

S A N D I

VOL. 48 | NO. 49 | DECEMBER 7, 2023

Reader

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December 7, 2023



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

THE ROAD

Gone to pothole

Bicyclists in danger, but what about equity?

According to a study released in July by SellMax, which buys many pothole-damaged cars, the top three neighborhoods for pothole repair requests at that point in 2023 were Mira Mesa (1962), Kearny Mesa (1797), and Clairemont Mesa (1537). (More recent hotspots include Golden Hill, where the city has paused many repairs due to its undergrounding of utility lines.) And during a recent two-week period, the city saw another 458 requests.



Ride into a crack, break your...own back?

A number of those new reports referenced 33rd Street. University Avenue gets multiple mentions: "right by the Asian food place" and between Ibis and Goldfinch, where shocks are reportedly being ruined. So does W. Washington Street, with "massive potholes" noted in the eastbound left turn lanes right before San Diego Ave. And on Washington Street, "bollards down" could mean danger for bicyclists.

Bikes, of course, have more trouble with potholes than cars. Potholes left car owners with \$26.5 billion in repair bills in 2021, the SellMax study said. For cyclists, there's more to fear than busted tires, suspensions, and shocks. In 2017, the city paid \$500,000 to a cyclist who suffered a traumatic brain injury after hitting rough pavement in a bike lane buckled by tree roots. Back to that recent two-week report: a temporary bike lane in a construction zone on La Jolla's Gilman Drive had a pothole "that's in horrible shape for a cyclist to hit." (A swerve to the right to dodge the hole would mean colliding with a concrete barricade.) Also on Gilman, across from the entrance to the Park and Ride: in the southbound bike lane between the 15 South entrance lanes and the car lane,



Never mind cleaning up the streets; what about repairing them?

"the pothole is growing."

So: which to fix first? Factors include the pothole's severity and proximity to parks and libraries, along with more amorphous factors like neighborhood equity

focuses on previously underserved neighborhoods. A report from one such neighborhood: "There are an excessive number of potholes," south of the intersection of E. San Ysidro Blvd. and Willow Rd, where

In 2017, the city paid \$500,000 to a cyclist who suffered a traumatic brain injury after hitting rough pavement in a bike lane buckled by tree roots.

the potholes are 2-3 feet wide and a couple inches deep.

The city is expected to release a report on the Overall Condition Index this fall that will help sort out the most important road repairs and help improve biking conditions.

SHEILA PELL

TIJUANA

The Baja budget

Live in TJ for the price of living in your car!

According to an October article in *USA Today*, San Diego is now the most expensive U.S. city in which to live. The article reported that America's Finest City topped *U.S. News and World Report's* 2023-2024 list — followed by Los Angeles, Honolulu, and then Miami. Factors included the price of gas, the inflation rate, and annual housing costs. According to Zillow, San Diego's median home sale price was \$950,000 in October, and of course, home ownership carries plenty of associated costs. On the rental side, *Numbeo.com* estimates that rent in San Diego plus living expenses costs over \$4400 monthly for a single person living in a one-bedroom apartment.

Roommates and housemates can help offset rent, mortgage, and accompanying bills and HOA fees. But some people want their privacy. The average cost of living in Mexico is 88 percent less than in the U.S., according to *Expatisan*. The comparison is "based on 29,642 prices entered by 3497 different people." And *Nomadlist.com* reported that the cost of living for an expat in Tijuana is \$1417 per month, while rent at a one-bedroom studio averages \$710 a month.

Many expats living in Baja California subscribe to the Talk Baja Facebook page, which has about 107,000 followers. It's a solid resource for advice on moving into or traveling in Baja. Last August, Talk Baja group moderator Ron Hoff posted a graphic about the average cost of living expenses in the region (based on a retired couple aged 60-69). "I am trying to come up with an average cost of living guide for Baja," he wrote, "understanding that it will be somewhat cheaper in some areas and a bit more expensive perhaps in others."

The graphic's data included: rent, unfurnished two-bedroom home, \$800; electricity, \$35; water, \$30; internet, \$25; healthcare (IMSS

continued on page 3



PHOTOGRAPH BY SAM ANTONIO

A nice place to visit...but can you really afford to live here?

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

for a couple aged 60-69), \$175; groceries, \$400. The total was \$2525 for a month. (While many expats said certain expenditure estimates were too low, others said the opposite.)

Jack Smith, a local home painter, is considering moving from his San Diego home to Tijuana. "My friend, who is a U.S. citizen, said I can room with him," Smith explained to me. "He lives with other people in downtown Tijuana and spends \$250 for rent and utilities [per month]. He has an EBT card, purchases groceries from here, and then crosses the food in a backpack; he spends about \$160 a month on food. He has a storage

"For groceries purchased at Grocery Outlet, I'd spend about \$200 a month and buy as I go. Car maintenance and a put-aside repair fund is about \$50 a month. Gas is about \$200, and insurance is about \$100. Then I'd spend about \$50 monthly for water at Starbucks to hang out in a living room-like area and network [for gigs] on my laptop. Starbucks is as close to a 'homey'



Smith estimated that living out of his car would cost \$600 a month.

feeling as possible." He estimated that living out of his car would cost about \$600 a month.

"It's a toss-up, as both prices are about the same," he concluded. "The risks are about the

"The risks are about the same. I don't know what's scarier, walking around Tijuana streets at night or parking on San Diego streets and avoiding detection from neighbors, police, and tweakers."

unit in Chula Vista for \$150. So, add on the MTS pass, and that's only about \$600 a month."

Smith has also considered living out of his car. "I can get a \$20-per-month gym membership with showers and free WiFi," he estimated.

same. I don't know what's scarier, walking around Tijuana streets at night or parking on San Diego streets and avoiding detection from neighbors, police, and tweakers."

MIKE MADRIAGA

UNDER THE RADAR

Abe's money club The Republican-leaning San Diego Lincoln Club, noted for fierce hit pieces dispatched against opponents in local elections, has a new role: drumming up developer cash for GOP ex-mayor **Kevin Faulconer's** bid to knock off incumbent Democratic county supervisor **Terra Lawson Remer**. "We are thrilled to announce a fundraiser in support of Kevin Faulconer's campaign for County Supervisor," says a Lincoln Club email touting the December 5 bash. "His commitment to fostering a thriving economic environment aligns perfectly with the goals of the Lincoln Club Business League. Join us for this marquee event in partnership with our Business Platinum Sponsor, Belmont Park!" Tickets range from \$250 to \$2000, the email says.

Not mentioned by the missive is that Belmont Park operator, Rancho Santa Fe-based Pacifica Enterprises, is a big Lincoln Club donor. In April of 2015, during Faulconer's mayoral reign, Pacifica got a lucrative lease extension for the city-owned Belmont Park property. Two months earlier, on February 23 of the same year, Pacifica had given \$5000 to Faulconer's now-defunct non-profit called One San Diego, ostensibly set up to promote his anti-poverty agenda. The year before that, Pacifica was a major player in the successful effort to retain Republican county Supervisor **Bill Horn** by funneling \$15,000 of Pacifica cash through the Deputy Sheriffs Association PAC, per a May 16, 2014, post on the website of public broadcaster KPBS. "On May 5, two days after the second



Kevin Faulconer knows about political roller coasters.

versity," opines a November 15 advice letter written by **John M. Feser Jr.**, senior counsel of the California Fair Political Practices Commission to Chula Vista Senior Counsel **Jill D.S. Maland**. Preciado, who is an assistant dean for undergraduate studies at SDSU, "does not have a prohibited source of income interest, because he receives a government salary from SDSU which is not 'income' as defined in [state law]." Preciado made a total of \$145,363 in wages and benefits

at SDSU last year, according to the website Transparent California.

Chula Vista and San Diego State are in drawn out negotiations over the conditions, including high cost and design, of a so-called SDSU Cinematic Arts extension to be developed in the city. "It's unfortunate that it's gotten to this point where initial concepts didn't work out because it seems like it would've been easily avoidable

if we were more involved," **Brian Hu**, associate professor of SDSU's television, film and new media program, told the *Union-Tribune* in a June 14 dispatch. "As a faculty member, we don't want to end up with a space that is a compromise. It has to be all or nothing..."

With the end of the year approaching, the drip-drip of departing *Union-Tribune* staffers continues. Latest to go include reporter **David Hernandez**. "Personal news: I'm signing off on my last day at the *Union-Tribune*, he wrote on his X account November 9. "It's the paper that shaped me, and I'm so grateful for that. Thank you to everyone who ever helped me tell a story. A new (and

exciting) chapter awaits. More to come." Says his profile on the *U-T* website: "David Hernandez is a former *Union-Tribune* reporter who covered law enforcement, crime and public safety across San Diego County. A San Diego State University graduate, he joined *The San Diego Union-Tribune* in 2015." In another departure, longtime *U-T* scribe **Laura Groch's** LinkedIn profile describes her as "recently

retired from writing community news and schools at *San Diego Union Tribune*."

Toni's cash guardians State Senate Democrat **Toni Atkins** continues to pad her campaign account for a 2026 bid for Lieutenant Governor, raking in \$5500 from controversial kidney dialysis provider Fresenius Medical Care of Waltham, Massachusetts on November 26. That was the same day her

continued on page 14

Neal Obermeyer



Reader
WRITING CONTEST

What's it like on the street where you live?



The *Reader* has been covering life in San Diego for over 50 years, and we like to think we know the place pretty well. But even Homer nods, and we're bound to have missed a thing or two about your corner of the city, whether it's the beach, the backcountry, South Bay, North County, or anywhere in between.

Here's your chance to tell a tale from your hood and get paid for your trouble. Give us a detailed portrait of a local character, or a compelling and emblematic narrative. Set the scene. Map the territory. Tell us what you love about it or what you hate, what's happening or what happened that one time. Most of all, give us a sense of place.

Please limit entries to non-fiction — we want to know how it is, not how it might be — and 4000 words maximum.

**First prize: \$2000. Second prize: \$1000.
Five honorable mentions of \$500 each.**

Email entries to
writingcontest@sandiegoreader.com
by January 31, 2024

Winners will appear in the *Reader*
beginning at the end of February 2024

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.

Spelunkers are nuts

Yeah, just a brief comment on your story, ("Why do I do this? A conversation with the rational voice in Thunder Canyon Cave", Cover Story, Nov. 23). About 72 years ago on the Cornell campus in Ithaca, New York. I heard about a spelunkers club and it seemed interesting to me, "Oh, to explore a cave." So I went to their meeting and I came out of the meeting thinking to myself, "These people are nuts!" There's too many ways to get injured and die above ground. And I'm not interested in getting myself killed below ground, so that was the end of my interest in caves.

Above Ground
San Diego

Almost factual letters

Years ago I used to look forward to letters from indignant dolts who couldn't figure out that *SD on the QT* is a satirical take on actual events. Alas, those letters have all but dried up in the last few years. Ah, but we hit the mother lode in ("San Diego Hells Angels defended", Letters, Nov. 29) with not one but two clueless complainers.

Brian from SD claims he is going to take legal action in favor of the slandered motorcycle clubs who "do more for their community than any branch of government". Joe from O'side was outraged that a SD councilman wanted to rid the libraries of books because "literacy is not an equitable value."

Hilarious, but how can we guarantee a steady supply of letters from mistakenly miffed readers? I propose a new offshoot of *SD on the QT*: *Almost Factual Letters*. If you can print fake news why not print fake letters

for those weeks when no real irate letters are forthcoming?
John Rhodes
Carlsbad

Global warming as scapegoat

There is something terribly wrong in this city with regard to bicycle transportation. ("Bikes spiked", Under the Radar, Nov. 29) Here are the words from the "Million Mile Man," a CBS News Documentary. Since Christmas Eve of 1953, when I entered the world, my life has been devoted to movement via human propulsion. On three continents, I have participated in athletic events, both running and triathlon.

SANDAG has got it all wrong. If it were so easy to ride a bike as alternative transportation, everyone would be a Navy Seal. It is reckless and ridiculous to believe that suddenly, San Diego and the nation are all over the barrel for cycling. Why does society scapegoat global warming for this insanity?

As a mayoral candidate in San Diego, I will tell constituents the truth and nothing but the truth. The City of San Diego is going about this wrongheaded public policy helter skelter. There has honestly been no significant increase in cycling for decades. But SANDAG wants to perpetuate this nonsense and hoist lies on the citizens of San Diego. The only thing these bike lanes are achieving is the death and destruction of our residents. This must stop and as mayor, I will stop this folly.

Daniel Smiechowski
Bay Ho

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

Padres begin interviewing process for new location

SD on the QT, Nov. 17, 2023

I am a 68-year-old native San Diegan, and personally I think your directing the Padres to Florida is BS. In 1958, I became a AAA Padres fan, and since '69 when they joined the

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

In 1911, J. Frank Cullen mapped out the original Cardiff-by-the-Sea subdivision. His wife Esther, a native of Cardiff, Wales, suggested the names of various British towns for the street grid, bucking the SoCal norm of Spanish influence on local geography.

Around 1913, or possibly earlier (the listing and historical records are at odds, while tax rolls indicate a 2009 build date due to remodeling), Cullen built the first house on the bluffs to serve as



Every fabulous SoCal beach enclave had to start somewhere. This one started here.

both his residence and an architectural model for the new community. For years, even local historians believed that house — supposedly built on

San Elijo Avenue (the one nomenclatural nod to California's Spanish past) — to have been lost to time, until a visitor from the original Car-

diff pointed out that the home was still standing, albeit a few blocks away on Oxford Avenue. It turns out early photographs of the home were

a bit misleading — with no other homes yet built in the neighborhood to lend a sense of scale, the Cullen House appeared much closer to the sea than it actually was.

"This is the original house built on the side of the hill in the Cardiff Walking District," the Zillow remarks promise at the outset of the listing for 2286 Oxford, which, having served as a vacation rental for years, is now up for sale. Let's have a look, shall we?

There's a bit of a challenge here, as there are actually two listings for the property: one asks \$4.3 million and includes three parcels on which the home sits, while another is going for \$6.35 million but adds another two 25-by-100 foot adjacent lots. Since the cheaper of the

two pops up first in my search results, that's the photo tour we're going to take (though I did snag a historical photo available only on the other listing).

The first few shots show the exterior; we can see the "180 degree ocean views from all levels," despite the home being about four blocks further inland than originally thought. I like the original Craftsman styling, the blue-green paint, and the wraparound deck, even though it appears to be sagging a bit above the garage. The home has reportedly been remodeled a few times over the years; the windows appear to be neither original wood nor modern vinyl, but 1960s-style aluminum-framed single-panes, and quite a few

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Excerpts from 51 years of Reader stories

It's a living: stories from work

Don't Puke in My Limo

Sometimes passengers get out of the limousine at an illegal spot, such as halfway around the corner in an intersection. "And you've got the drivers who let the clients dictate to them. The client will say, 'We want to get out here.' See, a lot of times chauffeurs are so concerned about their gratuities that they let the clients run the show instead of telling them, 'No, that will get me a ticket'" — Joe Deegan **APRIL 1, 2004**

Annalisa's File

"A lady came for a pedicure. She took off her shoes and walked across the tile floor. Her toenails looked like dog claws. I swear to you. They were yellow. They curled down over her toes. They clicked. I looked at her and thought, 'Oh God, I can't let you walk around like that.' Her toenails were incredibly thick. And her cuticle had grown over her nails. It took me over two hours to file it off." — Judith Moore **DEC. 22, 1988**

The Boots Are Looking Better Now

"I do this for the cause, the family cause. And I'm good at it. I've had people come to me and tell me I'm the best. But if I was forced to do it, I wouldn't be that good anymore. You understand that? There's a part of me that could drop it anytime. Just walk away.

But I still choose to hang on a little bit longer ... a little bit longer. I've got 'mad money' in a coffee can." — John Brizzolara **AUG. 15, 1996**

Break a Leg

In 1993, Hal Holbrook was performing King Lear in the title role. Tom Hall, a San Diego actor, likes to tell the story. Hal came on too soon and started a completely different scene. When he noticed another character, played by Bill Anton, onstage, Hal realized he was in the wrong scene. He blurted out, "Oops, excuse me." In the next scene he got a standing ovation. Only Hal Holbrook could elicit such a response. — John Moore **OCT. 5, 1995**

Get Out

"The driver said, 'We hunt where we want to hunt,' and I heard a click. I've been around



CREDIT: JOE KLEIN

At Presidential Limousine, a customer once tipped his driver in cash and told him to take it off the credit card slip. But the driver left the amount on the slip anyway, hoping the man would forget.

guns long enough to recognize the sound of a gun being cocked. The guy in the passenger seat had the potato chip bag on his lap and his hand was inside of it, holding a gun. I said, 'I wouldn't make any sudden moves. The guy behind the bush over there's got a 12-gauge on you right now.'" — Ernie Grimm **APRIL 22, 1999**

Color My World

Among the Hesses' collection are a repro-

duction of a 15th-century ports map of the Mediterranean, the original colorfully painted on hide; a 19th-century street map of Berlin, with a florid cartouche, bordered with etchings of the city's most significant buildings; a 19th-century map of Africa, all but the coastline completely blank; and a USGS map of Oceanside from the 1890s, the city a small dot near the huge Agua Hedionda ranch. — Linda Nevin **JUNE 24, 1999**

Read full articles from the archives at sandiegoreader.com/news/from-archives



Ladies and gentlemen, start your judging!

The life and hard times of a beerfluencer

I went back to hell, but not for the bewitching Little Satan. The Chicali Brewers Association read my *Reader* cover story on Mexicali beer and invited me to the city's Beer Week as a "beerfluencer." The itinerary promised a beer party of epic proportions.

THURSDAY

Pretend Judge at Copa Baja

My friend Willy picked me up early in the morning; he does the commute once a week for his job. Mexicali cools down during winter, and we arrived around noon to a comfortable 70 degrees. From his work, it was an easy walk to Cervecería Catus, where the 5th edition of Copa Baja was being held. The warehouse was filled with 52 international beer judges, including Grand Masters Gordon Strong, Sandy Cockerman, and more. I sat with Ryan Brooks of South Norte Beer Co., who was judging porters with two other judges: Paige Martin — certified *Ciceron* from Texas and manager of Second Pitch Beer — and Rodrigo Plancarte from Querétaro, salesman of Yakima Chief Hops in Mexico. I spotted some beer left in each bottle, so I partook in the drinking and observed their input, pretending to be a judge. Backstage, I found a table filled with almost-empty beers. I took a sip of more than a dozen and peeled off the labels of the few I liked to learn what I had just drunk.

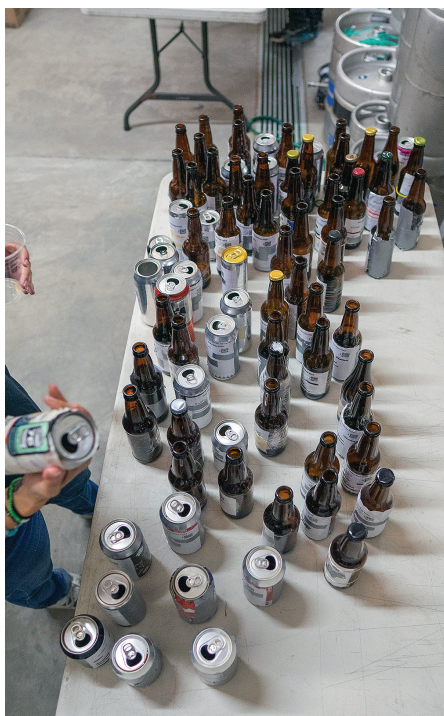
Day 1 of judging ended around 6 pm. The after-party was held at Cerveza Fauna, with plenty of free beers and more beer talks with judges and brewers. At around 10 pm, I went to Kim Koh, the grittiest dive bar in Mexicali, to meet with my host, Roberto. We drank *caguamas* until past midnight. On our way to his place, the cops stopped us. The only money I spent that day was 1000 pesos to bribe the cops to let us go.

FRIDAY

Hungover/San Luis Río Colorado/Awards

I woke up on Friday morning and took a shower. My host took me for birria tacos he said were passable. They were okay, but tiny and expensive. He dropped me off at Copa Baja at 11 am. The judges were already busy drinking.

I met "beerfluencer" Tenorio from La Barra Geek. He wanted to show me his town of San Luis Río Colorado, a small city an hour east in the state of Sonora that shares the border with San Luis, Arizona. On our way there, I started to feel sick. But I took some aspirin and powered through for more beer



Whatever shall we do with this leftover beer?

drinking. We visited Cervecería Alto Golfo, the only brewery with a tap room. I tried a handful of their beers and was blown away by the quality, especially the Xmas Spiced Ale they did in collaboration with Tijuana's Bosiger. The usually sleepy small town was in a festive mood for the fair "Vive San Luis." The fair had six local beer tents, but only two were open when we got there: Cerveza Sonoran was serving beer for the first time and served me a great light saison, and Santa Clara Brewery served me a basic single-hop Mosaic session IPA.

Tenorio drove us back to Mexicali for the awards ceremony as night fell. I was feeling worse, but took more medicine. The big winners of Copa Baja were Agua Mala (Ensenada), Fausto (Monterrey), Fauna (Mexicali), Averno (Mexicali), Kaminari, and Cardera. With 54 medals in total, Baja took 57% of the awards. There were also a few surprises: gold winners from other breweries in Mexico, as well as some categories in which the gold award was left out on purpose.

The after-party was held at Amante Brewery. There was live music, free tacos, and all the leftover beers the judges didn't drink. I didn't know this, and ordered a chili dog and the local silver-awarded foreign stout called "La Panocha." I was still feeling unwell. Luckily, my host was nearby, and he picked me up to go to bed early.

