywide, the senior population has increased 25 percent from last year; more than 2000 seniors now live on the streets.

groups who reported on their work at a special meeting of the Encinitas City Council two weeks ago. “Unfortunately, it’s been 16 months since we had a month where we housed more people than came into the system.” (The federally funded task force doesn’t provide direct services to the city, but does help fund them.)

Throughout the region, homelessness increased at least 14 percent last year, according to the annual Point-in-Time Count released in June. Every city faces a slightly different challenge, Kohler said, adding that goals and funding can be aligned to help reduce the “incredible increase” among the first-time homeless. Starting in October, location data will be required for clients, which she said should help the city put together a list of people who are just beginning to experience homelessness. “You’re looking to house more families in Encinitas” than individuals, she noted. “That’s an important characteristic. That is not the same in every city.”

Another recent development: seniors 55 and older now make up almost half of the homeless population in Encinitas. Countywide, the senior population has increased 25 percent from last year; more than 2000 seniors now live on the streets. Different interventions are

tion is seniors.” And in keeping with the rise of first-time homeless, she noted that 89 clients had been homeless for less than one year. “Most of the Safe Parking participants across all sites are experiencing homelessness for the first time.” (About a quarter of participants found housing over that period.)

Another category that has bumped up is chronic homelessness, which Kohler defined as being homeless for a year with a disabling condition. “That is usually a direct correlation to how hard it is to house people in your community.” The city’s service providers are struggling to find units, she said. “And the longer it takes to house people, the more you are going to see chronic homelessness.”

Dan Vaughn, an advocate with St. Andrews, which offers programs to assist the unhoused in Encinitas, said a third of their clients are living out of a car. The chronically unhoused are “the most hardcore homeless you’ll see,” he said. “I can tell you that the system is broken. I’ve personally tried to help our clients navigate the system; it doesn’t work.” There’s a gap that people can’t always bridge when trying to tap resources. The most basic service, 211, the free telephone number that provides access to local community services, can prove any-



The proprietors of The Brown Cup don't mind the competition so much as they miss the parking.

named said she is surprised that the City has permitted such an unrestricted free-for-all by allowing so many similar coffee-centric businesses. “I heard that they would have a limit of how many restaurants like this would be allowed to come downtown.” But the fact is, unless you want to open a storefront that deals

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

in certain restricted products (liquor stores, cannabis sales, self-storage units, massage parlors), Oceanside does not set limits on business types. “The city doesn’t specify



Will the new Starbucks on Coast Highway torpedo area mom-and-pops?

like that,” said Michelle Geller, Oceanside’s economic development manager. Geller also suggested that Oceanside’s coffee house boom is not necessarily a bad thing. “I don’t know anyone who doesn’t drink coffee,” she said. “I assume this is happening because the market is demanding it. Breweries and coffee shops are gathering places. It gives locals a chance to socialize.”

But Carlos, a longtime local who works at a downtown taphouse, says enough already with the coffee thing. “It’s like there’s now one on every corner.” And it’s just not about quantity: Carlos says some new coffee hangouts just don’t belong in Oceanside. “Revolution Roasters, for instance, has never been an ideal fit for the vibe of the community. Some places have a lot of character and fit in with the locals. It seems like too many new places are all about the transients and the tourists. I’m tired of everyone coming trying to act like Oceanside is Carlsbad when it’s not. We need to be true to our roots.”

The husband/wife proprietors of The Brown Cup across from the Star Theater say they trust that the clientele they’ve developed over seven years will stay loyal. In fact, it’s not the new competition that bugs Roger and Vilai Thavarajah. Instead, Vicai said The Brown Cup is challenged with the same problem that affects all downtown merchants: a lack of parking. And the traffic: husband Roger said The Brown Cup and other storefronts on Coast Highway are tormented all day long by loud motorcycles and obnoxious cars that go completely unchecked. “A city councilman who agreed with me once told me that he would get a traffic officer [from Oceanside Police] to come in and talk to me about it. But no one ever showed up. Nothing ever happened.” He said it’s different in Carlsbad, where noise polluters are not welcome. “They have signs that forbid [noisy vehicles] and those signs are enforced. They don’t have that problem like we do in Oceanside. No one in the city here cares. But it’s a non-stop hell

continued on page 4

UNDER THE RADAR

New U-T Penn relations The *San Diego Union-Tribune*, sold to Alden Global Capital by L.A. billionaire **Patrick Soon-Shiong** on July 10, is no longer the most recent addition to Alden’s tattered collection of once-thriving, now-struggling newspapers. As of August 31, that dubious distinction belongs to four papers formerly owned by Pennsylvania’s Times-Shamrock Communications, including the *Scranton Times-Tribune*, *The Citizens’ Voice*, the *Republican Herald*, and *The Standard-Speaker*. The sale also included printing plants, but notably not an office building.

Unlike San Diego, where cancer drug kingpin Soon-Shiong, who also owns the *LA Times*, framed the sale to Alden as a positive for the U-T, minority Times-Shamrock shareholders blasted the sale. “Newspapers have been

our family business for nearly 128 years,” said a statement sent to *Editor & Publisher* signed by **George Lynett** and four members of his family. “Since 1895, we have had the privilege of serving this community with local news, events and happenings. Today marks a very sad end to that legacy.” The statement continues: “We feel it is important to express our personal dissatisfaction with the sale of Times-Shamrock newspapers to MediaNews Group, a subsidiary of Alden Capital. This was a transaction that we do not support or endorse. Alden does not reflect the business principles we feel are consistent with the stewardship of any newspaper.”

The message goes on to say, “The willingness to sell a company steeped in integrity and family tradition — and staffed by loyal, bright, compassionate employees — to a company with such a devastating reputation in the industry runs against everything we believe in. We are concerned for our employees, our communities, and our family legacy.”

Even before Alden’s arrival, Times-Shamrock had shrunk its press run, knocking off the Monday print edition in favor of an online-only PDF replica. Cutting print had also been mentioned before the sale to Alden as a possible business strategy for the U-T. In a June 2022 U-T story, then-editor and publisher **Jeff Light** told readers the paper’s July 4 print run for that year would be dumped and replaced with an online-only edition. “It’s important to note that this ‘print holiday’ doesn’t mean the paper version of the U-T is going away anytime soon,” said Light. “Unlike some other publishers, who have eliminated days from their print schedules, we plan to continue seven-day delivery for

years. When that changes, we want our customers and our company to be well prepared.” Another print lapse happened a year ago on Memorial Day. In July, Light abruptly left his job after taking an Alden buyout after the sale.

“Half of the daily newspaper circulation in America is now owned by hedge funds or private equity firms,” writes **Steven Waldman**, of Rebuild Local News, a non-profit pushing

tax breaks for the sales of newspapers to non-profits. “Studies (and our own eyes) have shown that when financial firms like Alden buy local newspapers, they cut local reporting staffs far more than family papers or nonprofits do.” A raft of other positions is also being cut at the U-T, including the job of **Cristina Byvik**, former U-T graphics director, who played a key role in the print edition.



Patrick Soon-Shiong believes Alden will be good for the U-T...really he does.

SDSU’s killer food handling An audit released August 24 by **Vlad Marinescu**, vice chancellor and chief audit officer of the California State University system, takes San Diego State University’s Aztec Shops to task for host of festering troubles, including failure to track employee foreign travel properly. “The Aztec Shops Travel Expense Policy did not address international travel, including foreign travel insurance requirements and the expense reimbursement process for transactions made on international trips,” the document says.

“Per confirmation with Aztec Shops management, we found that although international travel occurs infrequently, auxiliary personnel had participated in one international business trip during the audit period.” No costs

or destinations were revealed. Also problematic, according to the report, was Aztec Shops’ enabling of employees to give themselves trips using university funds without oversight.

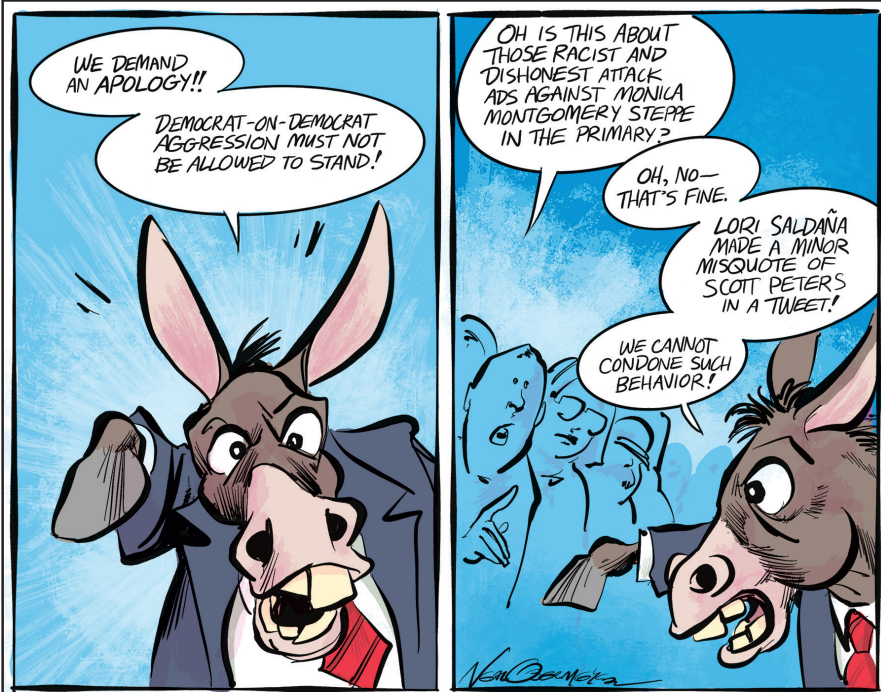
“For two business trips that included four of the disbursements reviewed, we found that an employee approved payment of their own travel expenses made on procurement cards. In these cases,

expenses were submitted for reimbursement via the procurement card process; however, the expense was made on the procurement card of a subordinate of the traveler.”

Aztec Shops, an SDSU-controlled subsidiary, runs the university’s food operations, among other generally mundane chores. “Aztec Shops was founded in 1931 and is a nonprofit corporation that provides a diverse portfolio of products and services to the campus, including operation of the SDSU bookstore,

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Neal Obermeyer



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 3

for businesses.”

The eight-month-old 1022 Cafe and Gelateria is situated two blocks east of Coast Highway on Mission Avenue, so they do not have to deal with traffic noise. But they agreed that the lack of parking in downtown Oceanside is an issue they did not fully grasp until they opened their coffee-and-gelato shop eight months ago. “Parking is a big problem,” said co-owner Eric Levy, adding that the huge number of coffee joints set to pop up in Oceanside will mostly impact storefronts “that only sell coffee.” He maintained that 1022 Cafe thrives because it specializes in 12 different gelato flavors made fresh daily.

Connor Goodman, the other 1022 Cafe co-founder, admitted that the arrival of two new

Better Buzz stores might impact the bottom line of all local coffee providers once they open. But he said that the fact Better Buzz is bullish on Oceanside, “shows that this neighborhood has arrived as a place where people want to be.” (Better Buzz currently operates 14 storefronts countywide.)

One observer wondered if the massive response to the Dutch Brothers drive-through operation on Oceanside Boulevard a year ago might have influenced Better Buzz to invest in two Oceanside drive-through facilities. Although business has tapered off somewhat, the Dutch Brothers store regularly maintains lines of 20 cars waiting for service. A request for comment from Better Buzz was not returned. A representative of the family-run Angelo’s, which has operated in Oceanside since the ’70s, said the cafe would have no comment at this time.

KEN LEIGHTON

Under the radar

continued from page 3

SDSU dining, conference services, commercial and real estate property, campus housing, and concessions and on-site spirit stores at Snapdragon stadium,” the report notes.

But in the dining department, auditors found other problems. “In our review of food-handler training and certifications for 15 employees, we found that two managers who had administered the food-handler exam for two employees did not possess a food-safety certification. We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with Aztec Shops ensure that food-safety managers administering county food-handler tests possess a valid food safety certification.”

Sole-source contracts have also proliferated without justification, according to the audit, opening the door to potential procurement corruption. “As a result, we found that documented justifications explaining why only a certain vendor could meet the specific performance requirements for a requested project or service were not maintained for any of the 10 sole-source contracts

reviewed. We reviewed the 10 sole-source contracts, and all appeared appropriate and within the requirements of the Aztec Shops purchasing policy.” University administrators copped to the auditor’s complaints and promised to fix the problems by January of next year...

The committee to elect San Diego state Senate Democrat **Toni Atkins** as California Lt. Governor in 2026 picked up \$5000 on September 1 from the Walt Disney Company. Next to Budweiser, also a major Atkins political backer, Disney is probably the biggest corporate player in the nation’s cultural wars, battling with Florida Governor and GOP presidential candidate **Ron DeSantis** over control of the company’s giant Disney World in Orlando. “I will not allow a woke corporation based in California to run our state,” DeSantis was cited as saying in a February 10 *New York Times* dispatch. “Disney has gotten away with special deals from the State of Florida for way too long.”

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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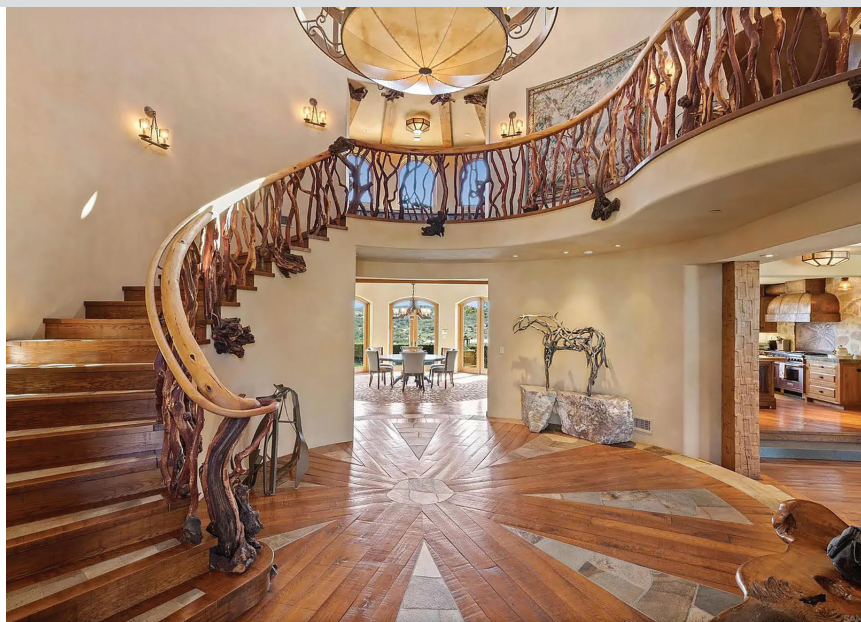
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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

I tend to chide myself for going back to the same handful of coastal neighborhoods time and again in my efforts to dig up *Unreal* fodder. Then, once I've finished my chiding, I go right on back to those towns for more entries (see our two most recent entries — in La Jolla and Del Mar). But the truth is that I do try to mix things up and find fancy houses in places where they're not always expected. We've been to Chula Vista a few times (and not just to the McMan-



An arresting bannister that appears to have been grown, not made.

sions built over the last decade out east), and to deep East County enclaves like Descanso and Warner Springs. We've even been near my decidedly "real"

neighborhood in South-east San Diego.

One place we've never been, though, is Ramona, a 20,000-person exurb about 30 miles north-

east of downtown. There are plenty of interesting houses, both in town and in the equestrian-themed San Diego County Estates development

a few miles farther east, including both million-dollar stock and structures originally erected as far back as 100 years ago then and cobbled onto in the ensuing decades. But it's after we get out of the town center and onto the multi-acre estates that make up the bulk of San Diego's backcountry that things get interesting.

