

SAN DIEGO

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Reader

Mobile Homeless

Downtown to
East Village,
the story stays
the same

Huddled masses in Hillcrest ■ Sandwiches before Sandwich ■ Mellowed metal

THE IRISH TENORS

DECEMBER 20



CAGE WARRIORS 165
December 15



JESSY J
December 16



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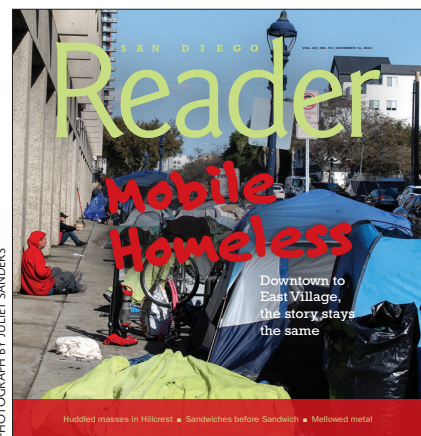
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December 14, 2023



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

LA JOLLA

Killer Cove

Drowning near luxury

On the morning of October 21 at La Jolla Shores, about 2.5 miles east of La Jolla Cove, surfers and a paddleboarder saw a 65-year-old male floating past the breaking waves, reported 911 VIDEO NEWS. “The man was brought to shore, where CPR started, but he was already deceased,” reads the caption attached to the posted video. “The man had been in the water for some time. He wore swim trunks and had swimming goggles on his head. It’s unknown how he passed away.”

According to a July report on the San Diego County website, over 400 people die from drowning every year in California. In addition, more than 1200 are involved in non-fatal drowning incidents that require first responders’ assessments or hospitalization. While the 2022-2023 drowning numbers within our county have yet to be released, recently, a number of incidents have taken place near La Jolla.

At about 9:35 am on November 11, lifeguards watching over La Jolla Cove noticed someone yelling for assistance just north of Boomer Beach, said Monica Muñoz, a city of San Diego spokeswoman, in a recent *La Jolla Light* interview. “Lifeguards responded and found a scuba diver who reported that their dive partner was last seen about 50 feet down with their regulator out of their mouth.”



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN ZACH

“Calling off a dive is sometimes the best way to be a good diver.”



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN ZACH

“You sure you’re cut out for this?”

The lifeguards then called for assistance; an ambulance, a rescue helicopter, and the fire department were immediately dispatched. Muñoz continued, “The dispatcher requested members of the dive team. The patient was about 50 feet under. Lifeguards pulled the patient up and started CPR.” The patient was transported to the hospital, but additional details were unavailable. The recent Saturday morning drowning was the fourth reported at La Jolla Cove this year alone. The *La Jolla Light* also reported a September 3 drowning at the Cove of a diver found not breathing. He was pronounced dead. In July, lifeguards found a diver in the same area who was unconscious with “no pulse,” and in May, first responders rescued a former La Jolla resident, who died three days after.

Brian Zach, owner of Zach’s Scuba Shack, has years of experience providing scuba and snorkel tours throughout San Diego County — including the Cove. “Southern California diving requires more effort than a lot of divers may realize,” he says. “It is in colder water, [which requires] more equipment and is heavier. There’s often lower visibility, plus surge and other challenging conditions.” Zach’s Facebook account includes many photos and videos of the Cove, which is nestled between sandstone cliffs along La Jolla’s shoreline. Along with those videos, he posts warnings to divers when the waters within the Cove are rough.

“Southern California shore diving is by nature a physically strenuous activity,” Zach added. When I asked if he could explain why four divers had drowned at the Cove this year alone, he responded, “I wouldn’t know the divers’ medical history or any information regarding the incidents.” He then advised, “Consider being physically evaluated if you haven’t been diving regularly or have any underlying medical conditions.”

Most diving experts I spoke with suggest that if you are a beginner, you should find someone with more

experience and who knows the area — like Zach — and dive with them. Lastly, said Zach, “calling off a dive is sometimes the best way to be a good diver.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

HILLCREST

Getting high on the hill

A proposal to pack ‘em and stack ‘em in the gay district



Is density destiny for the former Pill Hill?

The battle continues over a plan to build 19,000 new homes in Hillcrest, a neighborhood which hasn’t seen a boost in residential density in more than three decades. (It has, however, seen such an increase in homelessness that a local

commercial zones will be controlled by floor ratio and other regulations, she said.

The draft plan, which modifies the Uptown Community Plan adopted in 2016, also impacts nearby communities like University Heights. “Hillcrest is already the

“I’d like to know why we’re giving away density without requiring affordable housing.”

Starbucks had to close its doors earlier this year.) If the city passes the proposed Plan Hillcrest amendment, the 350-acre planning area will see density increases up to 218 units per acre in some areas where only 109 are currently allowed, and possibly dozens of high to very high towers — perhaps even 30

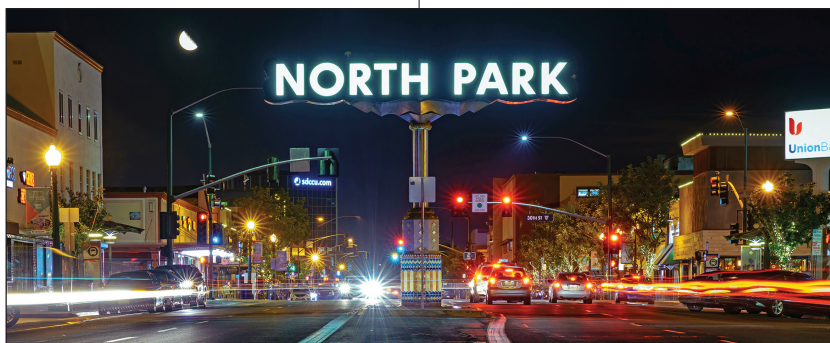
most congested community in San Diego’s council District Three,” said resident Kate Callen, who spoke against the plan. North Park, also in District Three, allows 55-73 dwelling units per acre in its residential very high zones.

continued on page 3

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

Supporters welcome the addition of more homes — as well as an LGBTQ+ cultural district — while opponents argue that community input won't matter under the by-right development plan. They say



population-growth projections are inflated and, in addition to a lack of any kind of affordability requirement for the new homes, there's a lack of public spaces. Hillcrest resident Bill Keller reminded city planners of the 14th Street promenade promised in the Downtown Community Plan's 2006 update. "So far, with 22 block faces, we have

about four developed after 17 years." The urgency to create public spaces should drive housing development, he said. Others said some of the public promenades included in the proposal might be so wide that they limit lot sizes on Washington Street and University Avenue.

The changes to the Hillcrest plan, if approved, will last through its 30-year lifespan. "So we need to figure out which

projects should be discretionary and which by-right," said Tom Mulaney, with Uptown United. With by-right development, the process is streamlined and neighbors aren't notified. An updated version of the plan which incorporates the public input will be released next year.

SHEILA PELL

UNDER THE RADAR

Behesting blasts Chula Vista mayor **John McCann** continues to collect so-called behests from the city's developer and a related crowd, according to a series of disclosure filings with the city clerk's office. On October 12, Vulcan Materials, Corporation, operator of the Chula Vista Quarry, gave \$5000 at McCann's behest to sponsor the city's Starlight Parade and Festival, per a November 29 report.

The gift comes less than four months after Vulcan's Chula Vista sand and gravel operation suffered a worker fatality on June 22. "A contract bulldozer operator died when the bulldozer he was operating backed off the edge of a highwall," says a preliminary report on the incident, which it says took the life of John C. Hatfield, 60, a two-year veteran of the operation with 27 years in the mining industry. The notice was posted online by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration.

"The bulldozer operator was clearing the bench in preparation for drilling and blasting and had removed the berms along the edge." It was the 24th fatality reported by the Administration in 2023 to that date. Says Vulcan's Chula Vista website: "Our quarry operates with the highest standards of health, safety, and environmental stewardship to provide the materials that helped build our community as we know and love it today." The site adds: "Our day-to-day operations and blasting activities are designed to be safe, precise, and effective and are done in accordance with our permits and best practices."

On March 15 of this year, Vulcan's Fort Pierce Mine in Florida also experienced a fatality, per regulators. "A miner was operating an excavator along the bank of a water-filled pit when it fell into the pit and submerged," according to a March 23 preliminary mine safety report.

Earlier, on January 4, John Ogle, a 28-year-old worker at Vulcan's Sevierville quarry in Tennessee, was fatally injured while working on a rock crusher, according to the mine safety administration's final report, "when the swing jaw of the primary jaw crusher moved as he was performing maintenance, pinning him between the back side of the swing jaw and toggle block frame." Concluded the regulators: "The mine operator recognized the potential for unexpected movement in performing this task but did not block the swing jaw against hazardous motion. The mine operator engaged in aggravated

conduct constituting more than ordinary negligence by having a lead man present during the maintenance work and allowing miners to position themselves in a pinch point next to the unblocked swing jaw. This violation is an unwarrantable failure to comply with a mandatory standard."

In addition to Vulcan's contribution to the Starlight Parade and Festival, McCann rounded up \$7500 at his behest on October 25 from Meridian Development.



John McCann: the best when it comes to behests?

Dearly departed San Diego's loss is San Francisco's gain in the case of recently departed *Union-Tribune* reporter **David Hernandez**. Last week Hernandez left for a Bay Area gig as the *U-T* continues to shed staff (and shrink its print advertising base) under its new master, so-called vulture investment outfit Alden Global Capital, thought by some to be eyeing

a total print shutdown. "The *San Francisco Chronicle* is pleased to announce that David Hernandez has joined its breaking news team as a reporter," the *Chron* announced December 4. "We are thrilled to bring David's deep experience covering public safety and his keen sense of storytelling to our newsroom," added a statement by the Chronicle's Assistant Metro Editor **Dominic Fracassa**. "His arrival comes at a pivotal moment for the Bay Area, one that requires fearless, sensitive and attentive reporting to ensure our readers receive the kind of top-notch journalism that helps them understand their world. David will help us provide that."

Meanwhile, although rapidly losing reporters, the *U-T* is advertising for a Digital Sales Executive, per a December 5 job notice on the website of MediaNews Group, the Alden-owned newspaper chain calling the shots here. "We are committed to delivering world-class content and advertising solutions to our diverse and engaged audience," says the notice, offering a salary between \$70,000

and \$90,000. "If you are a results-driven sales professional with a passion for digital media, innovation, and building lasting client relationships, we want you to hear from you!" Job candidates will need to "demonstrate expert knowledge in online media channels, as well as an understanding of their correlation to offline executions, enabling you to effectively position our products and services against competitors."

continued on page 4

MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

WIN TICKETS



Enter to win tickets to see Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute.

Deadline to Enter: Thursday, Dec 21 at 1pm

WIN TICKETS



Enter to win tickets to see Summer Salt at House of Blues.

Deadline to Enter: Thursday, Dec 21 at 1pm

WIN TICKETS



Enter to win tickets to Pon Mas Reggaeton at The Observatory.

Deadline to Enter: Tuesday, Jan 2 at 1pm

Enter to win at sandiegoreader.com/contests

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.

Correction

The info box for the Dec. 7 edition of *Unreal Estate* contained an error. The address of the house first owned by Cardiff designer J. Frank Cullen is 2286 Oxford, not 2886 Oxford. The *Reader* regrets the error.

Venial voters

The depiction of “Abe’s Money Club,” News Under the Radar, Dec. 7, 2023” is a depiction of the political money pipeline of which so-called upper tier candidates get elected. It’s a merry go round of shady dough controlled by powerful elites who control the voters. The voters either don’t care or don’t know and take the bait without any afterthought. Despite what voters tell pollsters, they vote on perception, on symbolism and on money. This is an unassailable fact. It is a disingenuous act of unethical behavior by the voters. So, as Sonny and Cher once said, “The beat goes on.” Dan Smiechowski is a candidate

for Mayor of San Diego who one day will break the back of the establishment.

Daniel Smiechowski
Bay Ho

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

The Cullen House: the first on the bluffs of Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Unreal Estate, Dec. 8, 2023

Thank you for this. I am a longtime Cardiff resident and love the history here. I love the Cullen House and really hope someone buys it and restores it.

-Cardiff local

Belmont Park owner gives boost to Lincoln Club

News Under the Radar, Dec. 6, 2023

All the corrupt happenings that are fit to print. May the sewer dwelling puppets choke on their holiday takings.

-Holiday jeers

Mainly Mozart commissions Edric Saphire to write a work honoring Mozart

Golden Dreams, Dec. 1, 2023

Thank you for the wonderful review. Your point about the choice of Basoon, and how its clarity defines the melody is well taken. And it’s particularly clever to invoke the image of a fox in the coop, as Fox is a major Bas-

soon manufacturer.

I would just add, as it wasn’t clear at the time, that the App Mr. Saphire was referring to is called The Orchestra. It is not a composing program, but it is a wonderful way for young people to get a sense of how the different sections of the orchestra sound and contribute to the whole.