SATURDAY

Mexicali Beer Fest

I woke up feeling okay Saturday morning and waited for my friend Adly to get off work to pick me up. We made it to the Mexicali Beer Fest before 3 pm. I had with me my camera and a bundle of *Readers* to give to the breweries mentioned in the cover story. The entry to the festival included a commemorative plastic cup and a pint of a West Coast pilsner by Tirano Brewery, a dry, hoppy, yet smooth beer. The festival featured more than 52 breweries and a dozen food stands. You paid as you went (around 50 pesos per pint). I started my eve with a bitter hoppy pale ale from Fauna as I delivered a handful of copies to Luis Larios, the brewer featured on the cover. I delivered another handful to the beertenders of Cervecería Averno, the brewery on the story's first page. They served me their silver-awarded "beast" IPA. From there, I jumped from brewery to brewery, trading a copy of the *Reader* for half a pint at each: Colmena (honey blond ale), Pintito (silver Golden Stout), Malgro (stout), Deserto (silver Dunkelweizen), Juguete (bronze Oud bruin), and Mandala (gold Hefeweizen and a

cannabis pale ale).

When it got dark, I went to grab a traditional 'asado Chileno' by Patagonia: a variety of meats on a stick cooked over a charcoal grill. At 150 pesos (around \$8), they paired perfectly with beers. I ended up eating two. After that, I asked Adly if I could pass out in the back of her car — a power nap to brace for the rest of



A couple of "asado Chilenos" paired perfectly with the beer.

the night. It was cut short by the cops, who knocked on the window and asked what I was doing. After explaining I was simply taking a nap and that I worked for a newspaper, they left me alone.

I went back to the festival. This time, I grabbed as many samplers as I could from breweries that I didn't know: 2 Rayas, Emekisele, Tres Cachorras, Te Maquilo Tu Cheve, Palmas, Heatstroke, San Felipe, and Malbicho. The last was the best one I tried, and I ended my night with a pint of their Chamagosa IPA. Before midnight, while *banda* Tiranos del Norte was on stage and the large crowd drunkenly danced *norteña*, I went to say my goodbyes to brewers and "beerfluencers." Luis Larios served me more Fauna beer, and I also got more beers handed to me from Amante and Gato Gordo.

I hitched a ride back to Tijuana the following morning with two judges (one from Tijuana, the other from San Diego) and another "beerfluencer," Carlo Osuna of Dos Cheves Podcast. ■

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Making the Hard Stuff Go Down Easy

San Diego's distillers step up to the bar



“Our emphasis is on quality. Everything we make needs to taste great neat before I am satisfied.”

— Ken Lee

When I told people I was doing a story on San Diego’s alcohol industry, almost everyone asked what angle I would take on our vibrant craft beer community. “I’m actually writing about our local distillers,” I’d answer. My response was met with looks of either confusion or surprise. “This is a craft beer town. We have distilleries? Are they any good?” they asked. “We do, and I’m going to find out!” I answered.

The numbers don’t lie: production-wise, at least, San Diego is clearly a beer town. Give

or take, breweries outnumber craft distillers 10 to 1. And while people are happy to travel to San Diego to sample the local suds—yes, craft beer tourism a thing—San Diego has more chance of sustaining a championship sports franchise than it does of displacing Kentucky’s Bourbon Trail as the go-to American destination for the harder stuff.

Nationally and locally, beer is the most common first choice among drinkers at 37%. But while San Diegans like their beer, extrapolating from national data, among the two-thirds of adults in the county who

imbibe, 31% would tell you a distilled spirit is their go-to libation. Drinkers, however, often switch it up when they throw a couple back; most people who imbibe will occasionally drink beverages other than their first choice. (You might be a wine snob, but I’m guessing if you were eating a taco plate at one of the local dine-in Mexican restaurants, you’d rather sip a nice big margarita than a Napa Cab.) Making things more interesting, there are now more alcoholic, low alcohol, and non-alcoholic choices out there than ever before. Distilled spirits in the form of craft

cocktails and pre-made, canned cocktails, are a big part of that ever-changing menu.

Before launching into an overview of this little niche of San Diego's alcohol industry, or offering you any tasting notes, let's pour ourselves a local sipping whisky, and take a brief look at the fundamental differences between beer and distilled spirits. All alcoholic beverages have common chemistry: sugars, when exposed to moisture, yeast, warmth, and time, ferment. Distilled spirits all start with some already fermented beverage. Brandy, for instance is distilled wine; whisky is essentially distilled beer, and so on. Distillation is a process in which heat is used to cause condensation, which removes (distils) alcohol from water. The processes and ingredients used to make different types of alcoholic beverages can vary within and across beverage types. And that is where the art and craftsmanship of brewing, wine making, and making spirits gets interesting.

San Diego's Craft/ Micro Distilleries

According to the San Diego Guild of Distillers, there are currently 18 distilleries operat-

ing in San Diego County, making a variety of distilled libations ranging from the traditional favorites—bourbon, rye, gin, rum, and vodka—to creative infusions or distillations that include ingredients ranging from truffles to passionfruit.

Although time, logistics, and my liver precluded visiting every local distillery or tasting every locally produced spirit, I set out, notebook in hand, to visit three of San Diego's oldest distilleries as well as one of our smallest and newer craft spirit makers. Along the way I talked to several owners and distillers willing to share their knowledge, opinions, and, thankfully, beverages.

San Diego Distillery

I started by visiting San Diego Distillery, located in Spring Valley, a scant three miles from my house. San Diego Distillery was among the first to operate in the county. Although it's not intentionally obscure, finding the place was akin to locating a speakeasy. My GPS took me to a building that looked vacant, and I couldn't find any signage. After walking around for longer than I had taken to drive there, I spied a tell-tale whisky barrel on the sidewalk and headed into the otherwise unmarked suite. The speakeasy vibe

carried through to the small entry room, which had a clubby feel, then on into the warehouse, bar, and distillery.

The tasting room felt like an old-time whisky bar, and featured a large, nicely built bar and bar back with stools. The tasting space also offered a comfortable sitting area. The only thing differentiating it from a speakeasy was that all the alcoholic offerings hailed from San Diego Distillery. My buddy Dan "Rico" Harris joined me; we had the space to ourselves. Well, mostly: Rico and I spent an hour chatting with Devon, one of the distillers — and head barkeep. As we tasted a variety of San Diego Distillery's offerings, Devon shared a wealth of boozy information and related some history.

Not surprisingly, San Diego Distillery has strong links to our local craft beer community. Founded by longtime local brewer T. Trent Tilton, the distillery experiments with innovative beer-related mash bills to produce small runs of whiskies with unique flavor profiles. Devon explained it this way: "All our whisky starts as beer. The distillation process allows us to pull out and concentrate the best flavors and elimi-

nate flavors that might otherwise ruin a batch of beer."

Full disclosure: before getting into the tasting notes I took, I should note that I am a bourbon, American whisky, and rye whisky guy. I drink my spirits neat. I do like the occasional sipping tequila or rum. I can do Scotch whisky, but I need to be in the mood, and that mood seldom strikes anymore. Most Scotch drinkers would consider me a heretic, as I prefer blends over single malts. I am not huge fan of flavored whiskies...

Devon started our tasting, not with a whisky, but rather a pure agave-based spirit. Although I don't drink a lot of tequila, I do like the higher-end sipping tequilas like Casa Azul. My buddy Rico, an aficionado of hard-to-find sipping tequilas, has a better palate than I for all things agave, and I deferred to his tuned palate for his impressions.

"It reminds me of some of the small-batch sipping tequilas I've had down south. Better than almost anything you can

get up here—at least without selling your kidney," Rico noted. High praise indeed!

I liked it well enough to imagine it in a margarita or on ice with a twist of lime, or neat with a stogie. I found it had a silky finish and hints of vanilla and caramel. For those readers whose tequila experience is limited to dollar margaritas at Applebee's, guzzling Cuervo Gold in high school, or having some nameless tequila poured down your throat in TJ while a guy blows a whistle in your ear (if you know, you know), do yourself a favor and try some high-end sipping tequila. Better yet, drink local and give San Diego Distillery's juice a try. You won't be sorry.

Devon moved us on to taste a few different whiskies. The first one, was an unnamed fruity elixir that we tasted straight from the still. It was interesting, but not my jam. To me, it tasted like Now and Later candies crushed into Everclear. (To be fair, anything straight out the still is going to taste better once it has

mellowed in barrels.)

Next Devon poured a collaborative effort between San Diego Distillery and Orange County's Bottle Logic Brewery, who provided a supply of their Byzantine Imagination as the base. The resulting whisky tasted of honey, pistachio, and the more common notes found in whisky. Overall, the experience reminded me of eating baklava while sipping a shot of a nice bourbon.

Next, we tasted, the cheekily named Nuts and Beavers, a Trent Tilton distillate featuring local brewery, Belching Beaver's Peanut Butter Stout. Rico and I both thought it tasted more like whisky than Screwball, another local peanut butter whisky. I thought it would be a good base for a coffee-based cocktail.

Given my tastes, I was not surprised my favorite offering was the (currently sold out) X Cali Gold high rye, a custom blend of Kentucky-sourced whisky that is bottled locally.

You might be asking yourself, what does Kentucky sourced mean? Although it's common

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knowledge among whisky nerds, the average drinker doesn't know that many whisky brands purchase their whisky from distillers in Kentucky and Indiana. Indiana's MPG is currently the largest producer of sourced whisky in the U.S., although Whiskey House Distillery, a monster facility currently being built in Kentucky, might change that soon. What happens with sourced whisky ranges wildly. On the least creative side, some outfits buy the high-octane juice, water it down a tad, bottle it and slap on a label, and *ta da*, they've made a new whisky brand. Some new distillers use sourced whisky to raise revenue and develop a following while their own first-batch whiskies are aging. Still others, like San Diego Distillery use the purchased whisky as a jumping-off point for more creative approaches by blending barrels based on taste profiles, aging in it in interesting barrels, and the like.

"About 30% of San Diego Distillery's bourbon and whisky is sourced,



Beyond being excellent sipping whiskies, any of Dieter Steinmetz's offerings in the whisky range would make excellent cocktails.

but we select it and the blending happens here," said Devon. "We also take a lot of time selecting used barrels that held wine or other spirits to match the blend and make the flavors more interesting."

San Diego Distillery's tasting room is open on Saturday afternoons.

Their products are available onsite and online.

Oceanside Distillery

For my second stop, I headed north to the tiny Oceanside Distillery, owned and operated by Dieter Steinmetz. Dieter's journey into the local alcohol industry was markedly different than the

folks at San Diego Distillery. Dieter, a pharmacist by training and trade, explained the unlikely story:

"Well, when my son was in high school, he needed to do a science project and decided to make an alcohol still to illustrate the chemical processes of fermentation and distillation. His teacher told him it was illegal to make alcohol at school."

I nodded and chuckled. As a professor who has studied alcohol and drinking three decades, I had to give the kid extra credit for some creative thinking!

Dieter continued, "You can make beer and wine at home, so I assumed we could have a home still. Then I learned *that* was illegal. So, I decided to apply for a federal distillery license."

Dieter explained that the process of procuring a federal license requires the applicant to have a still and fermentation equipment, a dedicated space and the like before a license can be granted. That level of commitment, effort, and expense significantly exceeded brewing beer

at home as a hobby. But after some consultation with his wife and son, Dieter decided to go for it, procured a still, fermentation tanks, and a warehouse space, and applied for his federal license to distill spirits.

After that, he still needed a license from California and Oceanside. "It was a long process. California's license was the easiest and the local permits were the most difficult. The whole process took over 18 months."

Once Oceanside Distillery was up and running, Dieter focused on producing a straightforward line of classic spirits with a heavy emphasis on craftsmanship and quality. Dieter produces two bourbons, an 89 proof and cask strength version. He produces a rum (89 proof) and an interesting gin that is infused with a truffle. Finally, he distills two versions of rye whisky — again, 89 proof and cask strength. Committed alcohol writer that I am, and for the benefit of all you readers of the *Reader*, I tried each one. Overall, I found every offering

was excellent.

Let's start with the booze I thought I'd dislike: gin. I can honestly say I went into this adventure hating gin—I blame my buddy Joe for convincing me that "gin and tonics are a gentleman's drink" at the Who concert in the late 1970s then filling my Big Gulp-sized cup with a shot of tonic and half a bottle of no name, rotgut bathtub gin. I don't need to say more.

As for Dieter's take on the juniper berry-infused spirit, I was dubious about the truffle sitting at the bottom of the bottle. Despite being a "foodie", I can take or leave truffles. Unlike some gastro enthusiasts and chefs, I don't think they go with everything. In Dieter's gin, the small black nugget looked like the type of present your dog or cat might accidentally leave on the carpet. So I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the crisp herbal notes that finished earthy, like a Spanish red wine. I found the overall taste intriguing, and learned you shouldn't judge a gin by its truffle.

I sipped the rum next.

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I found it as good as any sipping rum I've tried, including a \$100 bottle from the Caribbean I recently enjoyed. I could easily imagine the mellow molasses notes would make a hell of a rum punch on a hot summer day, or sparkle in other fruity cocktails. I don't know why, but I got a hint of bananas on the finish.

As a whisky guy, I was cautiously hopeful for Dieter's amber offerings. If he could produce a gin I liked, what magic might he conjure with corn and rye? I was not disappointed.

Oceanside Distillery's award-winning whisky offerings reminded me of some of my favorite offerings from Kentucky. I found the sipping bourbon excellent, with slight floral hints in addition to the vanilla and caramel notes common to good bourbons. It reminded me of a recent experience with single-barrel Four Roses. The cask strength had similar notes, and despite the higher octane, the fire I expected on the finish never came. I found Oceanside Distillery's rye whisky

nicely spiced but subtle, and again not overly hot on the finish. Beyond being excellent sipping whiskies, any of Dieter's offerings in the whisky range would make excellent bases for cocktails.

Oceanside Distillery offers tastings by appointment on Saturdays. Their line of spirits is available online through their website and at Keg and Bottle.

Malahat Spirits

I visited Malahat Spirits Distillery and tasting room next. Malahat, named for the ship that ran rum into San Diego during prohibition, is one of San Diego's older spirits producers, getting its start in 2014. In the spirit of its Prohibition-era namesake, the tasting room is accessed through a speakeasy-style entrance (this one intentional) with a vintage shipyard vibe. I sat down with owner and master distiller Ken Lee to taste some of their offerings and chat about the local distilled spirits scene.

Malahat specializes in rum and gin as its main offerings, although they occasionally make a whisky or vodka. Ken,

a former homebrewer and cooking enthusiast, explained that he creates each mash bill by carefully testing combinations of ingredients until he gets the taste he is after.

"Our emphasis is on quality," he said. "Everything we make needs to taste great neat before I am satisfied. Cocktails were created as a way of hiding flawed spirits. I want our spirits to shine in cocktails. Everything we make has my personal touch and is palate-driven."

Ken's inspiration for specialty spirits often comes from his travels. For instance, a motorcycle trip through southeast Asia inspired Ken's Mekong River Gin, which features herbs from that region. Another one of their gins uses herbs found along the California coast.

For a self-proclaimed "not a gin guy" I enjoyed tasting both and could imagine them being an excellent base for refreshing summer cocktails.

When I explained my gin aversion, Ken noted, "People who don't like gin typically have only



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILY J. DAVIS

A motorcycle trip through southeast Asia inspired Ken Lee's Mekong River Gin, which features herbs from that region.

tasted London Dry-type gins. The gins you just tried have more floral and herbal notes. They taste clean and fresh." Indeed they did.

Like their gins, Malahat's rums feature handcrafted mash bills that give them clean and dangerously drinkable flavor profiles. I enjoyed both the spiced and black tea rums. For those of you who think of a certain pirate when spiced rum is mentioned, Malahat's version is much brighter, with a clean finish. Curious whether some trip to a far-flung location inspired his spiced rum, I asked Ken how he came up with his mash bill.

"Well, I was doing these father-daughter campouts with a bunch of parents. Around the campfire, the drink of choice was spiced rum and Coke. I just couldn't drink what they had. I

kept tinkering until I got the version we just tried."

The tea rum is simply wonderful and so drinkable it would be very easy to overdo it.

To showcase his creations, Ken works closely with some of San Diego's best bartenders who use Malahat's spirits in their own high-end cocktail recipes. These can be sampled at the Malahat tasting room. Malahat is open for tastings Thursday through Sunday (check website for hours) and you can book private tastings. Their spirits are available at Total Wine, BevMo, and local liquor stores.

Seven Caves

My last stop was Seven Caves to meet with Geoff Longenecker. Geoff founded Seven Caves in 2016 and is owner and distiller. Seven Caves focuses on producing small batches of highly craft-

ed rums and gins, plus a popular canned cocktail line-up. I asked Geoff how he came to focus on rum and gin as his signature offerings.

"I'm from Louisiana, so I was very familiar with rum-based cocktails. It was a logical place to start. As for gin, I really like the process of distilling it. You can do a lot of creative things with gin."

My time with Geoff was limited, so I picked up two of his offerings, and did my own tasting at home with a bottle of Seven Caves Barrel Aged Rum and their kelp-infused La Jolla Cove Gin.

I enjoyed the rum neat. My palate — fine-tuned for whisky — picked up nutmeg, a hint of cinnamon, and vanilla. I will likely try pairing it neat with my other vice, cigars. Like the other local gins I tasted, I expected to dislike the La Jolla Cove Gin. As someone who spends a good deal of time fishing the local kelp, I imagined "hints of calico bass" as one of the flavors. Again, I was pleasantly surprised. By the faint taste of something like the kelp beds smell when you are out on the water. Don't be misled: that's a wonderful smell, fascinating, like the whiff of Band Aid that some novice Scotch drinkers describe. I tasted more floral and herbal notes up front, with the subtle savory kelp note coming on the nose and finish.

Seven Caves offers tastings and craft cocktail classes. With the holidays around the corner, you might want to check out their Cocktail Archives pages for some twists on holiday classics — buttered gin! Their spirits are avail-

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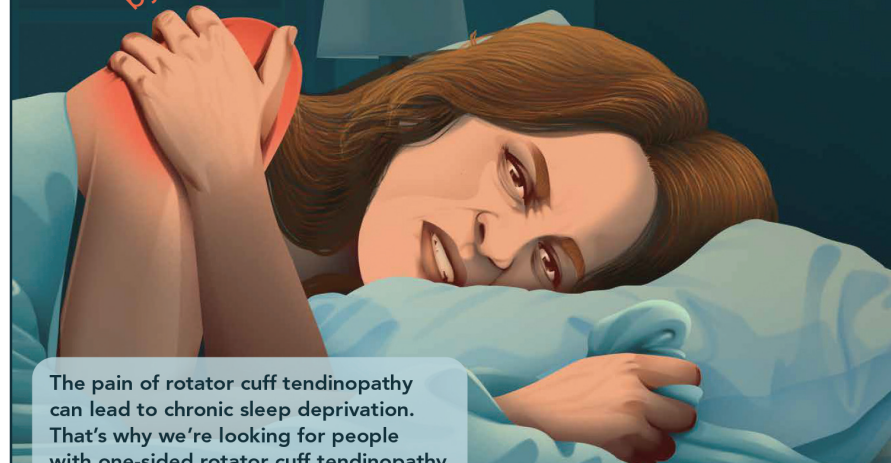
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The Future of Distilling in San Diego

Geoff currently serves as the president of the San Diego Distiller's Guild. Given that position, and his tenure in the local scene, I wanted his take on San Diego's spirits producers and to learn more our local distilling history and where he sees the industry going.

I asked Geoff about the connection between brewing beer and distilling that kept coming up in my visits.

"Yeah, most of us started as home brewers. A few people worked at craft breweries. When the first distilleries got going around 2015, our craft beer scene was booming. It was a natural progression. Brewing beer involves playing with ingredients to produce different flavors. Distilling is similar, and takes it up a notch."

Staying with the similarities between the local beer world and our distilleries, I asked Geoff if he saw parallels.

"We (the distillers) are a lot like the brew-

ers were 15 years ago. We are all friendly with each other. We help each other out. And there's not really competition... none of us are really hoping to strike it rich by selling out to one of the national or international companies."

Geoff continued, "We have a nice mix of distilleries, ranging from really small, like Oceanside, to big and corporate, like Cutwater. We are all really into the craft of distilling and most of us focus on producing interesting and high-quality spirits."

As someone who values both the craft and local aspects of our spirit producers, I was glad to hear that the focus isn't to sell out to the big boys. It inevitably changes things. For instance, I reached out to Cutwater and got a corporate marketing rep in NYC. She asked for my questions and ran them up the flagpole...I'm still waiting for a reply.

Geoff saw our small distilleries as an important part of the local alcohol scene. "San Diego has a vibrant bar scene and a lot of excellent bartenders. The synergy

between the bartenders and us craft distillers is important and makes for some exciting offerings."

He went on to say, "The local restaurants also do some interesting collaborations with us. There is a really nice vibe right now."

Finally, I asked Geoff is thought the local distilling scene would grow.

"I think there is room for growth—both in volume of our current producers and the addition of new distillers down the road. The investment is bigger than starting a craft brewery, but there are people out there dedicated, with the money and interest."

Whether the local distilling scene grows or stays small and interesting, I think it's worth supporting. I certainly will be stalking my home bar with local offerings this holiday season. And I look forward to trying the offerings of the distilleries I couldn't visit this time around. Until then, I'll raise a glass to the local craft distillers who carefully make spirits in the spirit of America's Finest City.

— James Clapp

LETTERS

continued from page 4

league, I've been a fan every year. Go ahead kick them when they're down; that's the way of the world right? Many San Diegans think that moving to Florida would take away the burden of being a Padres fan - the easy way out. Please let us suffer a little longer; it builds character.

—Keith B

Amen

—Keith follower

Is this legit? Are the Padres truly talking about moving to Florida?

—Florida fallacy

MCRD officer's club - San Diego's pick-up spot extraordinaire

Feature Stories, Nov. 23, 1972

52 years ago, I ventured into the MCRD Officer's Friday night dance to just have fun! All these years later, I'm still having fun with the Naval Officer who asked me to dance that night!

—Happily married

^She is right. I fell in love with her and am happily married to her. In addition to MCRD O Club, also met and danced with her

at Miramar O Club. She is the best decision I have ever made in my life!