So, let's head out to "Ballena Vista, a stunning 170-acre estate perched high upon the hillside" about six miles (and at least six wineries) east of the town center. There, we'll find a three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath estate with 5000 square feet of living space in the main mansion, not counting the "guest house, three casitas, and five modular homes" spread across the property "for overnight

guests and staff."

We start our tour with an aerial shot of the main house: an oversized Tuscan-style villa with wings branching off a circular main hall, a grand entry staircase, and tightly-manicured lawns flanking the back and sides of the house — except for the side with the pool. An oak-lined private drive leads us in from the street and past a private pond surrounded by fenced pastures, where the horses we'll talk about later are presumably free to roam. Moving along, we see a few shots of the pool and grounds. While not over-the-top luxurious in the fashion of some homes that attempt to ape resort-style pool decks, it's still a pleasant space, with lots of green grass on which to entertain or sim-

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A different sort of artists' alley

For Heather Moe, the mystery offered by hidden places in back alleys sparked a childhood fascination that has now grown into an Escondido Art exhibit. Moe, who is co-owner of Design Moe Kitchen & Bath, grew up in the Atwater area of Los Angeles, riding her bike through the city's back lanes, away from its traffic and noise. There, her mind was free to wander along with her bike, and the alleys became a land of discovery and surprise.

"I often biked down alleys as a kid, and I still go down alleys," says Moe. "I am surprised and delighted by which way they turn. It's mysterious. A sudden glimpse over someone's fence: a huge tree, a beautiful garden, an old shed all tricked out with lights. There is always the element of surprise. It's like finding a secret garden."

This interest in lovely discoveries in out-of-the-way

places led to the creation of Esco Alley Art, a concept that has generated a vibrant collection of murals in the alleys of Escondido. Escondido famously means "hidden," and Moe realized that the rustic brick wall along the lane behind her former place of business would be the perfect spot for displaying the off-the-beaten-path project's first creations.

With the help of Escondido artist Suzanne Nicolaisen, a small committee was formed to bring Esco Alley Art to life.

Each artist was given free rein to paint whatever they wanted on plywood panels that were then fastened to the walls in the alleys south of Grand Avenue between Maple and Kalmia Streets. (Later panels were made from an aluminum composite.) The public outdoor display gave a special kind of exposure to the artists' work; some of the pieces sold, and artists such as Brenda Gunderson Townsend and Mauro Alvarez can credit the project with helping to start their careers.

Heather Moe



Heather Moe



The first Esco Alley Art murals just before their unveiling two years ago.

The project began in June 2021 with 11 murals. By the middle of this year, more than 50 pieces hung in the alleys. And at 4 pm on September 9, eleven more murals were unveiled, extending the outdoor art exhibit further east to the alley between Kalmia and Juniper. The public was invited to help celebrate Esco Alley Art's third season — the

opening of which coincided with Escondido Mayor Dane White's birthday. Happily, that meant cake, donated by Cute Cakes and The Grand Tea Room.

Enthusiasm for Esco Alley Art has been great enough that plans are being made to fill the alley north of Grand Avenue with larger and more

continued on page 31

KATI COWAN

Excerpts from 50 years of Reader stories

San Diego from 1900-1950

Depression Letters

"He had been working since May at Balboa Park, cutting wood, gardening, cleaning up ravines, canyons, etc. When he was put on the Federal work card, a foreman's name was on the card. Although he had to report to the same headquarters, he allowed himself to be sent out with a road gang, none of whom had ever used a shovel or a pick, and the foreman was an ex-mule driver of no mentality, a chain gang chaperone. — *Beverlee Calvert* JAN. 6, 1994

In for the Kill

"When I was 12 to 14 or so, I had a buddy who wanted to be a trapper. We got ourselves a dozen traps and set up a trap line that went down into Mission Valley from about where University Hospital is, out across the valley, then up through the cut where 163 runs now, and up onto Camp Kearny Mesa. There were a lot of animals in that valley. We were very good at catching skunks and opossums! — *Jud Weaver* SEPT. 1, 1994

Fashion Plate

Those who did go to parties — if they were the right parties — had a chance of posing in their hats and gloves for the photographers or *San Diego Magazine*. In November of 1948, Mrs. George Carter Jessop, "noted for her outstanding blond good looks," posed in a cocoa

garbardine suit and a pillbox hat trimmed with coq feathers. Mrs. Harold Starkey, "one of San Diego's most attractive and vivacious matrons," stared heavenward in a \$4000 mink cape. — *Laura McNeal* SEPT. 3, 1998

Was the WPA a Boondoggle or Saving Grace

It's hard to look around San Diego and not see evidence of the WPA: the city library, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the dredging of Mission Bay (and Lindbergh Field), restoration of Balboa Park's Exposition Buildings. Even San Diego State University benefitted. In 1931, the college had outgrown its original location on Normal Street and Park Boulevard. The WPA helped relocate it to the current site "at the eastern edge of the city." — *Jeff Smith* JULY 8, 1999

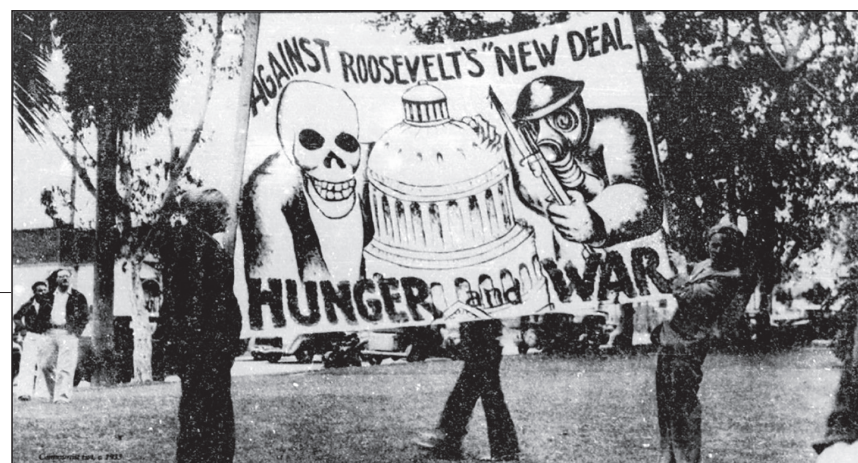


PHOTO CREDIT: SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

If Roosevelt is nominated, my husband will vote for him, but I won't.

The Way We Worked

The menu for the CCC's camp at Palomar Mountain on Saturday, May 22, 1937, shows that for breakfast the enrollees were served oranges, oatmeal, milk, hot cakes, scrambled eggs, butter, coffee, and sugar. For supper they were served roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, string beans, cole slaw, cottage pudding, rolls, and hot tea. The boys had to work hard for their food, but most of them say they put on weight during their hitches. — *Steve Sorensen* SEPT. 17, 1987

The Diva of Grossmont

Schumann-Heink publicly rebuked members of her audience for protesting the appearance of Chinese and Negro children in the dedication ceremonies of the Memorial Auditorium in Sacramento. Turning her back on the audience, she sang a lullaby for the children. Then she told the audience, "It is up to the war mothers to teach their children the love of law and not make a difference between black or yellow or brown or white skins." — *Richard W. Amero* NOV. 7, 1991

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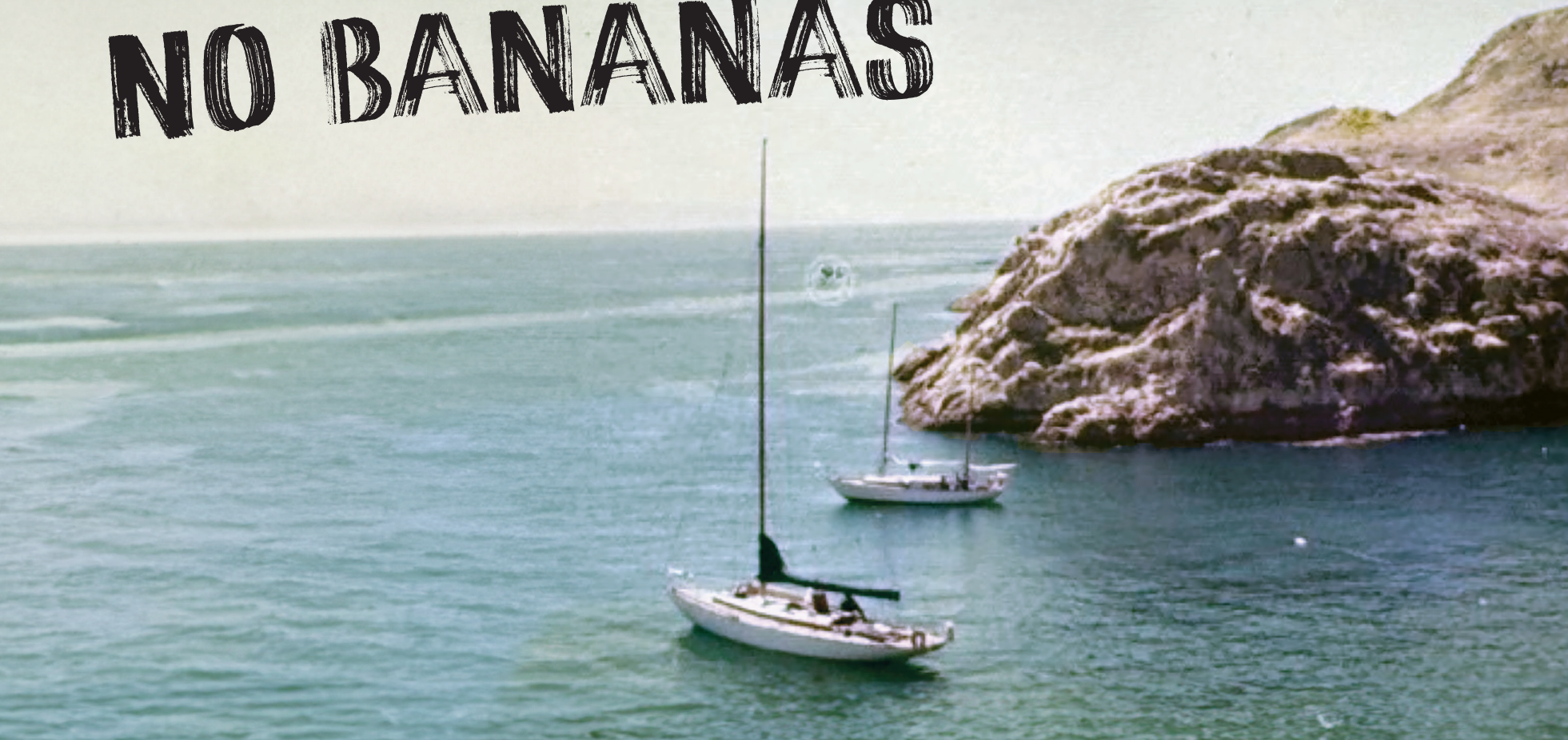
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San Diego SOS

PART 1:

NO BANANAS



Cholita (sloop) with another sailboat anchored in Islas Todos Santos cove.

They were just the sort of charter passengers we liked: out-of-town landlubbers who paid in advance and didn't ask questions. We planned to take them to Islas

Todos Santos, two uninhabited islands off the coast of Baja. A full-day south, with wind mostly out of the north. Then a full day and night back, since we would be sailing into the wind. No charting necessary; we made this run all the time. And no worries about the weather; August was almost always calm around here.

I learned to sail with my older brothers when I was still a kid. Our maiden voyage was in Coronado's Glorietta Bay; we had talked my dad into taking us there from Chula Vista. All the way

there, my mom kept repeating that it was a bad idea, because we didn't know anything about sailing. She told my dad that he had to go with us, maybe because he'd been in the Navy. We rented a small sailboat and climbed on board.

This was turning into a terrible trip, an infinite number of terrible moments strung together and crawling miserably by.

My dad untied us from the dock and gave us a little push; he did not hop on. The sail filled with wind. One of my brothers pushed on the tiller in an attempt to steer. The sail whipped

around, and we quickly capsized. It was a long and quiet ride home to Chula Vista.

Eventually, I learned how to sail properly, mostly in the big bay. There was something about the freedom of being on the ocean that

I really enjoyed. You become part of the movement of the water, the air, the sky, and the boat. Small wonder that I eventually found work helping Jim run charters out of San Diego. Who is Jim? Don't ask so many questions. I assumed he was a licensed charter boat captain, though I never saw a license and never saw him wear a captain's hat. Also only

rarely did we stop at the Harbor Police Dock when entering San Diego Bay. But Jim always seemed to know what he was doing when it came to sailing and navigating, and he had some

fantastic sea stories. That was enough for me, and for our customers.

We sailed a 46-foot racing sloop that was made entirely of wood. It had one mainsail and plenty of foresails and used a tiller for steering. We also had a small dinghy we always took with us on open ocean voyages that we kept turned upside-down and strapped

that worked just fine.

I never knew who owned the boat, but I did know it was fully licensed with stickers and numbers on the bow. And I was never sure if our charter business was legit. But then, it was the early 1970s; a time when a lot of businesses around the docks and marinas were, let's say, "self-regulating." I did

took up too much space. Whiskey would be our main libation, and Jim did like his whiskey.

Our passengers showed up at the marina right on time at 7 am: two middle-aged couples, one teenaged daughter, and a small dog named Chip. They hadn't mentioned the dog, and I knew Jim wouldn't be pleased. Like people, dogs get seasick. Also like people, dogs can easily fall overboard, especially when a sailboat is constantly rising and dropping with the ocean swells. As I gave Chip a friendly pat on the head, I noticed the luggage. I told our guests to pull out one change of clothes plus something warm for the evening and their toiletries, and stash the rest in our marina locker, and reminded them that we would provide food and drinks.

I made small talk as I rushed things along so we could get underway. Jim always told me not to ask customers questions about their boating experience, as discussions might cause delays. Just keep everything in motion and get them onboard. Within 15 minutes, everyone had what

This was the kind of sailing I liked: heeled over, the bow splashing up and down in the surf, the water spraying constantly, the sloop pushed to its limits.

down towards the bow of the boat. The sloop had a small head below and a little galley with a seating area. It could easily sleep four below, four more on deck, two in the cockpit, and two more below the boom. It also had a small inboard diesel engine. There was a radio frequency transmitter aboard that never seemed to get good reception, but we rarely used it. There was also a big globe-like compass mounted in the cockpit

know that we supplied everything: food, drinks, sleeping bags, towels, and lifejackets. The day before the sail, I would shop for mostly quick fix-it things like lunch meats, bread, some fresh fruit. I often got several fresh pineapples for good luck, but no bananas, because it's bad luck to have bananas on a boat. Jim believed that bananas onboard could cause a boat to sink. For drinking, we brought plenty of water, but no beer or wine because it



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he needed, and we headed to the sloop. The passengers smiled when they saw its sleek lines and tall mast. Jim waved at us and gave everyone permission to board. Chip was a little apprehensive, so I just picked him up and placed him on the deck, ignoring Jim's unhappy glance as I did so. I quickly stowed everyone's belongings down below and told them I would tell them everything they needed to know when we got underway. There would be plenty of time for talk during the close quarters of the sail.

Jim started the diesel engine. I cast off from the dock, hopped onboard, and off we went into the bay, heading for the open ocean. We would hoist our sails once we passed the final San Diego Bay channel buoy, not too far from the Point Loma light house. After that, it was a straight compass sail south parallel to the Baja coast. Just before entering the open ocean, everyone had a sip of whiskey — to christen the voyage and to ensure we had a safe journey. As was customary, Jim cast his first pour to the sea to show our respect to Neptune.