As a point of interest for the readers, for composing, Mr. Saphire uses a musical notation program to write down the music in his head. It’s like a word processor for music. This genre of software has been around since the 1980s. It allows the composer to play what they want on a keyboard and have the notation immediately show up on the screen via a midi interface. The one Mr. Saphire uses is called Finale which debuted in 1998 and is on its 27th edition. There are many other musical programs such as Sibelius, Forte, MuseScore, Notion etc. A great advantage over writing with paper and pencil is that it is easy to make changes without having to rewrite an entire score. Just as writers use word processors to write books and articles, composers often use one of these programs to write music.

-Classically Appreciated

Chuchee's Frutorteria: Peanuts for peanuts

Tin Fork, Nov. 30, 2023

Yess!! Love this place (: and Margarito is a sweetheart! He explains the large menu very well. I also love the green juices made from real fruit and vegetables and no added sugars. I order the detox celery juice and drink it every day.

-Tositoloco Local

So many potholes in San Diego – which to fix first?

Neighborhood News, Nov. 28, 2023

That \$26 billion damage figure must be nationally, not just for San Diego. City Hall would be burned down if locals were losing that astounding sum!

-Pothole perplexed

Under the radar

continued from page 3

Lavish laundries Eli Lilly, an ongoing target of California Attorney General **Rob Bonta’s** effort to lower insulin prices, came up with \$5000 on December 1 for the 2026 Lieutenant Governor campaign of Bonta’s fellow Democrat, state Senator **Toni Atkins**. Bonta’s lawsuit against pharmaceutical giant Lilly and other insulin makers, along with a group of pharmacy benefit managers, accuses the defendants of “driving up the cost of the lifesaving drug through unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices in violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law,” says Bonta’s January 12 news release.

“In the U.S., insulin is so expensive that many diabetics struggle to afford it even when covered by health plans and are forced to ration their use — sometimes with deadly consequences.” Added Bonta in a statement, “No one should be forced to ration or go without basic medication that could mean the difference between life or death. California will continue to be a leader in the fight to ensure everyone has equal access to affordable healthcare and prescription medications they need to

City's Climate Action Plan bumps up against Housing for Hope approval

Neighborhood News, Nov. 21, 2023

Re: Gas v. CAP, This law limiting natural gas is ridiculous! Don’t people get it... Electricity is created somewhere... Our state is just burdening somewhere else with our emissions!

-Gassed out

Not long after Todd Gloria removed gang injunctions, San Diego violent crime is up
Neighborhood News, Nov. 13, 2023
“Heal the city” said the doofus mayor.

-In-Glorias Basterd

Archie Moore still doesn't pull his punches

Cover Story, Sept. 19, 1985

Kearns was a real crook.

-Moore of the story

stay healthy.”...

With San Diego mayor **Todd Gloria** looking to improve the city’s homeless clean-up game, a notice for portable laundry rooms has been posted on the city’s website. “The City is currently seeking qualified bidders to provide as-needed mobile laundry trailers with eight washers and eight dryers,” says a December 1 announcement. “The Contractor shall set up the mobile laundry trailer and deliver to the City complete and ready for use. City may, at its option, request additional mobile laundry trailers, as needed by the City.” No cost is provided, but at least one bidder touts its high-end products. “Spacious and accommodating, our bathroom trailers don’t feel or appear like what you might typically imagine of such units,” notes the website of Comforts of Home Services Inc. of Aurora, Illinois. “With a Comforts of Home portable restroom trailer, using a comfort station is like being in the facilities of a lavish residence.”

— 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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Hot rodders push 80

It's 10 o'clock on a Thursday morning, and the members of the San Diego Prowlers Hot Rod Club — along with some fellow travelers — have taken over Steele 94. The place is a roadhouse that straddles the line between Jamul and Spring Valley. The men in the club keep referring to it in conversation as “The Greek” — for many years, this spot was a restaurant called The Greek Sombbrero, and was, I gather, the site of wild nights for (at least some of) the Prowlers. Once upon a time. The Greek is gone now, and the times are less wild. But the Prowlers remain.

These days, they get together a couple times a month. Today's event, after breakfast, is a country ride with stops for show-and-tells at the home garages of four different locals. Though the club is county-wide, this part of the county — El Cajon and neighboring areas — is the Prowlers' home turf.

My host is Bruce Hamilton, a jovial and talkative sort with a full head of shaggy white hair, who, like the Prowlers, is 77 years old. He says that this club boasts an amazing array of cars, most of them Fords. Someone here tells me that Hamilton is such a shrewd mechanic that he can listen to an engine (even a jet boat's) and diagnose its problem in less than five seconds. Hamilton recommends the pork chops



Hot rods at the huddle-up.



Club Secretary Jim Reid and his fender-free roadster.



The Prowlers then...

and eggs, and introduces me to a few friends.

Here is Jim Reid, the club secretary, whose '32 hiboy is one of the few to boast a Ford engine — a five liter V8 from a '90s Mustang. (Most hot rods use Chevys.) Here is Bud Brown, whose grandfather homesteaded the land Brown still lives on in Jamul in 1934. Robby Ivy's family has been here since 1941.

He's got 11 cars on that property now. There are many more faces — wizened and white-whiskered, looking at me over their coffee cups.

The Prowlers tend to be older fellows, but they are still jazzed about their rides. Hamilton eagerly takes me outside for a little parking lot tour. The cars are all circa 1948 or earlier, and are all — to use the club's favorite term of approbation — bitchin'. Aggressively tilted roadsters, larger sedans,

and coupes with hand-painted pin stripe details on the back. A bright yellow 1931 model A with an exposed super-charged engine rising up menacingly out of the vehicle. These cars are the product of a mixture of greasy mechanical work and extensive automotive know-how. Also of finesse: there's a delicacy in the crafting of these modified monsters — the impeccable paint, the custom upholstery, the careful choice of fixtures. Hot rods have always had this mixture, a combination of power and grace, speed and style.



...and now.

of the car in front of us. He lets out an unhinged chuckle each time. (Hamilton will ask me later if Vortex — a moniker Kleine shares with his car — scared the hell out of me.) The car is actually loud enough that it's hard to talk inside, so Kleine and I say little before we arrive at our next stop, which is John Perez's place. Surprised

Hot rodding was birthed by returned GIs. “The war was over and people were still looking for a thrill.”

Hamilton asks me if I have a favorite type of car. He even offers me some possible popular choices. I'm afraid I'm not much of a car guy, but I'm happy to look around, take a ride, and learn a few things, things like: a roadster has no windows and a soft top or no top at all, while the larger sedans and coupes have hard tops. Also, the hot rod thing in San Diego had its start with races at Paradise Mesa, an abandoned Navy field.

My first ride is with Reid in his hiboy It's loud. The interior is spare. As we head to the first stop, Reid tells me a bit about the dawn of the hot rod phenomenon. Like that other southern California vehicular subculture, the motorcycle gang, this one was birthed by returned GIs. “The war was over and people were still looking for a thrill.”

After about 10 minutes, we arrive at John

by the vast number of cars, the immense garage space and the hardware scattered throughout the property, I mention to Hamilton that the Prowlers must have very accommodating wives. I am quickly corrected: “No. Ex-wives!” Two men next to us agree. Some rueful advice about the travails of marriage in middle age follows. The forties must have been the divorce hot spot around here, agewise.

After Perez's, I have to make my way to my own sled. That would be the Toyota minivan that is still parked at the restaurant. Hamilton offers to take me back. He needs to go anyway, because someone left his cane at breakfast. On our way to the car, he says that the Prowlers belong to an era, and that the club won't be around forever. He says that there's something that people who know him well will hear him say often: “Everything is for a while.” ■

Judith Moore on food and family

Chartreuse Evenings

While Uncle Carl carried on with his garlic smearing onto steaks and French bread and the salad bowl, Jon cut limes and squeezed lime juice and sang with Edith Piaf. They talked about their menu and in what order to do things. They listed the menu aloud — the crackers with cream cheese and chives, the Green Goddess dressing for the green salad, the green beans, the Chartreuse to pour over the ice cream. — *Judith Moore* **MAR. 16, 2000**

Solitary Holidays

“The logic of prose narrative in English is inextricably bound to the family.... For to have a narrative to tell at all one needs the continuity of relations, the stake in the future and the Fixed point of moral certitude which the family provides. The novel does not thrive on one-night stands.... Some lives are simply too random, too accidental, too lacking in moral or historical direction, for novels to make much sense of them.” — *Judith Moore* **NOV. 22, 1989**

The Farm Goes on Forever

Her biceps are the size of a man’s; she is incredibly strong. I watch as she sticks, dresses out, and butchers a series of struggling, squealing behemoth hogs. A hog, I

learn, is a pig that weighs more than 120 pounds, and Grammy estimates that three hogs weigh half a ton. Both of them straining, she and one of the hired men will hoist a carcass onto an ancient tree limb reinforced with two-by-fours. — *Judith Moore* **JUN. 20, 1985**

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I ask Uncle Carl how it’s going.

with two-by-fours. — *Judith Moore* **JUNE 20, 1985**

There Are No Secrets

Under my bed, in a paper sack, I hide the pigtales. I pull out the sack, kneel on the stool by my dressing table mirror, and hold pigtales against my shorn head, clipped by Selma into a “poodle cut.” Blowing out candles on my twelfth birthday, I wish: “Let me go see Morrie.” I wish: “Let me be loved.” Sunday afternoon. Baking chicken aroma drifts through the living room, where on the

Steinway I play. — *Judith Moore* **OCT. 6, 1988**

Memories of Main Street

“Sometimes I would see kids my age, girls with makeup and clothes like girls I’d see on American Bandstand. I’d stare at and study them and when we got home they’d still be on my mind.” She laughed. “That was 20 years ago, and I can still remember what some of those girls were wearing, and how they lined their eyes like Elizabeth Taylor in Cleopatra and wore their hair teased out.” — *Judith Moore* **SEPT. 28, 1989**

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Mobile Homeless

Downtown to East Village, the story stays the same

Twenty-five-year-old Morgan Kean wanted to live downtown because “it’s where all the action is. I’m a young San Diegan, and there’s so much to do in the area.” When she made the decision to move to East Village near 14th and J, she was aware that the area had some issues with homelessness and crime. “I kind of had an understanding of what I was going to be living around,” says Kean.

“I would prefer these people get the help they need – treatment and housing. They’re struggling. And, it’s unfortunate they’re harming businesses in the area.”

“But the differences between this nook of downtown compared to others are pretty shocking.”

The freelance graphic designer says she feels compassion for the homeless people she sees around her building, but sometimes feels scared as well. “I’m a young gal with a dog,” Kean explains, “so I’m constantly walking him around.” At times, she feels vulnerable, but she doesn’t blame the homeless people; she blames the local government for neglecting this part of downtown. “It makes me sad that there

isn't as much attention and care given to this neighborhood compared to others. San Diego in general is beautiful, but this area still kind of sticks out as a sore thumb, when I don't think it has to be."

Kean says there's a general sense of chaos in the East Village — it's not clear who's in charge of doing what. "I see safety patrol officers and don't really know what their roles are. I've asked for help, and they're like, 'That's not in our jurisdiction.' Really?" Still, Kean is happy living downtown. She just wishes "there'd be a little more control of the situation, because other parts of the town have it."

Vlad Slavskii is an employee at Jai Jus, a juice and vegan eatery at 15th and Island. He expresses both frustration with and compassion for the

homeless. Sometimes they're harmless, he concedes, but he's also had merchandise stolen and seen psychiatric meltdowns, "which scare the customers." One woman took a dog bowl, which was set outside the store for the convenience of customers' dogs, and threw it against the door. "She was banging her head on the door like she was in crisis," he says. I ask him if the recently imposed anti-camping ordinance has helped alleviate the problem. "The ban didn't help," he says. "It just moved the people around the streets, from one side to the other."

So, what's the solution? Slavskii says, "I would prefer these people get the help they need — treatment and housing. They're struggling. And, it's unfortunate they're harming businesses in the area."



Michael Wright's been homeless for 30 years, almost half of his life, and would probably be categorized as chronically homeless.

Are things bad enough that Jai Jus might need to move to another location? Slavskii says no, but "it'd be nice not to have the problem."

Cervantes' cell

"I'm one of the few, a rare instance, where this cat is trying to get

his shit together. And you, *you*, made it hard for him."

The cat in question is David Cervantes, a 28-year-old homeless man standing in front of his tent on an East Village sidewalk. His tent is one of many, lined up side by side in a long

and unkempt row — an encampment. The "you" he's railing against is collective, more of an "it" really, an institution: one of the better-known downtown shelters. Cervantes was staying there, happy to be doing so. He'd have been happier to be housed, of course,

but at least the shelter gave him the stability he'd need to find a job. And then one day, he says, his cell phone was stolen — by the shelter's staff. "Not street people," he emphasizes — "from staff, from staff." He says that when he made a fuss about it, he was kicked out of the shelter and found himself back on the streets.