—Ditto

Gradual awakening with Guru Rattana

Golden Dreams, Nov. 13, 2023

I am not clear why you promoting anything to do with Kundalini Yoga/3HO or Yogi Bhajan. This whole group has been exposed as a cult and Kundalini Yoga isn't genuine yoga or even particularly safe for many people. It is a made up style of yoga created by a greedy sex-obsessed former customs officer from India named Yogi Bhajan. Starting in 1968 following his immigration to the USA, he created a cult called 3HO to furnish his extravagant lifestyle. He died in 2004.

Since 2020, numerous of his former secretaries and female yoga students have come forth with their stories about his violent sexual abuses. He sent the children of his 3HO/Kundalini Yoga students to India to abusive boarding schools causing life long and irreparable psychological harm.

In 2012, a history PhD student named Philip Deslippe applied his training to researching the

origins of 'Kundalini Yoga' what he found, from the cult group's own records, was that it was largely a made up approach, with bits and pieces stolen from other practices.

Bhajan was obsessed with money and wealth. He rarely practiced yoga himself, instead spending his days controlling his students, sexually abusing the women around him and enriching himself by conning his students into giving him money or control of their businesses. In the ends, he died unhealthy and obese. Not exactly a great example of the benefits of doing Kundalini Yoga.

Anyone engaged in or considering this style of yoga should take the time to research the topic more and avoid it at all costs. Check out a new book called Beyond the Yoga Mat by Els Coenen (<https://www.undertheyogamat.com>) for a detailed report on this disturbing cult. Another starting place for research is <https://3hocultinfo.wordpress.com>.

We encourage you to consider your sources and what you are promoting in this article.

—3HO Cult Info

Under the radar

continued from page 3

so-called officeholder account picked up \$40,000 from a political action committee of the state's prison guard union, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association.

That union was called out in a September 11 *Sacramento Bee* editorial for the rich contract it won last summer from Democratic governor Gavin Newsom. The union membership, wrote the *Bee*, "happens to be mostly men and gave Newsom \$1.75 million to fend off a failed recall attempt in 2021." Added the piece: "Given how the California government holds 21 different negotiations to craft contracts to pay its state employees, some disparities are bound to happen. But it invites special treatment

for units that are favored by the Legislature and governor for one reason or another."

An August 30 *Orange County Register* editorial was tougher. "The prison guard union understood that for all of his progressive rhetoric, the ambitious Newsom could be bought. When he was first inaugurated, Newsom 'behested' hundreds of thousands of dollars from the union to support his inaugural fund."

Added the *Register*: "Good government group Govern for California conducted its own compensation study for CCPOA, concluding, "Even before the 2021 increase, California correctional officer wages were more than 20% above the next highest state (\$88,710 in CA, followed by \$72,990 in Massachusetts) and more than double the

median for all U.S. states (\$43,800).

That's after controlling for education, experience, and cost of living. No wonder the Newsom administration didn't bother to follow the law. But here's the kicker: the CCPOA's contract is up, and Newsom is preparing to give away even more. To justify this, the Newsom administration has chosen to pull a fast one on Californians by authorizing a compensation study that deliberately makes it appear as though California's prison guards are underpaid."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Friday | 8

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Come here country music stars sing both their hits and favorite holiday songs. This year's headliner is multi-platinum recording artist Deana Carter, and veteran performers Anna Vaus and Steve Vaus will be headlining alongside Charlie Worsham and Back to the Garden. Following the on-stage performances, the audience and stars will meet in the courtyard and sing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Live auction of autographed guitars and raffle prizes. Proceeds will go to Rady Children's Hospital.

WHEN: Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9, 8 pm

WHERE: California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. carolsbycandlelight.com



DARK CHRISTMAS MARKET

Visit an artist's market featuring gothic- and Old World-influenced boutique vendors, wandering minstrels, Dickens-style Christmas Carolers, and traditional Welsh

dancers. The evening culminates in The Wild Hunt, a European-style Krampus procession. Participate in a German stein holding contest, indulge in Christmas cookies, coffee, tea, and hot and cold ciders provided by Twisted Horn Mead & Cider.

WHEN: Saturday, December 9, 4 pm to 9 pm

WHERE: Backfence Society Inc. 110 South Citrus Avenue, Vista. backfencesociety.com

Saturday | 9

SIP & SKETCH HOLIDAY ART CLASS

Enjoy a sip, sketch, and color holiday art class with archaeological illustrator



Donna Walker. Learn how to draw the native plant Toyon Berry, also known as California Holly, then color your

Sunday | 10

SAN DIEGO BAY PARADE OF LIGHTS

Participants will decorate their boats to fit this

year's theme, Christmas Traditions around the World. The procession of approximately 80 decorated boats takes



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

one to one and a half hours to pass any given point along the parade route. It starts at Shelter Island, then continues



to Harbor Island, The Embarcadero, Seaport Village, and The Pier at Cesar Chavez Park before ending at the Ferry Landing on Coronado. Boats will compete for "Best of Parade," "Best of Power," and "Best of Sail" awards.

WHEN: Sunday, December 10 and Sunday, December 17, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

WHERE: From Shelter Island to the Ferry Landing on Coronado. sdparadeoflights.org

Converge drummer Ben Koller, and bassist Nick Cageao, who was replaced in 2021 by Jeff Matz from High on

Fire. After releasing two EPs and two studio albums, they're now touring in support of their newly released third full-length *Mutants*, their first full record of new material since 2017's *War Moans*.

WHEN: Monday, December 11, 8 pm

WHERE: Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista. brickbybrick.com

Monday | 11

MUTOID MAN

Heavy metal band Mutoid Man was founded in 2012 in Brooklyn by Cave In singer-guitarist Stephen Brodsky,



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

ART

A Cut & Sew Fashion Show Sew Loka Presents “You Reap What You Sew” A Cut & Sew Fashion Show 10 Years in the Making with live performances by The Invisible Panchos with narration by Parker Edison. There will also be live sewing, live painting, and a live podcast recording by Copy & Steal. Saturday, December 9, 12pm; **free**. Bread & Salt, 1955 Julian Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Art Classes for Kids From drawing to painting, crafts to art history, students will be provided with hands on art education with projects to bring home and display proudly. Tuesdays, 5pm; through Friday, December 15, \$40. Blossom & Bloom, 7400 El Cajon Boulevard Suite 101. (LA MESA)

Artists' Reception Reception showcasing the works of Suzanne Mandel-Mosko, Jonathan Rosenberg, and Grace Swanson. Saturday, December 9, 5:30pm; **free**. Off Track Gallery, 937 S. Coast Hwy. 101, suite C-103. (ENCINITAS)

BirdStock Music Festival & Holiday Artisan Market Shop for handmade crafts and one-of-a-kind artworks, with live performances from local bands. Saturday, December 9, 10am; **free**. Bird Rock Surf Shop, 5509 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Makers Market Shop 45 creators with handmade goods such as wood working, plants, baked goods, jewelry, knit goods, home decor, art prints, soap, candles and more. Sunday, December 10, 12pm; **free**. Eppig Brewing, 1347 Keystone Way. (VISTA)

Open Studios Tour visual artist studios, catch live performances by resident musicians and a performance by Malashock Dance, grab a bite to eat at Tacoland SD

taco truck, and mingle with fellow guests and artists alike. Saturday, December 9, 6pm; **free**. Space 4 Art, 340 16th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Starlett: Experiential Art Journey Witness a collection of paintings and visual art, each chronicling the evocative journey of Starlett, an ethereal embodiment of exploration and transformation navigating the boundless vastness of the universe. Saturday, December 9, 5pm; \$35. 18 and up. A Deep Space, 4153 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON)

Student Art Exhibition The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation (MTRP) is pleased to present an art exhibition featuring artworks by students from the Grossmont Union High School District. This exhibit will be on display in the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center from December 2 - 30. Sunday, December 10, 1pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Summation This exhibition features some of the finest works of art produced by local San Diego and Southern California regional artists. Poet's INC will produce its annual Summation publication with poetry inspired by the works of art. Tuesdays, 11am; through Friday, January 5, **free**. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Sunday Market Shop from a curated pop up market, groove to melodic house beats from DJ VOLZ, immerse yourself in a soothing sound bath and wake up your inner child with 20+ interactive art exhibits. Sunday, December 10, 11am; \$28-\$38. WNDR Museum, 422 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

The Ruff & The Tuff Tattooers Art Show Flying Panther Tattoo is proud to host a group show of tattoo artists from throughout San Diego. The Ruff & the Tuff is the grand opening for the Union Hall Gallery located in the Carpenter's Union building. The Union Hall Gallery is located on the 2nd floor of the Carpenters Union building, access the event from the 24th St. entrance. Light refreshments will be served. Saturday, December 9, 6pm; **free**. Art Union Building, 2323 Broadway. (GOLDEN HILL)

Valency Genis: The Feral Farm Solo Exhibition Valency Genis solo show The Feral Farm opening reception with live music, open studios, and drinks for sale by Last Spot by Hidden Hive. Saturday, December 9, 6pm; **free**. Distinction Gallery, 317 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Douglas Preston: The Lost Tomb Warwick's, in partnership with Coronado Public Library, will host Douglas Preston as he discusses and signs his new book, *The Lost Tomb: And Other Real-Life Stories of Bones, Burials, and Murder*, in conversation with Steve Elkins. Free seating is subject to available space on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure seating, reserve one book per person @ warwicks.com/event/preston-2023. Thursday, December 7, 7:30pm; **free**-\$30. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Neal Allen & Anne Lamott: Better Days Warwick's, in partnership with Friends of the Coronado Public Library, Coronado Public Library, and the San Diego Writers Festival, presents Neal Allen & Anne Lamott in conversation with Marni Freedman. Wednesday, December 13, 6:30pm; \$10-\$38. Coronado High School, 650 D Avenue. (CORONADO)

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

Casa Nutcracker Ballet Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with the Nutcracker ballet performed by the Orange County Ballet Theater. Thursday, December 7, 7pm; Friday, December 8, 7pm; \$40. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Celebrate the holidays as the Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Who-ville, right down to the last can of Who-hash. Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays, 7pm;

Saturdays, 7pm; Sundays, 10:30am; Tuesdays, 7pm; Wednesdays, 7pm; through Sunday, December 31, Old Globe - Donald & Darlene Shiley Stage, 1363 Old Globe Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Dreidel Day Celebrate Hanukkah at the library with fun dreidel games, crafts, and a special story-time with Temple Adat Shalom. Sunday, December 10, 2pm; **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

East Village Tree Lighting & Holiday Market Join the East Village Association for a curated holiday market by San Diego Markets, live music, foods, activities for the kids, a tree lighting ceremony and photos with Santa Claus himself. Saturday, December 9, 3pm; **free**. Quartyard, 1301 Market Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show Audiences of all ages will cheer Ebenezer Scrooge's rediscovery of the Christmas spirit in this riotous Dickens mash-up filled with music and laughter, all set in “winter” San Diego. Tuesday-Sunday, 7pm; through Sunday, December 24, Old Globe - Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Eco Wreath Workshop Join Mae of Handmaed for a fun hands-on, wreathmaking workshop. Secure your spot in advance by registering online. Wednesday, December 13, 6pm; \$60. Pure Project Vista, 1305 Hot Spring Way. (VISTA)

Free Outdoor Holiday Movies December 5 *Home Alone*, December 12 *The Grinch*, December 19 *Elf* Tuesday, December 12, 5:30pm; **free**. Otay Ranch Town Center, 2015 Birch Road. (EASTLAKE)

Hanukkah Celebration Celebrate Hanukkah with your favorite Sesame Street friends and play a game of dreidel, light the Menorah, dance to festive music, and learn all about Hanukkah. Glatt Kosher food will be available for purchase while supplies last. Sunday, December 10, 12pm; Sesame Place San Diego, 2052 Entertainment Circle. (CHULA VISTA)

Holiday Hayride Farm Tour Adventures Activity Package includes Holiday Hayride with Caroling, Farm Animal Visit, Educational & Interactive Reptile Show, Archery, Tomahawk Throwing, 20 paint balls at the Ghost Town Slingshot Range. Saturdays, 1pm; Sundays, 1pm; through Sunday, December 17, \$22-\$25. Fort Cross Old Timey Adventures, 4425 Highway 78. (SANTA YSABEL)

Holidays on the Homestead Enjoy an old fashioned holiday on the homestead learning about the history of early American living. Friday, December 8, 10am; Tuesday, December 12, 11am; \$25. Fort Cross Old Timey Adventures, 4425 Highway 78. (SANTA YSABEL)

Little Seabirds Holiday Festivities Gather your family to decorate an apple with caramel dip and toppings. All supplies will be provided. Ornament Decorating, Santa Plate Decorating, Build A

Snowman, and more. Saturdays, 12pm; through Saturday, December 23, **free**. Seabird, 101 Ocean Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

North Pole Limited The fun begins at the festive Campo Depot where guests pick up tickets from the Ticket Agent in our restored passenger waiting room. Once onboard the North Pole Limited, our crew of elves will regale you with holiday songs and stories, serve hot chocolate and fresh cookies, and more! The North Pole Limited winds its way through the beautiful backcountry on its way to the North Pole, where it stops at Santa's Workshop to pick up Santa and Mrs. Claus. The train ride lasts for approximately 90 minutes, as Santa and Mrs. Claus visits with all passengers on the train on our way back to the Campo Depot. Friday, December 8, 5pm and 7pm; Saturday, December 9, 5pm and 7pm; Campo Railroad Park & Museum, 750 Depot Street. (CAMPO)

One-Year Anniversary Giveaway Seabreeze Craft Chocolates will be giving away 100 2-pack boxes to the first customers in line. Sunday, December 10, 11am; **free**. Seabreeze Craft Chocolates, 3840 Valley Centre Dr. Suite 604. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Red Brick Christmas Free annual Christmas extravaganza with crafts, activities, cookies, pictures with Santa and more. Sunday, December 10, 3pm; **free**. Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, 2128 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Santa Brunch Sometimes, Santa just wants to get his brunch on. And maybe laugh a little. Mic Drop Comedy is hosting a Santa Brunch where he can do both. This special variety show will remind you why Christmas is most everyone's favorite holiday. Don't forget your ugly sweaters! And yes, Santa will be there for photo ops. Sunday, December 10, 7:30pm; \$18. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Santa's Story Time Tea Create magical holiday memories in the festive ambiance of the Le Fontainebleau Room at the Westgate Hotel. Festivities include story time and photo opportunities with Santa Claus himself. Also, each child will leave with their very own keepsake teddy bear from the North Pole. We'll serve delicious hot chocolate, premium teas, fresh house-made pastries, and desserts with a holiday twist accompanied by live holiday music from a pianist. Price includes a glass of Champagne for the adults. Saturday, December 9, 12:30pm; Sunday, December 10, 12:30pm; \$98. Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Selfies at Santa's Workshop Santa will be hanging up his wetsuit, putting on his boots and fur, and bringing his most entertaining Elf back to the Village for some traditional holiday fun and photos. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 17, **free**. Seaport Village, 849 West Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Take Holiday Photos in Giant Picture Frame A professional photographer will use attendees' mobile phone or camera to take free pictures of family and friends as they pose in the life-size photo frame near the children's play area at the shopping center. Sunday, December 10, 4pm; **free**. Village Walk at EastLake, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE)

The Nutcracker by Performing Arts Workshop Performing Arts Workshop Encinitas presents - The Nutcracker Experience the joy and spirit of the holiday season with a magical journey to the Land of the Sweets, guided by the courageous Clara and her Nutcracker Prince. Saturday, December 9, 2pm; Sunday, December 10, 2pm; \$18-\$30. Truax Performing Arts Center, 400 Rancho del Oro. (OCEANSIDE)

Very Merry Garden with Ms. Smarty-Plants Join Ms. Smarty-Plants and Friends for a Kid's (only) Pop-up Shop, ornament making, a bubble dance party, and much more in The Garden magically filled with twinkle lights. Saturday, December 9, 5:30pm; \$5-\$11. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (EL CAJON)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Body Dynamics by San Diego Continuing Education Students learn breathing techniques for self-care, mental resilience, and physical relaxation as they age. Please wear flat supportive shoes and loose, comfortable clothing. Audience: Adult. Friday, December 8, 1pm; Monday, December 11, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Building Confidence With Meditation Hosted by Nandi from Dharma Center. Friday, December 8, 6pm; **free**-\$20. 18 and up. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (ONLINE)

Cooking Class: Make Your Own Ramen Learn the secret of creating Ramen. Sunday, December 10, 5pm; **free**. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

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

Fall Playwriting Workshop A workshop for the exploration of playwriting with Aleta Barthell Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 10, \$360-\$420. writeyourstorynow.org. (ONLINE)

Happy Holidays Chocolate Making Class Learn the basics of working with chocolate, create your own bark, molded chocolates and more. Saturday, December 9, 3:30pm; \$65. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

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Holiday Cooking Demo Enjoy a cooking demonstration and learn to make both sweet and savory crepes with Chef Nikki. Tuesday, December 12, 2pm; \$10-\$20. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Mindfulness Led by Laurie Hallihan, certified teacher trained at UC San Diego's Center for Mindfulness, this class will focus on mindful communications and embracing the holiday spirit without the holiday stress and anxiety. Tuesday, December 12, 9am; **free**-\$18. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (EL CAJON)

Macrame & Sea Glass Christmas Ornament Workshop Guests will have 2 hours to create a variety of macrame and sea glass ornaments. Mix and Match as you like. Thursday, December 7, 6:30pm; \$45. Culture Brewing Company Solana Beach, 111 S. Cedros Avenue #200. (SOLANA BEACH)

Middle-Eastern Drumming Classes Middle-Eastern Drumming with Frank Lazzaro, all levels welcome. Extra drums available. Mondays, 6pm; through Monday, December 18, \$15. 18 and up. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Mind & Body Master Class: Color Your Feelings With Shirila de Magalhães. Saturday, December 9, 9:30am; **free**-\$20. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (EL CAJON)

Polar Opposites? Iceland, Greenland, Antarctica From geysers to glaciers, penguins to puffins, ice flows to icebergs and hot springs for home heating, discover in what ways Arctic Iceland and Greenland differ from and are similar to each other and to Antarctica. Tuesday, December 12, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Rain Barrel & Water Harvesting Workshop Residents of San Diego are invited to join this free workshop to learn about all the benefits of rain barrels and best practices for rainwater collection. Pre-order a rain barrel for pickup at the distribution event following the hands-on workshop. Saturday, December 9, 10am; **free**. Mountain View Community Center, 641 South Boundary. (MOUNTAIN VIEW)

Second Tuesday Explorations: Exploring Silence Look at how writers effectively use silence to create effective emotion and meaning in stories. Tuesday, December 12, 6pm; \$36-\$42. writeyourstorynow.org. (ONLINE)

Sip & Sketch Holiday Art Class Learn how to draw the native plant Toyon Berry, also known as California Holly, then color your creation with Prismacolor, an oil-based color pencil that blends and looks like watercolor when finished. Saturday, December 9, 11am; \$10-\$25. 21 and up. San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

COMEDY

Leslie Liao Seen on *Don't Tell Comedy*. Thursday, December 7, 8pm and 10pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Mike Winfield Standup comedy Tuesday, December 12, 7:30pm; \$22-\$39. 21 and up. Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

Pod Save America - Thursday, December 7, 7:30pm; \$45-\$59. Mag-nolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Ron Funches AS SEEN ON: Trolls, Bob's Burgers, Adventure Time, The Goldbergs, Black-ish, New Girl, Transparent, Powerless, and Undateable, Get Hard, Conan, The Tonight Show, @midnight, Chopped, Cupcake Wars & more! December 8, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 9, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$15-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

The Bald & The Beautiful: Live Podcast Recording The Bald and the Beautiful with Trixie and Katya features a pair of grizzled gay ghouls exploring the culture boundaries of modern beauty through interviews with gorgeous guests who inhabit various facets of the beauty industry. Thursday, December 7, 8pm; \$39-\$49. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Dance Reflections 2023 The MiraCost College Dance Department's fall concert premieres new dance works. Theatre Building (OC2000), Oceanside Campus. Thursday, December 7, 7:30pm; Friday, December 8, 7:30pm; Sunday, December 10, 2pm; \$12-\$17. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

FOR KIDS

A Charlie Brown Christmas Join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy and the whole Peanuts gang as they sing, dance, and learn the true meaning of the season. Fridays, 8pm; Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm; through Sunday, December 17, \$26-\$29. Lamplighters Community Theatre, 5915 Severin Drive. (LA MESA)

Baby Play & Learn Baby Play & Learn is designed to support the development of children ages 0-24 months. This program includes stories, rhymes, songs, and movement activities followed by an open play time. All ages are welcome to attend. Tuesdays, 12pm; through Tuesday, December 19, **free**. Ocean Beach Library, 4801 Santa Monica Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Baby Storytime Enjoy songs, fingerplays, books, and more with your baby. All children are welcome. Geared toward pre-walkers. Mondays, 11am; through Tuesday,

December 19, **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Blippi The Musical The Wonderful World Tour! So, come on! Dance, sing, and learn with Blippi and special guest Meekah as they discover what makes different cities unique and special. Friday, December 8, 6pm; \$28-\$170. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Color In A New Light Step into a world where you can unveil the secrets of light and color, captivating your senses and sparking your curiosity. Dive deep into the fascinating realms of darkness, visible and invisible light, and color. Each area offers a unique and interactive experience that will illuminate and enlighten. Thursday, December 7 through Wednesday, December 13, 10am; \$19-\$24. 3 and up. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Discovery Tables: Animal Tracks Stop by the Discovery Table in the lobby of the Visitor Center. and learn all about animal tracks from MTRP Trail Guides. See if you can match each animal with its correct track! Saturday, December 9, 10am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Toddler & Preschool Storytime Recommended for ages 2-5, this storytime program includes books, songs, games, and early literacy fun. Community Room Thursday, December 7, 10:30am; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