It was a typical August day: clear and sunny, with light wind and calm seas. Everyone seemed to be enjoying himself. Jim and I explained the boat's protocols: hold on to something so you don't fall overboard, and don't hit your head on the boom. We hoisted the mainsail and a foresail, which quickly filled with wind. As expected, within about 30 minutes, all our passengers were seasick, including Chip. Jim and I just kept on trimming the sails while trying to keep everyone laid out on the deck. By noon, the wind was moderately strong and had changed direction just a bit, blowing slightly offshore. We trimmed our sails to what is called a beam reach, with the wind mostly over the port side of the sloop. We also changed out the foresail to a larger sail called a genoa. We were making really good time, and would make it to Islas Todos Santos in the early evening. By early afternoon, everyone was getting used to the pitch and roll and starting to move around some. But no one was hungry, not even Chip, who found his place in the cockpit right

under the tiller.

As we approached Islas Todos Santos, we headed for the little protected cove near the northern point of the east island. The closer we got, the better people felt. We sailed right into the cove, quickly lowered the sails, dropped an anchor, rowed the little dinghy over to shore, and tied off the stern on

Jim always seemed to know what he was doing when it came to sailing and navigating, and he had some fantastic sea stories. That was enough for me, and for our customers.

a big rock. The idea was to have both the bow and stern secured so the boat wouldn't move too much while we were in the cove. Everyone was cheery. Even Chip was walking all over the place. I tidied up the boat, stowing the sails and coiling the lines, and then made a light dinner. Then it was time for a little whiskey, especially for Jim, who told a few sea stories before we bunked down for the night.

The passengers woke

early the next morning, anxious to get off the boat to see some of the island. Jim and I didn't usually do land excursions, and tried to get out of taking anyone ashore, but our guests were persistent. So I rowed everyone, including Chip, over to a rocky cliff area where we could disembark without too much difficulty. I tied off the little dinghy and guid-

ed everyone around for a couple of hours on some of the small trails. From one point, you could clearly see the lighthouse on the west island. When we returned to the cove, we saw that another boat had shown up. Happily, it happened to be someone we knew from Newport. They had sailed over from Ensenada and were going to spend the night and head home the next day. Like us, they were running a charter, but their sailboat, a ketch,

was bigger than ours and much better equipped.

For the rest of the day, we had fun on the boat. My favorite activity was swinging on the main-sail halyard from the mast and splashing down into the water. Jim told some more sea stories. We practiced some sail knots, and cut up one of the fresh, delicious pine-apples I had bought. I noticed that it had started to get rather warm, with Santa Ana winds blowing out of the east offshore. That was a little unusual. Then, toward the late afternoon, Jim started to get concerned about our exposure to the wind coming out of the west because our anchorage was open to the east.

That evening we all swam over to the other boat for a get together. All of them were really enjoying themselves. Our hosts had plenty of cold *cervezas* they had picked up in Ensenada, and we brought whiskey and another pineapple. But I did notice Jim and the other boat's captain talking about our anchorage and the wind direction which seem to be getting stronger. The ketch had a better radio than we

did, and apparently, there was a small hurricane a couple of hundred miles south. Another rather odd thing: the water was glistening with bright phosphorescence. Night sailing with phosphorescence is spectacular, because the splashing water around the boat lights up in bright green.

It had been a great day. Everyone was tired and a bit tipsy, so we decided to bed down a little earlier than usual. We had a big day coming as we tacked back and forth into the wind to San Diego. Even with a fair amount of motoring, we probably wouldn't get back until midnight. That night, the wind picked up even more which made the boat to rock quite a bit. I was laid out in the cockpit, trying to sleep, when Jim approached and said I better re-check our shore tie-off to make sure it was secure — and that he and I would need to stay awake to make sure our anchor was holding. About that time, we noticed that no one was getting any sleep. One of the passengers suggested we sail at night, because we definitely had good wind. Plus, it would be neat to

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experience the glow of the phosphorescence around the sloop. Jim was cool to the idea — he didn't want to be stuck motoring all night if the wind died down — but everyone was so excited that he finally relented.

I quickly untied us from the shore, and we pulled up anchor, fired up the inboard diesel engine and slowly motored

Then, as we began to cross in front of the islands — they were maybe 200 yards away — the wind suddenly stopped. We had been sailing for only about 20 minutes, and it was already time to start motoring, which wasn't great. Jim told me to bring down the sails, and as I did, I could hear the grinding noise of the engine turning over. But

the bilge to check the engine. I fooled around with the spark plug wires and distributor cap and looked over the wiring in general, but nothing looked disconnected or out of place. After a few minutes, Jim tried again to start the engine. The battery had picked up enough juice as we sat idle to crank it over a couple of times, but no luck. The boat continued to drift back towards the islands. I could now make out we were heading for a very rocky shore — with some jagged bigger rocks slightly offshore. In order to keep the passengers from panicking, Jim kept the sloop pointed north as if we were headed in that direction. But of course, we weren't. It was time for more extreme measures.

First, Jim told me to put the anchor down off the bow in hopes that we could snag it on something as it dragged along the bottom. No such luck — the water was too deep — but it may have slowed our progress toward the shore. To help with slowing, Jim had me put a couple of sails in the water. By this time, we could see the rocks

Just before entering the open ocean, everyone had a sip of whiskey — to christen the voyage and ensure we had a safe journey.

out of the cove. That's when I noticed one of our passengers eating a banana that they must have smuggled onboard. Jim noticed too, and gave me a very worried look. I could tell he was rattled. I tried to stave off my rising banana panic, and kept on with my duties: raising the mainsail, putting up a foresail, trimming them so they filled with air. If the wind held, we'd make good time, even with our tacking. And the phosphorescent water was as beautiful as we'd hoped.

it wasn't starting. Jim kept trying, but the more he tried, the more the battery drained. Before long, the battery was totally dead. Jim was maintaining a cool demeanor, but I could tell we were in trouble. Both Jim and I could see that the boat was now drifting back toward the islands' rocky shores. I don't think the passengers realized just how bad the situation was. Mostly, they just watched Jim and me try to figure out what to do.

Jim sent me below into

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clearly, and even hear the waves hitting them. No use trying the radio, because the battery was totally dead. We had a flare gun with two flares, both of which we fired. By now, we were within about 100 yards of the rocks. I could see a few big ones protruding from the water near the shore, and I knew if we hit one, the wooden hull would split, and the boat would quickly sink. If the boat managed to miss those rocks, the keel would hit the bottom near the rocky shore. That might allow for a less dangerous exit over the side and a swim to shore. Although the ocean swells were of good size, the shore break was not overly powerful.

Everyone was pretty scared, including me, but Jim seemed to be keeping his cool. All of us put our life jackets on, and we began to discuss when and how we would abandon ship. At this point, everyone knew we were in a very tough life-and-death situation, and that in order to survive, everyone needed to follow instructions. Jim told me that it might be possible for two people to row the little dinghy to a safe place

to go ashore — perhaps the stronger of the passengers and the teenage girl. He said I should use the surfboard we always brought with us and paddle ashore. The rest would need to jump off the ship with their life jackets on and try not to get smashed on the rocks. It didn't look good for anyone, but I figured I probably had the best chance, thanks to the surfboard. And like Jim, I tried to stay as positive as possible.

We kept on trying the engine, but the battery was now completely dead. Although the ocean was rolling pretty heavily, with no wind, it was fairly glassy. The anchor and sails slowed our drifting down, but we continued to get closer and closer to shore. At times, it almost seemed like we were becalmed, but no. After maybe four or five hours of drifting, it started to get light. Still no wind, so it was time to execute the plan. I put the dinghy in the water along with the surfboard. Jim decided to have three people go in the dinghy instead of two. That would leave Jim and just one of the passengers. That led to an argument

about who would stay with Jim on the boat. It was like something out of a movie: everybody competing to see who could be the most heroic and go down with the ship. Finally, someone won out. We made ready to abandon ship; if we stayed aboard any longer, the surge towards shore would be too strong to row the dinghy parallel

all re-boarded the sloop, and it took the ketch only a few minutes to reach us. They threw us a line, which I tied off on the bow, and began towing us away from shore. We cut the anchor loose and pulled the wet sails onboard, along with the dinghy. After about 15 minutes, we were out far enough away from the island to call over to

I noticed one of our passengers eating a banana that they must have smuggled aboard. Jim noticed too, and gave me a very worried look.

to the shoreline.

I got the three people and Chip in the dinghy, pointed them the direction they should row, and pushed them off. Then I lay down on the surfboard and started to paddle alongside the dinghy. That's when I heard a shriek from the passenger who had stayed onboard with Jim; he had spotted the ketch that had hosted us in the cove just the night before. They saw us too, and fired off a flare to let us know they were on their way to help. We

the captain of the ketch and explain to him what had happened.

The ketch was very well equipped, and had a long jumper cable that we used to give us some battery power. Sure enough, after a couple of tries the diesel motor kicked over. We untethered from the ketch, which sped away quickly — I think the captain was worried our passengers would try to change ships, and he was headed to Newport — and started motoring north. We could see Ensenada in the distance, and all the passengers said they wanted to go ashore. But just then, the wind started to blow out of the south, and Jim nixed the idea, assuring everyone that with the wind at our backs, we'd be in San Diego sooner than usual. We hoisted the mainsail and the big genoa foresail and set out.

By midmorning the wind was quite strong, probably because of that hurricane away south. So we changed to a smaller foresail, and even considered reefing the mainsail to reduce the wind area on it, which would

mean less stress on the wooden mast. The boat heeled way over, so we had everyone sit on the starboard side to keep the boat flatter in the water and give us as much speed as possible. We were now on a roll, perhaps about as fast as the sloop could go, maybe as much as 14 knots (about 16 mph). This was the type of sailing I liked; heeled over, the bow splashing up and down in the surf, the water spraying constantly, the sloop pushed to its limits.

Jim was focused on trimming the sails and keeping us on course, which in heavy seas requires a strong arm and shoulder to hold the tiller. No one seemed seasick, which may have been because of the adrenaline from our near-shipwreck and high speed. No one seasick meant everyone was hungry, so went below, made a few sandwiches, and cut up another one of our fresh pineapples. After we ate, it was pretty much hold on, watch for dolphins, and keep an eye out for landmarks on the Baja coast so we could monitor our progress north. Jim went below and brought up some whiskey for those who wanted it, while I stayed on the tiller. We even started to play some 8-track tapes, although we knew this would drain the battery a little. Then, as Jim and I were sitting in the cockpit with Chip curled up at our feet, we both saw it: another passenger eating a banana. Jim looked at me with the same worried look as before. I thought to myself, *we already had our bad luck.*

A few minutes later, the wind suddenly stopped. But wind on the ocean doesn't just stop. It pauses, or it lessens, or it

changes direction. This time was no exception: the wind changed direction, caught the sail, and made the boom swing rapidly across the boat. Luckily, no one got hit. Unluckily, when it finished its sudden swing, we heard a tremendous crack. The mast had split right near the bottom. Everyone was stunned, but Jim and I had the presence of mind to bring down the sails. There was nothing to do but motor for home. The engine started this time, which was good. But the swell had not subsided, which was bad. Everyone started to get seasick again, and some anger started to surface. Jim and I both told everyone that we would be fine and not to worry. But honestly, we were in a dire situation once again. Thanks to the wind, we weren't too far from the Coronado Islands. But we knew that was as far as our fuel would take us. Sure enough, within about an hour, we ran out of gas and began to bob up and down and drift away from shore. Once again, the life jackets went on. Everyone just sat silently on deck.

It was late afternoon. We could see a few other craft, mostly sportfishing boats, not too far away. Jim whispered to me that he hoped someone would spot us with their binoculars and come to our assistance. The battery had just enough charge for the radio to work, so we began the standard "mayday" distress call. We used all the channels we could transmit on, giving our position as best we could. But the reception was so scratchy that we weren't sure it was broadcasting to anyone. Also, because the mast hadn't actually snapped off, we were able



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to hoist up a black flag. Although not a regulation distress flag, if it were spotted, it would most likely work as a signal that we needed help.

This was the lowest point I had ever experienced on a sailing cruise. On past charters, people had fallen overboard, we'd had a near collision with a super tanker, and one person had suffered

other boats.

That gave Jim an idea. There was still some juice left in the battery, so he turned on the lights: red and green on the bow, white on the stern and on top of the cracked mast. I thought the lights made us look like the rest of the fishing boats. And that gave me an idea: start turning the lights on and off, in

asked if anyone was injured or needed immediate health assistance, threw us a line, and towed us to the Harbor Police Dock on Shelter Island. As we drew near to the dock, it was easy to sense what our passengers were thinking: *Get me the hell off this boat.*

Once we docked, Jim and I were ready to make some apologies or at least try to make light of our near-death experience, but there was no time for that. Each passenger hastily grabbed whatever they had brought on board and headed for dry land. Even Chip took off like a rocket when I lifted him from the deck and placed him on the dock. That was the last we saw or heard from any of them. They didn't even come back for what they had stored in our dock locker.

That left Jim and me sitting in the sloop's cockpit at the dock about 10 pm, just staring at each other in a kind of stupor. I said to Jim, "Whiskey and Carole King." Jim nodded. I put the tape in the 8-track and turned it to full volume. The last thing I heard out of Jim's mouth that night was, "No bananas."

— Jerry Olivas

I could see a few big rocks protruding from the water near the shore, and I knew if we hit one, the wooden hull would split.

a serious heart attack that required a helicopter pickup from the Coast Guard. But those were terrible moments. This was turning into a terrible trip, an infinite number of terrible moments strung together and crawling miserably by. It was getting to be early evening, and it looked like we were going to be spending the night floating on the open ocean. We sat quietly, staring at the water and the fishing boats and the Coronado Islands in the distance. As it got dark, we could see lights on shore on the

the hopes that it would indicate our distress. Jim agreed, and within an hour, it looked like one of the fishing boats was getting closer to us. Soon, we could hear the motor of the boat, and then the people on the boat. It was a sportfishing boat out of San Diego Harbor. We all started hollering as the boat got closer. The captain called the Coast Guard, and less than an hour later, we were being towed back to San Diego Harbor. It was all straightforward with the Coast Guard. They came up alongside the sloop,

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 5

ply lounge in the shade, avoiding the backcountry heat.

Once we get inside, we're greeted by an open foyer with a grand staircase curving around one side. I like the interesting mix of wood and stone on the floor forming a sunburst pattern, and what looks like twisted manzanita being used as the handrail balusters. Like the entry, the living room has vaulted ceilings that stretch up to the second floor. Unlike the entry, there's a massive stone fireplace. From here, arched French doors lead us out to the pool deck — or we could head over to the billiards room for a different kind of pool game.

A round dining room offers seating for six and some pretty views across the valley (of which we presumably would own a large portion), but is otherwise unremarkable. The kitchen offers your typical luxury appointments, including a commercial range and massive copper hood, a refrigerator that blends into the cabinetry, and a farmhouse-style sink. What's unusual is the center island — is it made of sealed wood planks? It's hard to tell, but if so, it's definitely an interesting choice.

Next we see a bedroom with its own private balcony, and a bath with a huge soaking tub that's also afforded serene vistas of the nearby valleys and the Laguna foothills beyond. This is all we get upstairs before jumping back down for another look at the billiards room, an outdoor



The estate, complete with regular barn and luxury barn.

kitchen with fireplace and covered dining area, and then an artist's studio of sorts equipped with a sink and built-in desk. Also, bookshelves that — unlike those in so many staged photos of mansions we come across — are actually stocked with books.