"I pushed an issue because I paid for that phone," he continues. "And now you want me gone?" Whatever you think of David Cervantes, this cat knows how to air a grievance. And he is still very much aggrieved, even though all this happened six months ago. "I've been...what's the word...rum—"

Ruminating?

"Yeah, ruminating. It's been eating away at me. Now I'm out here. You

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gonna put me outside because you stole something that belonged to me? And I have no right to say, 'Hey, give that shit back?'"

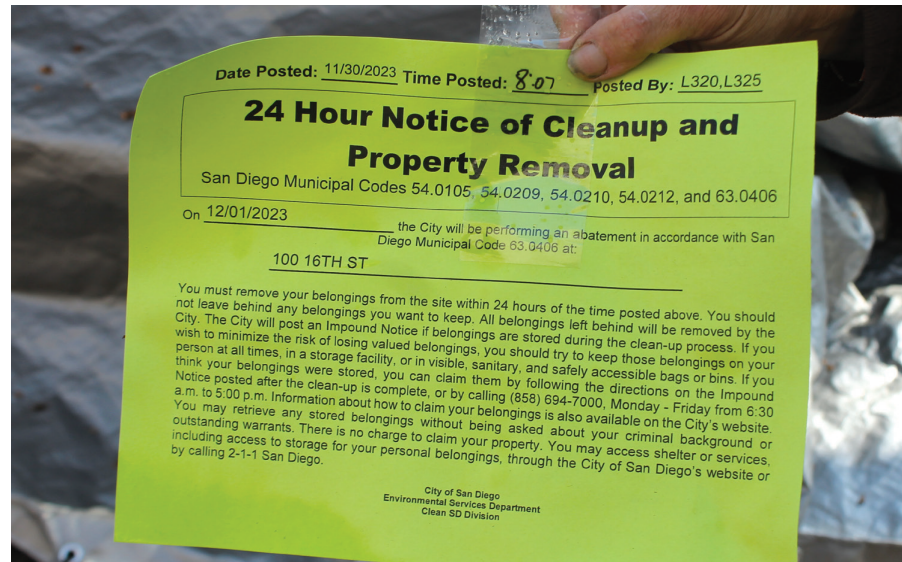
Cervantes says he came out to San Diego to care for his ailing mother. But when she got better, she took off with her boyfriend for Vegas, leaving her caretaker to fend for himself. "I know how to be independent, self-sufficient," he says, a trait he attributes to being from New York. "I could get a job real quick and hold it down. Real quick. Gonna be off the streets in a couple of months. Saving my money now." His can-do attitude in the face of adversity is impressive. Maybe he's putting me on, playing me. Maybe he's playing himself. Who knows?

Cervantes says he has been cited by the police for sleeping on the sidewalk. He was supposed to go to court but didn't see the point. "What are you gonna get out of me? Yeah, you gave me a ticket. How am I supposed to pay it? Yeah, like, what were your plans after you found out I can't pay the money?"

His sarcastic spiel con-

tinues. "Really, like, show your work. Show me a chalkboard or whiteboard. Expand on the idea, please. How am I supposed to pay that back? I'm homeless. How is that gonna work out for you?"

Cervantes says he had a job while he was living on the streets. "And I would come back from work and see certain things were missing. I don't like it when they touch my stuff." He's referring to an abatement or clean-up, which is conducted by the city's Department of Environmental Services. Teams of workers in yellow vests arrive at the encampments bright and early, often accompanied by San Diego Police Department officers for their safety. They usually start at 17th Street and work their way up and down the streets and alleyways, sorting through trash, personal items, papers, food, and other items. Last year, Environmental Services' crews removed more than 1000 tons of waste from homeless encampments. But homeless people and their advocates say that "waste" includes papers,



"When homeless people see the green notices, they know they have to move their belongings," says homeless advocate Michael McConnell.

furniture, bicycles, and other items they deem important, and which they will never see again. (The agency's website says that impounded items can be retrieved.)

"I found out after they tossed my stuff that they're not allowed to do that," says Cervantes. He says he was told by a judge that "it's not okay for them to take my property. It's not constitutional." A man in his early sixties, standing ten feet away but listening in, sings sarcastically: "Oh the Constitution, our beautiful Constitution..."

Does Cervantes have a

point? Yes and no. Courts have ruled that cities have the authority and duty to ensure public health, safety, and quality of life — for both the community overall and homeless people in particular. Still, there are constitutional limits on the city's power to conduct abatements. If not done properly, abating encampments could violate the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures, and/or the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which prevents the government from taking personal property or papers without due process.

To stay in accordance with the Fourteenth Amendment, the city — specifically, the Department of Environmental Services — must give those residing in encampments ample notice of imminent abatements. That's what the green notices are for.

"When homeless people see the green notices, they know they have to move their belongings," says Michael McConnell, a homeless advocate who has agreed to give me a walking tour of the downtown encampments. "What happens

during the abatements is, if they're not with their belongings — say they're in the hospital or something — then the city comes along and throws all their stuff away." According to the Environmental Services' website, the green notices must be posted on each individual tent in an encampment within 24 hours of an abatement — or three hours prior to an emergency, or expedited, clean-up.

The downtown business community and many residents believe the city and SDPD need to be more aggressive in both carrying out abatements and enforcing the law, while homeless advocates claim that seizing the property and papers of homeless people — and criminalizing their activities with citations, fines, and sometimes even arrest — makes it harder for them to get back on their feet again and find housing. As David Cervantes says, "They're not supposed to throw my stuff away, but they did. It sucks. It's like starting all over again."

The ordinance

Cervantes is one of 1370 homeless, or unhoused,

individuals currently living in downtown, according to the Downtown San Diego Partnership. (The county is estimated to harbor more than 10,000 homeless people.) The numbers are big enough that our fair city has become a testing ground for how policy makers should address the problem. In July, the city council passed Mayor Gloria's Unsafe Camping Ordinance, which bans camping on any city sidewalk if any shelter beds are available. It also bans camping in parks and canyons — and within two blocks of schools, homeless shelters, and transit hubs — regardless of shelter capacity. Enforcement began in August, with priority given to schools and parks. The county is now considering a similar ban. Advocate McConnell, who's been coming downtown for more than 10 years to observe and support homeless people, isn't convinced that things have changed much. "I guess around some parks and schools they might be using the new ordinance, but primarily they use what was already on the books."

What the SDPD had on the books, even before the new ordinance was passed, was plenty. According to a University of San Diego study, police have 11 municipal codes — also called "quality of life" violations — that they use to cite homeless people. They can ticket homeless people (or anyone else for that matter) for sleeping on the beach, in a park, or in their car. But by far the most common tool they have at their disposal is the encroachment ordinance, the bread and butter of

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anti-encampment enforcement, which prohibits sleeping on or blocking a public sidewalk. Between 2010 and 2021, encroachment citations made up 47% of all citations for homeless people. During that period, SDPD wrote 5861 citations and arrested 414 homeless people.

SDPD didn't need the Unsafe Camping Ordinance to clear out homeless encampments in East Village, insists McConnell. "The new encampment ban is just something that was for show, to make it look like they're doing something new. But they're really not. It's just the same thing they do over and over and over again," he says. "They call it different things. They do it a little bit differently. Sometimes it's more aggressive than others. But it's essentially the same thing over and over again."

Pro bono attorney and city council candidate Coleen Cusack says one of the big misconceptions surrounding the anti-camping ordinance is that it results in homeless people serving jail time. According to

one media report, since implementing the new ordinance, San Diego police officers have issued warnings to 148 people, given citations or tickets to eight people — and arrested only one person. "Homeless people are not going to jail," says Cusack. "They're just being chased by police. Very few are arrested." And even if they are arrested, "the prosecutor or judge ends up dismissing the case," sometimes at the urging of the City Attorney.

McConnell agrees: "It seems the City Attorney doesn't really have a lot of motivation, or maybe they don't have the bandwidth to prosecute all of these minor cases."

Mayor Gloria, for his part, has urged patience. The city began implementing the ordinance by prioritizing schools and parks. But now, more shelter beds are being reserved for the police, so they can offer that as an option to people sleeping in sidewalk tents, instead of citing or arresting them. This, some observers say, may indicate the city and SDPD are preparing to ramp up enforcement.

But again, McConnell is dubious. He points out a report by the Housing Commission, which runs the shelter system, indicating that four out of five people can't get into a shelter. "So the mayor can sit there and say there's always beds available. Yeah, because he's keeping beds available. But what good is it if most people can't get in?"

Shelter and shunting

San Diego has close to 2000 shelter beds in all. And while they're important, homeless advocates consider shelter beds a band-aid solution. The real solution — the only solution, they say — is getting homeless people into homes and apartments. One example: Rachel Hayes went from homeless to housed after living on the streets for ten years. The nonprofit Alpha Project helped her navigate the cumbersome paperwork and move in to an apartment in San Ysidro after an almost two-year wait. The first time she turned the key to open her door, tears ran down her face. "My place is coming along

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slowly but just needs a few more items of furniture to be completed," she says.

But these feel-good stories are overshadowed by the enormity of the problem. "You have more people becoming homeless than getting off the street," says McConnell. A report by San Diego's Regional Task Force on Homelessness shows that in October, 855 previously homeless people found housing, while 1159 people became homeless for the first time — including a significant number of seniors. "So it doesn't matter what they do. If they're not helping people get off the street, they're just spinning in the wind."

Now our walking tour has brought us to 17th Street. "It's always had people on it. It has more people on it than normal right now because the city has cleared out some of the neighboring streets, so people just come here," says McConnell. He tells me that there used to be maybe ten to 15 people on 17th Street. Now there's maybe 40 or 50 tents. The street is essen-



There used to be maybe 10 to 15 people on 17th Street. Now there's maybe 40 or 50 tents. The street is essentially one long encampment.

tially one long encampment. From here, I can see downtown's elegant high rises jutting into the blue sky, while right in front of me, I see homeless people going about their business. It's nothing new, but the juxtaposition is still jarring.

When we reach the Homelessness Response Center on 14th and Imperial Avenue, operated by the Housing Commis-

sion and its partners, we see a long line of people congregating around the building. They come with the slim hope of getting shelter and services. "They come even before it opens," McConnell explains, "but there's not much available. A few people might get something. But as you can see, there's lots of people begging for help."

From there, we make

our way to the homeless frontier. "Now I'm going to show you where people have moved to when they get pushed out of downtown," McConnell tells me. He takes me to 19th Street and Imperial, on the east side of highway 5. Technically, we're out of downtown. Technically, we're in a residential neighborhood. But across the street from the modest, well-kept homes, an encampment overlooks the freeway. The police have succeeded in pushing some of the homeless people here out

of downtown, explains McConnell. "This gets their downtown count-number down, so they can point to some kind of success."

The plight of R.J.

This is where I meet R.J. Only 18, R.J. is forlorn, like a lost puppy you want to take home — but in a flash, he can turn into a furious bulldog. I'm not going to say he's mentally ill, because that's above my pay grade. Let's just say this boy from Alabama has some anger issues. He may have good reason

to feel angry. R.J. tells me, "I've been on the streets most of my life, ever since I came out to San Diego." He arrived in 2018. The idea was to be with his dad, who was stationed here. Apparently, that didn't work out too well. "I've been on the streets the entire time I've been here." He tends to sleep in a different spot every night and has no family to speak of, except for his fellow street people. "They are my family," he says. When I ask him what his plan is, he responds, "Honestly, me personally, I'm trying to get the hell out of San Diego."

R.J. is angry at the cops. "Yeah, there's been citations, and all that is just bullshit. All they ever do is hassle and harass me, just being dicks like they always are." He's fallen through the cracks, as they say. The system's let him down. I suspect he has made some bad decisions as well. Like the time, just a few months ago, when he was busted by the cops for being in possession of a knife. "I had a knife. Even though it's out so everybody can see it, and it's concealed in a sheath, you fuckin' idiots!"

He's under no illusion that the police — or anyone else, for that matter — are here to help him. "They don't..." R.J. repeats it for emphasis,

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM BEHAR

Advocate Michael McConnell, who's been coming downtown for more than 10 years to observe and support homeless people, isn't convinced that things have changed much.

drawing out the "o," the hint of a Southern accent revealing itself as he gets angrier and angrier: "They don't, they *don't*, they *don't* care about us. They don't give a fuck about us. I'm just another paycheck for them." I'm tempted to think to myself that his toxic negativity and "cops don't care about us/it's just a job" refrain must be over the top. Except his words exactly mirror McConnell's.

When I ask R.J. if he would want a subsidized apartment and a job, he turns gentle, even vul-

nerable. "I mean, absolutely. Yeah. I mean, yeah, I'm just speaking for myself, but I'm sure everybody here on this block, on any block, would straight up fuckin' just love that: somewhere to call home, someone to be there, to love you." Then he catches himself. "But the world's nothing but bullshit. Just gonna get worse each and every day." R.J. is only 18, and already, he's dejected and rejected, derailed and standing on the sidelines of his own life. If someone doesn't help him, it's hard to see how he gets out of this.