FUNDRAISERS

Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell Run 5k Be part of the original festive race for charity and signature Arthritis Foundation holiday event! Wear your favorite holiday attire and together, we'll jingle all the way to a cure! Register as an individual or bring a team of friends, family and co-workers to run, walk or stroll, and spread the good cheer. Saturday, December 9, 8am; Liberty Station NTC Park, 2455 Cushing Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

LECTURES

An Evening with Sir Patrick Stewart Join beloved actor Sir Patrick Stewart for an evening of inspiring conversation in celebration of his long-awaited memoir, Making It So. Thursday, December 7, 7pm; \$55-\$70. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Carlos Garrido Castellano: The Contemporary Art Novel This talk examines contemporary literature concerned with creative practices and economies at a planetary level. Its main argument is that literature and artistic creativity are advancing modes of creative care and solidarity that go beyond creative capitalism. Friday, December 8, 11am; **free**. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)



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	Enter to win tickets to see The Grateful Shred. Deadline to Enter: Friday, Dec 8 at 1pm
	Enter to win a \$100 gift card to Señor Grubby's. Deadline to Enter: Monday, Dec 11 at 1pm
	Enter to win tickets to see Jeff Rosenstock. Deadline to Enter: Tuesday, Dec 12 at 1pm

Enter to win at sandiegoreader.com/contests

NATURE

Butterflies “Butterflies” presented by biologist Bill Howell, author of *Coloring Southern California Butterflies & Caterpillars*. Mr. Howell will discuss everything people have always wanted to know about butterflies. This free, family event is interesting for both adults and kids, age 10 and older. Registration is required. Register @ batiquitoslagoon.org. Saturday, December 9, 10am; **free**. 18 and up. Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Free Day Friday Free docent-led Garden Tour (no registration needed, limit to 10 people) with half off Wellness Classes. Friday, December 8, 9am; **free**. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (EL CAJON)

Guided Nature Walk Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park along a scenic trail. The trails highlight coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and riparian woodland habitats. Learn how the plants adapt to the seasons. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Sunday, December 10, 9:30am & Wednesday, December 13, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Monumental Trees Tour Forever Balboa Park offers thematic park tours that focus on the park's unique biodiversity and highlight the park's horticultural wonders on the second Saturday of each month led by park volunteer and horticultural enthusiast Bill Edwards. Saturday, December 9, 10am; **free**. Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

THEATER LISTINGS

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

1022 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas

Playwright Dea Hurston collaborated with three other co-creators, two of whom star in the show and one of whom wrote songs for it, to produce what her program note calls “a holiday piece created for actors of color to tell a story about people of color.” The result is something like a highly polished, super-sized, musical Christmas episode of a beloved sitcom. Problems, mostly of the relationship variety, are presented, but only so that they may be triumphed over, talked through, joked about, or otherwise resolved. The Black family is a black family — well, except for the adopted Hispanic younger brother of protagonist James,

OUTDOORS

Shorebirds show up, hike in the mountains, Christmas berry

Shorebird-Watching Enters Its Most Agreeable Season this month, with migrant and resident birds sharing common winter grounds. Egrets, herons, terns, and a variety of other species provide endless entertainment as they go about the business of fishing and feeding in San Diego County's remaining coastal wetlands. Publicly accessible wetlands include the following (listed north to south): San Luis Rey River mouth, Buena Vista Lagoon, Agua Hedionda Lagoon, Batiquitos Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, San Diego River flood channel (south of Sea World Drive), Sweetwater River marsh, southwest San Diego Bay,



RED TOYON BERRIES ARE APPEALING BUT NO PICKING ALLOWED

the grown-up son of a strong single mother, headed home with his loving (but not wilting) wife to...Carlsbad? Yep: 30 years ago, Dad achieved his American dream of home ownership in the California beach town — even though the Powers that Be found ways to make him pay more because of his race. (That Was Then here; later, when a character asks, “What trouble could three black men possibly get into walking around at night?” the line evokes laughter, mostly of the not-nervous variety.) Now, the place is Christmas Central, where people are quick to share both songs and feelings along with food and cheer, the sort of place anyone might want to go and spend a holiday evening. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. CALL FOR SHOWTIMES

Babbitt

La Jolla Playhouse got famous actor Matthew Broderick to come and star in an adaptation of a famous-but-forgotten American novel from the days when novels were big, so of course the show is sold out through its entire run, but here's what you're missing: a brutally sad and tragic story about a man who tries and fails to become something more than he is, something more like he thought he might be when he was young, pitched like a comedy — and not a black sort of comedy, either. Something far more amiable; something that, by show's end, might feel more like a dramedy, or even a feel-good triumph, as long as you understand that what you're supposed to feel good about is a man

learning to let go of his own hopes and dreams and just let other folks — the young, the women, and, weirdly, the rat bastards who run the rotten world — have their way. His early line “My whole life has amounted to nothing!” sparks a note of anxiety. But by the time he's winding things down and describing his situation as “a kind of living death,” the audience is chuckling right along. This fascinating effect is a testament to the Playhouse's production, Broderick's performance, and maybe the fact that Babbitt is a man utterly without character. He's happy to cheat his customers unless he likes them, happy to lie on the witness stand as long as it's for his friend, happy to abandon one cause for another to get what he wants, etc. Maybe we're laughing because he has no idea how despicable he is, and besides, since it's Broderick, he's so gosh-darn likeable despite it all! About that production: it's polished to a high shine — much like the library-themed set — with the rest of the cast serving as both narrators and those who people Babbitt's world: his wife, his children, his best friend, his new neighbors, the exciting new dance instructor in town who looks remarkably like the siren who haunts his dreams, etc. So you have to figure the odd bits — casting a black man as Babbitt's downwardly-mobile son, or an Asian man as an old-style Republican establishment man worried about the threat posed by immigrants — are intentional efforts to provoke thought. In the end, it's well done, but exactly what is done and why is maybe obscured a bit by the shine. It's folly to

review the show you wish you'd seen, but I kept wondering how a modern Babbitt would play: a conventional liberal who one day decides to blow up his life by going MAGA. The horror! LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

A Christmas Carol

Quaint it ain't. The virtues of Cygnet Theatre's production of Dickens' Christmas ghost story are all there at the outset — really, before the outset, when the cast members are strolling about the stage singing carols and telling jokes. The jokes are silly; the carols, sincere. And then as the play proper gets started, they shift smoothly and spookily into declaring the news of the day: Jacob Marley is dead. You might smile a bit at just how often they repeat that cold fact, but a cold fact it remains, and there you have it: this is a sad and sometimes scary story about mortality and doom, but told with the charm, wit, and warmth necessary to keep hope alive. Marley is dead, but Dickens does what Father Abraham would not in the story of the rich man and Lazarus: he sends the damned dead man to warn one who is still living: old Ebenezer Scrooge. And what a warning: here and elsewhere, the production achieves a maximum of stagecraft with a minimum of effects. It may be relatively easy to make the puppets portraying Ignorance and Want properly creepy, but it's trickier to give sweet life to Tiny Tim, and it's a credit to the versatile cast that they manage it with seeming ease. Most remarkable of all: everything here works to wipe away the dull dinginess

of familiarity and restore the old magic to the story of a nightmare that rouses a soul from its selfish slumber. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. CALL FOR SHOWTIMES

Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show

What's a modern theatrical production to do with a story most everybody knows by heart? Playwrights Steve Rosen and Gordon Greenberg have decided that if some familiarity is good, then more is better, and set Scrooge's story right where the theater stands today. They keep the setting in olden-days 1919, the better to preserve the mutton-chop facial hair, the top hats, and the lack of furnace heating. But they're happy to go present-day for the sake of a joke. They're happy to go all sorts of places: meta, silly, clever, even weird. But while you can play Tiny Tim for laughs by making him a puppet with a live, adult human head — just one clever bit of prop work in a production that makes the absolute most of a few crates, chairs, ladders, and window casings — there's only so much humor a show, even a feel-good show, can get from the plight of a dying child. Or, for that matter, from the haunting of an old man's loveless heart. It's to the cast's great credit that they are able to execute the massive shifts in tone when the rim-shot rat-at-at of jokes must give way to the story's pure feeling without giving the audience emotional whiplash. OLD GLOBE - SHERYL & HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY,

BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. CALL FOR SHOWTIMES

The Glass Menagerie

The mother of queer classics, this nostalgic story of love, regret, and letting go introduced a young Tennessee Williams to the world. Gripped by the guilt of abandoning his mother Amanda and sister Laura, Tom is forced to look back and investigate what led to the fracturing of his family and perhaps his soul. This poetic and compelling memory play poses the question: What is the cost of personal freedom? Directed by Lisa Berger. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Backyard Renaissance: Proof

David Auburn's play has plenty of pedigree: Broadway hit, Tony Award, Pulitzer Prize, film adaptation. It leans hard into the notion of the fine line between genius and madness — so hard that the line cannot hold: we learn straightaway that Dad the brilliant mathematician set the world on fire before he was 25, and then suffered a serious breakdown of the machinery upstairs. Now he's dead, and his daughter/caretaker Catherine — who has just turned 25 herself — is finally free of him. But of course, not really, no. He personally haunts her in the very first scene, urging her not to waste her own talent for math while also acknowledging that his appearance on her porch “might not be a good sign.” After that, it's his academic legacy that does the haunting, in the form of an eager disciple (and not-so-secret



A GREAT BLUE HERON FISHING AT LAKE MURRAY

and Tijuana River Estuary. The same birds can also be seen on the shores of inland reservoirs such as Lake Murray and Lake Miramar.

Hike To San Diego County's High Places to take advantage of the winter season's characteristically clear air. From spots such as Cuyamaca Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Wooded Hill in the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area, and Boucher Hill at Palomar Mountain State Park, vistas stretching a hundred miles across the Pacific Ocean are not uncommon at this time of year. Look for the dark profiles of Santa Catalina and San Clemente islands, lying northwest and west of San Diego respectively.

Toyon, Or “Christmas-Berry,” one of the more distinctive shrubs of Southern California's native chaparral plant community, is now flaunting clusters of red berries. Here in coastal San Diego, toyon can be found wherever large patches of native vegetation survive, but especially in the thick chaparral covering some north-facing slopes. Toyon branches may look inviting to cut as a Christmas wreath — but they're protected from picking by California state law.

admirer), followed by a legacy of an altogether more personal sort: is she a crazy genius, too? How crazy? How genius? (Just guess what her big sister thinks.) It's a solid play, though perhaps a little too cheerful and chipper for its own good. What makes this production sing has more to do with the casting and performances, starting with lead Liliana Talwatte, who has one of those Stage Faces (huge expressive eyes, a mouth that threatens to split her face sideways when she grins and opens into a dark cavern when she breaks) and one of those Stage Voices to go with it, all honey rich and round and responsive to the needs of the moment. It's tempting to call her the stable center around which sister and suitor revolve while Dad dashes across the sky, but then, her stability is the big question here. Speaking of Dad: Francis Gercke walks a fine line of his own in his portrayal of crazy intensity/intense craziness, often reeling back from the edge of over the top, but just as often near enough to produce the requisite discomfort. Mention ought to be made of Lighting Designer Curtis Mueller's work as well; Backyard Renaissance advertises itself as having an "art to the gut" sensibility; the way the lights come on and go out here isn't subtle, but it's effective.

TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 7:30PM THURSDAYS.

Seasons: A New Musical Song Cycle
Seasons: A New Musical Song Cycle follows six childhood friends on a journey over six years of their lives through a variety of life-changing milestones including leaving home, starting new careers, establishing new relationships and examining lifelong connections.

The 18-song trip through their 20s is told through a mix of nostalgic introspection and 80s rock, as they explore the bittersweet realities of the changing seasons of their lives. Written and directed by Tyler Tafolla.

SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-433-8900. 8PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Wally & His Lover Boys
Compulsion Dance & Theatre presents *Wally & His Lover Boys*, written and directed by Michael Miserany. After two divorces, Walter "swipes right" into the dating scene. He finds love, lust and laughter with two thirty-somethings but soon realizes he's bitten off more than he can chew. A sex farce with tons of heart.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, & MONDAY, DEC. 11.

MOVIES

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

The Holdovers — It's tempting to call director Alexander Payne's latest a kind of *Dead Poets Society* for grownups. Not that Peter Weir's film was childish. But Payne's is definitely adult. There's the obvious similarity of setting: a private school for boys

in New England, filmed with aching loveliness and care. But here, it's the '70s. The American innocence of *DPS*'s '50s has been seen to by the war in Vietnam, which has claimed the life of Curtis, the ambitious son of school cook Mary Lamb. And there is the similarity of dynamic: the story concerns the relationship between a teacher who loves the classical tradition (Robin Williams' John Keating had Horace and his aspirational cry of *Carpe diem*, Paul Giamatti's Paul Hunham has Marcus Aurelius and his stoic love of virtue despite the circumstances) and a student with a strained familial situation. But Dominic Sessa's Angus doesn't want to chase his dreams and act, he just wants to go home for Christmas — and maybe avoid getting booted into military school. Both teacher and student are sour, sullen, surly, sarcastic, and smart in a way that wins them few admirers — and with reason. The two wind up trapped together for the holidays, and it's a testament to both actors that the thaw between them happens so gradually that it's hard to notice until it's obvious. (Giamatti has a ball here as a glass-eyed grump, but he's a known quantity. The lupine Sessa is the revelation; it's a gutsy move putting him in a theater watching Dustin Hoffman, but it's no accident.) And while *DPS*' Keating had to learn the price of his principles, Hunham's work has more to do with finding the limits of their value. Payne is happy to amble; there are points where you may feel the 2 hour, 13 minute runtime. But he's always going somewhere, and the destination is worthwhile. (2023) — M.L. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes — Oh, so *that's* what the *Star Wars* prequels were trying to do: trace the downward trajectory of a man from a good guy in a bad situation to a bad guy in a good situation — thanks in part to a healthy dose of heartbreaking loss. And director Francis Lawrence & Co. get it done in just one movie, even if it is long and tripartite. Alas, the third part is the weakest, even as it must do the most heavy lifting by giving us the Fateful Moment of Turning. (A slip of the tongue? Really?) But even it is not without its pleasures, thanks in no small part to the cast of characters and the casting of those characters: Peter Dinklage and Viola Davis are equally arresting in their roles as reluctant teacher and mad scientist, respectively. The excellence in casting extends to the leads: as the future President Snow, Tom Blyth is magnetic, as he must be if he is to attract the viewer who is at the same time recoiling at his project: mentoring a poor soul from one of the rebellious outer districts in preparation for a fight to the death in the Hunger Games. The story here is strong enough to stand on its own, but of course, it is a prequel, and there is a grimy pleasure in seeing the clunky early iterations of the later Games' slick social machinations — especially Jason Schwartzman's sideshow precursor to Stanley Tucci's fabulous Master of Ceremonies. Other pleasures are purer, such as delighting in Rachel Zegler's turn as gypsy songstress Lucy Gray Baird. (Her first performance is her weakest, but by the time the figurative songbird is facing literal snakes, she's downright soulful, and the songs have been properly woven into the narrative.) Overall, it's a pleasant surprise: an expansion of a completed

story that doesn't feel like a cynical cash grab. (2023) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Napoleon — Director Ridley Scott cuts the world's most famous short person down to size. But it's not clear why. Is it because, as the endnote informs us, his campaigns of glorious conquest killed millions of his own people? Then why isn't that a theme throughout the film, instead of being mentioned via subtitles once and once in dialogue? Is it because while history counts him among the great military leaders of all time, but really, he was actually a bit of a blunderer who will be best remembered for his failures in Russia and at Waterloo? Then maybe we should have seen more of the greatness, so that the blunders would feel like a corrective. (The victory at Austerlitz is, admittedly, the highlight of the film: the gradually unfolding attack is thrilling, and the sequence of the standard bearer being shelled as he dashes across the ice on his horse is wondrous to behold — and one of

the few places where color actually registers in this relentlessly dim and dun movie.) Or is it, as seems most likely from the presentation, that the two-time Emperor — so beloved that all he had to do was ask the people to return him to power and *voilà* — was an insecure mama's boy who was buoyed more than he rose, clumsy and callow while others were clever and calculating, and who transferred his childish devotion to his rather mercenary wife. (She is never more earnest when she begs him, "Just please don't leave me," because of course, it's good to be Empress.) Joaquin Phoenix seems miscast in the lead, or maybe just misdirected. He came across as smaller in *The Master*; here, we need a visual gag with a mummified Pharaoh to establish his *shorta fides*. And while he gives good sullen scowl, he never manages to cut a figure of sufficient stature to be worth caring about one way or the other. And if *that's* Scott's point...well okay, but again, why make the movie? 2023. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Boy and the Heron
A Hayao Miyazaki Film

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EXCLUSIVELY IN THEATERS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

#WonkaMovie

the inside track blurt

Slack, not slacking He's run a record label, a record store chain, a recording studio, a legal service for musicians, and one of San Diego's most prominent Hawaiian music bands. But, admits native San Diego musician

Maroon Five and Box-car Racer."

Witkin has co-led (with Kamaka Mullen) the Hawaiian-themed act Slack Key 'Ohana for a few years now. He hails from a musical family; his father Joe Witkin



Brian Witkin: the music and the music business.

and attorney Brian Witkin, head of local label Pacific Records, his gig overseeing security didn't work out so hot.

"Back when I worked for the now-defunct music venue The Epicentre in Mira Mesa, I accidentally busted the headliners, The Fray, for sneaking into their own show," recalls Witkin. "It was a sold-out show in a 525-capacity venue, and people were trying to sneak in the entire night. I saw a group of four or five guys hop over the outside fence backstage. I grabbed security and we pulled them out, but didn't see their credentials underneath their clothing. We were in the process of escorting them out when we realized who they were. I was really embarrassed, but they were cool about it and complimented us for doing a good job with security.

"Apparently, the reason they were sneaking into their own show was they had gone out for burritos, and didn't want to deal with the crowd coming back in. Even though [Epicentre] was a small all-ages venue, some amazing bands came through — including

was a keyboardist for Sha Na Na and performed at the Woodstock music festival in 1969 — the next-to-last act before Jimi Hendrix's epochal ending set. Brian says he knew from an early age that his dad didn't have a normal job. "He told me about his encounters with legends like Janis Joplin, who he met backstage after a gig at the Fillmore West in San Francisco. When they met, she introduced herself to my dad saying, 'Hi, I'm Janis.' My dad's reply was, 'Janis Who?' She was offended — and quite intoxicated, apparently."

Witkin holds a degree from San Francisco Law School's branch campus at Miramar's Alliant University, and notes that he passed the "extremely difficult and nerve-wracking" California Bar Examination on his first try. But button-down job aside, he's kept a strong affinity for the scene and its musicians. "One of the most unique experiences I've had the honor of being a part of was when I connected local artist Tim Lowman of the band Low Volts with ZZ Top frontman Billy Gibbons, to [have Gibbons] officiate Tim's wedding last year. I've worked

with Billy on numerous projects, and Tim Lowe had asked our mutual friend Tim Pyles to contact me to make the connection with Billy. It was an intimate wedding with just a few guests, with San Diego Bay as the backdrop. I was a witness, along with my wife Nicole. My son Jordan even had the privilege of being the ring bearer."

And on January 7, Witkin will officiate a 20th Anniversary Salute to Pacific Records at the Music Box. Confirmed performers include iTunes blues chart toppers Shane Hall, Seawall Prophet (debuted at number seven on the reggae charts), Slack Key 'Ohana (San Diego Music Awards Best World Music Album 2022), reggae rockers Sandollar (SDMA Best World Music Album 2023), izzi delan (whose upcoming single "Back of my Mind" features Doors guitarist Robby Krieger), surf rockers The Tourmaliners (2023 SDMA Best Rock Album and 2023 Pipeline Instrumental Review Album of the Year), soulful R&B groove-master Jonny Tarr (2020 SDMA Best Pop Artist), rowdy rockers The Moonjacks (recently heard on Fox TV's *Welcome to Flat*), power pop band Manual Scan (promoting their first new music in 30 years), cartoon punk mashup The Spice Pistols (fresh from a tour with Agent Orange), rising singer-songwriter Kela Sako (rock to reggae and EDM); and Witkin's brother Sean Witkin, a multi-instrumentalist who makes a unique style of electronic pop with a subtle hint of rock edge.

As for the Pacific label's future plans, he says, "We have a lot of releases lined up for 2024. In the new year, we'll have some great releases from Sandollar, studio albums from the Moonjacks, as well as from my band Slack Key 'Ohana. Hopefully there will be lots more touring and live music in the works, locally and abroad."

— 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

Aquarius Bar & Grille:

Friday, 6pm — Santana Soul. \$5.

Balboa Theatre:

Saturday, 8pm, Sunday, 3pm — Jingle: The Super Gay Sing-along. \$31-\$81.
Monday & Tuesday, 7:30pm — Million Dollar Quartet Christmas. \$43-\$106.

Barefoot Bar and Grill:

Friday, 6pm — Jarred Matthew.
Saturday, 6pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.

Bellamy's Restaurant:

Thursday, 6pm — Shea Givens.
Saturday, 6:30pm — Orion Song.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Dustbowl Revival. \$22-\$39.
Saturday, 8pm — Common Sense. \$22-\$39.
Sunday, 6:30pm — Never Die Young: James Taylor Tribute. \$20-\$35.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Venice Christmas Show. \$24-\$42.

Bogey's Pub and Grill:

Saturday, 7pm — Jenny & The Tramps. Free.

Books & Records:

Friday, 7pm — Jenessa Noland. Free.
Saturday, 7pm — Mercedes Moore. Free.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Wild the Coyote and Devora. \$15.
Friday, 7:30pm — Bell Witch and Otay: Onii. \$20-\$25.
Saturday, 8pm — Gravesend, Kommand, Greenwitch, Apparition. \$15-\$18.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Diesel Boy

and Versus the World. \$16-\$20.
Monday, 8pm — Mutoid Man. \$25-\$30.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Jarhead Fertilizer and Phobophilic. \$14-\$18.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Possessed and Nunslaughter. \$25-\$30.