That seems to be all we get of the main house before moving on to a brick structure that I assume is the primary guest house. It seems pleasant enough inside, with exposed log beams in the ceiling and more logs framing a doorway from the living room to kitchen — though they do look more decorative than structural in nature.

Our next shot is an aerial view of a massive equestrian facility, which includes both "a luxury eight-stall barn and a separate 38-stall barn." I'm not sure what makes one of them more luxurious than the other, but I'll take the listing's word for it. There also seem to be shade structures built for each of a handful of corals, something I'm sure the horses appreciate on blazing summer afternoons. We also see some of the 40 acres that have been planted with a variety of grapes — the listing tells us there's plenty of room to expand the operation and even "convert existing structures into a first-rate winery."

Looking inside one of the barns, we see that it's covered in finished wood paneling from floor to ceiling. I'm guessing that this is the "luxury" barn, for the good horses. From here, we bounce around through another handful of drone shots showing us more barns, a private cul-de-sac, and what I assume are the rest of the guest casitas and the "expansive solar farm" that powers the property — including its seven wells, which can produce and store nearly a half-million gallons of water. (The listing tells us it's the second-largest solar installation in the county.) More aerials follow, and show us just how massive 170 acres is. There's even a handy map to point out different sectors of the grounds and their current uses. I'm not sure whether we see it or not, but somewhere, there's a quarter-mile race track for the horses.

Public records list a Cohn Family Trust based in La Jolla as the owners of Ballena Vista; it looks to have been at least 30 years since the property last changed hands. The ranch has been listed on and off since 2021, at one point carrying an asking price as high as \$26 million. That makes the current listing at \$17.5 million seem almost like a bargain! ■

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Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



in 2017. He's since embarked on multiple U.S. tours, appeared on the *Late Late Show*, and performed at Bonnaroo, as well as touring Asia. Now he's touring in support of his third full-length, *Columbo*, released in July.

WHEN: Friday, September 15, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue, North Park. casbahmusic.com

Thursday | 14

WALK 'N TALK

Join the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy for its monthly Walk 'n Talk. The hike will begin from the Sikes adobe homestead, pass the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges bridge, and continue on to the base of Bernardo Mountain. After the hike, enjoy a tour of the homestead, a historic site that is being restored in order to highlight its period significance. Established around 1870, it stands as one of the area's oldest adobe homes from the American era.

WHEN: Thursday, September 14, 8 am to 1 pm

WHERE: Sikes Adobe Farmhouse, 12655 Sunset Drive, Escondido. sdrv.org

Friday | 15

BRUNO MAJOR

British singer-songwriter Bruno Major was originally signed to Virgin Records before going indie and releasing his debut album *A Song For Every Moon*



Saturday | 16

SOLENTO SURF FESTIVAL

The Solento Surf Festival is a conver-



gence of surfing, film, art, and music. On September 16, there will be a family-oriented day of surf contests, live music, food and drinks, and partner activations. From September 21 to 23, the historic La Paloma Theatre will showcase new surf films and live music, and host panel discussions. Highlights include the world premiere of *Trilogy: New Wave* and a panel with director Andrew Mackenzie, the U.S. premiere of *Corners of the Earth* and a panel with director Spencer Frost, plus a look at untold stories and unseen footage with award-

winning filmmaker Michael Oblowitz. There will be an art show hosted at Four Moons Spa and a pre-screening happy hour at ALOHA Collection.

WHEN: Saturday, September 16, 9 am. Through September 23

WHERE: La Paloma, 471 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. solentosurffestival.com

MADE IN CALIFORNIA

Culinary Historians of San Diego hosts a presentation by George Geary, an award-winning chef, author, and educator. A&W Root Beer, Foster's Freeze, IHOP, Der Wienerschnitzel, See's Candy, and Jack in the Box all have their roots in California. But what are their origin stories? What made them famous? And for the few who are no



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: SOLENTO SURF FESTIVAL

longer around, what happened to them?

WHEN: Saturday, September 16, 10:30 am

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

Sunday | 17

VISTA VIKING FESTIVAL

Enjoy a day in a Viking village with re-



enactors, vendors, food, sports, combat, story-telling, a beard competition, log tossing, a weapons range, and blacksmithing. Entertainment will include the Damekor Choir, Silk Button Butchers, Blindfold Monks, and Highland Way.

WHEN: Saturday, September 16, 10 am to 8 pm, and Sunday, September 17, 10 am to 6 pm

WHERE: Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue, Vista. vistavikingfestival.com

**SATURDAY,
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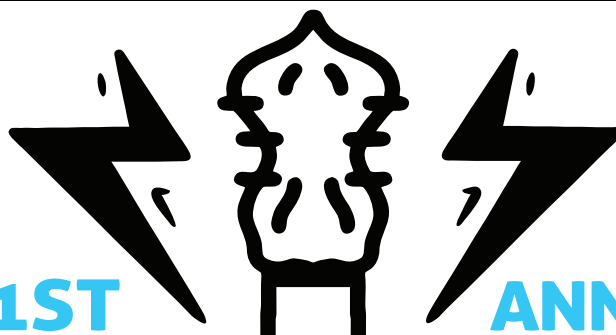
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FOOLS & FABLES • THE FREMONT • GABY APARICIO • HELENA HOLLERAN • THE HOWLIN ROOSTERS • THE JUKE\$ • KIMIKO
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Marshmallows, milk, and music

A strong fantasy life, to offset painful reality. A protagonist escaping into elaborate fantasy because he sadly lacks footing, let alone any happiness, in reality. “That’s a nice description of the Marshmallow Man,” allows Gary Wilson, long-running local artist, regarding the hero (and title) of his new full-length. “Each of my albums takes on a life of its own. Perhaps the Marshmallow Man is my other self. My alter ego. Someone, something I want to be.” *Marshmallow Man* marks Wilson’s fifteenth album, produced, as is his wont, “on my stand-alone Tascam 2488Neo [a 24-track recorder], in my home studio. I don’t use a computer for recording,” he clarifies, with a touch of pride.

Recently, Wilson stretched his fantasy/alienated persona to another medium, taking the starring role in the new film *The Absence of Milk in the Mouths of the Lost*, helmed by experimental director Case Esparros. With marshmallows not yet on the menu, Esparros cast Wilson as “The Milkman,” described by the director as “the average American man with an average American job, but [who], behind closed doors, has an innate curiosity to express himself, and a rich imagination he gets lost in. I can’t really even confirm if he is real. I just know he is the answer to everything.” Wilson, a tad more succinct, sums up the Milkman as “there to provide relief, comfort, and milk to the lost.”

Esparros, who sent a driver to collect Wilson from San Diego and drive him north, discovered Wilson’s work at “probably 15” and quickly fell in love with his best-known



Gary Wilson with director Case Esparros on set of *The Absence of Milk in the Mouths of the Lost*

record, the famously DIY release *You Think You Really Know Me*. “The album is one of America’s great pieces of work, and pretty much changed my life. It’s powerfully comical, brave, depressing, heartbreaking, infectious, and [a] painful look into a singular person’s psyche. The record functions the same way my favorite films do — with its build-ups, introductions, and character development — while keeping a mystery of intent.”

They shot the movie in and around L.A. Wilson recalls some work at “a house that is frequently rented out to filmmakers. Justin Bieber shot a video in that house the day before I arrived.” Esparros adds, “The film was mainly shot in San Pedro, California. It was really refreshing to go to a town I was not very familiar with. It made things feel more limitless. My favorite memory of Gary on set was him telling me how he likes going to ghost sites when he’s on tour, so he can hopefully talk to his [late] mother. It reminded me why I love him so much, and how his inclusion in the film felt essential.”

The Milkman’s outfit, accented by Wilson’s signature

plastic cat’s-eye sunglasses, technically came from Esparros. But the director confesses he studied years of Wilson’s always-audacious outfits before creating it. “I tried to recon-textualize some of the iconic

looks, and maybe give a story behind them that would serve the greater themes of the film.”

Wearing sunglasses and mask-wrapping onstage (and sometimes being surrounded by bags of exploding flour dust) can make for some dangerous escapades. Asked if he ever trips and falls, Wilson confesses, “Yes. Sometimes, it’s hard to navigate around the stage, when I can’t see due to what’s wrapped around my head. Many shows, I would change into Gary Wilson in a car, in an alley, behind a dumpster. Many times, I didn’t know what I looked like, before I entered the stage.”

This is not, oddly enough, his first experience with film. “Back in Endicott [New York] when I was still a teenager, my good friend Frank Roma started making 16 mm films. I was in many of Frank’s films. Some are included on Michael Wolk’s documentary *You Think You Really Know Me: The Gary Wilson Story*. Also, when I moved out to San Diego in 1978, my girlfriend at the time, Bernadette Allen, was a grad student at UCSD. Bernadette was making 16 mm films and videos, and I appeared in many of Bernadette’s projects. We started working on a full-length film titled *This Is Why I Wear My Wedding Gown*, but it was never completed.”

After all this marshmallow and milk action, what’s next for Mr. Wilson? “My plans for the future are to keep on recording and performing. It’s funny, but I reached the dream I had as a twelve or thirteen year-old boy. At that time, 1965-67, we all wanted to be like The Beatles and record and do live shows. I am currently doing that.”

— Andrew Hamlin

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

You can submit a listing, download mp3, watch videos, subscribe to event alerts, get directions, and find more information about these shows online at SDReader.com/music.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Auditorium at the Scripps Research Institute:

Sunday, 7:30pm — Regina Carter & Xavier Davis Duo. \$45-\$50.

Balboa Theatre:

Sunday, 7:30pm — Kansas. \$46-\$225.
Tuesday, 12pm — Buster Keaton One Week featuring Ken Double on The Wonder Morton Organ. \$4.

Barefoot Bar and Grill:

Friday, 6pm — Freddie Walton.

Beach House Grill:

Wednesday, 7:30pm — Gondwana.

Bellamy's Restaurant:

Thursday, 6pm — Jake Taylor Smith.
Saturday, 6:30pm — Helena Holleran.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Krooked Kings. \$20-\$35.
Friday, 9pm — Fan Halen. \$18-\$32.
Saturday, 8pm — Ozomatli. \$35-\$62.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Five for Fighting. \$55-\$97.
Monday, 7:30pm — The Monkees Celebrated by Micky Dolenz. \$95-\$167.
Tuesday, 8pm — Bebel Gilberto. \$38-\$67.
Wednesday, 8pm — The Brook & The Bluff. \$20-\$35.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Haunt and Hell Fire. \$12-\$16.
Friday, 7:15pm — Jungle Rot, Enforced, Phobophilic, Molder. \$18-\$22.
Saturday, 8pm — Bulldozer,

Deceased, Demiser. \$25-\$30.
Sunday, 6pm — Angelmaker and Vulvodynia. \$1-\$22.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — The Body, Troller, Dead Times. \$15-\$18.
Wednesday, 8pm — Cryptopsy and Abysmal Dawn.

Cannonball:

Thursday, 5pm — Ben Benavente.
Tuesday, 5pm — Andrew Peña.

Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens:

Friday, 10am — Coffee Concerts with High Tide Coffee. Free.

Casbah:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Mrs. Magician and Los Shadows. \$20.
Friday, 9pm — Emo Nite.
Monday, 7:30pm — Planetarium and Sophia Sugarman.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Cut Worms. \$22.

Cordova Bar:

Sunday, 5pm — The Waymores.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Sunday, 5pm — She Says So. Free.

Diamond Palace:

Thursday, 6pm — The Zzymzzy Quartet. Free.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

Saturday, 7pm — Anthony Cullins.
Tuesday, 7pm — Blues Organ Jam.

Duke's La Jolla:

Friday, 3pm — Joanna Gerolaga.
Sunday, 4pm — Kekoa.

El Camino Memorial Park:

Saturday, 5pm — Country Concert in the Park. Free.

Epstein Family Amphitheater:

Tuesday, 8pm — Love in Exile. \$35-\$50.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Thursday, 6pm — Blaise Guld.
Friday, 6pm — Rebecca Jade.
Saturday, 6pm — Farrah Camu.

Wednesday, 6pm — Whitney Shay.

Farmer & the Seahorse:

Thursday, 4:30pm — Sean McCole.
Friday, 4:30pm — Alex Elisabeth.
Sunday, 11am — Danielle Angeloni.

First Presbyterian Church:

Sunday, 3pm — SACRA/PROFANA: The End is the Beginning. Free.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego:

Friday & Saturday, 7pm, Sunday, 4pm — Weekend Revue: Stage & Screen. Free.

Golden Island:

Friday, 6pm — Gypsy Sally. Free.

Harrah's Resort Southern California:

Saturday, 8pm — Eden Munoz.

House of Blues:

Friday, 7:30pm — Little Image. \$15.
Friday, 7:30pm — Nirvanish and Faux Fighters. \$15-\$40.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Todrick Hall. \$30-\$65.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Hannah Jadagu. \$16.
Wednesday, 7pm — Phum Viphurit, Mild Orange, Brandon. \$27-\$75.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Criticals. \$18.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Popa Chubby. \$20-\$25.

Humphreys by the Bay:

Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm — Yacht Rock Revue. \$41.

L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.
Friday, 7pm — Orion Song.
Saturday, 7pm, Sunday, 11am — Gabriele Dagrezio.

La Mesa First United Methodist Church:

Monday, 7pm — California Note Catchers Guest Night. Free.

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Wed, September 20 GOB PATROL Brighton Street Bullies Deadly Dispute · Beast Fiend
Thu, September 21 -16- Bluntsplitter · Phantasmal Abyss Dark Meditation
Fri, September 22 SUCIO GTG · Filthy Traitors Paintings

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HEAVY HAWAII at Casbah

SEPT 14



Heavy Hawaii was formed in 2009 by guitarist Matt Bahamas (née Barajas), who formerly played in Fantastic Magic with future Wavves frontman Nathan Williams. Nominated Best New Artist at the 2010 San Diego Music Awards, the band's video for "Boy Don't Drown" took home a 2022 SDMA for Best Video. The all-local bill includes Mrs. Magician and Los Shadows.

SURE FIRE SOUL ENSEMBLE at Third Avenue Village

SEPT 16



Around thirty local and international breweries, distilleries, wineries, and food vendors will be in Chula Vista for Amps & Ales, where Sure Fire Soul Ensemble will be the headline musical act. The band recently dropped a video for the title track of their fourth full-length, *Step Down*, which also includes "Time To Rebuild," "High Times," "Love Age," and "In Common." Other Amps & Ales performers include Sandollar and The Sleepwalkers.

BENCHES at Soma

SEPT 16



Benches was founded by Chula Vista 8th grader Anson Kelley (guitar, vocals), who originally called the group Ignant Benches. They ranged in ages from 15 to 17 when they made their first professional recordings with Brian Karsig (Louis XIV, Nervous Wreckords). After opening for Foster the People and several Louis XIV reunions, their debut full-length was released on Spotify, with a support tour running up the coast and back down through Iowa and Nevada.

JONATHAN KARRANT at Tio Leo's

SEPT 17



Singer-songwriter Jonathan Karrant recently collaborated with Grammy nominated singer Jane Monheit to cover an Ivan Lins song called "Love Dance," assisted by saxophonist Houston Person. It's from a new album called *Eclectic*, Karrant's collection of popular songs written from the 1940s through the 2010s by Smokey Robinson, James Taylor, Macy Gray, and others.

DJ PNUTZ at Part Time Lover

SEPT 23



DJ Pnutz moved with her family to the United States at the age of four, beginning dance lessons and then studying percussion. Driven by 1990s electronic music, hip-hop, and trip-hop, she records with turntables, drums, Roland synthesizers and sequencers, and Ableton. Aside from her weekly Thursday radio show on KNSJ 89.1 FM, she has a new 20-song album called *Music Beds for Different Moods*, so far preceded by a single for "Dance Until You Drop," which pays tribute to the days of Big Beat.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 5:30pm — Christian Taylor.

Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.

Saturday, 6pm — Rachel Jay.

Sunday, 11am — Jonny Tarr.

Sunday, 6pm — Tyler F. Simmons.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

Saturday, 7pm — Shea Givens.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Danna Paola. \$69-\$599.

Monday, 7:30pm — Tangerine Dream. \$35-\$135.

Memorial Park Bowl:

Saturday, 1pm — Amps & Ales. \$35-\$45.

Mesa College:

Wednesday, 3pm — Garza Quintet. Free.

Meze Greek Fusion Downtown:

Sunday, 5:30pm — Liquid Bricks Jazz Trio.

Mission Bay Resort:

Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.

Friday, 6pm — Rachel Jay.

Sunday, 6pm — Michael LeClerc.

Monday, 6pm — Kristi Krause.

Tuesday, 6pm — Farrah Camu.

Wednesday, 6pm — David Shyde.

Morgan Run Resort and Club:

Friday, 5pm — Johnny Martin.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 9pm — James Allen.

Friday, 9pm — Bonneville Seven.

Saturday, 9pm — Late Nite Trapeze.

Saturday, 9pm — The Exploits.

Music Box:

Friday, 9pm — DJ Quik. \$35.

Saturday, 8pm — Mapache. \$25.

Sunday, 7:30pm — James Hunter and Nat Myers. \$35.

Monday, 8pm — Shordie Shordie and Gritty Lex. \$29-\$104.

Tuesday, 8pm — The Baseball Project. \$27.

Wednesday, 7:30pm — Mission

UK and the Chameleons. \$30-\$35.

Navajo Live:

Friday, 8pm — The Suede

Grenades Album Release. \$7-\$10.

Saturday, 7pm — Parasitic and

Desecation. \$10-\$12.

Nick & G's:

Friday, 7pm — Matt Heinecke.

North Coast Repertory Theatre:

Monday, 7:30pm, Tuesday,

2pm & 7:30pm — John Denver

Tribute.

Observatory North Park:

Thursday, 7:30pm —

Wolfmother and Fever Dog.

\$32-\$52.

Friday, 7:30pm — Bruno Major.

\$32-\$38.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Yoke Lore

and Girlhouse. \$20-\$40.

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Saint Motel.

Pal Joey's:

Friday, 8pm — West of 5. Free.

Panama 66, 1450 Plaza de Panama. :

Thursday, 6pm — Uptown

Rhythm Makers. Free.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

Friday, 8pm — Los Temerarios.

\$49-\$179.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Maluma.

\$59-\$169.

Petco Park:

Friday, 7pm — Kolohe Kai, J

Boog, and Mike Love. \$75-\$145.

Saturday, 7:30pm — The Pixies

and Modest Mouse. \$90.

Wednesday, 7pm — Daniel

Caesar and Orion Sun. \$107-

\$479.

Powerhouse Park:

Sunday, 1pm — Strange Brew

Band. Free.

Prohibition:

Monday, 9pm — Liquid Bricks

Jazz Trio.

Pure Project Vista:

Saturday, 7pm — Saturday

Sessions: Emma Sullivan. Free.

Sunday, 1pm — BBQ, Blues &

Brews. Free.

Rustic Root:

Tuesday, 6pm — Blaise Guld.

Sally's Fish House & Bar:

Saturday, 6pm — Seaside

Sounds.

San Diego Civic Theatre:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Daygo Fest.

\$45-\$200.

San Diego Marriott Del Mar:

Friday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.

Side Yard:

Saturday, 6pm — Blaise Guld.

Wednesday, 6pm — Puro

Feeling.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Cobi. \$18.

Friday, 8pm — LA LOM and

Hazel English. \$21.

Saturday, 9pm — Sorry For Party

Rocking. Free.

Sunday, 7:30pm — Nico Play and

Shua. \$15.

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Iguana

Death Cult. \$18.

Wednesday, 7:30pm — Healing

Potpourri. \$15.

Soma:

Saturday, 7pm — Benches. \$18.

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Alina Baraz.

\$40-\$175.

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:

Sunday, 7pm — Jackie Venson.

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:

Friday, 7:30pm — Mari Black.

\$15-\$18.

Thornton Winery:

Friday, 6:30pm — Illusions.

Tidal:

Saturday, 5pm — Johnny Martin.

Tio Leo's:

Sunday, 7:30pm — Jonathan

Karrant.

Waterbar:

Thursday, 6pm — Jemille Violet.

Westfield University Towne Centre:

Thursday, 12pm — Ben

Benavente.

Saturday, 12pm — Blu Gruv.

Sunday, 12pm — Keni Yarbro.

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, 9pm — Mike Pinto

and B-Foundation. \$18-\$20.

Friday, 9pm — Big Richard.

\$15-\$17.

Saturday, 5pm — The Weener

Pigs. Free.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Aquarius Bar & Grille:

September 24 — Mark Fisher's

High Noon Dead Set

Baba Coffee:

September 22 — The Soto Six

Barefoot Bar and Grill:

September 22 — Andrew Peña

September 23 — Christian Taylor

Beach House Grill:

September 21 — Rodney Atkins

Belly Up Tavern:

September 21 — Ambar Lucid

September 22 — Roger Clyne &

The Peacemakers

September 23 — Groundation

September 24 — Al Stewart &

The Empty Pockets

September 25 — Stephen Marley

September 26 — Tim Flannery &

The Lunatic Fringe

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THE GONZO REPORT

Classics and Old Fashioneds, remembered

"Soul Train to Coltrane" jazz night at Eddie V's

On a whim, I decided to check out some Jazz at Eddie V's in Seaport Village. I'm not talking about 98.1-style Kenny G-sounding Smooth Jazz. As great a musician as Kenny G is, he's not jazz. I'm referring to the greats: John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, and Stan Getz.

Eddie V's enforces a dress code. There's a sign as you're entering that says it requires business-casual dress attire. They consider gym attire, sweatpants, hats, clothing with offensive language or images, and exposed undergarments too casual for the restaurant. So I put on some presentable clothing: a silk shirt and khakis fit the bill. Left the sports jacket at home because it was a warm evening.

It had been four years or so since I'd visited Eddie V's. I used to take the love of my life on dates there. We used to call it "cocktails and conversations," and she always drank stronger drinks than I did. I'd order a mule or a fruity drink, and she'd order a bourbon or an Old Fashioned. I remember that on one of our dates, I went up to the band and requested "All Blues" by Miles Davis. I could tell by the band members' expressions that they were blown away that I'd even know the title of the song, let alone who composed it. The piano player came up to us during the set break and said, "I'm shocked you knew the title, and who Miles Davis is, because

you look way too young!" I was 47 at the time and didn't consider myself young, but thank you, sir.

My nostalgia time-warped from those nights with my lover to the lounge-tastic '70s as strolled into the bar and heard the organ, bass runs, and tapping on the snare drum. The band for the evening was the Archie Thompson Trio. The first person I saw as I entered was Danny Campbell on drums. The last time I saw him (and gave him some coverage) was at Winstons, when he was playing with the Electric Waste Band. He no longer plays with them, because, well, things are ever-changing. But I don't think he's hurting for work, given the gig calendar he posts on his social media pages. We I nodded to each other as I walked past the band and put my \$5 in the tip jar.

I peered around the long, oval shaped bar, looking for just the right seat. Eddie V's didn't seem to offer room for standing or dancing. A couple at the end of the bar that was closer to the band left the place and when I took one of their seats, I felt like Goldilocks — *just right*. I ordered Tito's & Soda on the rocks. Timothy the bartender served it up with a purple dried lime for garnish. I had another. My bill for two drinks was \$29.10. The people eating at the bar were eating salads and steaks and talking about their dogs. I researched the menu: salad, \$15- \$17; steak, \$51-\$70. Lobster tail, \$106. My suggestion: Maine lobster tacos from the appetizer menu, \$27.

Many of the patrons appeared north of 60. The band finished their set with a song by John Coltrane. Danny Campbell approached me with a smile. "Glad you came out." It was hard to not put on my journalist cap on and ask him why he left Electric Waste Band, but out of respect for both sides, I didn't. He told me the band calls the evening "Soul Train to Coltrane." I asked him if what they just played was "Equinox." He gave me a quizzical look. "Hmm, that's tricky, because Archie plays one of the thousands of songs he knows, no set list, and rarely tells us



The Archie Thompson Trio - tips always appreciated

what he's gonna play. He just starts." He thanked me again for showing up, said, "Nice silk shirt!" and headed back up on the stage for the next set. They started in playing "I'm Just a Gigolo/I

Ain't Got Nobody" — by Louis Prima, not David Lee Roth. That got some ladies in the back of the bar to get off their rumps and start dancing. A gentleman wearing his dinner jacket joined them. Finally, there were people dancing, an unexpected highlight of the evening.


I decided to go back and get a closer look as the band was playing the *Sanford and Son* theme song. I sat in an empty chair next to the boppers and started to snap pictures of them with my phone. "Caught you!" shouted a lady from across the bar. She made the "shame on you" gesture at me. She had to be in her seventies, but she was still stunning, with smooth skin, icy blue eyes, salt-and-pepper hair put up in a bun, and a sparkling silver evening gown. To avoid (or enhance?) the creep factor, I went up to her and introduced myself. I let her know my intentions were to write a story about this locale. "That's cute, honey," she replied as she gave me a wink.

Lesson learned for future events: get permission to take pictures beforehand. You can catch Jazz at Eddie V's any night of the week, but leave your flip flops at home and dress to impress. ■

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<p>THU. SEP. 14</p> <p>HAUNT & HELL FIRE Titans Wrath</p>		<p>TUE. SEP. 19</p> <p>THE BODY Tröller, Dead Times</p>
<p>FRI. SEP. 15</p> <p>JUNGLE ROT Enforced, Phobophilic, Molder</p>	<p>WED. SEP. 20</p> <p>CRYPTOPSY Abysmal Dawn, Visceral Disgorge, Reaping Asmodeia, Warforged</p>	<p>WED. OCT. 4</p> <p>HANABIE Dropout Kings, Fox Lake, Lucrecia, Good For Nothing</p>
<p>SAT. SEP. 16</p> <p>BULLDOZER Deceased, Ares Kingdom, Demiser</p>	<p>SAT. SEP. 23</p> <p>VOLA Bent Knee, Wheel</p>	<p>THU. OCT. 5</p> <p>BOSTON MANOR Calmgrove</p>
<p>SUN. SEP. 17</p> <p>ANGELMAKER Vulvodonia, Falsifer, Carcosa, A Wake in Providence</p>	<p>MON. SEP. 25</p> <p>METAL CHURCH The Bites, Anubis, Manic</p>	<p>FRI. OCT. 6</p> <p>D.R.I. Deathwish</p>

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Brew Coffee Spot:
September 22 — Garza Quintet

Brick by Brick:
September 23 — Vola
September 25 — Metal Church
and The Bites

Cannonball:
September 21 — Jemille Violet

Cape Rey:
September 23 — Mustard Service
and Sitting On Stacy

The Casbah:
September 21 — Whatever and
Remedelics
September 22 — Sweeping
Promises
September 23 — Ron Gallo
September 24 — Gayle Skidmore
and Pip Lewis
September 25 — Dengue Fever
September 26 — Lauren Leigh,
Astra Kelly, Shane Hall

Deft Brewing:
September 23 — Whiskey &
Burlap Album Release

Diamond Palace:
September 21 — Anthony Cullins

**Duck Foot Brewing
Company:**
September 21 — Dead Heads
Night
September 23 — Gregory Page
September 24 — Bluegrass Jam
September 26 — SD Jazz
Collective

Duke's La Jolla:
September 22 — Russell Paihiniu
September 24 — Kekoa
September 26 — Casey Turner

Encinitas Elks Lodge:
September 24 — Marty Conley's
Big Band Express

**Estancia La Jolla Hotel and
Spa:**
September 23 — ZB Savoy

Farmer & the Seahorse:
September 21 — Sean McCole
September 23 — David Shyde
September 24 — Blaise Guld

**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego:**
September 22 — Nishi
La Tremenda: Opera
Desconstructed

Golden Island:
September 22 — Jonathan Cohen

**Harrah's Resort Southern
California:**
September 22 — Babyface

House of Blues:
September 21 — Proxima Parada
September 21 — Inspector and
Haragan
September 22 — Dylan Matthew

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

The (football) season commences in grand fashion

The NFL season started with the Detroit Lions defeating the Kansas City Chiefs 21-20 on Thursday, September 7, 2023. While I don't feel inclined to divulge my team loyalties, I will say that I am most decidedly not a Chiefs fan, and so the evening's entertainment went well *pour moi*. It was a great opening to the opera that is the NFL season. With that in mind, let's consider some other great openings from the world of opera.

The opening of Richard Wagner's *Die Walküre* portrays the character of Siegmund being thrashed through the forest by a massive storm. The music whips the character along from the get-go, setting the tone for the most dramatic of the four *Ring* operas. This is the most concise of Wagner's preludes, but its compact

form heightens the ferocity of the storm.
La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi is the most performed opera in the world, and it opens with one of the most iconic scenes in all of opera. Alfredo has arrived at a party and is smitten by the super-sexy and sophisticated Violetta. He is challenged to make a toast, and the famous "Brindisi," or drinking song, is what follows.
Mozart's *Don Giovanni* opens with the title character trying to seduce one Donna Anna. She rebuffs him and he insists. This leads to Don Anna's father, the old commander, challenging Giovanni to a sword duel. Giovanni doesn't simply disarm the old gentleman; he proceeds to kill him. An attempted rape followed by a murder makes one hell of an opening for an opera.

The prologue from *Pagliacci* by Ruggero Leoncavallo is one of the most glorious arias for baritone in the entire repertoire. The character Tonio sets the scene for the tremendous drama that will unfold. Tonio explains that the drama is based on actual events, and then goes on to philosophize about humanity all being flesh and blood and breathing the same air. If push came to shove, I would say this is my personal favorite opening of an opera.

Classical Music this week

Ballet Collective San Diego
Ballet Collective San Diego presents *Heartbeats*. This evening features contemporary ballet works by local choreographers Tylor Bradshaw, Reka Gyulai, Silken Kelly, and Emily Miller. Saturday, September 16, 5pm and 8pm; \$30-\$45. JAI at the Conrad, 7600 Fay Avenue.

September 25 — Brian Pierini
September 26 — Puro Feeling

Mockingbird Improv:
September 23 — On That Note
Musical Improv

Moonshine Beach:
September 21 — Ashley Cooke

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
September 22 — Prairiedog
Lightning
September 23 — Tube Amp'd
Music Box:
September 21 — Jockstrap
September 22 — Prof and Zombie
Juice
September 25 — Secret San Diego

Nick & G's:
September 22 — Helena Holleran
September 23 — Johnny Martin

Nova SD:
September 23 — Steve Aoki

Observatory North Park:
September 23 — Wonder Years
September 24 — Behemoth

Part Time Lover:
September 23 — DJ Pnutz

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
September 21 — Luis Miguel

Petco Park:
September 26 — Los Tucanes de Tijuana

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
September 22 — Dave Mason

Pure Project Vista:
September 23 — Saturday
Sessions: Dalton Gazette
September 24 — BBQ, Blues &
Brews

The Quartyard:
September 22 — Benny Sings
September 23 — Generationals



The tears of a clown: cover of the original vocal score of *Pagliacci*

Verdi's *Otello* follows *Die Walküre* and opens with a storm. Verdi's storm is far more dramatic and fleshed out, with a chorus of onlookers describing the naval battle being fought in the midst of the tempest. Otello emerges victorious

and then vaunts to the crowd about his victory with his opening line, "*Esultate l'orgoglio musulmano.*" This is also the most appropriate opening of an opera for the Detroit Lions, because, as you might recall, Otello is "The Lion of San Marcos."