Help and hope

Hector Cruz was born south of the border, in Tijuana, but raised in San Diego. I find him in front of a transitional storage center on 16th Street, a facility operated by Think Dignity. It's a place where homeless people can store their belongings when they go to a doctor's appointment or on a job interview. Cruz tells me in broken English that he is fortunate to have a big family — seven girls and a boy, 21 — with whom he lives. He says that were

it not for his family, he too would be homeless. Cruz works two or three days a week painting, but today is his day off and he's on his way to "talk to the people about God," which he does when he's not working. "I come here to be with the people," he says.

What strikes me about Cruz is his humility and the pride he takes both in doing his job and helping others. He says he receives no assistance from the government. "My daughters say that is not right. They don't like help from the government. They tell me I need to make my own money." Just two months ago, Cruz tried living on the streets, in a small tent, so he could be there "to help the people." He says it's a very hard life. But he says he didn't have problems with the police. "I'm down here every day, and they do their job. Sometimes they stop me to know what I'm doing. Yeah, that's right, that's okay, I like that."

Today, Cruz is accompanied by his friend, Luis Castaneda, 53, who is homeless. "It's a hard, hard life," Castaneda says



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with weary resignation. By 2030, according to the AARP, nearly one million older adults will call San Diego home. We tend to think of the aging baby boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, as the wealthiest generation ever. And that's still true — surely there are plenty of them in the surrounding high-rises, plenty of them filing encampment complaints with SDPD, which receives hundreds of reports daily via the city's Get It Done app.

But the boomer generation has another face, one that's considerably less wealthy and, increasingly, homeless. According to Paul Downey, CEO of Serving Seniors, 30 percent of the city's homeless population is over age 55. San Diego's Regional Task Force on Homelessness reports that roughly half of San Diego's homeless seniors are experiencing homelessness for the first time, and more than half have a physical disability.

I find Michael Wright on 10th Avenue, his 69-year-old body stretched out over a piece of carpet in front of a store. Unlike most of the people I've seen today, he is by himself and not part of a larger encampment. I am immediately struck by his gentle demeanor and openness. "I sleep under the freeway right up the street from here," he says. Wright was born in Washington D.C. "My father was in the Air Force, and we traveled all around the world. I lived in Turkey, Germany, England, and Greece." The family eventually moved to San Diego and he was raised in Clairemont, where he attended Madison High School, graduating in 1973.

Being a drummer has always been an important part of his identity. "All my years in school, I was part of the school band," he says, and he later played locally in different bands. He was friends with Steve Percy, the founder of the heavy metal band Ratt, who attended Clairemont High School. "Before Ratt, the band was known as Mickey Ratt," he notes.

He's been homeless for 30 years, almost half of his life, and would probably be categorized as chronically homeless. But maybe not. "I actually had my own place for almost three years," Wright tells me. "Paid rent and my utilities, no problem." But he was evicted by his landlord because he always reeked of marijuana, though he says he made it a point to never smoke in his apartment. "But I smelled like I did," he concedes. The landlord gave him his 60-day notice on his birthday and, once again, he was homeless. That was just three years ago. Wright still enjoys weed, but recently, he has discovered edibles. He has no mental health needs and has \$1000 in the bank, a source of obvious pride.

Wright, who has siblings but no children, says he is grateful for the many homeless service agencies in downtown, especially for seniors, including the Senior Center on 4th and B and Father Joe's. "The worst part about living on the streets," he says, "is that people lie and steal from you." Most recently, his geode was taken. "We think we know who did it, but can't prove it." He's more worried about people who rob him than the police, though he did

receive a ticket for sleeping by the freeway.

I ask him about his social life. "The first time I ever came downtown, many, many, many, many years ago, I was at the Neil Good Day Center," he says of the homeless services center on 17th Street, "and I saw a guy with a guitar case. I started talking to him because I identified with someone who was musical. We've been friends ever since." Although Wright no longer has his own drum kit, he says most of the churches do. One time, he was at a downtown church, sitting behind a drum set, "when all of a sudden people flocked in to the church. They gave me money as a tithe and I had to accept it. I didn't understand that. I just wanted to play music."

So, where do we go from here?

"Things are only going to get worse," predicts homeless advocate McConnell. "Greed is nothing new. Everybody wants their property to go up. Everybody wants to build these three-to-five-thousand-a-month apartments, and nobody gives a shit about the people dying out here on the street," he says. Last year, around 600 homeless people died in San Diego County. "So why are we surprised that we get what we get? People sask, 'Why do we have so much homelessness?' Well, the system is designed to get all this homelessness. And so, unless there's a radical redesign of how the system operates and what we invest in, this isn't going away. It's going to continue to get worse, unless we start caring for our people."

— Adam Behar

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Friday | 15

NORTH POLE LIMITED

After you pick up your tickets from the agent at the restored passenger waiting room and board the train, the crew of elves will sing holiday songs and tell stories while serving hot chocolate and fresh cookies. The North Pole Limited winds its way through the backcountry on its way to the



North Pole, where it stops at Santa's Workshop to pick up Santa and Mrs. Claus. The journey lasts for approximately 90 minutes, and Santa and Mrs. Claus visit all passengers on the train on the way back to the Campo Depot.

WHEN: Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16, 7 pm

WHERE: Campo Railroad Park & Museum, 750 Depot Street, Campo. psrm.org

Saturday | 16

SANTACON BAR CRAWL

Visit the starting location and show your ticket to receive a wristband for entry into all the bars on your crawl around the Gaslamp. Enjoy drink specials, food specials, and DJs. Tag @PUBCRAWLERS for a chance to win the costume contests. Prizes will be awarded for originality, group costumes, ugliest sweaters, and best Santa outfits.

WHEN: Saturday, December 16, noon to 8 pm

WHERE: Gaslamp Quarter. Fifth Avenue, between Broadway and Harbor Drive, Downtown. pubcrawls.com/city/san-diego-ca

HOLIDAY HAYRIDE FARM TOUR ADVENTURES

Snag this activity package that includes a holiday hayride with caroling. Stop by the farm animal area to visit with bunnies, goats, guinea fowl, pot-bellied pigs, and a rooster. Take



part in the interactive reptile show with Ball pythons, crested geckos, leopard geckos, fat tail geckos, tegus, rosy boas, chameleons, desert tortoises, and sul-

cata tortoises. Afterwards, guests can enjoy archery, tomahawk throwing, and 20 paint balls to shoot at the Ghost Town Slingshot Range.

WHEN: Saturday and Sundays 1 pm to 3 pm. Through Sunday, December 17.

WHERE: Fort Cross Old Timey Adventures. 4425 Highway 78, Julian. fortcross.com/farmtouradventure



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16: SANTACON BAR CRAWL

Sunday | 17

KIM WILSON'S BLUES REVIEW

Fabulous Thunderbirds frontman

and harmonica player Kim Wilson gathers a lineup of Chicago and West Coast musicians to play old-school blues covers. They offer both historical recreations of post-World War II blues and jazzy improvisations.

WHEN: Sunday, December 17, 5 pm

WHERE: Winstons Beach Club, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. winstonsob.com



KIM WILSON'S BLUES REVIEW

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Clairemont Lutheran Church

Contact: 4271 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, 858-273-7423 www.clairemontlc.org

Membership: 130 in person/40 online

Pastor: Cyndi Jones

Age: 72

Born: Terra Haute, IN

Formation: University of California-San Diego; Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA; Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Years Ordained: 4.5

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

Pastor Cyndi Jones: Usually, I read the Scriptures and think about it. Then I look at what other people think about it and decide whether what I'm thinking is too far outside

of the box. What I normally try to do with my sermons is have people experience God. I also want my sermons to be grounded. For example, we all know our Lord's words, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are heavy-laden, and I will refresh you" (Matthew 11: 28). Knowing Jesus said that in the summer, when Jerusalem has 14 hours of daylight, and people worked from sunrise to sunset for those summer months, you realize that people were very weary. Knowing that, doesn't that change your understanding of that passage? It turns out, San Diego is about at the same latitude [32.715736] as Jerusalem [31.771959], so we have about

the same amount of daylight as Jerusalem does. We enjoy the sun and the beach, but if you were working sun-up to sun-down, you would have a different experience... The gospels record what happened 2000 years ago — what does that have to do with me today? But there are some things that don't change much, and that makes everything more tangible. I usually take at least ten hours preparing my sermons, sometimes more. **SDR:** What is your favorite subject on which to preach? **PJ:** The crux of the whole gospel is seeing God in everyone, including, sometimes, the least of these. We walk past people on the street and ignore those in need.

I have to say, it doesn't bode well for our spiritual future if we don't recognize this... Everyone can visit someone in prison, or someone who is sick. It doesn't mean we're going to set that person free or cure that person, but we can be with that person — we can accompany people on the road.

SDR: Why did you become a minister?

PJ: I was called when I was six years old — and I knew that, even though I had polio. I have a disability; I use a scooter to get around... But I was late in being ordained, because the church doesn't deal with disability very well. But God loves people with disabilities, so I want the church to be open to people with



Cyndi Jones

disabilities... I've written a lot about theology and disability. I have this vision that sometimes we may be delaying the coming of the kingdom because we have not prepared so that all can see the glory of God.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PJ: We say, "It's God's work, our hands." One Sunday every

year, for example, we work in the community. One year, we cleaned up someone's yard and rebuilt a fence. We also participate in food distribution every Friday — a long-standing sandwich ministry for places downtown. We served 250,000 sandwiches over the course of 30 years.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PJ: We'll be welcomed into God's life. Heaven and hell are the same thing; if you like serving God, you're going to think it's heaven, and if you don't, you're going to think it's hell. But in the end, God loves everybody — it's all good news.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

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

ART

Fourth Anniversary Party Hopnonymous will host an artist's market at its fourth anniversary party, which will also feature special beer releases, music, food trucks, and special guests. Saturday, December 16, 7pm; 21 and up. Hopnonymous Brewing, 7705 Convoy Court. (KEARNY MESA)

San Diego Bead & Design Holiday Market Find artisan exhibits with everything from handcrafts, art wear, jewelry, and decor, to gems, craft supplies, vintage finds, and antiques. Friday, December 15, 10am; Saturday, December 16,

10am; Sunday, December 17, 10am; \$8-\$10. Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive. (HARBOR ISLAND)

AUTOMOTIVE

Cars & Coffee Discounted admission price or partake in the completely free event outside with coffee and donuts (while supplies last) for guests to enjoy while browsing the wide array of vehicles. The public is also invited to bring their own cars to display in the parking lot. Sunday, December 17, 7:30am; free. San Diego Automotive Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

BEER

Ales 'N' Rails: Beer Tasting Holiday Fundraiser Enjoy local brews and food, live music, raffle drawings, and an Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest at SDMRM's annual beer-tasting fundraiser.

This year, the museum seeks to raise \$10,000 to support the preservation of the museum. Saturday, December 16, 6pm; \$40-\$45. 21 and up. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

An Irish Christmas An Irish Christmas is a celebration of family and community that showcases some of the great Irish holiday traditions and features award-winning dancers from Riverdance, Lord of the Dance and Celtic Wings. Saturday, December 16, 7:30pm; \$28-\$75. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Christmas at the Casa Enjoy the festively decorated cultural center, take in the dazzling lights that decorate the historic property and enjoy a night out under the stars. Crafts for kids will be available, and complete the night out

with a delicious s'more. Friday-Wednesday, December 15-20, 5pm; \$5-\$10. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

Chunky Yarn Christmas Create some cute Chunky Yarn Christmas decor. Time will allow 1 snowman, 1 Wreath OR 1 set of trees (2-3 depending on size.) Tickets include a beer of your choice. A food vendor will also be onsite for purchase. Thursday, December 14, 6:30pm; \$45. GOAL Brewing, 3052 El Cajon Boulevard Suite 101. (NORTH PARK)

Floral Centerpiece Workshop Create a stunning centerpiece to adorn your home. Discover the art of floral design and connect with the festive spirit and joy of the season. Fee includes materials and guidance for creating a centerpiece. Tuesday, December 19, 6pm; \$135. Ana Galena Floral Studio, 2770 Historic Decatur Road Ste 210. (LIBERTY STATION)

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

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. Monday, December 18, 10am; Wednesday, December 20, 10am; \$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 with the purchase of each apple. Also enjoy Ornament Decorating, Santa Plate Decorating, Build A Snowman, and more. Saturdays, 12pm; through Saturday, December 23, free. Seabird, 101 Ocean Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

Macrame Christmas Tree Garland Workshop Learn the art of macrame with a Christmas twist. No previous experience required, beginners to experts welcome. Wednesday, December 20, 6:30pm; \$45. Mike Hess Brewing Ocean Beach, 4893 Voltaire Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

Selfies at Santa's Workshop Santa will be hanging up his wet-suit, 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)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Hand Rolled Sushi Class Learn how to create your own fresh sushi rolls. Saturday, December 16, 1pm; \$59. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

Make Your Own Ravioli Learn the secret of creating Ravioli from scratch. Sunday, December 17, 5pm; \$59. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