Cannonball:

Thursday, 5pm — Kai Kalama.

Casbah:

Friday, 8pm — Depeche Mode Memento Mori After Party.
Saturday, 7:30pm — The Woggles and Alvino & the Dwells. \$15.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Taking on Water and The Drearies.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Jeffrey Martin and Anna Tivel.

Crafted Culture:

Friday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

Thursday, 6:30pm — Dead Head's Night. Free.
Saturday, 7pm — Anthony Cullins. Free.
Monday, 6:30pm — Bluegrass Mondays. Free.
Tuesday, 7pm — SD Jazz Collective. Free.

Duke's La Jolla:

Friday, 3pm — Anthony Kauka Stanley.
Sunday, 4pm — Joanna Gerolaga.
Tuesday, 4pm — Jehua Evans.

Emmanuel Faith Community Church:

Friday, 7pm, Saturday & Sunday, 2pm & 5pm — Free Christmas Concerts. Free.

Epstein Family Amphitheater:

Saturday, 8pm — The Klezmatics: Happy Joyous Hanukkah. \$20-\$45.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Manhattan Transfer. \$20-\$125.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Saturday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.

Farmer & the Seahorse:
Thursday, 4:30pm — David Shyde.
Friday, 4:30pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.
Saturday, 11am — Andrew Pena.

Fast Times:

Saturday, 7pm — Tequila Mockingbird.

First United Methodist Church of San Diego:

Saturday, 4pm — Advent Choral Concert. Free.
Sunday, 1:30pm — Holiday Pipes Concert & Sing-Along. Free.

Golden Island:

Friday, 6pm — Cobby Brzeski. Free.

Holding Company:

Friday, 8pm — Noise Pollution and Float Like a Buffalo. Free.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Mammoth WVH. \$27-\$247.
Friday, 7:30pm — The Struts and Mac Saturn. \$35-\$177.
Saturday, 9pm — Emo Night Brooklyn.
Saturday, 7pm — Father and Ethereal. \$27.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Butcher Brown and Carroons. \$22-\$26.
Sunday, 7:30pm — The Slackers. \$27-\$87.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — milk. \$18.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Friday, 5pm — Blame Betty. Free.

JAI at the Conrad:

Sunday, 5pm & 7pm — Matthew Whitaker Quartet. \$68-\$83.

Kimball Coastal Eatery:

Sunday, 4:30pm — Santana Soul. \$5.

L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, 5pm — Marelle.
Friday, 7pm — Orion Song.
Saturday, 7pm — Jarred Matthew.
Sunday, 11am — Helena Holleran.
Wednesday, 5pm — Brandon Diaz.

La Jolla United Methodist Church:

Sunday, 4pm — The Colors of Christmas Concert. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 5:30pm — Jemille Violet.
Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.
Saturday, 6pm — Jesse Johnson.
Saturday, 11am — Whitney Shay.
Sunday, 11am — Orion Song.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Friday, 7:30pm — Tommy Emmanuel and Jerry Douglas. \$47-\$375.

Main Street Pour House:

Friday, 6:30pm — Into The Void. Free.

MiraCosta College:

Thursday, 7:30pm — MOJO in Concert. \$8-\$10.
Monday, 4pm — PopRox Live. \$8-\$10.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Frequency Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert. \$8-\$10.

Mission Bay Resort:

Saturday, 5pm — Helena Holleran.
Monday, 5pm — Andrew Peña.
Tuesday, 5pm — Ben Powell.
Wednesday, 5pm — Keni Yarbrow.

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Johnny Majestic
Sat, December 9
SHAYNIE RHOADS
Lost Dakota · Em Cable
Sun, December 10
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featuring LAURA CHAVEZ

Thurs, December 14 @ Corazon del Barrio
XIBALBA
Conservative Military Image
Home Front · Upon Stone
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Thurs, December 14
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Fri, December 15
DOOMSLAYER
Into the Fuzz · Old Gods
Primortus

Fri, December 16 @ Corazon
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Thee Toe Tags · Sands

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PIERCE THE VEIL at Viejas Arena

DEC 8



Pierce the Veil was founded by singer-guitarist Vic Fuentes and his drummer brother Mike, both former Mission Bay High School students. They released a new album earlier this year, *The Jaws of Life*, along with a single and video for the track “12 Fractures” featuring guest singer-songwriter Chloe Moriondo. The bill includes Dayseeker, LS Dunes, and Destroy Boys.

ALVINO & THE DWELLS at the Casbah

DEC 1



Surf rockers Alvino & the Dwells have their roots in San Diego's teen post-punk and mod scenes, with founding members from Manual Scan, the Answers, and Furious IV. Their song “Chocolate Mint” appears on a recent Spanish compilation *Music For Gloves*, a fundraising effort to raise money for medical supplies in Spain. The Woggles headline.

COMMON SENSE at the Belly Up

DEC 9



Reggae rockers Common Sense were founded by singer Nick Hernandez, who started the band in Santa Barbara while studying music at UCSB. The group has been playing live shows around the country ever since, and their album releases include a concert set recorded in Solana Beach, *Live at the Belly Up*. The bill includes SM Familia and Ganda.

FREQUENCY VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE at MiraCosta College

DEC 12



The Frequency Vocal Jazz Ensemble will feature choir repertoire as well as performances by selected soloists. Many songs will be selected from the Great American Songbook and performed either a cappella or with a student rhythm section. Directed by Matt Falker and held in the Concert Hall (OC2400) on the Oceanside Campus.

HEADPHONE at Soda Bar

DEC 13



Headphone was co-founded in 2014 by Morgan McRae, who studied piano and business management at St. Louis University. “Our music blends our interests in everything from classical and jazz to electronic and independent rock,” according to the band, “while the lyrics look at the enigmatic space between connection and detachment, hopefulness and despair.” The bill includes Blushtone and Sweater Weather.

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Mission Trails Regional Park:
Sunday, 1pm — Native American Flute Circle. Free.

Moonshine Beach:
Friday, 8pm — Pat Green.

Morgan Run Resort and Club:
Friday, 5pm — Rachel Jay.

Music Box:
Friday, 8pm — Take On Me. \$12.
Sunday, 6pm — The Eagles Ronstadt Experience. \$20.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Western Standard Time Ska Orchestra Holiday Show. \$22.

Nick & G's:
Friday, 7pm — Matt Heinecke.

Observatory North Park:
Saturday, 7:30pm — The Dresden Dolls. \$73-\$95.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Friday, 7pm — Depeche Mode.

Pour House:
Friday, 7:30pm — Blindfold Monks.

Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:
Friday, 7:30pm — SD Symphony & The Airborne Toxic Event. \$29-\$69.

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

San Pasqual Wine Bar and Gallery:
Saturday, 7pm — 8 East Band. Free.

Seabird:
Sunday, 5pm — Keni Yarbro.

Side Yard:
Saturday, 6pm — Andrew Peña.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Your Neighbors. \$21.
Friday, 7:30pm — Healy. \$22.
Saturday, 7pm — Codeine. \$29.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Rosa Rossa and The Slashes. \$10.
Monday, 7:30pm — Ben Parks and Aly Rowell. \$10.
Tuesday, 7pm — Breaking Sound. \$24.
Wednesday, 7:30pm —

Headphone, Blushtone, Sweater Weather. \$12.

Soma:
Friday, 6:30pm — Jette and Juniper Honey. \$10.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church:
Friday, 7pm, *Sunday*, 4pm — Coterie Messiah Sing-&-Play-Along. Free.

Tidal:
Saturday, 5pm — Jonny Tarr.

UC San Diego Park & Market:
Thursday, 6pm — Intersections Concert: The Slavic Soul Party. \$25-\$35.

Viejas Arena:
Friday, 7:30pm — Pierce The Veil and L.S. Dunes. \$45-\$400.

Whistle Stop Bar:
Sunday, 9pm — CD Ghost, Primer, Trit 95.

Winstons Beach Club:
Thursday, 8pm — Source Band and Mind Cell.
Saturday, 4pm — Grateful to the Core.
Saturday, 9pm — Half Hour Late.
Sunday, 2pm — Krampus Day.
Tuesday, 8pm — Anonimuss Rose. \$10.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Alejandra's Fine Mexican Food & Cantina:
December 15 — Farrah Camu

Aquarius Bar & Grille:
December 17, December 24, December 31 — Mark Fisher's High Noon Dead Set
January 1 — Santana Soul

Aztec Brewing Company:
December 16 — Christmas Charity Concert

Baba Coffee:
December 15, December 22, December 29 — The Soto Six

Balboa Theatre:
December 17 — Mariachi Sol de Mexico: A Merry-Achi Christmas
December 19 — Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour
December 23 — A Peter White Christmas

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
December 29 — Puro Feeling

Beach House Grill:
December 30 — Camelphat

Bellamy's Restaurant:
December 14 — Jake Taylor Smith

Belly Up Tavern:
December 15 — Highwayman Show Featuring Makayla Phillips
December 16 — BETAMAXX Very 80s Christmas
December 17 — Anuha
December 19 — The Steely Damned 2
December 20 — Abbey Road Christmas Show
December 21 — Living Legends & Brother Ali
December 22, December 23 — Los Lobos 50th Anniversary Tour
December 26 — Jimmy's Buffet
December 27 — Ginger Roots & the Protectors
December 28 — Donavon Frankenreiter
December 29 — Transfer and Miniaturized

December 31 — Thievery Corporation

Bogey's Pub and Grill:
December 16 — Amanda Portela
December 23 — Lady Dottie & The Diamonds
December 30 — Anthony Cullins

Books & Records:
December 15 — Cobby Brzeski
December 16 — Paul Combs
December 22 — Kaylee Daugherty
December 29 — The Garners Trio
December 30 — Jenny & The Tramps

Brew Coffee Spot:
December 15 — Garza Sextet

Brick by Brick:
December 14 — Evilthxts and Meidai
December 15 — Theosis and Nightshadow
December 17 — Impending Doom and Ov Sulfur

Cannonball:
December 14 — Ben Benavente
December 21 — Kai Kalama
December 26 — Andrew Peña
December 28 — Jemille Violet

The Casbah:
December 16 — Ziggy Shuffledust & the Spiders from Mars
December 17 — Jesse Ray Smith and Jeff Berkley
December 18 — JW Francis
December 19 — More Fatter
December 22 — The Cure Christmas Dance Party
December 23 — El Vez Mex-Mas Show

December 27 — The Silent Comedy
December 28 — Black Lips
December 29 — Schizophonics Soul Revue and Creeptxotica
December 30 — The Creepy Creeps and The Schizophonics

Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:
December 15, December 16 — Charlie Brown Jingles & Jazz

Corazon Del Barrio:
December 14 — Xibalba and Conservative Military Image

Crafted Culture at Monsaraz:
December 22 — Jemille Violet

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
December 16 — The B Sections
December 17 — Sunday Bluegrass Jam
December 19 — Blues & Jazz Organ Jam
December 21 — Dead Heads Night
December 30 — Johnny Deadly Trio

Duke's La Jolla:
December 15 — Orion Song
December 17 — Keni Yarbro
December 19 — Anthony Kauka Stanley
December 22, December 26 — Russell Paihinui

Encinitas Elks Lodge:
December 17, December 24, December 31 — Marty Conley's Big Band Express

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
December 15 — Christian Taylor
December 22 — David Shyde
December 23 — Farrah Camu
December 29 — Whitney Shay
December 30 — Keni Yarbro

F6ix Niteclub:
December 14, December 21, December 28 — TakeOver

THE GONZO REPORT

My time in the doom loop

Goblin performs *Demons* at Little Italy's Music Box

"Does anyone complain about the dicks on your shirt?" I ask Keshawn, one of the bar staff at Little Italy's Music Box. He's sporting swaag from Dwarves, a punk band as notorious for their shock value as for their infectious melodies about trailer trash girls and creeping on everybody's lady. Keshawn laughs, and the other bar staffers seem to notice for the first time that the skull and crossbones on their co-worker's shirt are actually a skull and crossbones. I have a quick conversation from behind the bar about the perks of getting to see shows at the venue before ordering a giant pretzel — for research purposes. The food and

conversations are bonuses; the main event is seeing Goblin performing the soundtrack to the film *Demons* in sync to a screening. It's a tribute to the collaboration between the band and filmmakers almost 40 years ago. (This current touring version of the band is referred to as Claudio Simonetti's Goblin, after the keyboardist and composer who leads the band.)

Two security guards stand by a set of stairs that lead to a balcony. As I approach them, they tell me it's closed, so I tell them I just want to look around — I'm a journalist. One guard gives me the go-ahead and I get his name (Armando) so I can use it to get out of trouble. The sentry on the balcony is unimpressed that Armando said it was okay to be up there; he claims he's never heard of an Armando. It's possible I misheard the name, but also possible that someone's lying. But why? A mystery is afoot! At the bottom of the stairs, Armando or whatever his name is has vanished. While a spectral encounter on this late October night would make for a good story, he probably just



Goblin gives new life to an old collaboration with horror legend Dario Argento.

had work to do elsewhere.

The line is growing at the merch table, which is where I told KNSJ DJ Robert Egan and his companion, costume crafter Tess Mattraw, that I would spend most of my paycheck. Egan replied he would be spending his on booze, and has so far made better on his vow than I have on mine. My sole purchase is a T-shirt out of "dead stock" swag from previous tours, because the current tour stash is sold out. The huge Goblin and logo on the front of the shirt is what I'm after, not the tour dates on the back.

The band takes the stage to cheers for a set

that will later feature a rocking performance of horror themes that includes music from *The Exorcist* and *Halloween*, along with Simonetti's compositions from *Dawn of the Dead* (most prominently heard in the movie's European cut). But the show opens with the flawless screening synchronization to the original *Demons* soundtrack, one of several commissioned by their frequent filmmaker-collaborator Dario Argento. While the original was mostly electronic-based, in concert it has been rearranged by

Simonetti to be more powerful, and the goal is not just met, it's shattered, with a metallic edge that gives the film new life.

As usual, my focus is on the bass player. This evening, her name is Cecilia Nappo. She looks as if she could have stepped right off the set of *Demons* — or any other Dario Argento movie — as both villain and victim — but it's her hands that have my undivided attention. The digits on her right seem to barely move while firing out both rapid fire notes and single accents, while her left moves like it's made of

continued on page 26

Find The Gonzo Report online at sandiegoreader.com/gonzo

<p>FRI. DEC. 8</p> <p>BELL WITCH Otay-Onii, Abyssal</p>	<p>BRICK BY BRICK</p>	<p>SUN. JAN. 7</p> <p>TERROR Dead Heat, Momentum</p>
<p>SUN. DEC. 10</p> <p>DIESEL BOY Versus the World, Strike Twelve</p>	<p>FRI. DEC. 15</p> <p>THEOSIS Nightshadow, Godhammered, Defy the Tyrants</p>	<p>THU. JAN. 18</p> <p>FEAR FACTORY Orbit Culture, Thrown Into Exile, Fraxures</p>
<p>MON. DEC. 11</p> <p>MUTOID MAN with special guests</p>	<p>SUN. DEC. 17</p> <p>IMPENDING DOOM Ov Sulfur, Ishiki, Sullen Eyes</p>	<p>SUN. JAN. 28</p> <p>JARED JAMES NICHOLS The Bites</p>
<p>TUE. DEC. 12</p> <p>JARHEAD FERTILIZER Phobophilic, Crownovhornz, Scourge</p>	<p>SUN. JAN. 21</p> <p>GOROD Wormhole, Hath, Theosis</p>	<p>MON. FEB. 19</p> <p>CALIGULA'S HORSE Earthsides</p>
<p>WED. DEC. 13</p> <p>POSSESSED Nunslaughter, The Black Moriah, Helsott</p>	<p>WED. JAN. 24</p> <p>ESCUELA GRIND Take Offense, Bonginator, Slow Pulse</p>	<p>FRI. FEB. 23</p> <p>CRYPTA Contortion</p>

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December 29 — Tolan Shaw
December 30 — Jonny Tarr

Fast Times:

December 27 — Jon Kanis
December 30 — Barefoot Hockey Goalie

Fishtank:

December 19, December 26 — T is 4 Techno

Galley at the Marina:

December 22 — West of 5

Golden Island:

December 15 — Mercedes Moore
December 22 — The Garners
December 29 — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra

The Grand-Ritz Theater:

December 16, December 17 — Sounds of the Holidays

House of Blues:

December 14 — Meg McRee and Francis Blume
December 15 — Mexican Slum Rats and Buddha Trixie
December 15 — Feels So Close Party
December 17 — Gospel Brunch
December 17 — Andrew Michael Wells and Sani Bronco
December 20 — Reason
December 22 — Shrek Rave
December 23 — Strangelove
December 28 — Baby Smoove
December 29 — Black Flag

December 30 — Oh Snap! Party
December 31 — Summer Salt

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

December 27 — Side Street Ft. Thea the Band

Jolly Joker Tavern:

December 16 — West of 5

Josie's Hideout:

December 16, December 17, December 23, December 24, December 30 — Backcountry Music

The Kensington Club:

December 15 — Little Holiday Show
December 16 — Sam Slick and Clinton Davis

Kensington Community Church:

December 16 — Stellarum's Festival of Christmas

L'Auberge Del Mar:

December 14 — OttoPilot
December 15 — David Shyde
December 16 — Jesse Johnson
December 17 — Farrah Camu
December 20 — Ben Benavente
December 22 — Jarred Matthew
December 27 — Christian Taylor
December 28 — David Shyde
December 29 — Marelle
December 30 — Alex Elisabeth

La Mesa Wine Works:

December 16 — Blame Betty

La Valencia Hotel:

December 14 — David Shyde
December 15 — Keni Yarbro
December 16 — Johnny Martin
December 17 — Dalton Gazette
December 21 — Helena Holleran
December 22 — Keni Yarbro
December 23 — Matt Heinecke

December 24 — David Shyde
December 24 — Shea Givens
December 25 — Helena Holleran
December 25 — Andrew Peña
December 29 — Keni Yarbro
December 30 — Tolan Shaw
December 30 — Perry O'Neal

The Landings at Carlsbad:

December 14 — Strange Brew Band

Madison:

December 17 — Latin Jazz Sunday
December 19 — Jazz Night
December 24 — Latin Jazz Sunday
December 26 — Jazz Night

Madison High School:

December 17 — 'Tis the Season for Great Music

The Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

December 16, December 16 — The Nutcracker: Imagine The Magic
December 17 — Gilberto Santa Rosa
December 18 — Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four In Joy To The World!

Mission Bay Resort:

December 16 — Jeff Brinkman
December 17 — Brandon Diaz
December 18 — Puro Feeling
December 21 — Jehua Evans
December 23 — Gabriele Dagezio
December 29 — Tyler F. Simmons
December 30 — Jemille Violet

Morgan Run Resort and Club:

December 29 — David Shyde

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Found on Instagram: operatic superhero Nicolae Herlea

The golden era's golden throats

In the course of a recent conversation, I realized I had something of a blindspot in my operatic acumen when it came to the baritones and basses of the golden era. (The golden era of opera is roughly the late 1930s until about the mid-1970s.) I set about rectifying this omission. I knew the big names such as Tito Gobbi, George London, and Leonard Warren. Excellent singers all, but I knew there had to be more.

The first singer I focused on was Joseph Greindl. I had just listened to Wagner's *Ring Cycle* conducted by Joseph Keilberth in 1955, in which Greindl sang the role of Hagen. His performance was definitive.

Greindl was a German operatic bass renowned for his powerful voice and commanding stage presence. Born in Munich, his career unfolded against the backdrop of Nazi Germany. He made his operatic debut in 1936 at the Munich State Opera, and his deep, resonant bass voice lent authority to a wide range of roles, from Wagner to Mozart. His interpretations were marked by a profound understanding of character and an ability to convey emotional nuance through his vocal artistry.

My next singer was Nicolae Herlea. I found him because my current favorite baritone, Lucas Meecham, recommended Herlea on

his Instagram. Herlea now sits next to tenor Franco Corelli, mezzo-soprano Fiorenza Cossotto, and soprano Leontyne Price in my top tier of operatic superheroes.

Herlea was born in Romania, but he thrived in the Italian repertoire. He is the very definition of a Verdi baritone. The voice is rich but never gets muddy on top. He is one of the greatest opera singers I've ever heard, and I'd never heard of him. I only found him because of, gasp, social media.

Martti Talvela's career started in the golden era and ended with his untimely death in 1989 at the age of 54. Born in Hiitola, Finland, Talvela's journey

to operatic stardom began at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. He quickly gained international acclaim for his powerful voice and versatility, becoming a sought-after performer in major opera houses. We have video evidence of Talvela singing one of his signature roles: The Grand Inquisitor in Verdi's

Don Carlo opposite the King Phillip II of Joseph Greindl. The duet is one of Verdi's best, but this version is sung in German, which gives it a different feel.

Here are a few more bass/baritones to consider. Lawrence Tibbett, Titta Ruffo, Ettore Bastianini, and Cornell Macneil.

Classical Music this week

Casa Nutcracker Ballet

Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with the Nutcracker ballet performed by the Orange County Ballet Theater. Thursday, December 7, 7pm; Friday, December 8, 7pm; \$40. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

La Jolla Symphony & Chorus: New Beginnings

Music Director and Orchestra Conductor Sameer Patel explores the compositions of Gabriela Ortiz, Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, Kaija Saariaho's Ciel d'hiver, and Sibelius's Symphony no. 3. Saturday, December 9, 7:30pm; Sunday, December 10, 2pm; \$20-\$43. Mandleville Auditorium at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive.

Le Salon De Musiques

Introduced by musicologist Dr. Kristi Brown-Montesano - J. BRAHMS: PIANO QUARTET No.3 IN C MINOR OP 60 - L. BEETHOVEN: STRING TRIO No.2 IN D MAJOR OP 9 - S. JADASSOHN: PIANO QUARTET No.1 IN C MINOR OP 77 "US PREMIERE" Performed by: ELIZABETH HEDMAN, Violin, ANDREW PICKEN, Viola, JAMES BAIK, Cello, & SAMUEL GLICKLICH, Piano. Includes high tea buffet after the performance. Sunday, December 10, 4pm; \$45-\$95. La Jolla Woman's Club, 7791 Draper Avenue.