Duo Nova Concert The Pleasure of Your Company music series opens the new season with Duo Nova. Yewon Lee and Hyun Jeong Ahn will perform piano four-hands works by Mozart, Schubert, Kapustin, and other composers. Sunday, September 17, 2:30pm; free. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive.

Hausmann Quartet: Haydn Voyages - Impressions The eighth season of Haydn Voyages: Music at the Maritim, a quarterly concert series, will be performed aboard one of the Museum's historic world-class vessels, the 1898 steam ferryboat Berkeley. Sunday, September 17, 2:30pm; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 N. Harbor Drive.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:
September 22 — SD Symphony: Classic Albums Live - CCR
September 23 — Classic Albums Live: Led Zeppelin II
September 26 — Jethro Tull

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
September 23 — The Steel Woods

Rustic Root:
September 26 — David Shyde

San Pasqual Winery & Production Center:
September 23 — Barrel Room Sessions

Seabird:
September 24 — Keni Yarbro

Side Yard:
September 23 — Jemille Violet

Soda Bar:
September 21 — Knifeplay
September 22 — Phantom Planet
September 23 — OTR
September 24 — Sorry Girls
September 25 — Mediopicky
September 26 — King Parrot

Soma:
September 21 — BLXST and Bino Rideaux
September 22 — Saint Luna
September 23 — REMK
September 24 — Panteon Rococo
September 25 — Renee Rapp

The Sound:
September 21 — Jai Wolf
September 22 — Iya Terra, E.N. Young, Imperial Sound
September 23, September 24 — Goth Babe
September 26 — Shakey Graves
South Coast Winery Resort & Spa:
September 24 — Brian Simpson and Jessy J

Star Theatre:
September 24 — Taimane Gardner

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:
September 23 — Six String Society's Back to Paris

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:
September 21 — Chris Lane

Thornton Winery:
September 23, September 24 — Dave Koz & Friends

UC San Diego Park & Market:
September 23 — Autumn Valentine

Viejas Arena:
September 22 — Kali Uchis
September 23 — Alejandro Fernandez

Water Conservation Garden:
September 22 — Lady of the Ring: A Chamber Ballopera

Waterbar:
September 21 — Ben Benavente

Waterfront Park:
September 23, September 24 — CRSSD Festival

Westfield University Towne Centre:
September 21 — Ben Benavente
September 24 — Farrah Camu

Winstons Beach Club:
September 21 — Open Jam
September 22 — Nattali Rize
September 23 — Steel Toe Community Food Drive
September 23 — Peach Cooler's Pastel Party
September 24 — OB-Oke Karaoke
September 25 — Electric Waste Band

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The burger of Baghdad

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At Aladin Trio, an overseas reflection of American fast food

Aladin Trio; 2650 Jamacha Road #123, El Cajon. Eleven years ago, an Associated Press story kicked off global news coverage declaring a “Burger boom in Baghdad.” The story documented a growing popularity of American fast foods in post-war Iraq, including fried chicken and pizza. A Baghdad resident quoted in the piece proclaimed, “We’re fed up with traditional food... We want to try something different.”



An Al-Jadriya burger, with grilled tomatoes and onions.

Sure enough, a current search for burger restaurants in the Iraqi capital suggests there are now some 200 burger restaurants, most locally operated, boasting names such as West Burger, Viking Burger, BBQ Burger, and, aptly enough, Boom Burger. It makes you wonder what America’s beefiest export looks like after passing through a cultural filter to show up halfway around the world. At least, it made *me* wonder. Which is how I would up eating a three-part lunch at Aladin Trio.

Some may have encountered this operation as a food truck parked by a Jamacha Road liquor store in El Cajon, or previously doing business as Baba’s Trio, which used to post up in South Park. A few months back, Aladin Trio re-launched as a brick and mortar, just a short drive down Jamacha, in Rancho San Diego. It’s tucked into a shopping center headlined by Ralphs, Ross, and Kohl’s; there, the tidy little counter shop is able to expand on its original fast food trio: shawarma, falafel, and Nashville Hot Chicken.

In this part of East County, shawarma and falafel are no more surprising a presence than the nearby Wing Factory, but halal hot chicken made me wonder. It was tough to imagine much variation on fried chicken strips glazed in spicy sauce (\$11.49 with fries, \$12.49 on a sandwich), and sure enough, I didn’t find anything out of the ordinary. My chief complaint would be that Aladin’s “fire” spice level fell a couple rungs shy

of the ghost pepper heights I’ve grown to expect.

When it came to Aladin Trio’s hamburgers, though, I didn’t have expectations, spicy or otherwise. I haven’t been to Iraq, and couldn’t tell you to what degree these Rancho San Diego burgers are representative of Baghdad tastes. However, the names of several burgers did correspond to Baghdad neighborhoods. Al-Jadriya features grilled onions and tomatoes, Al-Karadda adds grilled eggplant, and Al-Harthiya is topped with French fries. Meanwhile, the Baghdad burger offers grilled mushrooms, while the Aladin burger includes a portion of beef shawarma atop its burger patty. They ranged in price from \$9 to \$13.

The likes of shawarma and eggplant notwithstanding, what immediately stood out as different about most of these burgers was the choice of sauces used to dress them: “Aladin sauce or brown sauce.” Brown sauce seems to be what the British know as HP Sauce.

Made with tomato, tamarind, and date, I could best describe its flavor as a cross between Kansas City style BBQ and A1 steak sauce. Having tried my Al-Jadriya burger dressed with the tangy-sweet brown sauce, I’d recommend that anyone with American burger tastes stick to the second house option: Aladin sauce, made from the more familiar mixture of ketchup and mayonnaise.

Aesthetically, the burgers differ from American-style offerings somewhat in terms of shape. In So Cal at least, we favor 3- to 4-inch diameter burgers, stacked vertically, with thick (or double) patties and however many layers of toppings. Aladin’s have closer to a 6-inch diameter — roughly the size of a compact disc, if that reference still makes sense. On the wide, soft, sesame seed-coated bun sits a bigger-yet-thinner beef patty, with toppings spread across it so the whole thing sits flatter. I don’t think the dimensions affect it much aside from making it less photogenic. Honestly, it’s not too remarkable a burger to begin with, so a prettier picture might help.

Actually, little on the Aladin Trio menu photographs well. Unless, ironically, you stick to potatoes. First, there’s a menu of kumpir (\$9-\$13), which are effectively Middle Eastern baked potatoes, made more interesting to look at (and eat) because they’re served with melted butter and mozzarella, and — just like the adjacent grilled-cheese menu — stuffed with all of the above: falafel, hot chicken, burger patties, or shawarma.

Most interesting here, however, are the so-called “tornado fries.” Also known as tornado potatoes, these essentially take a spiral cut to a small potato, creating a long ribbon of starch that’s stabbed through with a skewer and then deep fried. Dusted with salt and paprika, the result eats like a long, winding, contiguous potato chip. I’d never encountered this before, and it turns out to be a South Korean street food innovation. Which suggests there’s more going on here than just American fast food culture staring back at us from Baghdad.

—Ian Anderson



Aladin Trio: a food truck-turned-counter shop in Rancho San Diego.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Artisan Wine Series Dinner Featuring Groth Vineyards & Winery Sunday, September 17, 6pm; \$325. 21 and up. A.R. Valentien, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

BBQ, Blues & Brews Local artists performing live. Sunday, September 17, 1pm; **free**. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

Berry Good/Herb & Wood Schoolyard Dinner Celebrate the season with Berry Good Food, Herb and Wood, and Darnall Charter School. Sunday, September 17, 4pm; \$60. Darnall Charter School, 6020 Hughes Street.

Chick & Hawk Celebration Pop Up To celebrate Tony Hawk and Chef Andrew Bachelier opening a new Chick & Hawk restaurant, enjoy 16+ taps of beer paired with their food specials. Friday, September 15, 5pm; Duck Foot Brewing Leucadia, 978 N. Coast Hwy. 101. (ENCINITAS)

Taste of Encinitas Participants will be able to enjoy Tastes from a number of local restaurants, sample wine and beer at Sip Stops, and enjoy a variety of live music. Tuesday, September 19, 5:30pm; \$40. Downtown Encinitas Mainstreet Association, 818 S. Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Tequila-Pairing Dinner Executive Chef Amy DiBiase and Chef de Cuisine Abner Peralta of Alejandra’s Fine Mexican Food and Cantina present a five-course tequila-pairing dinner. Thursday, September 14, 6:30pm; \$129. 21 and up. Alejandra’s Fine Mexican Food & Cantina, 6996 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

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1. Take a picture of what you want to be in your ad.
2. Post it on SanDiegoReader.com (25-word limit).
3. You're done — you can edit or delete it any time.



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 IN NO TIME, I was having all the carbs. Knew who grew.... stew noun good, but stew verb no good.

BEULAH Fruit loop is still around.

I'M A LOSER FREAK and a wierdo I can't talk right act right or think right. The only person I love on earth couldn't care less of me and it will just get worse.

IN GENERAL, people are stupid!

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

TO JUST LIKE THAT, which is the bigger fallacy - holding all the cards, or having it made. (red 8 can go on the black 9).

WE NEVER MET, but you and your family will forever be in our hearts! You (for unknown reasons) had a fatal car accident near our home. Rest In Peace Dyane.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY K. Suttle. Enjoy your special day. Love ya. GMAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Happy Birthday Gary Bridges. Love ya brother. GMAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Happy Birthday Mr Jimmy Burns. It has been an honor to know you for the last 55 years. Your a special friend. Enjoy. GMAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Happy Birthday P. Feldman. Enjoy your special day Darling. Love ya. GMAN

JANUARY 26, 1993 Do you remember? 15888

AKA CHAD (THE BIG MUTT) I was so surprised to find you waiting outside my backdoor on Wed - you truly made my day so much more fun! Together we are referred to as "Mutt & Jeff". Since you are the Mutt, I must be Jeff. Sending you all my love Big Boy!!

BABY GIRL If you're a square then everyone else are trap-ezoids, octagons, or some other weird shapes.

DEAREST KATHERINE, Cheers to you! This last month you have survived major surgery, a hurricane, your cat rejecting you(temporarily), and the planes going overhead every 45 seconds. Love, Frank.

THE DRIVEWAY SOCIETY is pleased to announce the formation of a watchdog group of concerned citizens who will have their eyes peeled for bad behavior. Sit up straight!

HEY RUSSIA (VAL) I still Love you like crazy!!! Always thinking of you. Stay gorgeous, I know I will never get a chance with you, one can only dream... Take care love, Bridgette, girl from casino. (619) 517-8555 / additionally619@gmail.com

HEY GREMLIN Not sure if I've told you this lately... I friggin' love you! That's all...carry on.

BEULAH ONE YEAR Sent the balloons off. Yo yo yo.

DEATH is the great equalizer.

THE ONLY THING our politicians are reviewing is which suggestions came with a large

cash donation. (Wink wink) keep em coming....

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

NOTICES

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

MAC TOOLS Customer appreciation carshow Oct. 1, 2023, 12PM-4PM @BNS Brewing & Distillery. Santee, CA. Must RSVP by 9-27 (619) 253-0524.

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

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

TO SURRENDER A BABY IN CALIFORNIA within 72 hours of birth call 211 or 1-(877) 222-9723. Free call, or go to fire station. No questions asked.

KIDS 1-DAY CAMP Cooking and Gardening Camp with a field trip included. Sep. 17, 9am-4pm, \$55/child. RSVP at (858) 525-1674 / olyakisya@gmail.com

AUTUMN For peace and tranquility this Fall, go to iTreasure-SanDiego.Com

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

KIDS CONSTANTLY LOSING STUFF? Protect your sanity, your wallet, and the planet by teaching kids to keep track of and

care for their belongings. A new book, Leena Lulu: The Lost and Found Fairy, utilizes rhyme and song to do just that. Available now on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

GOT EXCESS FRUIT? Senior Gleaners will come pick your excess fruit and donate to those needing it the most. Call (619) 633-9180 or www.senior-gleanersdco.org and click donate. Free. (858) 761-7475 / mab46mab46@gmail.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

DAOIST ALCHEMY & SELF SABOTAGE Join our Thursday Lecture - Understanding the Shadow Self through Daoist Alchemy. Learn about self sabotage and breaking those chains. Awaken authentic self. Space is limited. Sign up @: thedivinebubble.com. \$5 donation. click classes link (619) 542-9191 / thedivinebubble@gmail.com

INDIGENOUS SMUDGING 101 Explore Cultural & spiritual practice of ritual smudging. Discover the meaning behind smudging rituals. Acquire a practice expertise to conduct your own smudging ceremony. tinyurl.com/59545sm8 (619) 542-9191 / thedivinebubble@gmail.com

INTRO TO TAROT learn to tap into your intuition & divine clarity using Tarot Cards. This is an interactive class so seats are limited and fill quickly. Sign up at www.thedivinebubble.com under classes/services. Donation of \$5 is appreciated. Thursday @ 630 pm. (619) 542-9191 / thedivinebubble@gmail.com

KIDS COOKING AND GARDENING Cooking and gardening class at a Carmel Valley location. Oct.8, 11 am-1pm, Ages 6-12. \$45/child. RSVP at (858) 525-1674 or olyakisya@gmail.com. Discounts are available if you sign up a friend!