COMEDY

Anthony Jeselnik Anthony Jeselnik is a stand-up comedian from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He can currently be seen on his podcast, THE JESELNICK AND ROSENTHAL VANITY PROJECT, alongside co-host Gregg Rosenthal. He also appeared on multiple roasts on Comedy Central. Thursday, December 14, 7pm and 9pm; Friday, December 15, 7pm and 9pm; \$35-\$295. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Johnny Mitchell Seen and heard on *Flagrant* with Andrew Schulz and *Your Mom's House* with Tom Segura and Christina Pazsitzky. Thursday, December 14, 8pm; \$10. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Moshe Kasher Seen on Netflix's *The Honeymoon Stand-Up Special*. Friday, December 15, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 16, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Memoir Showcase The International Memoir Writers Association proudly presents the 9th Annual Memoir Showcase of brazen, short, compelling true stories based on the theme, "Funny, Not Funny." Thursday, December 14, 7pm; \$35-\$50. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

DANCE

Blossom & Bloom December Showcase Celebrate the end of a season's hard work with dance, music, & art from the students

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LITTLE ITALY MERCATO

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WEDNESDAYS 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

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Flowers • Yogurt • Baked Goods and more!
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sandiegomarkets.com

of Blossom & Bloom. Saturday, December 16, 10:30am; \$5-\$10. Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio Street. (NORTH PARK)

Derek Hough: Symphony Of Dance For the first time in four years, Derek Hough brings an all-new Symphony Of Dance with music, dance, and nonstop entertainment. Wednesday, December 20, 7:30pm; \$22-\$95. Rady Shell at Jacobs Park, 222 Marina Park Way. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

HIMSS AI in Healthcare Forum AI and machine learning in healthcare is here to stay, and the trend is accelerating quickly – yet many health systems aren't prepared for their transformative potential. The HIMSS AI in Healthcare Forum cuts through the hype and examines whether, how, and in what context AI should be leveraged for optimum ROI. Thursday, December 14, 7:30am; Friday, December 15, 8am; Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, 10950 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

FOOD & DRINK

Brunch Buffet with Santa All-you-can-eat Brunch Buffet with Santa. Santa will appear from 11:00am – 1:30pm. Price includes photo opportunities with Santa. Sunday, December 17, 10am; \$18-\$32. Giaola Italian Kitchen, 2668 Gateway Rd., Suite 180. (CARLSBAD)

Chef Richard Blais Hosts Tea Time Join Fox's Next Level Chef co-star and Bravo's Top Chef All-Stars winner Richard Blais for teas and treats. Sunday, December 17, 3pm; \$75. California English, 9276 Scranton Road. (MIRA MESA)

Gospel Brunch Join us for House of Blues' new Gospel Brunch experience which includes local talent performing both traditional and contemporary Gospel songs. Before and during the show treat yourself to an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring breakfast favorites plus tender carving stations, southern specialties and mouth-watering desserts. Sunday, December 17, 12pm; \$65. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Tipsy & Toasty Holiday Lunches Not normally open during lunch, the restaurant will be serving up favorites, alongside new dishes from Chef Brad Wise. Thursdays, 11am; Fridays, 11am; Saturdays, 11am; through Thursday, December 21, Fort Oak Restaurant, 1011 Fort Stockton Drive. (MISSION HILLS)

FOR KIDS

A Charlie Brown Christmas Adapted from Charles M. Schultz's timeless story, join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy and the whole

OUTDOORS

Aloes are showing off already, Extreme tides, Geminid shower

Tree Aloes, The Familiar Succulent Plants with the red-hot-poker-like flower clusters, are at their blooming best in January, but are showing off already around town. Large clumps of aloes can be seen at La Jolla Cove, at Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and scattered along the embankments overlooking Highway 163 in Balboa Park.

Exceptionally High And Low Tides are set to occur on several days in mid-December. On Tuesday, December 12, a peak high tide of +6.96 feet occurs at 8:01 am. Wednesday's high tide of +7.12 peaks at 8:39 am. Thursday's high tide of +7.09 feet peaks at 9:19 am. If a



A WINTER LOW TIDE IN OCEAN BEACH



THE RED ALOES IN LA JOLLA

strong winter storm happens to arrive from the west during these peak tides, some flooding of low-lying coastal areas around San Diego is likely. Several exceptionally low tides will also occur within the same string of mid-December dates. On Tuesday, December 12, the tide falls to -1.21 feet at 3:20 pm. On Wednesday, the tide drops to -1.35 feet at 4:02 pm. On Thursday, an equally low tide level of -1.35 feet occurs at 4:46 pm (very near the time of sunset). Any of these low tide occasions are perfect for exploring marine life in the tidepool areas along San Diego County's coastline.

The Geminid Meteor Shower is the most active shower of the year, and it will peak from the night of December 13 into the morning of December 14. The show should start as early as 9 pm, and peak around 2 am. Expect to see an average of 50 meteors per hour and up to 75 at the peak. Also, with the New Moon on December 12th, the Moon will be a young waxing crescent on the night of the 13th, so it will be a dark (and therefore optimal) night for viewing.

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)

Kids Winter Break: Art Experience Camp Kids 4-6, and 7-15 will enjoy Musical Theatre, Mad Science, Anime, Magic, Media & Film, Photography and more camps for kids ages 7 to 15, plus Minnow camps for 4-6 year olds. Camps will include a schedule daily classes in Performing, Visual, and Media Arts camps with a little Science, Monday, December 18, 9am; \$75-\$395. Encore Event Center, 8253 Ronson Road. (KEARNY MESA)

Ms. Smarty-Plants Book Launch Ms. Smarty-Plants is launching a book series about her Earth Heroes with an emphasis on water conservation and earth stewardship. Thursday, December 14, 10:30am; free. Imperial Beach Library, 810 Imperial Beach Blvd. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

LECTURES

Dr. Matthew Desmond: Poverty, by America In his latest book, Dr. Matthew Desmond, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur "Genius," puts forth

a guide to eradicating American poverty. Thursday, December 14, 6:30pm; free. UC San Diego Park & Market, 1100 Market Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

The Skeletons of La Consentida, Oaxaca MX The San Diego Archaeological Center presents a lecture with bioarchaeologist José "Pepe" Aguilar. Twelve burials, comprising 14 individuals, were excavated from an Early Formative Period (1950–1525 BC) site called La Consentida in Oaxaca, Mexico in 2009 and 2012. Collectively, they represent the earliest formal cemetery in the Mesoamerican west coast. Advance registration required @ sandiegoarchaeology.org/la-consentida/. Saturday, December 16, 11am; San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

NATURE

Family Discovery Walk: Wildlife Habitats Join MTRP Trail Guides for a family-oriented adventure learning how the habitats in Mission Trails support a diversity of wildlife and discover how water influences them. Meet in the Kumeyaay Lake Camp ground day-use parking lot. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, and bring along water. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, December 16,

1pm; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Guided Bird Walk Join MTRP birders Millie Basden and Cindy Cornelius for a guided bird walk along the scenic shore of Lake Murray. Bring binoculars if you have them. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, and bring along water. Walks are canceled if raining. Meet on the north side of the lake. After entering at Murray Park Dr. and Belle Glade Ave. proceed along the driveway past a set of ballfields on your right and turn into the paved parking lot on your right. Friday & Saturday, December 15 & 16, 8am; free. Lake Murray Community Park, 7001 Murray Park Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

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. Walks start from the Visitor Center, are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. The trails used are easy, but have uneven surfaces and some involve steps, so be sure to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if

raining. Sunday, December 17 & Wednesday, December 20, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Nature Walk Join an MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the history & ecology of the lake and enjoy the many birds that make this habitat home. Great clumps of mistletoe are visible in the trees. Migrating birds are plentiful. Walks start from the Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry Station. Walks are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, December 16, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Stars at West Sycamore Join members from the San Diego Astronomy Association at the West Sycamore Staging Area to view the nighttime sky through telescopes. A three-day old crescent Moon sets at 7:39 pm. We have a dark night at a good site. Rain or cloudy skies cancel event. Park on the paved street and walk past the gate into the park where telescopes are set up. Sunset 4:45. Friday, December 15, 4:45pm; free. West Sycamore – Mission Trails Regional Park, 17160 Stonebridge Parkway. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

SPECIAL EVENTS

San Diego Fixit Clinic Fix your items for free. Learn how to repair your broken items with volunteer Fixit Coaches. Learn how to fix broken appliances and gadgets, repair road and mountain bikes, mend your favorite outfit. Saturday, December 16, 10am; free. Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F Street. (CHULA VISTA)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Cage Warriors 165 Beamed live into 180+ million homes and online via UFC Fight Pass. Over 100 UFC athletes have graduated from Cage Warriors including Conor McGregor, Michael Bisping, Paddy 'The Baddy' Pimblett, and Dan Hardy. Friday, December 15, 5pm; \$95-\$250. 21 and up. Sycuan Casino, 5469 Casino Way. (EL CAJON)

San Diego Gulls Home Game The San Diego Gulls will host 14 different Western Conference opponents at Pechanga Arena as part of their 2023-24 schedule. Saturday, December 16, 6pm; Wednesday, December 20, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

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.

1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas

Dorothy Black invites you to join her and her family for Christmas Eve at 1222 Oceanfront. The festive evening features all of the Black family's traditions including an abundance of delicious food, dancing, skits, and the singing of new, original holiday songs mixed with re-imagined carols. Written by Dea Hurston. Original Music by Milena (Sellers) Phillips. Created by Dea Hurston, Milena (Sellers) Phillips, Frankie Alicea, and Kevin "Blax" Burroughs. Directed by Kandace Crystal. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 2PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM WEDNESDAYS.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent by the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life-un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion. At least the losers get a juice box. SDSCPA Ole Kittleson Little Theatre SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMANCE ARTS, 2425 DUSK DR., PARADISE HILLS. 619-470-0555. 7PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY.

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Adapted from Charles M. Schultz's timeless story, join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy and the whole Peanuts gang as they sing, dance, and learn the true meaning of the season. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-

5092. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Christmas Thriller: Passage Into Fear

This Christmas, take a mysterious train journey across Europe from Venice, Italy to Zurich, Switzerland during the waning days of World War I (1916). Based on historical events, an English dowager, Mrs. Lillian Merriweather, boards the train insisting she knows of a sinister plot with vast international repercussions. And is then promptly done in. An American socialite, Kate Hedley, on a final fling before returning home to be unhappily married and Ida, a pugnacious 9-year-old Ukrainian war orphan, join forces with others to uncover the truth behind Mrs. Merriweather's disappearance, which has its roots in the causes and history of the Great War itself. CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. 7PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, DEC. 17, 7PM WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20.

Disney's Freaky Friday

Based on the 1972 novel by Mary Rodgers and the Disney films, enjoy a contemporary twist with a new book by Bridget Carpenter, complemented by pop/rock music by Tom Kitt and lyrics by Brian Yorkey The story follows an overworked mother and her teenage daughter, who find themselves magically swapping lives for 24 chaotic hours. As they walk in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie gain a newfound appreciation for one another's struggles, learn the value of self-acceptance, and discover the immeasurable love that binds a mother and daughter. STAGEHOUSE THEATRE, 8800 GROSSMONT COLLEGE DR., EL CAJON. 619-644-7234. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY.

Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show

Enjoy a fast, funny, and highly theatrical reimagining of one of the most beloved holiday stories ever told. All the traditional elements of Dickens's A Christmas Carol are intact, including the iconic ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and Future, but with a comic local twist. 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 "wintery" San Diego. OLD GLOBE - SHERYL & HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA



The Glass Menagerie: A portrait of the artist as a selfish dreamer.

PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Every Day Vanilla

The year is 2006. Seventeen-year-old Filipina American writer Frankie Robles dreams of escaping San Diego for somewhere less "vanilla." Over the course of 10 years, she begins to reexamine her relationship with her hometown through the eyes of her family, friends, and lovers. The debut play by San Diego-based writer-actor Lani Gobaleza, directed by Earl Paus, contains some mild language, LGT-BQIA+ stories, and intergenerational conflict. Note: This production is presented separately from Moxie Theatre's programming. MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 7PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, DEC. 17, 7PM MONDAY, DEC. 18.

The Giving Season

Hear stories read aloud by professional actors that highlight the many means and ways we come together during the darkest months of the year to find comfort and light in one another. Produced by Write Out Loud. OLD TOWN THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7PM MONDAY, DEC. 18.