Messiah vis à vis El Mesías G.F. Handel Messiah (English) Enjoy Handel's oratorio Messiah featuring

BCSD's commissioned Spanish libretto by Mario Montenegro. The final performance is on December 10 at Centro Cultural Tijuana. Saturday, December 9, 7pm; \$15-\$60. Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 3459 Manchester Avenue.

Messiah vis à vis El Mesías G.F. Handel Messiah

(Spanish) Enjoy Handel's oratorio Messiah featuring BCSD's commissioned Spanish libretto by Mario Montenegro. The final performance will form part of a joint celebration marking the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico. Soloists: Nell Snaidas, Soprano Esteli Gomez, Soprano Cecilia Duarte, Mezzo-Soprano Jay

Carter, Countertenor Jacob Perry, Tenor Mischa Bouvier, Bass Sunday, December 10, 3pm; \$15-\$60. All Souls' Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Boulevard.

North Coast Symphony Holiday Lights Concert

The orchestra will play festive favorites old and new, including, Holst's In the Bleak Midwinter, Jaffe's Symph-Hanukkah, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 Daydreams on a Winter Journey, Rimsky-Korsakoff's Christmas Eve Suite and more. Founded in 1947, the orchestra will be led by conductor Liesl Hansen. Saturday, December 9, 2:30pm; \$15-\$12. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive.

Viva España An evening of Spanish piano masterpieces with Daniel del Pino. Friday, December 8, 6pm; \$5-\$15. Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive.

Voices of Our City Choir

Music Brings Us Home: A Soulful Benefit Concert is Voices of Our City Choir's largest concert of the year. Presented by Musicpower.org and featuring Voices of Our City Choir with special guest Wyn Starks, this event celebrates our choir members' journeys and unstoppable talent. All proceeds support Voices of Our City Choir. Saturday, December 9, 6pm; \$103-\$253. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue.

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Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

December 20 — Wednesday Night Blues Jam
December 27 — Wednesday Night Blues Jam
December 29 — West of 5
December 30 — 8 East Band

Music Box:

December 15 — The FABBA Show and High Tide Society
December 16 — Equanimous, Activation, Cam Steen
December 17 — The Music of Steely Dan
December 20 — A Berkley Hart Christmas
December 22 — Infected Mushroom
December 23 — Stayin Alive Disco Dance Party
December 28 — One More Time: A Tribute To Daft Punk
December 29 — Boostive and Mitchum Yacoub
December 30 — Reggaetonlandia
December 31 — Dirtwave

Nate's Garden Grill:

December 16 — Tinkersmith

Nick & G's:

December 22 — Matt Heinecke
December 29 — Helena Holleran
December 30 — Farrah Camu

North Coast Repertory Theatre:

December 15 — 2 Pianos 4 Hands

Nova SD:

December 31 — Dillon Francis

Observatory North Park:

December 15 — Grateful Shred
December 16 — Cattle Decapitation
December 17 — Jeff Rosenstock and Small Crush

Pacific Beach Library:

December 18 — Holiday at the Library: Left Coast Quintet

Panama 66:

December 14 — Uptown Rhythm Makers
December 20, December 27 — Castellanos Jam Session
December 28 — Uptown Rhythm Makers

Petco Park:

December 30 — Wild Horses Fest
December 31, January 1 — Proper NYE/NYD Festival

Point Loma Library:

December 18 — Holiday at the Library: Left Coast Quintet Concert

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:

December 15, December 16, December 17 — Noel Noel
December 20 — Derek Hough: Symphony Of Dance
December 23 — Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas In Concert
December 31 — LED 18+ New Year's Party

Reds Whites and Brews:

December 18 — Our Ramona Compilation CD Release

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:

December 21 — JiveChops Ensemble

Roxy Encinitas:

December 17 — Strange Brew Band
December 30 — Blame Betty

Rustic Root:

December 19 — David Shyde

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church:

December 15 — A Light in the Darkness

San Diego Civic Theatre:

December 28 — Mannheim Steamroller Christmas
December 31 — Salute to Vienna

San Diego Maritime Museum:

December 16 — Star of India: Tim Flannery & The Lunatic Fringe

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:

December 17 — Zzymzzy Quartet

Side Yard:

December 16 — Alex Elisabeth
December 30 — Christian Taylor

Soda Bar:

December 14 — Coastal Wolves Album Release
December 15 — Birth-Tay: 100% Swiftie Dance Night
December 16 — Harbour and Arms Akimbo
December 21 — SEGA Genecide
December 23 — Crasher and The Havnauts
December 30 — Disclosure vs. Fred Again

Soma:

December 15 — Jamm and The Reckless
December 16 — TV Girl

The Sound:

December 29, December 30 — Thee Sacred Souls

Star Repertory Theatre:

December 22-23 — Amahl & the Night Visitors Holiday Opera

Sycuan Casino:

December 20 — The Irish Tenors
December 28 — Straight No Chaser

THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 23

water. It's so smooth and fast. The players are seated, with Simonetti the only one standing, and he's tethered to his keyboard. Nappo and guitarist Daniele Amador remain sitting, but look ready to leap up at any moment and begin rocking out. Drummer Federico Maragoni spends a good portion of the set jumping to strike something with emphasis, exposing his Rush T-shirt when he does so.

Though it jars me from the *Demons* film a little, Goblin's surprise inclusion of Iron Maiden's "Flash of the Blade" fits seamlessly. I think of the woman in line who told me she thought that *Demons* was just a dream after seeing it at a young age, fighting sleep on the couch with her father until movie and dream combined in her memory. Now I'm in a *de facto* Little Italy theater, watching a film about theatergoers who are watching a horror film that is manifesting in the aisles. It's akin to the Dr. Hasslein explanation of time loops in *Escape From the Planet of the Apes*, and the unlikely possibility that tonight we are all doomed by demons doesn't seem unpleasant to me. ■

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:

December 16 — Jessy J
December 29 — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Tidal:

December 23 — Helena Holleran
December 30 — Johnny Martin

Tio Leo's:

December 17, December 24, December 31 — Holly Hofmann Presents Sunday Jazz

Viejas Arena:

December 15 — Queens of the Stone Age

Winstons Beach Club:

December 14 — Kareeta
December 15 — Shakedown
December 16 — The Sure Fire Soul Ensemble and Nubella Honey
December 17 — Kim Wilson's Blues Review
December 17 — OB-Oke Karaoke
December 18, December 25 — Electric Waste Band
December 31 — NYE With Electric Waste Band

The cold brings comfort

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit SDReader.com/feast

Yuk Dae Jang means pork belly, noodles, and spicy beef stew

Yuk Dae Jang, 7307 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego. In San Diego, we're not supposed to cheer on the arrival of cool, wet weather. But I straight up smiled when that first autumn storm rolled in last week, because I've been eager to warm up to the comfort food at Yuk Dae Jang.

That would be a popular South Korean restaurant chain that's been steadily adding locations throughout Southern California for the past five years. This summer, it finally landed a shop in the



A hearty bowl of *yukgaejung*, with brisket and glass noodles.

Convoy District. Better still, it opened at 7307 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, in one of the rare district shopping centers that provides plenty of parking. I'm particularly glad about that, because I'd like to return often. It took only one bite for me to understand why Yuk Dae Jang arrived with so much success behind it.

The name Yuk Dae Jung seems to be a play on its signature dish, *yukgaejang* (\$18-25), which essentially translates as "spicy meat stew." Not stew as Americans tend to think of it; rather a noodle soup with a thick, red, spicy beef broth. Slippery glass noodles are the standard, but you may also order it with soft tofu, wheat noodles, or *ramyun*, the restaurant's own handmade noodles (wider and



Bossam: slices of tender boiled pork belly to wrap in cabbage and fermented vegetables.

flatter, with a bit more chew).

Being new to *yukgaejang*, I decided to start out with the glass noodles. What mattered more to me was trying the conventional protein: brisket. You can order a seafood version, but it's always interesting to see how different cultures tackle brisket, which tastes incredible but takes hours of cooking to make tender. Here, the result is beef so shredded it's long and skinny enough to get wrapped up around the noodles. There were moments when my metal chopsticks plucked strands from the bowl, and everything was so coated with sticky red broth that I couldn't tell whether the next bite would be more noodle or brisket.

It didn't matter. Turns out the rich sesame-and-spice stock is what makes *yukgaejang* tick. It's the kind of soup (or stew) that warms you from the inside out. Comfort of the highest order that also happens to include a lot of green onions.

But, there's more to Yuk Dae Jang than *yukgaejang*, including better-known dishes such as bulgogi beef (\$34), and *seolleongtang* (\$17-19), a thinner beef-and-glass noodle soup made with oxtail bone broth (which will be familiar to fans of nearby restaurant Woomiok). But I had to try another new-to-me treat: *bossam*. From what I've read, it's an autumn tradition in South Korea: slices of boiled pork belly that you wrap up in cabbage, with assorted fixings that include garlic chips, chili paste, and a fermented shrimp sauce.

You can definitely dine in parties of one or two, as I did. But it may be best to visit Yuk Dae Jang with a group, in order to share large orders of *bossam* and other dishes, ranging from hot pot (\$60) to a large, braised beef rib served in a hot stone bowl (\$77). The smallest order of *bossam* goes for \$22, while larger orders range up to \$54. However, while my small *bossam* was served cold (which tasted fine), I noted that the next table had a large serving that featured both *bossam* and tofu, and a little tabletop grill to heat them up as you dine.

That looked pretty satisfying. Still, even with my small order, the process of building little pork belly cabbage wraps proved enjoyable: ingredients provided included jalapeños, chili paste, spicy daikon radish, and fermented plum. I probably didn't need to wait for fall weather to embrace all of this, but at least now I know how to cope if this winter proves as damp as the last one.

-Ian Anderson



A modest amount of food on the table, compared to other parties at Yuk Dae Jang.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Club Kokomo Bartender Competition Local bartenders compete for a \$500 grand prize with three rounds of challenges and guest judge Mike Love of the Beach Boys. Monday, December 11, 7pm; **free**. 21 and up. Swan Bar, 2933 Adams Avenue. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

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

SoCal Supper Club Chefs prix fixe menu prepared on a whim each month while live music hums in the

background featuring three courses and half-price bottles of wine between \$100 - \$300. Tuesdays, 5pm; through Tuesday, December 19, **free**-\$50. 21 and up. JRDN, 723 Felspar Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

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

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

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LEE CARRE
California English
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Sorrento Valley



On a cool, overcast day, I pop into California English. Instantly, I spot a yowza of a drink being served at a nearby table. Beverage Director Lee

Carre tells me it's called a London Fog, so named because "well, when you have a British-themed restaurant, you just want to go with something that goes with the motif. And since we did the smoke bubble on top, I thought about fog, so I just went with it."

The bulbous libation is "a very colorful cocktail made with muddled raspberries, fresh lemon juice, elderflower liqueur and citrus-forward gin. And then we will present that with a tableside elderflower-scented smoke bubble."

The drink was inspired by similar cocktails Carre has made in the past. "I just wanted to put my own spin on it. Going to a local gin really made all the difference: Storyhouse Coastal Gin is a bit more geared to the citrus side, and botanical, instead of the juniper side. So it goes really well with the lemon and raspberries."

When coming up with the recipe, he started out with Bombay Sapphire, but "switched over to the Storyhouse because the Sapphire is very juniper-forward... Gin can be very herbaceous, and even a little bit pungent and sharp," he acknowl-

edges. "But some are very balanced. Especially when you start mixing gin with other flavors and other ingredients — it can really mellow them out."

The glassy, iridescent bubble top is created using a specialty gun made by a brand called Flavour Blaster. "They only run about \$400-500," he says with a facetious chuckle. "Think about the little kid's bubble wand that you used to dip into the solution and blow a bubble... It's similar to that. There's a solution that you put the tip of the bubble gun into — it's a type of calcium alginate solution, so it's natural. And then the gun itself has a flavor cartridge that injects the flavor of the smoke and it heats it up, and creates the smoke," explains Carre. "And then the solution holds the bubble in shape. As you pop it, there's a nice smoke layer — or fog, as we call it — which enhances the elderberry liqueur and the floral notes that are in the cocktail."

Presenting the drink can sometimes prove tricky, in Carre's experience. "You also gotta watch out — outside, the wind can catch it. Or sometimes, a breeze will tilt it."

CALIFORNIA ENGLISH'S LONDON FOG



- 1 ¾ oz Storyhouse gin
- 1 ¼ oz St-Germain elderflower liqueur
- 1 oz lemon juice
- 4-5 raspberries (ripe)
- ½ oz simple syrup

In a mixing tin, muddle raspberries in lemon juice. Add remaining ingredients and ice to mixing tin. Shake well then double strain into martini glass. Top with smoke bubble using bubble gun by Flavour Blaster.

HAPPY HOUR

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at SDReader.com/drinks

BANKERS HILL

Barrio Star: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 3-5pm: \$6.50 beer and wine. \$8.50 margarita, Sangria, michelada, \$18 margarita flight. \$5 a la carte tacos. Tuesday, 3-close: \$6.50 beer and wine. \$8.50 margarita, Sangria, michelada, \$18 margarita flight. \$5 a la carte tacos.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

Tower 13: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 Tower Blonde, Tower IPA, Calidad Mexican Lager, \$5 house margaritas and house wines, \$7 La Marca Prosecco Splits and food specials.

CARLSBAD

7 Mile Kitchen: Wednesday, 5-10pm: \$2 off glasses of wine, half off select wine bottles.

Chandler's: Wednesday-Sunday, 3-6pm: \$2 off wines by the glass, draught beers, and signature cocktails. \$3 off appetizers.

CHULA VISTA

Shake & Muddle: Tuesday-Friday, 4pm-6pm: \$2 off all signature cocktails, \$8 house red & white wine, limited \$5 draft beers.

CORONADO

McP's Irish Pub and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: Half off House Chardonnay & Cabernet by the glass, \$1 off beer or cocktails

Nicky Rottens: Monday, 3-6pm: \$8 select mules all night. Tuesday, 3-6pm: \$4 any canned beer. Wednesday, 3-6pm: \$5 draft pints. Thursday, 3-6pm: 22 ounce draft for pint price. Friday, 3-6pm: \$6 mimosas and Bloody Marys. Saturday, 3pm-6pm: \$5 drafts, well cocktails, house wines. \$5 pretzels & beer cheese, side of fries, tots, \$6 buffalo wings, \$7 house nachos, \$8 chicken fritters & fries, \$10 chicken lettuce cup.

Village Pizzeria Bayside: Daily, 3-6pm: discounted appetizers, \$3 domestic pints, \$12 domestic pitchers, \$5 craft pints, \$20 craft pitchers, \$5.50 select glasses of wine. \$3 slices.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Gaslamp Fish House: Daily, 3:30-6:00pm: \$4 Fireball shot, McCormick bourbon, shot of Torado Silver tequila, \$5 craft beer on tap, vodka soda, select wine by the glass, \$7 skinny margarita, select signature cocktails.

Gaslamp Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off drafts, wine, specialty cocktails, \$5 wells. \$2 off appetizers.

Greystone: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-6:30pm: Whole dedicated menu for happy hour

Johnny WAHOO! Golf Bar: Monday, \$5 house drafts, \$6 all other drafts, \$7 well cocktails. \$2 off appetizers.

Santa Gula: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-7pm: \$9-12 cocktails, tap beers & wine. Discounted happy hour menu.

Tin Roof San Diego: Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: Half off all spirits and draft beer

The Tipsy Crow: Monday-Thursday, 3-8pm: Drink exchange (prices vary). Friday-Saturday, Noon-8pm: Drink exchange (prices vary).

EAST VILLAGE

Bay City Brewing Co East Village: Monday-Tuesday, 3-5pm: Half off drinks. Wednesday, 3-5pm: Half off drinks. All night: Half off wings. Thursday, 3-5pm: Half off drinks. All night: \$15 pizza and a pint. Friday, 3-5pm: Half tab.

Bootlegger: Tuesday, \$10 build-your-own-nachos and beer all day. Saturday-Sunday, 9am-1pm: \$25 per person bottomless mimosas.

ENCINITAS

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$3 well cocktails, house wine, domestic draft.

ESCONDIDO

Brigantine Escondido: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, well drinks, featured wine, \$5.75 house margarita.

HILLCREST

Tacaliente: Daily, 4-8pm: \$3 beers, \$5 elotes. \$1.79 fish tacos, \$1 off combination plates.

KENSINGTON

Kensington Brewing Company: Wednesday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$1 off pints

LA JOLLA

Beaumont's: Tuesday, 4-10pm: Half off tequila and taco specials. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-3pm: Bottomless mimosas.

George's at the Cove Ocean Terrace: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$10 feature cocktails, \$10 house wines.

LA MESA

Brigantine La Mesa: Daily, 3:30-6:30pm: \$1 off well drinks, drafts, featured wines, \$4 glass sparkling wine, \$5.75 margaritas, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine.

Hooley's Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa: Friday, All day: Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. After 4pm: Prime rib \$24. Sunday, 11am-2pm: \$4 Bloody Marys, \$5 Champagne.

LAKESIDE

Eastbound Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Friday, 2-5pm: \$2 off all house cocktails, \$3 domestic bottles, \$4 micro drafts.

LIBERTY STATION

Bottlecraft Liberty Station: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 Original 40 Tell Me Mo Pale Ale can, \$4 Three Sons amber ale can, \$6 Original 40 porter draft, \$7 house white or red, \$8 Boulevardier cocktail.

LITTLE ITALY

King and Queen Cantina: Daily, Noon-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$4 beer bottles, \$7 well drinks, wine, sangria, \$8 margaritas. Appetizers \$5 to \$9.

MIRAMAR

Duck Foot Brewing Company: Monday, 12pm-8pm: \$4 pints with Grotto membership card Tuesday, All day: \$12 two Fish Tacos and pint of draft beer Thursday, Save 20 percent on Growler and Grumbler fills

MISSION HILLS

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: All draught pints (excluding cask, \$6 Anytime, and Black Velvet) and bottled beer \$1 off. well liquor \$4.50, \$5 house wine, appetizers \$5.95-\$7.95.

MISSION VALLEY

Tommy Bahama Marlin Bar: Daily, 3-6pm: \$5 select draft beer, \$7 well drinks, \$7 wines, \$9-\$11 cocktails, \$10 Grapefruit Basil Martini and Mai Tai

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PERSONALS

SEASONS GREETINGS Happy Holidays from everyone at iTreasureSanDiego.Com

LOOKING FOR FEMALE PENPAL Kurtis M. Williams N53299—2600 N. Brinton ave. Dixon, Illinois 61021. Published Author on Amazon.com seeks female over 50 penpal For inspiration for 2nd edition book

READILY AND GLADLY GIVE and graciously accept, Nothing less than anyone should naturally expect.. Merely common courtesy and only due respect. DEJ

PAT B FROM PB 30 years ago we left the Cat on the rocks. You remember Jazz? I often think about you and wonder if you're still around. Let's reconnect. Bill

I COME OFF MY MELON this time a year for Christmas is mine. Oh and happy cheer. The Grinch.

MY DEAREST FRANK although I am using the nickname Funszie I will always be your Katherine. I love you Darling!

BUT WHO'D HAVE THUNK that a package of Oreo cookies and a strawberry quick and a broken VCR would have fixed all to perfect understanding; not me. You? Astounded. This is the wisdom we gain. Now lets have some cookies, ok.

MALLARD IS THAT YOU? Only mallard could say something that makes a deal out of anything.

REMEMBER IT WAS DETERMINED that I didn't know why I did anything. Well, I don't know why I'm doing this either.

SOLITARY IS PLAYED with one player and it has nothing to do with how you win.

THE LESS PEOPLE KNOW about you the better you are.

HEY CHARGER FANS: They left us! Why are you still supporting a team that gave our city the middle finger?

LOOKING FOR WALKING PARTNER Senior lady in Hillcrest or North Park areas. Also like movies. Call (619) 997-1493

THANKSGIVING IS OVER December is my month. Ho Ho Ho everybody. The Grinch

DEAR KEVIN, we are sitting side by side and you have no idea I'm writing out your weekly love note. I love spending time with you no matter what we are doing. I love you so much!

FOR MY BABY CLAIRE I love you Claire, you are going to be an amazing mom. Just a couple more weeks and we'll get to meet out little girl. She is going to be a little tanzanian devil of joy. A Claire mini me.

SENIOR LADY SEEKS FRIENDS 69 y/o female with some anxiety from being in the 2018 Paradise Camp fire. Looking for someone with similar experiences to form friendship. Love cats, puzzles, old tv shows, Trump. Allergic to scents. Prefer La Mesa area. afterlife13@com-cast.net

HEY SUE ANNE Its about time for another trip. You're moving to Cali and it's going to be amazing!

DEAREST FUN-SIZE As we honor your day of birth, we want to let you know that we all love you and admire you very much. Have a great year ahead. The Driveway Society

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

YOUR OPINION Strike out the name the Padres, a name with religious identification. Hit a Home Run for a new name. How about the Amigos? The center for applied critical thinking CACT. (619) 428-1274

TO SURRENDER A BABY in California within 24 hours of birth call 211 or 1-(877) 222-9723 or go to any fire station. No questions asked.

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

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

75 YEAR OLD CHRISTIAN MALE seeks Christian lady between 55-80 years old for karaoke singing, laughter, dancing, beach trips, sense of humor a plus for friendship, San Marcos, Oceanside, Carlsbad. Tony (760) 916-6107.

NOTICES

NAME CHANGE Lucille May changing name to Debra Giannini

LOST SET OF KEYS On 11/13 around Howard and Illinois in North Park. If found call or text Mike (760) 472-9127. Reward offered.