TEENS COOKING AND GARDENING Oct.14, 6pm-8pm. Cooking and Gardening Class for Teens, ages 13-16. \$45/child. Get a discount if you sign up a friend. RSVP at (858) 525-1674 or olyakisya@gmail.com

FUTURE SNL WRITERS WANTED Free Sketch Comedy Writing Workshop on Zoom 9/17, 7-9pm. Improve your sense of humor and write your own sketches. In this 100-minute free workshop, SD local sketch comedian will give you the secrets the pros use to

make us laugh. Info at exubs.com info@exubs.com

LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE We'll teach you. Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. 7 Oaks Com. Cir, 16789 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo. 7 Sep Free, 14 and 21 Sep \$10 per lesson. square-dancewithus.com

ACORN NATURAL DYE SHIBORI! Saturday, Sept 23, 2-5pm, join in the fun and learn to dye with locally foraged acorns & oak galls. Explore natural dye & create gorgeous patterns with mordants & shibori. Beginners welcome. Military & sibling discounts. Visit sandiegocraft.org! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

AFTERNOON LITTLES CRAFT CLASS! Is your child (3-6yrs) ready to explore craft in a safe, fun, welcoming environment? At San Diego Craft Collective, we offer Craft Studio for Littles, where kids begin the journey of creating with their hands & imaginations! Visit sandiegocraft.org (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

AFTERSCHOOL KIDS CRAFT CLASSES Is your child interested in learning ceramics, wood-working or organic gardening? At San Diego Craft Collective, we offer a fun, safe, professional space for kids to develop skills & create. Sibling & military discounts. Visit sandiegocraft.org (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

AFTERSCHOOL TEEN CRAFT CLASSES Is your teen looking to explore woodworking, ceramic wheel or handbuilding? At San Diego Craft Collective, we offer a variety of workshops and afterschool classes to begin a journey that will last a lifetime. Visit sandiegocraft.org for more info! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

ECO-UPGRADE YOUR WARDROBE! Sept 23 | In this Quilting workshop, students learn to quilt and sew their creative designs onto an item of their choice (jacket or fabric bag). Upgrade your clothes & express your individuality! Visit sandiegocraft.org. Military & sibling discount (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

JOIN OUR WOODCARVING CLUB! Have you done a little or a lot of wood carving? Are you looking for a wood carving community to grow with? Every Monday evening, 5-7pm our Carving Club meets and we'd love to meet you! Visit sandiegocraft.org for more info today! *Military discount. (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

KIDS AFTERSCHOOL CRAFT STUDIO! Is your child looking to explore craft & movement? At San Diego Craft Collective, we offer "Craft Studio for Kids" (6-12yrs) where kids begin a crafting journey that will last a lifetime, while learning fun circus arts. Visit sandiegocraft.org

today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

LEARN NATURAL INDIGO SHIBORI! Join us Sept. 9, 9am-1pm | Explore Traditional Indigo & Shibori Technique with artist Sarah Winston. Learn to naturally dye and create diverse patterns in this perfect-for-summer workshop. Ages 12+. Visit sandiegocraft.org & save your space today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

LEARN THE ART OF PERFUMERY! This Sept 24, 1 - 4pm, learn to formulate your own signature fragrance with a French Perfume Designer. You'll use essential oils & fragrance notes to learn formulation. Beginners welcome, 14+. Visit sandiegocraft.org! Military & sibling discounts. (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

MAKE A MUSICAL CLAY OCARINA! Saturday, Sept. 16, 1-3:30pm, learn to craft your own personalized musical Ocarina from clay. Like a flute, Ocarinas are traditional wind instruments. Beginners welcome, 12+ or 8+ with adult. Military & sibling discounts. Visit sandiegocraft.org! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

A7 MUSIC SCHOOL A7 Music School provides lessons in a multitude of musical instruments from the top teachers in the nation. Our offerings include piano, guitar, ukulele, voice, and more! (858) 302-8179 / support@a7musicsschool.com

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

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

ROOMMATES

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

MUSICIANS WANTED AVAILABLE Composer seeks assistant/ copyist/ piano/ sightreading. Room / board/ stipend, composition lessons. Busco musico assistante que sepuede leer musica/toca piano. Cuarto, comidas, felia. (619) 457-8516 jebroes5@gmail.com.

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

SPRING VALLEY kitchen, private bath, male only. No drugs or alcohol. No Smoking. \$700 none driver preferred. References needed. Christian Faith. (858) 466-9729

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, Leuca-

DOWNTOWN \$590-\$900



In the heart of San Diego Gaslamp Quarter!

Newly renovated and furnished rooms for rent. Utilities included and controlled building entry. Conveniently located near public transportation, grocery stores, restaurants, shopping and more.

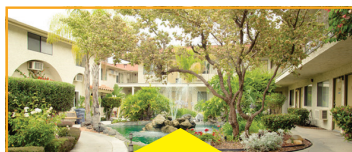
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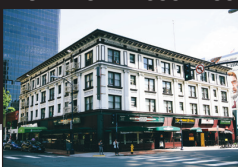
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Subject to availability.
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(just west of the 805) San Diego, CA 92117
(858) 799-0219



DOWNTOWN \$650-\$750



Classic building in downtown San Diego. Nice sized private rooms share common bathrooms. Property is well maintained with friendly staff. Peaceful and comfortable building with cable TV hookups and on-site laundry. Close to work. MTS trolley stop very close with easy access to the downtown free shuttle.

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

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

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

TOYOTA CAMRY for rent \$99 a week \$500 a month pay cash get one day free (619) 233-8300.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

CARETAKER FOR OLDER GENTLEMAN UCSD area, \$20/ hour, student okay. Must have car, call Peyton (619) 343-9599.

HANDYMAN/COMPUTER HELP NEEDED free room plus salary. (619) 773-6485

OUTPATIENT AND INPATIENT STUDIES available in Oceanside and San Diego for Schizophrenia patients only, 18-65 years old. Inpatient pays up to \$6,500-7,500, 45 days and up. Outpatient varies, must be drug free. Call Travis (619) 389-0550 referral number only.

SENIOR CITIZEN WITH HANDICAP needs driver and helper. Heavy lifting will be involved. I'm not looking for other handicap senior citizens. Please call Milk (619) 980-6458. Heavy lifting involved.

LOOKING FOR CAREGIVER ENCINITAS Looking for woman for caregiving (light cooking, some errands, meal prep, who drives and 15 walk and 10 min exercises 5 x per week). Encinitas home elderly woman with no dementia and fairly independent. Only honest, caring and serious apply. (630) 415-5574 / catherinetondelli@gmail.com

I AM IN DESPERATE NEED OF HELP with preparation of legal paperwork or some legal advice. Going through difficult child custody/international law issues, (858) 381-2204, Ashley.

AVP TECH, SOFTWARE DEV TEST QE LPL Financial LLC seeks AVP Tech, Software Dev Test QE in San Diego, CA to function as QA Perf Test Lead & subject matter exp resp for oversight app perf & sys stdrds to supp & enhance functionality & perf of mob & dsktpl platfrms. Req Master's or foreign ed equiv in CS, Eng, IS, IT or rel & 3 yr exp conducting QA perf testing web & mobile apps, incl dvlp & exec auto test scripts. Will accept Bachelor's & 5 yr same exp. To apply, submit resume to recruitment@lplfinancial.com. Reference Position AVPT200003.

LIGHT CAREGIVING ROOM EXCHANGE Looking for a woman who could live in/2 days off and have time off during the early evening, sleep overnight 7 days a week. Light caregiving, light cooking, errands, who drives. Private room, bath and some \$ catherinetondelli@gmail.com. (630) 415-5574

MECHANIC Experienced auto mechanic needed. Full time. Call Ismael, (619) 237-1043.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER CoStar Realty Informa-

tion, Inc. seeks a Senior Software Engineer to design, build, test, and deploy scalable, reusable and maintainable applications that handle large amounts of data. Develop, test, deploy, and support the software production process. Collaborate on matters of technical architecture, design and code. Implement processes for evolution and improvement. Explore new technologies, tools, and best practices. Drive the full-lifecycle development of critical projects. Position requires a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Engineering, Information Systems, or a related STEM field, followed by 5 years of progressively responsible experience with systems software operations support and configuration. Experience must include a minimum of: 5 years of experience with applying SOLID and Object Oriented Design principles to achieve performant, testable, and maintainable code; 5 years of experience with interpreting product requirements and translating them into working APIs; and 5 years of experience with API services, Azure DevOps, C#, TSQL,.NET, and unit testing. Job location: San Diego, CA. Salary: \$156,000.00 to \$186,185.00 To apply, please visit costargroup.com/careers and enter Job Code R31519 when prompted. Alternatively, please send your resume, cover letter, and a copy of the ad to I. Zeng, Team Lead, Technical Recruiting, CoStar, 17600 Laguna Canyon Road, Irvine, CA 92618.

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following positions in San Diego, CA: Full Stack Software Engineer (5142-3302751): Designing & architecting data models & database structures which are the foundation for future applications. Telecommuting permitted. Annual salary \$133,000\$163,000. Email resume to servicenow-resumesUS@servicenow.com. Or mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 2225 Lawson Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Resume must include job title, job ref. # 5142-3302751, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

TRUCK DRIVERS Local transport companies are looking for truck drivers with two or more years of experience. Requirements: Binational Federal License or CDL, Mexican Passport (mexican drivers), Visa B1/B2 or Residence card, ID or INE, Birth certificate, CV/ Resume. Omega Compliance Solutions LLC. (619) 312-1545.

SD IHSS FEMALE CAREGIVER Elderly man with minor mobility restriction needs help with daily routine Enrollment requires www.sdihsppa.com. \$30/hr 5/hrs Mon Wed Fri AM. Rancho Bernardo. Ad is not for other unsolicited services or offers. (858) 360-0388 text

WE NEED A PIANO TUNER We are a nonprofit organization. Please contact us at elsaoor-zzo@gmail.com.

AVAILABLE IHSS CAREGIVER WANTED Mon, Wed, and Fridays to help a lady in Allied Gardens. Enroll in IHSS or be willing to enroll. I would be grateful for any help. Please call Miss Carmen, (619) 269-3434.

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

KAYAK/PADDLE BOARD DELIVERY IN PB Seeking outgoing person with truck who lives in Pacific Beach to take bookings over phone and deliver/retrieve SUPs and Kayaks. Part time M-F. Pay is 50% of profits, in cash! Fun outside job, will learn new business ownership skills. Call (541) 517-0057, leave message for call back.

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

JOBS WANTED

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

FEMALE LOOKING FOR GIGS ASAP!! Reliable, respectful, real seeking cash paying gigs that aren't illegal or inappropriate. No criminal past, animal lover, non-smoker, no heavy lifting please. Experience in cleaning, cooking, baking, dog walking/sitting, house sitting, organizing, etc. sandiegolady13@gmail.com

NEW TO IHSS CAREGIVING Looking for a caregiver? Call Ashley, (858) 381-2204. I am energetic, helpful, caring, compassionate, hard worker, honest. Comes with references.

WANTED / TRADE

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Rock & Roll I buy 1950's-1980's Concert Posters, Flyers, Handbills, Used-Unused Tickets, Programs. Pls Call/Txt (619) 313-1580 Private Party.

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

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

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

CASH 4 DIABETIC STRIPS/DEXCOM Local cash pick-up. Sealed boxes only! Call/Text (619) 535-1848. One Touch Ultra 100=\$30, One Touch Verio

100=\$15, Freestyle Lite 100=\$20, Accu Chek Aviva Plus 100=\$20, Contour 100=\$20. We also buy Dexcom G6 & G7 Sensors and Transmitters.

ELDER CARE Experienced caretaker and mother, looking for housing in return for caring for someone in need. Can clean, run errands, handle appointments, garden, care for pets and create beautiful spaces. Call (858) 737-1769.

I AM INTERESTED in purchasing vintage pilot helmets. (619) 806-6703

I BUY VINYL RECORDS all types, great prices paid. We don't just buy 2-3 records, we buy your whole collection. Call (619) 250-3088.

OLD MICROPHONES I pay cash. Cell (619) 280-2075.

SEWING MACHINES I buy Singer 221 Featherweight sewing machines. Call (619) 279-7833.

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

SEARCHING FOR OLD TUBE STEREOS I am an Electronics Hobbyist, and I am looking for 1960's vintage, Tube Type Stereo Components to refurbish, such as Fisher, Scott, McIntosh, Dynaco & More. Maybe it is stored away in the attic or garage. I I pay Ca\$h so please call Jack (619) 296-3100. / jack22@cox.net

REEL TO REEL TAPE RECORDERS I pay cash for big old reel to reel tape recorders working or not ok. Cell/text # (619) 279-7833

37 YEAR OLD NEEDS a car or truck urgently. (858) 381-2204, I can trade, I am good at organization, cleaning, dog sitting, hair stylist, errand running, etc.

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

COMIC BOOKS Buying large comic book collections also can sell your comics for a fee 37 years in retail all starcomics Brad Wilson (915) 562-0443 or (915) 234-0414. / allstarcomics@myyahoo.com

I BUY COMIC BOOKS (619) 279-7833

I BUY HAMMOND ORGANS AND LESLIE SPEAKERS (619) 279-7833.

I BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS Call / text (619) 279-7833.

I BUY VINTAGE SLOT CARS (619) 806-6703

I BUY VINTAGE STEREO EQUIPMENT (619) 806-6703

\$250 REWARD for your 4 cylinder stick shift or automatic older car, like new, low mileage, must be clean, clear title, ready to go. Send a picture (760) 420-3641.

CASH FOR GUITARS AND old amplifiers. Working or not ok. Text pics or call. (619) 279-7833

CASH PAID FOR OLD VW Bug, bus, van. I like to buy running or not call me. (619) 279-7833

I WANT TO BUY YOUR three wheel motorcycle trike. Must

be excellent condition, current registration, clear title, new tires, excellent condition only. (760) 420-3641, send pictures and price.

I BUY POCKET WATCHES (619) 279-7833

NEED CASH? Sell me those old comic books that are just sitting around in a box. Mark, (619) 933-6275.

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

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

GARAGE SALES

YARD AND DOUBLE GARAGE SALE potted plants, garden ornaments, antique farm equip, etc. Weekends until October 9th, 1646 Pennsylvania (in back) 7am-noon.

YARD SALE September 16th, 8am-4pm. Antiques, vintage items, clothes, tools, dishes, milk glass, various misc items. 3059 Haidas Avenue, SD 92117

YARD SALE Saturday, September 16th 8am-4pm. Antiques, vintage items, clothes, tools, dishes, milk glass, various misc items. 3059 Haidas Avenue, SD 92117.

MOVING SALE SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 September 17, 9am. 4782 Academy Place San Diego CA 92109. Many items for sale: furniture, clothing, baby needs, tools, kitchen, antiques, misc.

FOR SALE

BROWN OVAL MIRROR (22"x 27") This beautiful dark brown oval mirror has a 2.25" decorative frame with gold trim perfect for your home or office. Some discoloration on edge of frame but the mirror is in excellent condition ready to be hung. \$35. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcasd@gmail.com

1984 ITASCA HUNFLYER RV 22 and a half long. It's got everything, tub, shower, stove, oven, air/heating, 6 new tires, etc. \$6,500, Call Don leave message, I'll call you back. It's in La Mesa. (619) 460-1168

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

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



BEAUTIFUL WICKER BABY BASSINET This white rattan bassinet (34"x 22" x 11.5") comes with canopy, portable wheels (30.5"x 17.5"), folding legs, Insert, 2" sleeping pad, pretty lace trimming & a pretty bedskirt. Clean



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Picky Bluefin, yellowfin on the rise, Dorado the headline act, Nearshore rockfish closure

Dock Totals 9/3 – 9/9: 4185 anglers aboard 178 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 2 barracuda, 1841 bluefin tuna (up to 160 pounds), 19 bocaccio, 35 bonito, 1 cabezon, 859 calico bass, 8991 dorado, 5 halibut, 3 lingcod, 1 mako shark, 2216 rockfish, 379 sand bass, 14 sanddab, 445 sculpin, 211 sheephead, 19 skipjack tuna, 7 treefish, 258 whitefish, 4 white seabass, 2206 yellowfin tuna, and 876 yellowtail.

Saltwater: The bluefin tuna bite has been off and on this past week, with some boats scoring easy limits while others struggle to get bites. That's kind of how it works with the oft-finicky bluefin, though the number caught did climb a little from the week previous. Yellowfin tuna have been showing better, but dorado continue to be the headliners for the fleet, with nearly 9000 caught in seven days. All three species are widely scattered, though you will find more bluefin out west near San Clemente Island and the outer banks, and more yellowfin and dorado southwest and along the Baja coast. Even so, a trip to just about any high spot off the coast of Southern California or northern Baja might result in all three species caught, and maybe even a skipjack or two, or some kelp paddy yellowtail action.

Rockfish have been biting well for those on nearshore rockfish trips, which will end midnight on the 15th of September. From September 16th on, rockfish can only be targeted in water between 300 and 600 feet until the season closure from January 1st to March 31st. This is the first year since 2012 that fishing for groundfish has been allowed beyond the fifty-fathom line, and also the first year it has been closed in less than fifty fathoms during the season. With this in mind, I am wondering how many folks will be willing to crank up those fish from that deep.

I remember days of guys toting 12-volt car batteries and large electric reels onto the boat during rockfish trips in the 1970s. Back then, a 15-hook rig was common, and it was a haul until the fish bladders popped out due to decompression. Then, once the fish became more buoyant, they would often float to the surface and carry a 16-ounce weight up with them. The angler could then just reel them across the surface to the boat with little comparative effort. Now, with a 2-hook limit, I reckon it's going to be a grind all the way up without the fish "helping." I'm thinking the larger knife jigs will be much handier than winding up 600 feet to rebait hooks.