The Glass Menagerie

Man, when this first opened, it must have hit like a thunderclap. Tennessee

Williams, our reigning kind of hothouse family drama, just sending himself up onstage as the narrator of a memory play and opening wide the spigot of self-loathing over...well, there's a reason he wrote family dramas about people trapped in desperate circumstances and their even more desperate efforts to escape them. But that was a long time ago. Nowadays, when we run into a young man who doesn't like his job and would rather spend all his time staring at a screen and dreaming of adventures he doesn't get to have, we're less likely to be moved to pity for the eternally frustrated artist. Get in line, pal. Did I say self-loathing? Yes, but there's a healthy dollop of self-pity there, too, one that drags the spotlight off the story's alleged victim and back onto its author — even as he absents himself from great swaths of the second act. Perhaps as a result, it's Mom who commands the stage, our attention, and even our sympathies here, thanks in no small part to a command performance from Shana Wride — and this despite her tendency to let her ravenous regret and overwhelming fear drive her to awful efforts at control and coercion when it comes to her sorry son and disabled daughter. Oh, for a gentleman caller! The caller, when he comes, is played with huge decency and tenderness by Kirk Brown; it's not his fault that he is, as Williams tells us a the outset, a symbol and not a character. And symbols...well, what can they do but signify? Diversionary's production plays it straight, and lets faded hopes and bygone eras do their sad work on the heart.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, DEC. 17, 7PM MONDAY, DEC. 18.

Plaid Tidings

The Legendary Plaids come back to Earth to spread yuletide joy with the greatest holiday hits of the ages. Filled with Christmas standards that have all been "Plaid-erized," our boys are back to do their Christmas Special. At first, Francis, Jinx, Smudge and Sparky aren't sure why they've returned to Earth for another posthumous performance, but a phone call from the heavenly Rosemary Clooney lets them know that they're needed to put a little harmony into a discordant world. Rated: PG-13 SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE, 4652 MERCURY ST., CLAIREMONT. 858-560-

5740. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

Wally & His Lover Boys

Compulsion Dance & Theatre presents *Wally & His Lover Boys*, written and directed by Michael Mizerany. After two divorces, Walter "swoipes 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, 1PM SUNDAY, DEC. 17.

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 *voila* — 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

SCREENING

DECEMBER 8 - 21, 2023

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Ancient sandwiches

“People have been eating these all around Venezuela since way before they were colonized.”

I'm looking at this dinner table, all laid out and ready for ten guests: there's even food in the dishes. Tamales, bread, pozole, *buñuelos*, other things wrapped in corn husks, olives, *nopales*, *frijoles*, sweet corn, masa. This is Casa de Machado on a side street in Old Town. The house has been here since 1828. The lady I come across, museum director Amy Lew, lays out meals according to the season and year. So this is festive food, circa 1850. Cool, very cool.

Only problem? All the pretend food is making me remember I haven't broken fast yet today. Suffering from serious HGS (Hollow Gut Syndrome). Lessee, what's around? I hoof my way out the back entrance of Old Town onto Congress Street, because I remember a place I wanted to come back to: Congress Cafe, think it was called. Ah. It's here. Except now it has new signage: “Encuentro Cafe.” The sign adds: “We have a new name. Same owners, same menu, same flavors.” And one other sign that serves as proof in the pudding: “Venezuelan Kitchen.”

Huh. Venezuela. I always remember: in 1499, Amerigo Vespucci — the Italian navigator who gave his name to the whole dang continent — saw houses on stilts at Lake Caraibo, found they reminded him of home, and so hey, decided to call the country “Venezuela” — “Little Venice.”

Zoni the waitress sits me down at one of the nine patio tables and brings me water and a menu. She doesn't seem surprised at my opening question: “What is Venezuelan food?”

“Venezuelan cuisine is this mix of European and pre-Colombian food from whatever grows naturally here,” she says. “So we have a lot of corn, plantains, yams, beans and rice, to begin with. We don't make our food burning-hot-spicy like Mexican food. We just add heat to some sauces because San Diego customers want it.”

I notice she spends a lot of time with customers, offering similar explanations of the cuisine. The first dish to learn about, she says, is *arepas*, “white corn sandwiches” made

of ground maize dough that look like white, hinged burger buns stuffed with whatever you'd put in a sandwich. Except, of course, it has nothing to do with Britain's Earl of Sandwich. “People have been eating these all around Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, since way before they were colonized,” she says. Turns out the *arepa* is one of the foods to survive the great

Spanish invasion pretty much intact. Because they have been eating a version of them down south for maybe, oh, 3000 years? (It was the southern Mexicans who first adapted maize for food, 10,000 years ago.) This hinged

sandwich — often holding grated cheese, fried plantain, black beans, maybe shredded beef, or a thousand other possible fillers — is kind of what the Taino and other local peoples ate every day.

And of course, there are similar preparations in other nearby cultures. In El Salvador, *pupusas*; in Mexico, *gorditas*; in Panama, *changas*. Question: in North America, is it burgers? Whatever, things are busy in here. And a good sign: two tables have Venezuelans seated at them, munching away.

But I have to make up my mind, because it is so crowded. Zoni comes and brings coffee steaming in a beautiful Mexican mug (\$3.50, refillable and good), but we have to keep moving.

First section of the menu is, unsurprisingly, the *arepas*.

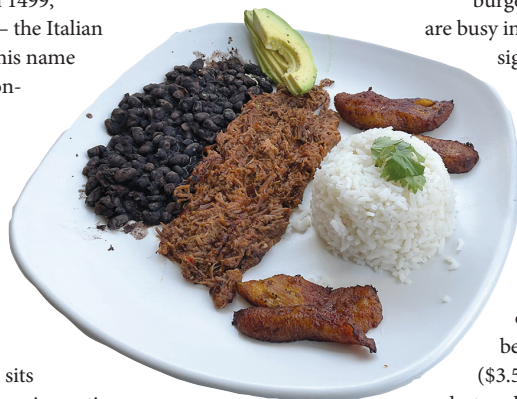
Really, *arepas* look like the anchor for the whole menu. Other dishes seem like variations on the theme. A major alternative is *cachapas* — pancakes. Or maybe more accurately, crumpets. Like *arepas*, they're basically round, flat cornmeal patties that can be grilled, baked, or fried. Unlike *arepas*, they're not split open.

Interesting thing here is they call *cachapas* “sweet corn pancakes married to cheese.” Cheese looks important to the Venezuelan diet. There's also *tequeñas* (cheese sticks in pastry crusts), and empanadas (the little pies Argentina made famous). They call the main *cachapa* “El Vainero,” which I'm guessing translates to

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Sweet-savory paradise - fried plantains, black beans, beef and cheese make potent mix



Beans, beef, and plantains in another configuration



For 200 years, San Diegans have been gathering in the Machado's dining room in Old Town.

something like “loaded,” or “the everything.” They jam in *mano* cheese (a light, soft cheese, as in *hecho a mano*), shredded beef or fish, black beans, and fried plantains. Actually, kinda the same-sounding as *arepas*. And not the cheapest. *Arepas* and *cachapas* go for around \$13-18 each.

Because Alejandra says it's one of the most popular, I go for the *arepa pabellon* — “pavilion” or “tent” or “bell,” maybe because the white corn bun shelters piles of black beans, golden fried plantains, white cheese, and shredded beef. This one *arepa* costs \$18. It comes in a white paper bag in a little square iron pan sitting on a wooden “plate.” Very elegant. You get three sauces. One red and two green. One hot, two not. The green ones taste of cilantro. You eat the whole thing like a burger. It doesn't look like much for nigh on twenty bucks, but it is surprisingly filling. I love the combo of the sweet fried plantains and the rich (if a little tough) meat. All

in all, nice and messy, and a beautiful combo with the coffee.

Tastewise, the food is kind of unchallenging, easy to get on with. This cafe is that, too: clean, easy, green, tasteful in a South American way. Makes you think about Venezuela as a green and pleasant land. Hard to believe they're just about at war with their neighbors Guyana over oil. Next time, I'll try those *cachapas*, or the Venezuelan burger, with chicken and beef. Costs \$19.95.

I'm paying my bill. Mutter something about “not the cheapest, but good” to the gent coming to sit down at the next table, accompanied by two women.

“Ha! You want expensive?” he says. “We've just come in from Vegas. Breakfast for three? Hundred bucks. Standard breakfast! That's Vegas. This ain't nothing.”

“Ain't that something,” I say. ■

The Place: Cafe Encuentra, 3941 Mason Street (at Congress), Old Town. 619-260-8060

Hours: 8am-2pm daily. Till 3pm Saturday, Sunday

Prices: Arepa Pabellon (with shredded beef, black beans, white cheese, fried plantains) \$17.95; La Americana arepa (cheese, crumbled eggs, meat choice, e.g. chorizo), \$12.95; Reina Pepiada (shredded chicken, avo, mayo), \$14.95; Venezuelan Board (6 tequeños - cheese sticks - , 3 mini empanadas, 3 mini cachapas, \$25; Caribeña (fish, avo, fried plantains, Parmesan), \$17.95; La Vegana (black beans, avo, fried plantains), \$15.95

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the inside track

Silver's latest single, "Airplane Mode," is set for a January 5 release. Produced by Matthew Hall, mixed by Ken Lewis (Eminem, Kanye West) and remixed by The Disco Fries, the song, as well as Silver's ability to perform, was delayed by years of physical therapy and rehab. "I was hired to dance on Broadway in the show *Mama Mia* in

Silver's healing took on an internal, almost spiritual aspect as well, and he says



Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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Sat, December 16
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Sun, December 17
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F+ & Unruly Boys

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Fri, December 22
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(The Lost Boys, Gunship, Tina Turner)

Sat, December 23
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MEIDAI at Brick By Brick

DEC 14



Michael May – aka Meidai – is a hip-hop MC who launched his label Off Da Wall MusiQ in 2006. “My hip-hop alias Meidai, pronounced Mayday, means ‘a very strong individual’ in Greek,” he says. “It’s also a three-headed horse ram dragon.” Meidai’s newest full-length *Who Needs Therapy* dropped in May. Headliner Evilthx is touring in support of a new album called *Most Judged*.

BUDDHA TRIXIE at House of Blues

DEC 15



Buddha Trixie released their debut four-song EP, *Real*, in 2015. They’ve gone on to amass around two million Spotify streams, with their newest single “Always Yours” released in October. They recently played their first out-of-state gig in Phoenix, Arizona. The downtown bill includes Granada Hills alt-rockers Mexican Slum Rats and Floats, featuring former Junkie members.

TV GIRL at Soma

DEC 16



Post-modern pop band TV Girl was founded by singer Brad Petering while he attended UC Davis. The band frequently samples other artists in their music, a practice that once got them in legal hot water for using part of a Todd Rundgren track. A new album dropped earlier this year, *Grapes Upon the Vine*, and they recently released a collaborative album with Varial Heel called *Ace of Tre*.

CATTLE DECAPITATION at Observatory North Park

DEC 16



Cattle Decapitation is known for wearing masks made of beef jerky onstage, a statement regarding the trivialization of animal remains for human consumption. According to their press, the band “brings forth the ideas of vegetarianism with the utmost brutal approach in expression, both musically and imagery. [Their] sound will bring elements of older death/grind, inbred with utterly impossible low vocals, while being stabbed by immense drumming.”

ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST at the Casbah

DEC 16



David Bowie tribute band Ziggy Shuffledust & the Spiders From Mars is fronted by Gary Shuffler, who played with hard rockers Honey Glaze until they broke up in 1993. He’s also fronted tribute bands doing the music of Adam and the Ants, the Who, Queen, Bauhaus, and Guns N’ Roses. Also appearing will be T Rex tribute Electric Warriors, with a DJ set from Camilla Robina.

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: SODA BAR

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THE GONZO REPORT

Metal melting pot

Surveying the scene at a swap meet

“He died in Sweden; I’m so sorry,” says a man named Daniel who’s checking out my Cliff Burton tattoo. Though Daniel hails from Sweden himself, I doubt he had anything to do with Metallica’s tour bus flipping over and crushing bassist Burton in 1986. I tell him so, and suggest that he should instead be apologizing for purchasing the rare Eric Carr solo vinyl that features the deceased drummer in full KISS make up on the cover — in the style of the original records — which I wanted for myself at this Heavy Metal Swap Meet. He laughs, not the least bit sorry, and hands the vendor cash for the record I had been eyeballing for over half an hour. That’s how it’s been today; banter at Protector Brewery’s Miralani Drive location has preempted quite a few of my purchases.

Live music augments the atmosphere at this gathering of fans eager to celebrate all things metal, both old and new. The band Alchemy

plays a set, sporting matching shirts imprinted with their band logo — gotta rep the brand, after all. Their influences scream vintage British metal, but their energy overcomes any feeling of being derivative. I’m grateful to hear something fresh, something that requires active listening, a conscious effort to achieve something like meditative focus. Metal was my first love, and I still listen to a lot of it. (People around me listen to it as well, whether they like it or not, because maximum is the only acceptable volume.) I love it, but vast experience has its downside: I can pick out a familiar chord progression or a band’s chief influences within seconds. Sometimes, that closes my mind to a band’s potential.