HANDICAPPED PARKING PLACARD Chiropractor can evaluate/certify DMV form for patients with chronic pain/disability to low back/hips/knees/ankles OR feet after exam, if warranted. (619) 813-0538 / georgeereasedc@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME BARNES BOYS Charles Barnes to Mathew Charles Hoskinson. Anthony Barnes to Anthony B Andriotakis

NAME CHANGE Lucille May changing name to Debra Giannini

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

\$50 REWARD FOR MISSING CAT Tiger Wood was missing since 11-14 before the rain in the vicinity of Otay Mesa. She's a domestic short hair w/ orange brown nose mask and a white neck and chest patch. She is like my best friend. Please call if you see her! (619) 755-1390

SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S AUCTION Unclaimed property from the San Diego Sheriff's Dept. for sale online only through Ken Porter Auctions at www.jkane.com Dec. 7th - Dec. 14th. Power tools, sports equipment, collectibles, electronics, cameras, TVs, home goods, jewelry, clothing and more.

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

CLASSES / LESSONS

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

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ROOMMATES

LOOKING FOR A ROOM 59 year old male looking for a room for under 1200\$. Please call (619) 405-2389 / littleman.r32@gmail.com

HOME IN POWAY CA Working professional engineer, travel nurse, looking to rent a room out 4/2; in Poway Ca. \$800/month; one month deposit and background check required. (480) 277-1090 / homeasu@yahoo.com

LA MESA \$1600 Share a great condo, downtown La Mesa \$1600. Includes your own bedroom, bath, utilities, beautiful view, spacious, parking, quiet,

secure, clean, and fun. Text Brad (858) 775-3477.

PEACEFUL, FUN, FIT 420 friendly young senior lady looking 4 a safe space 2 rent. Clean, great cook, will barter/share/coexist happily, peacefully. Call/text Therese (619) 552-6123.

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

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

RENTALS



LA JOLLA PARK EAST APARTMENTS 2 month free on a 12 month lease! La Jolla Park East Apartments. 5229 Genesee Cove San Diego, CA 92122. 2 Bedroom Apartment starting at \$3295.00 to \$3500.00. Key features. Sq Footage: 900-996 sqft. Bedrooms: 2 Beds. Bathrooms: 2 Baths. Parking: 2 I Guest p (185) 845-8041 / ljparkeast@sdtag.com

NORTH PARK UPSTAIRS 1 BDRM APT Heart of North Park. A quiet courtyard setting. Close to everything. Available Now. 1bedroom - 1bath Apartment. \$1895 600sq ft 4076 Ohio St. 92104 No Pets, No smoking, Good Credit. Call for details and an appointment for viewing. (619) 281-7784

CHARMING ONE BEDROOM COTTAGE IN NORTH PARK In Spanish courtyard in North Park. No pets, smoking, drugs. \$1400 plus \$100 garage. 600 sq. ft. Good credit. Email: mardiewho@yahoo.com

NORTH PB, \$1450-\$2050 Immediate occupancy. Furnished 1BD+1BR (for 1 person). Block to ocean. Utilities, Internet, cable included. Remodeled kitchen/bath, dishwasher, garden/dual pane windows, ceiling fan, two yards. Sorry, no dogs. Incentives for immediate move-in. 8xy DIAMOND @ Craigslist. Call Lars: (760) 829-8878.

ROOMS FOR RENT IN LONG BEACH Sparkling Fully Furnished Rooms for short term rentals. We have one room available for \$50 a night everything included. The property is located just off of Ocean Blvd and Falcon Ave in Long Beach, minutes walk to the Beach, text (562) 448-6231

OFFICE SPACE ESCONDIDO 900 plus square ft zoned M2 (760) 855-3760 / exumrecord-ing@gmail.com

HARBOR VILLAGE \$1799-2799 1 bedrooms \$1799. 2 bedrooms \$2299. 3 bedrooms \$2799. Ball Park Square, 1 mile south of home plate Harbor Village. Trolley stop NASSCO. 2850 Main Street. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1875 1BD+1BA apartment. Central heat and air. New stainless steel appliances, fireplace, balcony, plank flooring. Gated. On-site laundry. Elevator. Centrally located, easy freeway access. No pets. Water and trash included. 4828 Art Street. Move in special: 1/2 of first month with 1-year lease. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

LA MESA, \$4100 4BD+2.5BA 2-story house on hill with views. Balconies, laundry hookups, 3-car garage, large yard. Pets OK with additional deposit. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month with 1-year lease. 4267 Helix Del Sur. Agent, (619) 298-7724. allpointsrealestate.com

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1475 Cozy studio near Adams, upstairs unit, vinyl plank flooring, water, trash and gas included. Great location near shopping and restaurants with easy freeway access. No pets. 3351 Madison Avenue. Agent, (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

TALMADGE, \$1895 1BD+1BA newly remodeled, new cabinets, quartz countertops, new stainless appliances, balcony, wood-like flooring throughout. Upstairs unit. Fireplace. Private balcony. gated parking for 1 car. Water and trash included. No pets. 4416 47th St. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month with 1-year lease. Agent, (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, \$2545 2BD+2BA apartment in small complex. Clean, all appliances, assigned parking for one vehicle, on-site laundry. Pets with additional deposit on approval. 4460 Cleveland Ave. Agent, (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

DOWNTOWN \$1799-2799. 1BD \$1799. 2BD \$2299. 3BD \$2799. Ball Park Square, 1 milla al sur de Petco Park Harbor Village. NASSCO. Parada de tran'va. 2850 Main Street. Español. (619) 646-8670.

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

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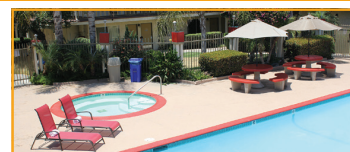
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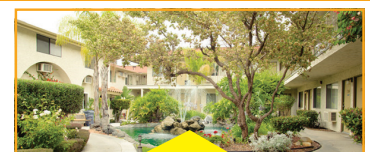
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2001 TOYOTA CAMRY Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$3900. (619) 233-8300.

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HELP WANTED

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ASSOCIATE, RISK Clear Street Management LLC seeks Associate, Risk (Del Mar, CA). Monitor risk across all Clear Street clients—intraday, EOD & after hours mkt risk for US mrkts. Work w/ the risk team to build risk modules & processes to accurately measure & monitor sources of potential risk to firm. Reqts: Master's degree or foreign equiv in Finance, Econ, Fin Engg, or rlt'd quant field & 3 yrs exp in position offered or rlt'd wrkng w/ fin mrkts. Will accept pre-/post-Master's exp. Must have 3 yrs of exp w/: prfrfrmng risk policy design/ implementation; implementing risk mgmt. covering multi asset classes; working w/ risk mgmt. & trading systs incl. Bloomberg, Aladdin, & Trading Technologies; applying knowledge of fin quant methods & big data analytics to recognize/investigate issues; applying knowledge of mkt risk concepts incl. Greeks, VaR, Stress Testing, Option Pricing theory, & Option volatility surface model; working w/ Python, SQL, HTML, CSS, R, & Snowflake; & performing deep dive analysis at the portfolios & strategies level to analyze drivers of risk & perf. Salary range \$120,000 to \$140,000/year. Send resume to Clear Street Management LLC at careers@clearstreet.io & reference position title in subject line.

ASST. AL SUPERVISOR Cortica, Inc. San Diego, CA & other unanticipated locations T/O the U.S., has an opening for an Asst. AL Supervisor. Lead QBS & train dev. at BI/AS/BCBA level. Reqs: MS or FDE in AT, ABA, HA., or related & two yrs. of exp. writing reports, training BTs, & supervising new DTs. 1 yr. of exp in the app. of behavior & skill DT (can be combo). Valid BCBA & QBS license. \$91,915 to \$105,000/yr. Mail resume W/job code to Lauren Ramskov, 6160 Cornerstone Ct. E, Ste. 100, San Diego, CA 92121

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1450) Collaborate with business teams & cross functional GIS team members to analyze business reqs & design solutions. Leverage standard SAP cap when possible & partner w/dvlpmt team on enhancements. Telecommuting permitted. Req MS. \$95,410-\$155,410/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER for a household equipment distributor in San Diego. Salary: \$41,766-\$75,000 per year. Mail resume to Inhome Dynamics, Inc. 9715 Carrol Centre Rd #100 San Diego CA 92126.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT My Lineage Inc. seeks Research Assistant in San Diego, CA to research family histories, assist clients, & manage production of store products. Salary: \$54,974/year. Resume: 980 Buenos Ave. Ste. A1 San Diego, CA 92210.

SALES Win Time, LLC seeks Sales, Pacific Region in San Diego, CA to assist owners in accruing & maintaining hotel customers from the Pacific Region. Bach or for. equiv in Tourism Management or related plus 1 year of experience in Customer Service req'd. Must be fluent in Chinese (Mandarin & Taiwanese). Salary: \$85,000-\$95,000/year. Email resume to: m.neverida@marriott.com.

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SERVICE ATTENDANT to assist customers with BBQ, patio heaters, forklift cylinders, and RVs. Seeking position to fill propane cylinders at two locations: 3650 Kettner Blvd. and 5596 Kearny Mesa Rd. Will Train. Part-time. Fun job! Great customers. Benefits. Apply within or call Steve, (949) 326-3400.

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Long-Range Season is Upon Us – Whales and Whale Sharks in Baja – Rare Chinook Salmon Caught in the San Diego River

Dock Totals 11/26 – 12/2:

395 anglers aboard 21 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 97 bluefin tuna (up to 60 pounds), 14 calico bass, 1 lingcod, 23 lobster (11 released), 10 perch, 1418 rockfish, 63 sand bass, 95 sculpin, 49 sheephead, 127 whitefish, and 17 yellowtail.

Saltwater: Windy conditions (and maybe a bit of post-Thanksgiving food-induced lethargy) kept a lot of folks at home this past week as angler counts and trips in local waters for up to three days are as low as I remember seeing them since 2014. Still, some yellowtail were reported caught off northern Baja within 1.5-day range, and deep-drop rockfish have been biting very well on the U.S. side of the border. Calico bass have been slowing a bit as they phase into winter mode, and sand bass are biting deep in winter mode, while sculpin and sheephead seem unfazed as the water temps drop in our nearshore waters.

There was one lobster trip that resulted in a decent haul for eight hoop-netters aboard the *Alicia* running out of H&M Landing on Sunday evening, with about a two-to-one keeper to short ratio, but no rock crab reported caught. Bluefin tuna have been biting near the Corner and out to the Tanner Bank, where 23 anglers aboard the *New Lo-An* out of Point Loma Sportfishing had success last Sunday, even though getting out 50 to 110 miles west of Point Loma has been a bit challenging with the on-and-off bumpy conditions. I do expect to see those numbers rise when calmer seas prevail. As long as the tuna are there, boats will go get them when they have enough passengers to justify the fuel and effort to do so.

Surf fishing has been decent along the county beaches for barred surf perch on mini-plastics and bait for those anglers finding the slots and cuts made as the high tide phases push water in and creating channels where the fish like to feed. These areas can be found by watching the wave action and looking for the last area of the wave that breaks, and will also be indicated by a flow that looks a bit like a river heading away from shore through the surf zone. As the force of receding water cuts through sand, it will dislodge sand crabs and sand worms — which are what the perch, corbina, and croaker feed upon.

San Diego and Mission bays have been productive for good-sized spotted bay bass and a few keeper halibut for anglers working from the docks or from boats, kayaks and even float tubes. A dropping presentation along pilings or eelgrass edges has been the better tactic for bass, while plastic grubs on a leadhead worked in a slow hop along the sandy deeper trenches and dips has been working for halibut.

As it is now long-range season, much of the action on pelagic species like yellowtail, dorado,



Wahoo bonanza. Anglers aboard the *Intrepid*, were “fortunate enough to have the best wahoo fishing we have had all year” during their 12-Day Seeker trip ending on December 1.



Bass angler ‘Spin’ Un with a very rare chinook salmon he took from the San Diego River.

PHOTO CREDIT: WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS

yellowfin, and wahoo has been from the Vizcaino Peninsula halfway down Baja and south. Most long-range boats running 8-days or longer, including the *American Angler*, the *Intrepid*, and the *Royal Polaris* have been nailing dorado, yellowfin tuna, and wahoo off the ridge outside of Bahia Magdalena. Wahoo fishing has been exceptional, as was the case the week previous. Yellowtail and dorado are still showing up for *pangeros* working out of the *coopertiva* coastal fishing towns from Bahia Tortugas to La Bocana, which is usual for this time of year. Fishing and weather-wise, that southern edge of the Vizcaino coast seems to be about three months behind our “normal” seasons, with October through February being prime season for yellowtail, while on the Sea of Cortez side, the wintertime north winds tend to muck things up a bit. But the fishing is still, as always, good between blows.

Anglers heading into Baja will still find fishable days in the gulf, though the weather will often be much more pleasant along the southern half of the peninsula on the Pacific. Either way, if you're too blown out for a boat ride offshore, the inshore opportunities for shore-based anglers are good as long as you can keep the wind at your back or get

your fishing in before the winds kick up. Sierra and cabrilla will be the main targets along the gulf, while smaller grouper, snook, and halibut can be caught in the *esteros* on the Pacific side (where not shut down as the annual gray whale migration begins). Much of that action will be catch and release, as co-ops often insist on limited takes for sustainability of the resource.

As a bonus, if fishing is tough outside and fishing from the beach is not your thing, whale-watch trips will soon begin in the calmer calving lagoons on the Pacific, while whale-shark trips are already officially underway in the bay of La Paz. On whale watching trips, you may get to pet the grays, as they tend to approach the boats, often pushing their heads to within reach, though passengers must stay in the boat. On the whale shark trips, many offer the opportunity of not only viewing, but even swimming along with the giant fish as they cruise the shallows in water still warm enough to require little more than a spring suit, if that.

Freshwater: An amazing and rare occurrence happened recently for an angler who was killing a little time before work and targeting bass from shore in Mission Valley on the San Diego River. As reported by Mike Stevens of *Western Outdoor News* on November 22nd, ‘Spin’ Un stopped to make a few casts using a chatterbait, and on the first toss he hooked up with what he thought was a large catfish, as the fish was pulling too hard to be a bass. Once in sight, he saw a silvery flash and teeth. Turns out Mr. Un had caught a mature chinook salmon, presumably entering the river for a chance to spawn after recent rains. According to the Golden State Salmon Association, tagged salmon have been known to be caught up to 1700 miles from their release location, and though we get an occasional salmon in nearshore waters in southern California, this is the first time I have heard of a chinook salmon caught in the San Diego River. They're out there, so go get 'em!

DANIEL POWELL

you have. I am looking for a large quantity. (760) 746-7209

SMITH CORONA TYPEWRITER WANTED I am looking for an electric Smith Corona typewriter. If you have one for a reasonable price - let me know what you have. I would prefer a working typewriter but I can use a non-working typewriter for parts to repair mine. (760) 746-7209

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

WANTED: KIEF/INDICA FLOWER Looking for kief and/or satry (purple in color a bonus!) Indica flower (preferred soil grown) by the ounce. No concentrates/shatter/rosin. For some reason, the

dispensaries just don't offer kief. Please be located within San Diego County. msylvestris.0@gmail.com

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FOUR CYLINDER BOLTS WAGON Will pay \$100 for your four cylinder bolts wagon type small car older model. Must be in excellent condition. Provide

pictures and price. Call (760) 420-3641

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

THREE WHEEL MOTORCYCLE TRIKE For \$150 reward for your three wheel motorcycle trike must be excellent condition with current title and clear registration. New tires, send pictures and price first. (760) 420-3641. Hurry hurry cash buyer

I BUY OLD BAND INSTRUMENTS I buy saxophones, trumpets, Trombone, tuba, flute, clarinet Or any old band instruments. Call (619) 279-7833

INDIAN ARROWHEAD Artifacts for my personal collection.

Must be authentic and legally collected. No interest in modern reproductions. Call Steve at (619) 985-8562.

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

WANTED: Cash for vintage Disney and Disneyland items, animation art, autographs of famous dead people. Call (619) 890-1390.

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.

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.

CASH FOR COMIC BOOKS Want to put some money in your pocket? I pay cash for old comic books and I will come to you. 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.

GARAGE SALES

SAT.12/9/23 GARAGE SALE Sat. 12/9/23 Garage Sale. 2790 Lancha St. 6am to 4pm. Clothes, purses, watches, jewelry. CDs DVDs... knick knacks (619) 876-1968 / makeunlimitedincome@gmail.com

MIRA MESA GARAGE SALE Women's sweaters, men's sports hats, men's t shirts, various sci-fi

convention souvenir books and posters, knick-knack's. By appointment only. Call (858) 693-3409, evenings.

FOR SALE

ELECTRIC HOTPLATE electric hotplate, new, still in the box \$20. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

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 bed skirt. Clean and in very good condition. \$45. Text or email for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbscd@gmail.com

4 BEAUTIFUL NEW INTERIOR DOORS Premium knotty alder, solid wood, mfg. by Craftsman In Wood in Arizona, 1-3/4" x 3' x 8", no hinges or handles, they are extra doors from my remodel. I

paid \$1,500. each. Selling for \$750/ each. Call (760) 746-7209.

ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE
Brand-new six feet tall. Beautiful looking and very contemporary. Tree includes rainbow colored lights. \$100 (619) 466-8663.

BEAUTIFUL SOLID WOOD DECOR BOX This vintage box (5.5"x 3.5"x 2" high) with a hinged lid is nicely stained and varnished. It can be a wonderful storage place for jewelry, tarot, oils, arts & crafts, sewing supplies, and other lovely things. \$15. Text or email for more info/pictures (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BOOK COLLECTION, 570 BOOKS: 238 hardcover & 67 soft-cover, about 264 cookbooks, some hardcover & some softcover, selling all for \$390. No haggle price, (760) 746-7209.

CHINA CABINET Downsizing. 2 solid-wood cabinets in excellent condition. China cabinet: 16"x4"x5". Sits on floor cabinet: 18"x3"x5". \$175 for each or \$300 for both. Text (619) 794-4462.

LADIES CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES Asking only \$1 for a gigantic assortment of ladies clothing and accessories. Please call for more information. (619) 269-3434

NEW GIFT CARDS GALORE AND MORE I have TONS of stuff that I must sell. because I need \$\$ NOW!! Gift cards. graphic tees, hoodies, jackets, shoes. belts, hats, plush animals, purses and. much more! Wide variety of colors., sizes, designs, styles, etc.Mix of used. & new! Contact me today! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

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

SOLID WOOD RACHED TOP MIRROR This beautiful mirror (37"x 48") has round top & bottom moldings and 10 silver decorative metal bars on top perfect for wall hanging or as a dresser mirror

using the 2 provided wood strips. Clean in very good condition. \$60. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

TRAFFIC LIGHT Red, yellow and green. \$100. (619) 258-3541

V TECH LANDLINE PHONE v tech landline phone with built in answering machine \$20. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

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

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

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

WEED-EATER, STRING-TRIMMER: Bolens BL110 Handheld Gas String Trimmer, 2 cycle 25cc gas engine, 16" curved shaft, has bump head release for 0.095 dual string line. New in original box, \$95. Call (760) 746-7209.

256 TRADING CARDS Star Wars, Empire Strikes Back, Jaws 2, 1970s baseball, more. Range from EX-MT 6 to Good 2, \$25 takes all. PB. (619) 664-2146

AIR FRYER 3.5QT Almost new, perfect condition. \$25 (858) 220-6338 / joycalifa@yahoo.com

KNEE WALKER Brand new, never used. \$90 (858) 220-6338 / joycalifa@yahoo.com

NEW PEDOMETER DIGITAL DISPLAY This deluxe pedometer has a hinged protective cover, a spring-loaded attachment clip & an adjustable security strap. It shows steps taken, distance covered & calories burned. Battery is

included. New in sealed plastic. \$20. Text for more in info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SMART BODY SCALE Brand new, never opened. \$12 (858) 220-6338 / joycalifa@yahoo.com

TABLE LAMP METAL CYLINDER BODY The body of this unique table lamp is 4.5" in diameter and 12" tall. The cream soft deep drum linen shade is 10.75" in top & bottom diameter & 9.25" on the side. Modern and good looking. Very good condition. \$12. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

TOUCHSCREEN DIGITAL THERMOSTAT This 7-day programmable thermostat has a backlit touch screen display, Menu & Program buttons, and Mode & Fan switches with original Install Guide & Operation Guide. Clean and in excellent working condition. \$20. Text or email for more info/pictures (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



NAVY FABRIC CHAIR WOOD FRAMED This dark navy blue dining / comfy chair has dark brown solid wood frame and legs. It is very sturdy with strong support. The fabric is like new and in excellent condition with no stains, scratches or any kind of wear. \$25. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL 4-PIECE BATH MAT SET These 4 bath rugs (23"x 16.5" & 33"x 20") in shades of baby blue are very pretty & comfortable

with extra softness and non-slip backing. They are super absorbent and machine wash & dry. Clean and in very good condition. \$18. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

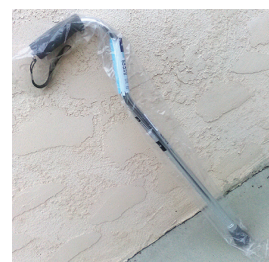


54 NATURAL ROUND PINE CONES These beautiful pine cones vary in color and sizes (2"x 4" to 4"x 5") great for your arts and crafts, home decor, office decorations, and table centerpieces. Clean and in excellent condition. \$25. Text or email for more information and/or pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BFF ESTATE SALES Greetings, shopaholics! Buckle up and get... starts on 12/1/2023. www.estatesales.net/CA/Carlsbad/92008/3889101. See some more photos on the link. T info@bffestatesales.com

EPIC ESTATE SALE IN CARLSBAD This beautiful home is packed with treasures! Perfect for starting your Christmas shopping early! Too much to post! Find us on estatesales.net.Dec 1 & 2 info@bffestatesales.com

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ALUMINUM CANE W/ OFFSET HANDLE Silver chrome walking cane with a comfortable foam handle & wrist strap. Rated for up to 300 lb. It has a push-button height adjustment (29"-38") & a locking ring for security. New with original tags & stickers, \$15. Text or email for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

CAMERA COLLECTION Brands such as Cannon, Nikon, Olympus. like a new with lenses and accessories. SLR film. \$10-\$300. (760) 757-5445.