The seasonal closures do not apply to shore-based anglers or those spearfishing. This is why it is important to review the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations every season, as changes are common. Fishery health and impact studies guide



Captain Juan Cook with a double catch of vermilion rockfish on one 300-gram knife jig.

the regulations, and license fees pay not only for a lot of those studies, but also for management and enforcement of the regulations.

The CDFW website updates information, especially when a change occurs during a season, so there is little room for excuses from anglers violating any of the regulations. True, there is a lot to know concerning protected species, Marine Protection Areas (MPAs), fish identification, size and catch limits, and so on, but it is all there at the CDFW website. Not only do they have the above information, there is also an available interactive web map for internet-capable phones to help anglers avoid breaking any of the regulations or drifting into an MPA. And really, if you love nature, fishing and hunting — or even just getting outdoors to stretch your legs and maybe get some good photos — the CDFW website has a lot of information on the natural marine and terrestrial biospheres in California, with programs and videos on everything from how to avoid bears while camping to online workshops, such as the September session on for cannabis cultivation requirements with regard to lake and stream bed use.

Because I am very involved in the fishing community, I do hear a lot of grumbling about those "fish and game cops" and the plethora of rules that seem to be ever-changing. Thing is, just as the dictionary tosses out and adds words every year, some things become obsolete, unneeded, while

other things become an issue and need addressing. California has 40 million citizens and a large community of anglers and hunters; without conservation efforts and enforcement, the damage to our wildlife and fisheries would soon be massive. We should applaud the CDFW for their overall efforts at protection while still allowing access to our amazing biospheres, and their commitment to resources to help us follow the rules, even if we don't agree with some of the rules themselves. If you've wondered why some regulations are in place or why there was a change, you can search their database, check the studies, or just write them an email and ask for a concise explanation. We are not all going to agree on everything, but often, not knowing the "why" for a new closure, regulation, or change is the larger issue.

Given the amount of extant pressure, specifically on the fresh and saltwater fisheries, I think we Californians enjoy a very healthy outdoor environment where we can still harvest fresh meat for the table, and that is due, at least in large part, to good management. Not all of government performs as it should, but the CDFW is a good example, overall, of a governing body that informs, manages, and enforces, and still encourages citizens to use and enjoy our vast natural resources responsibly.

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

DANIEL POWELL

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LETTERS

continued from page 1

Highway 101 to get slower in Encinitas

Neighborhood News, Aug. 28, 2023

oh.. great... getting hit from behind by a car or BUS at 35 instead of 40 in a car travel lane of 10 ft is WAY better for the bicycle rider! NOT! Put it back the way it was for the last 40+ years. IT WAS WAY SAFER!!!!

-Frustrated on 2 wheels

How will the Padres fix Gallagher Square?

Cover Story, Aug. 23, 2023

Mufflers are still a requirement on cars but noise violations are rarely enforced. Peace is something everyone values. Everyone's quality of life decreases with loud vehicles. Government needs to step up to the challenge. The loud louts need to be dampened.

-Loud pipes ruin lives

In the song, "Money for Nothing," are the lyrics "chicks" or "checks" for free?

Straight from the Hip, Sept. 13, 2001

In the 80s, free checking was a perk for those who kept a big balance in their checking account. So "checks for free" makes a lot more sense in the context of the song.

-Checks out

"The guy who got snaked, stole the other one's board and tried to kill him."

Surf Diego, Aug. 10, 2021

Yea dude. Watch out for those gnarly snakes. Rip some tides dude! Far out!

-Hanging ten

Deported nine times, Esther Morales takes things into her own hands

Neighborhood News, Aug. 10, 2021

Why are we deporting people who contribute to their communities, fill necessary jobs, pay taxes, and make this country

stronger? The people who say it's about the laws don't seem to mind having a president who has committed over 80 felonies that we know of. It's truly about people who are so racist they're willing to destroy the economy to see fewer non-white people here.

-Brain-washed

Tecate mayor calls out her cops to face down the Baja state police

Neighborhood News, Oct. 26, 2020

The police are not saints, if you're a U.S citizen, stay away. I learned my lesson.

-Lesson Learner

How Coronado Yacht Club fends off the public

City Lights, Feb. 12, 2020

If you've ever been inside the grounds of the yacht club you would quickly realize there is no place for walkable waterfront access. Insisting that they put one in to have it dead end on the golf course is ridiculous, not to mention the

liability of being hit by an errand golf ball or tennis ball from the courts next to the parking lot.

A bigger issue that the club continues to ignore is ADA compliance. There are several accessible bathrooms inside the building but that's about it. Guests or members with mobility issues have difficulty entering the building.

And yes, that former member is retaliating for being kicked out because of his conduct with females in the bar.

-Anonymous Outsider

Michael Murray, assembly candidate, tries to leave raunchy video behind

Neighborhood News, Oct. 1, 2019

From a family member. Mr Michael Murray is a fraudulent Narcissist that lies about everything and anything. Good thing Oceanside got rid of him. He is a horrible person.

-Opinionator

He is a loser.. Fake identity.

His life ain't what he says it is or was....

-Opinionator 2

How to deal with Oceanside homeless

Neighborhood News, June 14, 2019

Take Back Oceanside is just a bunch of short sighted people. How about instead of shaming people they actually come up with a viable solutions. Instead of complaining, how about ending homelessness. They are human beings. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers. Most homeless are good people. Maybe talk to one, hear their stories. And if posting photo's of people at their lowest makes you feel good. Then your the bigger problem, Not them. As jobs disappear, inflation rises, rent and housing cost increases. This problem will continue. Let's fix the problem not just push it out of our state.

-Soft in Oside

In pursuit of Nirvana

Blurt Music News, Dec. 20, 2017

Tell Marco if I ever win the lottery I'll get back that gold record for him, whatever the price tag.

-Golden Dreams

GOLDEN DREAMS

continued from page 6

impactful pieces — including a creation by an international artist. It would not be the city's first such installation. Already, the mesmerizing, internationally acclaimed Queen Califia's Magical Circle sculpture garden stands like a phantasmagorical retreat at the end of a dusty road in Kit Carson Park. The work, from sculptor Niki de Saint Phalle, is one of three throughout the world, each unique.

For its part, Esco Alley Art has already dipped a toe into international waters with a piece that can be found tucked away in a corner of downtown's Maple Square: the *America Connects West* mural mosaic, created by over 1500 participants from all over North America. ■

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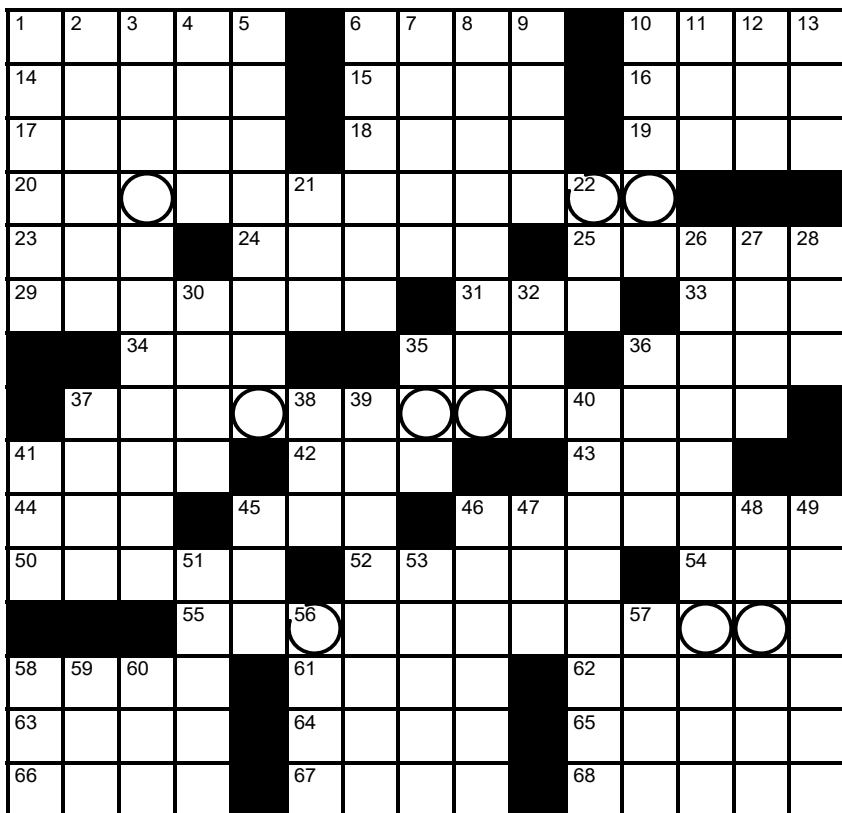
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Thanks to all our winners so far and to those who will keep with us.

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Across

1. Bloodsucker
6. _____ ghanouj
10. Did laps in a pool
14. Bone: Prefix
15. Homes for mil. planes
16. "Et voilà!"
17. Grind to _____
18. Sets of points, in geometry
19. Farm team?
20. Are you and your partner into skiing? Have your destination wedding here!
23. "Uhh ..."
24. "_____ luego"
25. Separated
29. Big name in music

streaming

31. MLB sluggers who don't play the field
33. Grammys genre
34. "Get Out" actor Lil _____ Howery
35. Prefix with gender
36. Hound sounds
37. Can you and your partner picture yourselves in the South Pacific? Have your destination wedding here!
41. Send an invoice
42. _____ Moines
43. VII + VII
44. Half and half
45. Cul-de-_____

46. Pirates' home

50. Strength
52. Superman's birth name
54. Salonga of Broadway
55. Do you and your partner love the Andes? Have your destination wedding here!
58. List in a food delivery app
61. Japanese deer
62. Hang (over)
63. Diva's delivery
64. They're blue on maps
65. No longer on the plate
66. Starbucks size
67. "... so long _____ both shall live?"
68. Courtroom recorder

Down

1. Bread units
2. F equivalent
3. "NYPD Blue" actor whose first name has been an answer in 100+ daily New York Times crossword puzzles
4. White blood _____
5. It may have an alarm rating
6. Full of chutzpah
7. Underway, to Sherlock Holmes
8. Original airer of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
9. China setting
10. Brownstone steps

11. Surfboard application
12. Part of some sports drink names
13. "Hoo boy"
21. Blockhead
22. "_____ Kapital"
26. Delivery time
27. Tennis "King of Clay," familiarly
28. Festoons on Halloween, informally
30. Show and _____
32. 24-hr. retail channel
35. Items in a 1990s "tower"
36. Take _____ (sample some)
37. Holders of recyclables
38. Investigative journalist _____ B. Wells

39. Casual Friday casualties
40. Omits
41. Drag show accessory
45. Apt name for a worrier
46. "The magic word"
47. Japanese tech giant
48. Investigate, as a cold case
49. Oscar-nominated frontwoman of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs
51. =
53. Just peachy
56. "Insecure" star Rae
57. "I smell _____!"
58. Yoga pad
59. Time in history
60. Zilch

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

HARD:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

Walk of Shame

— "It's just a biohazard issue," the pilot told air traffic control. And indeed, the Delta Airlines Airbus A350 was forced to return to Atlanta after two hours in the air on Sept. 1 after a passenger suffered an "on-board medical emergency": uncontrollable diarrhea that left the entire length of the aisle covered in fecal matter. The *Guardian* reported that passengers said the flight crew did everything they could to clean up the mess, including spraying it with scented disinfectant. But that merely made the cabin "smell of vanilla s-t," one traveler said. Back in Atlanta, passengers, including the afflicted traveler, waited eight hours for the plane to be cleaned up and the aisle carpet to be replaced, then reboarded and were on their way to Barcelona – again.

Bright Idea

— A 38-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman have been arrested in the central Shanxi province of China, *China Daily* reported, for digging a shortcut through the Great Wall of China. Local police were alerted to the damage on Aug. 24 and followed tracks from an excavator back to the suspects, who explained that they needed the shortcut to get back and forth to their construction jobs. The Great Wall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which has reportedly been "damaged beyond repair." The two were charged with destroying a cultural relic.

Awesome!

— Tennessean Tami Manis is going to see her name in the 2024 edition of the "Guinness World Records" book after 34 years of hard work ... not getting haircuts. United Press International reported on Aug. 31 that Manis' mullet, measured at 5 feet, 8 inches long, earned her the prize in the female competitive mullet category. She had not cut the "party in the back" section of her hair since Feb. 9, 1990. "I've had people recognize me from 20 years ago because I've kept the same hairstyle," she said. "This is amazing."

What Could Go Wrong?

— Frick and Riverview Parks in Pittsburgh have a problem: The deer population has grown to the point that the animals are dangerous to themselves and humans, Fox News reported. "With no natural predators, we are seeing an increase in car-deer collisions, relentless damage to our ecosystem and unnatural aggression toward pets and people," the city's website reads. What to do? The city is going to randomly pick 30 archers to participate in "a pilot program with archery-controlled hunts ... during the 2023-2024 deer archery season," the city announced. Hopeful hunters will be part of a lottery system, and final participants must have a clean background check and a deer permit. In addition, "the selected archers will be required to attend an accuracy test" and will be confined to a specific area of the park to hunt. Those who kill more than two deer in their area will be given preference for subsequent seasons, according to the city. Keep that orange vest handy.

Inexplicable

— Patrick Spina IV, 45, of Absecon, New Jersey, is facing criminal mischief charges after a bizarre series of stunts starting in June, WPVI-TV reported. After the Quality Inn in Galloway Township was targeted about a dozen times with a bright green dye launched into its outdoor pool by a drone, Sandra Woolston, the general manager, said she "had a meltdown" because the pool was largely unusable. In August, police got a call about a similar incident from a resident who was swimming in his pool when the dye was cast. The sea dye, normally used in search and rescue efforts, is damaging to swimming pools. Police got in touch with the FAA and learned the drone was operated by Spina. Detectives could not supply a motive but said they believed he was "pranking people." "He was getting too happy with doing it," Woolston said.

Least Competent Criminal

— Nicholas Coffey, 23, couldn't resist bragging on social media about his "new" Mercedes-Benz on Sept. 2, which made it easier for cops to track him down, Fox News reported. Coffey and an accomplice used the stolen car to break into other vehicles on Deltona, Florida, residential streets during the early morning hours, then stopped at a gas station, where Coffey was captured on surveillance video. Volusia County detectives caught up with him the following morning and arrested him on multiple charges.

That's One Way To Do It

— A woman in China's Fuzhou City is facing a prison sentence of three years and a \$27,000 fine after she chewed her way to a new iPhone at an Apple store. According to the *South China Morning Post*, the woman, surnamed Qiu, entered the store and made a beeline to the phone display. She was seen on surveillance video examining an iPhone 14 (worth about \$950), then looking around to make sure no one was watching. Then she put the anti-theft cable in her mouth and chewed through it, secured the phone in her bag and left the store. Store employees noticed the severed cable and contacted police, who were able to track Qiu and arrest her at her home. She told them she planned to buy an iPhone but balked at the price and decided to steal one instead.

Clothing Optional

— The Chicago Park District just couldn't let the city's nudists have a little fun on Labor Day. Early that morning, someone posted a sign at Loyola Beach along Lake Michigan declaring "Nude Beach Past This Sign," WLS-TV reported. But, alderman Maria Hadden scolded, the sign was unofficial and "cheeky," and workers had it removed by that evening. Hadden did share that in 1932, alderman George A. Williston proposed a resolution to create a nude sunbathing beach in the same location. Great minds...

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