Events like this help to open my mind up again — not because they’re so “metal,” but because they break through my somewhat jaded mindset and remind me why I fell in love with the music to begin with. There’s something satisfying about metal’s literacy and intelligence getting dismissed by outsiders. I enjoy my own lack of fucks to give about someone rolling their eyes at a Slayer T-shirt, just like I enjoy an instant bond with another someone yelling the band’s name while flashing the devil



The motley crew helped me hear Demon Hunter with new ears.

horn salute. Walking through the venue in a slow circle, I notice the sub-genres within the community all peacefully, if noisily, co-existing: death metal, power metal, doom, and every other adjectival splinter one can think of. But, even as the scene is subdivided, it also feels more tolerant overall than when I was inducted into it a few decades ago.

Back then, someone like Taylor Swift would never have been discussed in the same breath as Iron Maiden. But here, today, the loyalty of both artists’ fans and their desire to do it their way get mentioned more than once. Among my many wandering conversations: Russ Stefanovich, guitarist for Coven 6669 (who play a solid set), tells me I have a twin in Seattle, and I tell

him my twin is a lucky guy. We discuss the possibility of using the resemblance for shenanigans. For instance, I could walk up to a table at Mr. G’s Salsa and just begin eating off someone’s plate while he films it and tags his friends on social media. But then, given Seattle’s association with *Twin Peaks*, I begin to wonder: is Stefanovich’s friend the doppelganger, or am I? Or is there a third? Our conversation is cut off by fans with stacks of records for him to sign, and I am left to myself.

I check out Medieval Steel, a power metal band that delivers classic twin leads and soaring vocals. Nothing I haven’t heard before, but I appreciate the dedication, and this swap meet milieu gives me appreciate headline act Demon Hunter. I’m notoriously impatient with opening bands, an agitation that’s commensurate with my interest in the headliner, and the last time I saw Demon Hunter, they were opening for In Flames. It’s just possible I didn’t give them a fair shake because, in my circus brain, they were making me wait for the Swedish melodic masters. This afternoon, they’re killing it.

As I leave, I reflect on an earlier conversation I had with festival founder Brian Parker. After I congratulated him on the success and longevity of the Metal Swap Meet, the ever-positive, ever-humble Parker told me, “It’s good to see people enjoying it. Whether we expand or contract, as long as people want to come, we’ll keep doing it.” ■

Find The Gonzo Report online at sandiegoreader.com/gonzo

Landings at Carlsbad:

Thursday, 5pm — Strange Brew Band.

Madison High School:

Sunday, 2pm — ‘Tis the Season for Great Music. Free.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Sunday, 7:30pm — Gilberto Santa Rosa. \$59-\$215.
Monday, 6:30pm — Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four In Joy To The World! \$35-\$79.

Mainstream Bar and Grill:

Friday, 7pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

McP’s Irish Pub and Grill:

Sunday, 2pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Mission Bay Resort:

Saturday, 5pm — Jeff Brinkman.
Sunday, 5pm — Brandon Diaz.
Monday, 5pm — Puro Feeling.

Music Box:

Friday, 8:30pm — The FABBA Show and High Tide Society. \$20.
Saturday, 8pm — Equanimous, Activation, Cam Steen. \$17.
Sunday, 7pm — The Music of Steely Dan. \$39-\$66.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — A Berkley Hart Christmas. \$35-\$40.

Nate’s Garden Grill:

Saturday, 12pm — Tinkersmith. Free.

North Coast Repertory Theatre:

Friday, 7:30pm — 2 Pianos 4 Hands. \$64.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, 7pm — Grateful Shred. \$37.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Cattle Decapitation. \$25-\$45.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Jeff Rosenstock and Small Crush. \$25.

Panama 66:

Thursday, 6pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 7:30pm — Noel Noel. \$22-\$95.

Roxy Encinitas:

Sunday, 5pm — Strange Brew Band. Free.

Rustic Root:

Tuesday, 6pm — David Shyde.

San Diego Maritime Museum:

Saturday, 6pm — Star of India: Tim Flannery & The Lunatic Fringe. \$65-\$99.

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:

Sunday, 2:30pm — Zzymzzy Quartet. Free.

Side Yard:

Saturday, 6pm — Alex Elisabeth.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Coastal Wolves Album Release. \$12.
Friday, 8:30pm — Birth-Tay: 100% Swiftie Dance Night. \$24.
Saturday, 7pm — Harbour and Arms Akimbo.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Cheyenne

Benton and Russ Blvd. \$12.

Monday, 7:30pm — Swive and Stevea. \$10.

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Betray The Silence ft. Blue Worship. \$10.

Soma:

Friday, 6pm — Jamm and The Reckless. \$10.

Saturday, 7pm — TV Girl.

Sycuan Casino:

Wednesday, 8pm — The Irish Tenors. \$59-\$89.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:

Saturday, 8pm — Jessie J. \$19-\$29.

Viejas Arena:

Friday, 7:30pm — Queens of the Stone Age. \$29-\$250.

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Kareeta.
Friday, 8pm — Shakedown.
Saturday, 9pm — The Sure Fire Soul Ensemble and Nubella Honey.
Sunday, 5pm — Kim Wilson’s Blues Review.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Aquarius Bar & Grille:

December 24 — Mark Fisher’s High Noon Dead Set

Avenue:

December 23 — It’s Just Noize Records Takeover

Baba Coffee:

December 22, December 29 — The Soto Six

Balboa Theatre:

December 23 — A Peter White Christmas

Barefoot Bar and Grill:

December 29 — Puro Feeling

Beach House Grill:

December 30 — Camelphat

Belly Up Tavern:

December 21 — Living Legends & Brother Ali
December 22 & 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

Black Cat Bar:

December 22 — Nicey Nice World

Bogey’s Pub and Grill:

December 23 — Lady Dottie & The Diamonds

Books & Records:

December 22 — Kaylee Daugherty
December 29 — The Garners Trio

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

December 21-23 — City Ballet’s The Nutcracker

Cannonball:

December 21 — Kai Kalama
December 26 — Andrew Peña
December 28 — Jemille Vialet

The Casbah:

December 21 — Well Well Well
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 — Schizophonic Soul Revue and Creptxtotica

Coomber Craft Wines:

December 22 — Croome Bros

Crafted Culture at Monsaraz:

December 22 — Jemille Vialet

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

December 21 — Dead Heads Night

Duke’s La Jolla:

December 22, December 26 — Russell Paihinui

Encinitas Elks Lodge:

December 24 — Marty Conley’s Big Band Express

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

December 22 — David Shyde
December 23 — Farrah Camu
December 29 — Whitney Shay

F6ix Niteclub:

December 21, December 28 —

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December 21 — Freddie Walton
December 22 — Jason Graham
December 29 — Tolan Shaw

Fast Times:
December 27 — Jon Kanis

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego:
December 21 — Winter Schminter: A Celebration of the Winter Solstice

Fishtank:
December 26 — T is 4 Techno

Galley at the Marina:
December 22 — West of 5

Golden Island:
December 22 — The Garners
December 29 — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra

House of Blues:
December 22 — Shrek Rave
December 23 — Strangelove
December 28 — Baby Smooove
December 29 — Black Flag

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
December 27 — Side Street Ft. Thea the Band

L'Auberge Del Mar:
December 22 — Jarred Matthew
December 27 — Christian Taylor
December 28 — David Shyde
December 29 — Marelle

La Valencia Hotel:
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

Madison:
December 24 — Latin Jazz Sunday
December 26 — Jazz Night

Mission Bay Resort:
December 21 — Jehua Evans
December 23 — Gabriele Dagrezio
December 29 — Tyler F. Simmons

Morgan Run Resort and Club:
December 29 — David Shyde

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
December 22 — Bonnevill 7
December 25 — Monday Night Open Mic
December 26 — Karaoke
December 27 — Wednesday Night Blues Jam
December 29 — West of 5

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

Three in a row for SDO

The San Diego Opera is continuing on a roll that started with last season's production of *Tosca*. October saw an exquisite concert featuring Latonia Moore and J'Nai Bridges. And now the Opera has triumphed with *El Milagro del Recuerdo* — *The Miracle of Remembering*.

El Milagro is a mariachi opera of sorts. I say "of sorts" because the show was mic'd and, as we all know, microphones are not a part of opera unless the performance is outdoors. That being said, I was happy that the show used amplification, because it allowed the singers to be more personal with their characterizations.

I found the music, the performances, and the production to be exactly what I needed. I have grown tired of entertainments that

are based upon identity instead of actions. I am fed up with fictions that focus on leadership, aka power, instead of love. I am sick to death of creative types who are trying to subvert the audience's expectations instead of telling a story with heart.

El Milagro had heart, it told a beautiful story, and it focused on the power of love and family. There was no drumbeat of "freeing those oppressed by their imperialistic overlords." This was a story about the tension between providing and being present. A story about regret and reward. I will grant that at times, the writing got a bit blatant with its messaging, but only at times, and only just a bit.

As the show was coming to its conclusion I found myself wondering how it would end. Would it all be wrapped

BY GARRETT HARRIS

up nicely and neatly like a Hallmark Christmas movie? No. To her credit, librettist Leonora Foglia did *not* resolve the tension and choices the characters were facing. Instead, the characters chose to embrace and enjoy the time, the moment, they had together instead of worrying about the future. It was left up to us, the audience, to debate the fate of the characters.

Regarding the mariachi style, I quite enjoyed it. I found myself forming a relationship with the trumpets in the orchestra pit. It felt as if they played the role of a Greek chorus, commenting on the drama that was unfolding. Every time they played — and it was often — I felt this friendship with the trumpets deepen.

The singing was solid across the entire cast, but two singers must be



A sound that suits the character: Guadalupe Paz as *La Mujer*

acknowledged for their superlative performances. The first is tenor Felipe Prado in the role of the local priest. His consistency of tone was impressive and his top notes were exciting and beautiful at the same time. And Guadalupe Paz, in the role of *La Mujer* or The Woman, was perfect. Her voice was not overly operatic, but neither was it too light. Paz presented a sound that suited the function of her character: it was

beautiful but with depth. When the true identity of her character was revealed, there were gasps in the audience, followed by the wiping of tears.

This is the direction in which San Diego Opera needs to continue: a warhorse such as *Tosca*, followed by a concert of world-class singing, and then a show of modest proportions that moves an audience to tears.

Classical Music this week

A Light in the Darkness

As winter solstice approaches, SACRA/PROFANA diverges from the traditional yuletide program to present a musical experience celebrating peace on earth and the power of light to pierce the darkest nights, in an evening of voices and brass

that invites you to reflect on the shortest day of the year. Includes "Dona Nobis Pacem" by Ralph Vaughan Williams in a new chamber orchestration. Friday, December 15, 7pm; \$10-\$35. Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 3459 Manchester Avenue.

Golden State Ballet's Nutcracker

The beloved holiday tale of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince, all danced to live music from musicians of the San Diego Symphony, playing Tchaikovsky's classic score. Children must be at least

4 years old to attend evening performances. Friday, December 15, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 16, 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 17, 1pm and 5:30pm; \$25-\$129. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

The Nutcracker: Imagine

The Magic The Nutcracker features Tchaikovsky's timeless score and a cast of more than 100 beautifully costumed dancers. Saturday, December 16, 2pm and 5pm; \$59-\$135. Magnolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street.

Music Box:

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

Nick & G's:

December 22 — Matt Heinecke
December 29 — Helena Holleran

Panama 66:

December 27 — Castellanos Jam

Session

December 28 — Uptown Rhythm Makers

Parc Bistro Brasserie:

December 22 — Live Holiday & French Music

The Pour House:

December 23 — Bonnevill 7 and Rip Carson

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:

December 23 — Disney Tim

Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas In Concert

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:

December 21 — JiveChops Ensemble

San Diego Civic Theatre:

December 21, December 22, December 23, December 23, December 24 — Golden State Ballet's Nutcracker
December 28 — Mannheim Steamroller Christmas

Soda Bar:

December 21 — SEGA Genocide
December 22 — Moans and Lead Pony
December 23 — Crasher and The Havnauts
December 27 — Missy Alcazar and Jaden G
December 29 — Noche de Verano Sin Ti

The Sound:

December 29, December 30 — Thee Sacred Souls

Star Repertory Theatre:

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

Sycuan Casino:

December 28 — Straight No Chaser

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:

December 29 — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Tidal:

December 23 — Helena Holleran

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PERSONALS

BONNIE AND BLAIR I behaved the very best I could given the circumstances. I'm upset that it took two weeks to find me instead of 12 years.

DEAREST FUN SIZE Great news! The world as we know it is accepting your new nick name. I've received thumbs up from your friends and neighbors around the globe. Frank

MY DARLING You really ought to relax. Frank, you work too hard darling. Forever yours, Katherine. I love you dear.

SANTA CLAUS WILL BE IN THE AIR The driveway Society would like to alert everybody that Santa Claus will be in the air over San Diego bringing Love and joy to all the children everywhere!

THE UP-COMING HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES WILL COMMENCE The Driveway Society is happy to announce that the up-coming holiday festivities will commence at the usual times and locations. If you're in the know, you will know where to be to enjoy the fun.

DEAR KEVIN, It's nice that you think I'm a good cook. Thank you for being so sweet to me. I love you so much!

DECEMBER IS HERE Ho, Ho, Ho. I shall start early this year. The green grinch.