FUNKO PROTO THE DOG PIN Funko Collectible Proto the Dog Fun on the Run Enamel Pin Limited Edition 2023 Circle Rare \$40 new. (619) 567-9865

HANGING PLUG-IN PENDANT LIGHT This beautiful pendant light has bronze trim and glass shade with 25 ft. plug-in cord & 8 ft. chain. \$35. Another matching light (some discoloration on trim) for \$25 or \$50 for both. The glass shades are excellent. Text or email

for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



MICHAEL MYER'S FUNKO POP MASK San Diego Comic-Con 2023 Exclusive Michael Myer's Funko Pop Mask. Limited edition 1000 pieces. Halloween 2. Manufactured by Disguise Inc. Oversized Pop Head mask great to wear or for Halloween Decor Wall Mask. Measures 17"x15". \$50 new. (619) 567-9865

SOLID WOOD VINTAGE SIDE TABLE This is a heavy duty well-constructed side or end table (22"x 26"x 23" H), strong & sturdy with a storage shelf and bottom drawer. Some normal wear on solid wood. Nice decorative legs. Clean and in very good condition. \$60. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

175 PCS FIRST AID KIT W/ CASE This complete first aid kit is ideal for home, office, car & boat. It includes prep pads, towelettes, gloves, cold pack, eye patch, tweezers, bandages, gauze pads & tape. New, never used, in the original case. \$12. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

AMOIRE, CLOTHES "CLOSET" \$60 Freestanding. All wood. Good condition. Can be delivered for

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Year 2000 and newer. Plus \$8.25 certificate. By appt only.
Vans and trucks extra. Free retest when we do the repair.
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up to 4 quarts & oil filter Most 4 cylinder cars, Trucks extra.
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+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES

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- Turn Rotors / Drums
- Premium Pads
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Includes filter, pan gasket, fluid, most cars. From + tax & hazardous materials fee

\$179

30K/60K/90K/120K mile SERVICE SPECIAL

Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from

Plus tax & hazardous waste fee, 4 cylinder, most cars, regularly \$200 prices may vary depending on make & model.

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TUNE-UP & OIL CHANGE

- Drain and replace up to 4 quarts of oil
- New oil filter
- New spark plugs
- Visual inspection
- 4-cyl. Most cars

\$95.95

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee
Prices may vary depending on make & model.

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

Most cars



\$49.95

ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

\$59

TIMING BELT

Call for price.

AC SERVICE

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Most cars, freon extra

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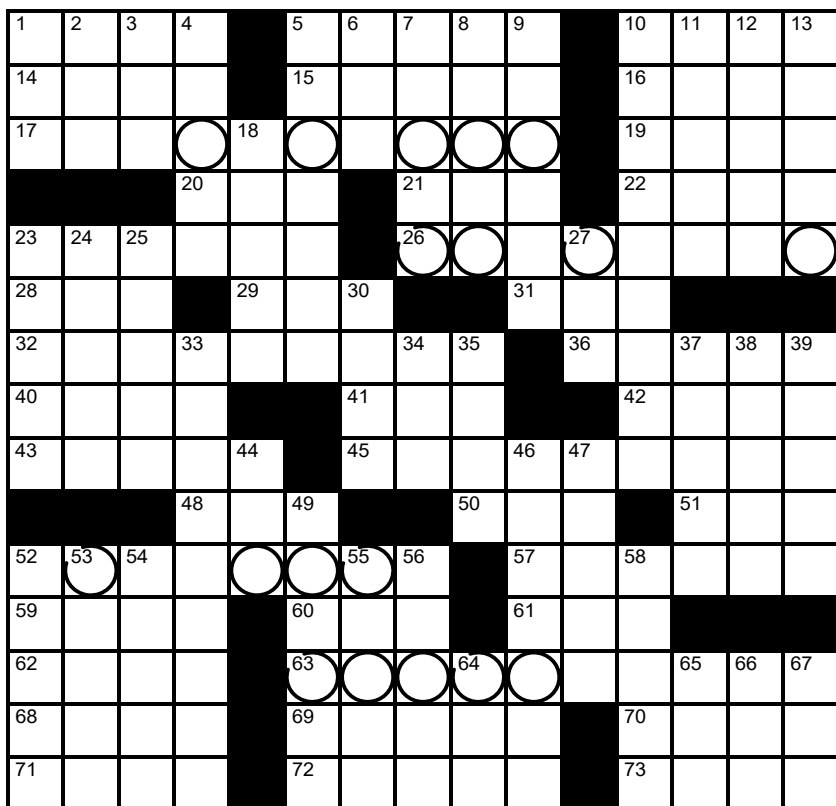
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The solving of the puzzles will no longer put you in contention for a Reader T-shirt and hat.

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

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

Reader T-shirts and hats are available at sandiegoreaderstore.com/

Across

1. Brought into the world
5. "____-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" (2021 Simu Liu film)
10. Org. for many baby boomers
14. Nabisco cookie
15. "Along ____ spider ..."
16. Run for it
17. Whale's mouthful
19. Lago feeders
20. Suffix with elephant or serpent
21. ____-mo replay
22. Dynamic start?
23. ____-Lorraine (area in northeast France)
26. Fedoras & sombreros, e.g.

28. Garfield, e.g.

29. HDTV type
31. Stayed out of sight
32. With 45-Across, phrase of encouragement to someone who's had a successful start (or a description of the circled letters in 17-, 26-, 52- and 63-Across)
36. Vending machine item
40. Praiseful lead-in to "boy" or "girl"
41. Issa of "Barbie"
42. In the blink ____ eye
43. "Thong Song" singer
45. See 32-Across
48. Texter's "is it 2 late 2 come over?"
50. Prom rental

51. ____ v. Wade

52. Folk singer Guthrie
57. Give it everything you've got
59. Decorative pitcher
60. "De ____ Vez" (Selena Gomez song)
61. Ambient music legend Brian
62. Nail treatment, for short
63. Estelle of "The Golden Girls"
68. Spanish 101 word
69. "With this ring, ____ ..."
70. ____ B'rith
71. Pres. Jefferson
72. Looked (around)
73. Film character who says "Size matters not"

Down

1. Reggae pioneer Marley
2. Tulsa sch.
3. Stimp's pal in cartoons
4. Finnish tech giant
5. Sound heard before a car crash
6. "As if!"
7. Group that often holds religious services in barns
8. Harlem Renaissance novelist Larsen
9. Rubber overshoe
10. "Nope, sorry"
11. Otherworldly
12. Corp. shake-up
13. Mexican money

18. Ltr. accompaniers
23. Play the role of
24. "Chicago Hope" Emmy winner Christine
25. Ballpark figures?
27. "____ the season ..."
30. One may be thrown in a pub
33. Places where moles are often found
34. "Well, ____-di-dah!"
35. Yardstick's three
37. SAG-____ (Hollywood union)
38. Heat, in Honduras
39. Struck in kickboxing, perhaps

44. Sharing word
46. Agog
47. Cellular transmitters
49. Connect to an electrical outlet
52. "No need to introduce us"
53. Swimming (in)
54. 50 minutes past the hour
55. "You're ____ talk!"
56. Hand-on-Bible declarations
58. Gardening, for some
64. Bit of merch
65. Game with Skip cards
66. "Way cool!"
67. 1998 biopic starring Angelina Jolie

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

HARD:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

additional cost. (619) 280-6908 / bikes.alot@cox.net

ANTIQUE SIDEBORD Tiger wood. 43" high 52" wide. \$200.00. Email: robsanwhite@gmail.com

BRAND-NEW KITCHEN STUFF Low priced, luggage, more new in boxes. So cheap. You have to call. Great Christmas gift. (760) 747-1013

HANGING PENDANT LIGHT 37" TALL This hard-wired classic pendant light has a frosted glass shade with a metal trim. Max. height is 37" and is adjustable. Clean in good condition. 2 pendant lights available, \$25 each or \$45 for both. Light bulbs not included. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

LEATHER JACKETS Three good condition leather jackets to keep you warm (619) 832-3612

MISC. FOR SALE New hospital bed mattress, \$75. Drive bariatric wide walker, \$75. MARX Mark Brothers lamp, \$50. (760) 757-5445.

VALUABLE ITEMS Feeling very kind. Believe in miracles or yourself and others. Don't ring if not. Over half offer free. (619) 228-5843

100+/- POTTED PLANT COLLECTION Unique variety of plants to transform your landscape. Various sizes of Norfolk Island Pines, peach, guavas, roses, herbs, bananas, collard green trees, ornamentals & much more. Oceanside \$3500. Deliver & plant for extra charge. YouGoFarmGal@gmail.com

1990 JAMBOREE 26' RUNS WELL Project RV needs exterior cosmetic work or hide on your ranch behind screen. Great for farm worker or anyone who needs roof over their head, if remodeled. Bathroom all works. Kitchen nonop. Needs carpet & rear bed. Oceanside. \$3700 OBO. (858) 247-1781

DOUBLE CANDLESTICK TABLE LAMP This vintage classic table lamp is perfect for your console, sofa, end or side table. It comes with a cream oval linen shade, solid wood decorative base, rotary switch for both lights & light bulb. Very good condition. \$75. Text for more info/pics (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

53 NOISEMAKERS - TURN OR BLOW These noise makers are of different designs & colors for New Year, special events & parties. Make lots of fun noises while having a great time for both adults and kids. All new and never used. \$25 for all 53 pieces. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

DYMO METER DYMO RHINO label unit for patch panels 110 blocks, etc. Make offer. Lakeside (619) 690-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

IPOD NANO 4G & HOME IBASE First generation IPOD NANO 4G and IPHONE HOMEBASE. Good as new. I used them as an alarm clock for a couple of days. \$40.00. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

LOADS OF CLOTHES & MORE TO SELL I have clothes, shoes, purses, hats, belts, gift cards, plush animals & so much more that I need the \$ for instead! Most items are in new or like new type of condition. Prices, sizes, colors, etc vary a lot. Please contact me for more info: sandiegolady13@gmail.com

SOLID WOOD BARSTOOL (23.5" H) This unique corner counter height bar stool has a strong and sturdy solid wood base. Some wear on wood but still structurally sound. Black Cushion is worn on sides & covered with tape. Clean & in good working condition. \$15. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BK ALUMINUM CANE OFFSET HANDLE This walking cane with comfortable foam handle & wrist strap is rated for up to 300 lb. It has push-button height adjustment (29"-38") & a locking ring for secu-

rity. New, never used with original tags-stickers. \$15. Text for email for more info/pics (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

CUCKOO CLOCK Other than it runs and works - its pretty self explanatory james5841@Gmail.com

ESSENTIAL TACTICAL GEAR In the tactical world, gear quality is vital. It's about balance: functionality, durability, and comfort. Good tactical wear withstands tough conditions, providing ease of use. Key items include durable clothing, supportive footwear, robust backpacks

SOLID PINE JUNIOR HIGH CHAIR This Ikea Ingolf chair in antique stain & acrylic lacquer gives the right seat height for the child (3 yrs. & older) at the dining table & comfy support for the feet. Good condition w/ some normal wear. \$25 each or \$45 for 2. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

AMERICAN FLYER TRAIN TRACKS \$100. Tracks only. Motor. Call (619) 601-3591

NEW SURE LEVER FOLDING WALKER This high quality walker has two 5" front wheels & rear glide caps for adults 5'2"- 6'4" and supports up to 350 lbs. The sure lever allows users to close the walker without removing their hands from the walker handle. \$35. Text for more info/pictures (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

PURPLE MATTRESS In box. Brand New. \$100 (619) 601-3591

BEAUTIFUL SOLID WOOD DECOR BOX This vintage box (5.5"x 3.5"x 2" high) with a hinged lid is nicely stained and varnished. It can be a wonderful storage place for jewelry, tarot, oils, arts & crafts, sewing supplies, and other lovely things. \$15. Text or email for more info/pictures (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SOLID WOOD ARCHED TOP MIRROR This beautiful mirror (37"x 48") has round top & bottom moldings and 10 silver decorative metal bars on top perfect for wall hanging or as a dresser mirror using the 2 provided wood strips. Clean in very good condition. \$60. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

TEETER HANG UP BACK MASSAGER Machine is about 6 feet tall. You will need an SUV or truck for pickup. Asking \$80. Located in North County. Call (442) 303-5605

GPS NAVIGATION FOR DUMMIES 3 inch screen suction cup mounting kit. Pre-loaded maps of USA. Used one time only, \$95. Call (858) 484-4483

WHOLE HOME ALKALINE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM Turn your home into a drinkable alkaline spring of living water. \$500 off visa card with code SH808. (619) 395-2272

GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS metal tree stand for fresh tree; large to extra large. Hold water. Used once. Like new. \$7 bargain. (858) 484-4483.

MASSAGE TABLE, CHAIRS AND VASES Great condition. White. Has a few crackle spots between the seat and the headrest. \$75 or betts offer. Two oak chairs. \$20 set. Glass flower vases in various sizes, shapes and colors. Assorted prices. Will go for good price. Call (619) 601-3591

NEW QUEEN MATTRESS Still in plastic. \$300. Sleepy rest firm Queen prime. Cash only u pick up. MAPAUL16@gmail.com

SHOES Leather Mint Green zipper back Vans Brand New Women's hi-tops. Size 6.5 bought at Viejas Outlet. \$35 from outlet. Ana's Classy black strap sandals. Brand new in box from JCPenny \$40 or best offer. (619) 609-3591

CHRISTMAS DECOR Christmas display board 63L x 63W, plexi-glass, \$25. Department 56 snow village items, \$15-25. Artificial tree, new, \$10. Wooden train, \$5. Ornaments, \$1-5. Santa mobile musical, \$20. (619) 218-4031.

TV SMART BOX Every channel on the planet: UFC, paper view movies, TV shows, no satellite on your roof, no cable bills. Free demo. Money back guarantee \$300. (619) 850-3264

DINNER PLATES five, large, 8 inches, highland flower garden festival, microwave oven and dish-washer safe, \$25. Little used, like new, ideal for the holidays. (858) 484-4483

OTTOMAN mauve beige, very nice, 4 feet by 2 feet tall by 2 feet wide. Nice dark wood legs. Square \$40 or best offer. (619) 601-3591.

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

HAIRDRESSER'S SHAMPOO CHAIR with attached seat combo, all one piece, modern, contemporary, black with silver arms, excellent condition, this combo won't last long! \$200 (619) 466-8663

INSIDE DOOR FROM GARAGE INTO HOUSE plain white, hardwood, 32in x 18in, comes with door lock, step plate, \$60 obo. (858) 484-4483, good condition, no scratches or dings, must sell.

UNDERGROUND COMICS late 60s and early 70s. Very fine. Many titles, Christopher (619) 854-9027.

VIDEO MOVIES collection of VHS movies, most still packaged. Redford collection, and other major actors. \$5 per movie. (619) 282-5105.

WASHER/DRYER STACK COMBO space saver unit, GE electric, 240 volts, light cream color, 74in high, 27in wide, 28.25in deep, excellent new condition, great for the garage \$350. (619) 466-8663

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The ocean: further away than it looks!

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 5

of them have air conditioning units unceremoniously jutting out into the atmosphere.

Our first inside shot shows what appears to be just the edge of a kitchen, looking out past an enormous China cabinet toward the dining area. What we're really supposed to be seeing here is the ocean view just beyond, but I'm going to pause for a moment to admire the open-beam vaulted ceilings. We also see a small living area off the dining room, and looking back, it appears the front door opens directly onto the kitchen. That doesn't make sense, however, as we're clearly upstairs, and this door features some inlaid stained glass that the front door pictured earlier on the ground level does not possess.

These photos are confusing me a bit, and the layout of the house, with its upstairs kitchen and mystery door, isn't helping. Back downstairs, we see a larger

living room with a river rock fireplace that's curiously painted black, coffered ceilings, and wooden shutters over the windows.

Now I think we're back upstairs, at least judging from the slope of the ceiling in the bedroom we've entered. The bedroom, one of four, is spacious but a bit oddly shaped. At least it looks like we get a nice west-facing private balcony.

Heading back outside, we get a few shots of the larger downstairs deck and then many, many photos of the ocean view, interspersed with a few shots of the garden that sits below the house itself. This would be a pretty steep slope (nice for privacy from your neighbors), but someone had the good sense to terrace it off and create a relatively level grass lawn with a pleasant-looking brick patio for *al fresco* dining.

The listing doesn't really have a lot to say about the place, and we don't even get photos of the other bedrooms or a single shot of the two baths before our tour ends. Sadly, that seems

to be because the Cullen House's days may indeed be numbered.

"Check with city to find out if you can still build 6 units on 3 lots or 3 units each with ADUs," the listing intones, suggesting that the perceived best use of the land is not to play host to a historical home, but to serve as a subdivision, with a bunch of new, expensive residences shoehorned into as little space as possible. That could explain why they're asking more than a million dollars each for those other two 2500-square-foot lots.

Public records list a Cattail Properties LLC out of Scottsdale, Arizona as the Cullen House owner. Both listings went live in early October, and the asking prices for each have since been slashed by \$300,000. I'd love to see this house restored to its former glory, and it looks like lots of the components are there to do so (please scrub the paint off that fireplace), but if you're going to buy it just to tear it down, please don't tell me about it. ■

Awesome!

— Get those pens and pencils – OK, Google forms – ready! *The Tampa Bay Times* is inviting readers and anyone else around the world to submit their grievances, the best of which the *Times* will publish to celebrate Festivus on Dec. 23. United Press International reported that this will be the eighth year for the *Times'* Airing of Grievances. The custom is one feature of the holiday, which was introduced on a *Seinfeld* episode in 1997. (You might also remember the unadorned metal pole and feats of strength.) Happy Festivus, everyone!

Precocious

— Ann Arbor, Michigan, police chased a stolen 17-ton forklift through city streets for an hour on Nov. 25, NBC News reported, in what they called "a very dangerous situation" -- especially so, since the driver was a 12-year-old boy. The boy allegedly found the construction vehicle outside Forsythe Middle School with the keys inside. While no one was injured, the forklift struck 10 cars as it crawled through neighborhoods with law enforcement in pursuit; at one point, officers warned other cars that he was "lowering the hooks -- don't go in front" of it. The boy was taken into custody and moved to a juvenile detention center.

Unconventional Weaponry

— Sandra Jimenez, 44, is cooling her heels at the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center in Miami, Florida, after she attacked her boyfriend of eight years on Nov. 25 at

their home, Fox35-TV reported. According to the victim, as the couple argued about him "looking at other women," Jimenez allegedly jumped on him as he lay on the couch and stabbed him in the right eye with one of her dog's rabies shot needles. She then left the house, and he called police, who took him to the hospital. Officers later found her asleep in a vehicle outside the home and arrested her for aggravated battery. Jimenez told them her boyfriend's injuries were "self-inflicted."

The Continuing Crisis

— Only in 2023. On Nov. 28, as a big gust of wind whirled through Washington, D.C., the fully decorated National Christmas Tree was blown over, WUSA-TV reported. The National Park Service had to replace a snapped cable and install reinforcement cables and concrete blocks to secure the tree, but the lighting ceremony went on as planned on Nov. 30.

Wait, What?

— A 35-year-old man from Vietnam went to the hospital in Dong Hoi on Nov. 24 with severe headaches, fluid discharge and loss of vision, *Metro News* reported. When doctors did a CT scan, they discovered two broken chopsticks that were penetrating into his skull from his nose. Apparently, the man had been in a fight several months before and didn't remember much about it -- but said he thought something might have been stabbed into his face. Surgeons removed the chopsticks, and the patient is recovering.

Yikes!

— As a man in Xiamen, China, used the "smart" toilet in his home on Nov. 10, he first smelled smoke -- right before the toilet burst into flames. He didn't have time to pull his shorts back up, but he did manage to capture pictures of the toilet with flames emerging from the bowl. *Oddity Central* reported that the owner believed a short circuit was to blame; other incidents of toilets bursting into flame in China have been reported over the last two years. Burning ring of fire, indeed.

Wrong Place, Wrong Time

— Christopher Boyd, 32, was riding in a car on Nov. 27 in Evansville, Indiana, when it was pulled over for an obscured license plate, *The Smoking Gun* reported. Boyd was patted down, and officers found a "small bag with multiple pills" in his sock. Boyd told them he uses Percocet for pain from a bullet lodged in his spine. Police noticed he "tensed up" when being searched in his groin area; they asked if he had anything stuffed in his groin or buttocks, and he said he did not. But when they arrived at the station, Boyd was "walking with a limp and appeared to be clenching his buttocks." A trip through a scanner identified a large object -- a Smith & Wesson handgun of about 5 inches in length -- in his rectum. (The manufacturer does claim the pistol is "perfectly suited for concealed carry" ...) It was not reported whether the weapon was loaded. Boyd also had two plastic bags of marijuana "tucked" next to

his scrotum. He was booked into the Vanderburgh County jail.

The Passing Parade

— "I'm having it my way!" appeared to be the message from a large inflatable Burger King Whopper that came loose outside a restaurant in Newberg, Oregon, and took off through the windy streets. KOIN-TV reported that the sandwich began its journey around 7 am on Nov. 11 and crashed into a smoke shop before hitting an American flag and another business. Amy Kepler of the Newberg Police Department said that strangely, they didn't receive any 911 calls about the burger, and no injuries or damage were reported to police. "It happened very quickly and did not affect traffic," she said.

Inexplicable

— Thieves made off with a questionable booty on Nov. 20 in Philadelphia, WPVI-TV reported. While a tractor-trailer was parked in a Target lot, six men broke the locks on the back of the trailer and stole multiple cases of talcum powder, police said. The driver was in the cab at the time but was unaware of the burglary until he started to drive away.

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

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