TO US A CHILD IS BORN, A son is given. His name will be called mighty God, Everlasting

father. Isaiah 9:6. Happy Birthday Lord Jesus.

VINCENT WHAT'S YOUR LAST NAME you will be the beauty. I will be the monster. tinmann940@gmail.com

ASTOUNDED P.S. I am sorry too. Thanks for the time we did have.

I'D RATHER LOVE SOMEBODY I've tried to hate before and just couldn't; then stay around as friends and knowing you ain't gonna blow her car up or dig a 300 ft. deep hole and put grass over it with a bon bon for bait. Errr!

IF YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES contact (619) 228-5843. Feeling very generous? If not don't call; don't bother and start believing.

IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN DUMB then be like the non blondes and not outlaw things. You know damn well I feel a lot. What not to do is present. It's how we learn and actually know. it's a good thing when you see nothing happening and you look at them and think yep it could be. So it's a grace then an IOU. The ability to feel the many things that makes it good now. Peace, quiet and good evil plots to get you one up. Yank and run.

REAL EYES WHY BOTHER If you have to look and see lies, it's also called projecting.

THIS IS NOT WORDS and silence in this form is torture and abuse. It's very common, and mass shootings are created like

this. It's easy to see; if you must, google it.

AMY'S CRITICAL SPINAL SURGERY Urgent Funds Needed: Amy's Critical Spinal Surgery. Amy has led a life of giving to others by bringing life-changing TV programming to millions of prisoners in jails and prisons. www.gofund-me.com/f/urgent-funds-needed-amys-care-medical-travel

ANY SOCIETY THAT WILL GIVE UP a little liberty to gain a little security deserves neither and will loose both

REAL EYES Realize....Real Lies

THE WORDS YOU SPEAK become the house you live in.

LOOKING FOR FEMALE PEN-PAL 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

STAND for something or fall for anything.

SEASONS GREETINGS Happy Holidays from everyone at iTreasureSanDiego.Com

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.

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.

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

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

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RESEARCH STUDY IS AVAILABLE in Oceanside California. Looking for people with diabetes order only. 18 to 55 years old. Must be drug free. (619) 389-0550.

HOME START TOY DRIVE Home Start, a local nonprofit committed to helping San Diego's most underserved and vulnerable, is bringing cheer to local families in need during the holiday season by partnering with One Paseo for its annual holiday toy drive through Dec 13th.

CHRISTMAS EVE LIVING NATIVITY! Christmas Eve Celebration, and Living Nativity Sunday, December 24, 2023. Join us at First Congregational Church of Ramona for an epic Christmas Eve celebration! Worship Services are at 5, 6, and 7pm. 404 8th Street (corner of 8th and D). (760) 789-3348 / office@fccramona.org

FOUND PROPERTY Found Cash in U.S. Currency in Rancho San Diego Area on 1/23/23. If you believe it may belong to you, contact Detective Walker from the Rancho San Diego Sheriff's Station at (619) 660-7041. / James.walker3@sdsheriff.org

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.

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

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MACRAME YOUR OWN BOTTLE BAG! Learn to Macrame your own fun Bottle Bag at this one-of-a-kind workshop on Sat, December 16 from 10am-12pm with Jordan Masters of The Knot-tery. Ages 11+yrs, or 8-10yrs with

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ORGANIC GINGERBREAD HOUSE FUN! Are you looking for a fun, edible class this winter season for your little one? San Diego Craft Collective offers its annual, one-of-a-kind Organic Gingerbread House Decorating workshop on Sun, Dec 17th from 10-11:30am. Sign up at sandiegocraft.org! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

WINTER CRAFT CAMP FOR KIDS! Fun Alert! Winter Craft Camps for children! Dec 18-21 (Mon-Thurs), two small-class-size camps with fun, high-quality craft projects! Littles 3-6yr from 9am-12pm. Kids 7-12yr from 1-4pm. Sibling & military discount. Sign up at sandiegocraft.org! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

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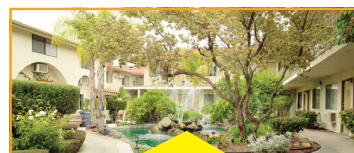
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BORREGO SPRINGS CONDO Furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo located in the beautiful Rams Hill complex in Borrego Springs. Listed for \$199,000 For more information call or text (619) 300-2358. / tedsells4u@aol.com

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

MUSIC

REHEARSAL SPACE 24 HOUR Rehearsal space 24 hour access, 24 hour lockout, secure and air conditioned. Monthly rates from \$425 located in Escondido. Parking. In business for over 25 years. Call Scott (760) 855-3551 / exumrecording@gmail.com

TAKAMINE ACOUSTIC GUITAR Mahogany back, sides, neck with rosewood fret board. Sitka top. Includes hard shell case. \$375 or best offer. (619) 625-9601

TAKAMINE GUITAR 1992 LTD. Acoustic/Electric with EQ and fishman pickup. KOA wood back, sides, neck, sitka top. Rosewood fret board. Original case. \$950 or best offer. (619) 625-9601

KEYBOARDIST WANTED Santana Soul has an Immediate Opening for a KEYBOARDIST. facebook.com/SantanaSoul/ (858) 717-1377 / mark.lopez@cox.net

BAND PRACTICE STUDIO monthly lockout available. La Jolla, Miramar area 10:00 am-12:00 am #35. Sound-proof rehearsal studio 20'Ft. x 13'Ft. Fits 5 to 8 piece band. Central AC. \$650, per month. Universal Sound Inc. (858) 401-2973.

GUNS N' ROSES Appetite for Destruction lithograph signed and numbered, Robert Williams, \$800. Chris (619) 854-9027.

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

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

FENDER BXR 410 BASS CABINET '90's model, excellent condition, \$200, (424) 731-2084.

REGGAE POP PROGROCK FUSION professional lead/rhythm guitarist available for recordings, gigs, tours. CD/Tour credits. Passport. Vaccinated. Dale Hauskins www.bandmix.com/dalehauskins/ (858) 401-2973

PETS

WHITE, POODLE TERRIER PUPPIES Born October 31st, 4 Male, 3 Female White Poodle Terrier Mix Puppies. \$200. Perfect Christmas Gift (619) 917-9455

PET SITTER NEEDED- \$20/HR Looking for a pet sitter for my dogs while I am at work. Ideally they need to be supervised the entire time. Email me on arincobb023@gmail.com for more details.



RAGDOLL KITTENS FOR ADOPTION Cute Home Raised Ragdoll Kittens for Adoption to good homes only. Located in Crescent City CA. Will ship if needed. Text (562) 459-2126

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SPORTS

CHRISTMAS PICKLEBALL SETS Assorted colored Pickleball sets for sale. PickleBall sets include 2 paddles, 4 yellow balls and 1 carrying case. \$39.00 each. Great Christmas gifts. (619) 931-8900/sstandavid@aol.com

SPORTS CARDS Selling my collection. All major players: football, basketball, baseball, hockey and other miscellaneous sports stuff. Low prices. Ruth, Matthews, Mandel, Glen, McGuire, Nolan, Giffney, Brady, LaDamien, Allen, Bo, lebron, Jordan, Russell and Shaq. Call Joe (619) 562-1129.

BICYCLES

TREK 6500 SLR MOUNTAIN BIKE Axel "manitou" front shock, handle bar ends, new maxx tires and tubes, 24 speed, toe clips, water bottle, new helmet. Looks and rides new. \$400 or best offer. (619) 625-9601

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

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

BIKES FOR SALE Jupiter x5 ebikes \$400; zizzo campo folding bike \$175; Columbia folding bike \$175. Jupiter good condition, other 2 hardly used. Call (760) 519-4614

TWO STREET BIKES both for \$40. 1 man and 1 woman bike. Text only (442) 238-7382

BMC BIKE Gorgeous blue and white BMC Carbon fiber. Road frame 47 CM. Never used; in storage. Must see! (619) 237-8043

BICYCLE FOR SALE one year old, runs like new, ridden about six times. Make offer. (862) 846-9299 and ask for Steven.

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CUSHMAN SCOOTER 1946 "ROADKING" 50 series with 3 speed transmission. Low, standard and very rare reverse. Clear title, runs. \$2,000 or best offer. (619) 625-9601

CUSHMAN SCOOTER 1954 60 SERIES "PACESETTER" Rebuilt motor, new tires, tubes, seat, floor mat, handle bar grips, etc. Ground up restoration. Clean Title, runs good. Safety orange paint. \$4,000 or best offer. (619) 625-9601

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

AUTOMOTIVE

2004 HYUNDAI 10,000 miles on it. Good engine; still runs. Clean title. Needs new shocks, ties and upholstery. No accidents. \$2,800 or best offer. (858) 525-2339

2017 PORSCHE 911 Manual transmission. 1,000 miles left on the warranty. \$75K (619) 756-1027

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

DOWNTOWN \$590-\$900



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619-233-7594

ROAM

Step 1500

Without a word or a glance, the woman in white crept past me. She had neither the stride nor the friendliness of a seasoned hiker. Instead, she trudged up the stairs with her head hung low, like a wilting flower in autumn.

As I perched on a timber beam on the side of the trail and caught my breath, I thought about encouraging the woman to rest alongside me. But as I searched her face, I saw a look of resolve in her eyes and thought it better to leave her alone. With each passing step up the mountain, I had felt the same primal drive growing within me, and as I sat alone with the wind in my hair, I saw clearly the insidious way in which this hike could strip travelers of their dignity, so that even the fiercest of climbers might end up ascending on all fours like a beast.

Step 0

I was standing under the rising sun on a brisk blue day just outside of the small mountain town of Manitou Springs, Colorado, but my thoughts remained dark. Before me loomed a mythic incline, a staircase consisting of 2768 steps straight up the side of an alpine mountain. I had journeyed a long way to meet this challenge, but now, I felt neither excited nor eager, just stiff and apprehensive. My muscles ached from the long passage of the past few days. My throat burned from the musty cigarette odor that lingered in last night's cheap motel room. Most bothersome of all were the local hikers, who seemed to start their journey up the incline with the same indifference as a shopper stepping onto an escalator at a mall.

There's no turning back now, I thought before taking my first step onto the trail.

Step 300

I kept an even pace as I climbed the first few



Two hikers heading up the incline

hundred steps, passing several hikers, many of them quite a bit older than I. Most were hiking alone, though a few groups walked side by side while chatting idly. The path consisted of a long staircase with steps resembling railroad ties, rising and rising, one after the other, for as far as I could see. On either side of the trail, barren shrubs prepared for winter; further up, I could see tall conifers with long green needles. Annoyingly, every hundredth step was punctuated with a numbered tag, a small reminder of the distance covered. If that doesn't sound bothersome, imagine having sex with someone who congratulated you every hundred thrusts. It felt like that.

Step 500

The stairs were getting steeper, and with each passing step, my regrets regarding this ascent increased. For one thing, I wished I'd brought trekking poles to keep my posture upright and to help take some of the load off my legs. I also wished I hadn't brought my work

laptop and the three books in my pack. I had been too lazy to take them out of my bag before I left, and I was quickly feeling the extra weight.

Step 700

I really regretted not bringing my trekking poles. As for the books, well, I was still hopeful that I would read one of them at the peak.

Step 1000

As I paused to rest, a vision of grace effortlessly approached: below me, a woman in her twenties was gliding up the incline. She wore an old, loose t-shirt and shorts. Her sun-kissed complexion hinted at a love affair with the open air that was deeper than my own. For a brief, fleeting moment, our eyes met, and I saw a friendly warmth. After she passed, I felt as if I had met a nymph that protected these woods.

Step 1200

The stairs stretched on, endless and unforgiving, the rhythmic crunch of gravel beneath my worn boots echoing the weariness I was feeling. My breath labored heavily, and the summit seemed an elusive destination, forever distant.

Step 1400

I was just over halfway up, and the incline was growing steeper. The steps were taller and further apart. I felt caught in the slow procession, drawn forward by fate and pressed on by the fear of not wanting to be passed by the hikers behind me.

Step 1700

In my fatigued state, my thoughts were getting noisy and chaotic. *Maybe it's called a staircase to heaven because only the worthy can make the climb. Well, if this is what it takes to get to heaven, I'd rather just go to hell.*

Step 1800

My climbing continued rhythmically. Every few dozen steps, I paused to catch my breath. The pauses were becoming longer.

Step 2000

I felt out of tune with the trail, and fatigue clung to me like a burial shroud. The pattern of walking ten or twenty steps and then pausing for a few seconds was becoming unbearable. Quieting the noisy trail-thoughts cartwheeling through my mind, I tried to focus on the trail and hear what it was saying.

Step 2100

Step, pause, step, pause. The trail had spoken and taught me a new rhythm for my stride. My



Contemplating the journey

MANITOU INCLINE

Located in Manitou Springs, CO, this is a strenuous hike that takes trekkers up more than 2700 steps. Given its length of .8 miles and an elevation gain of just over 2000 feet, the hike will take most people one to two hours. Reservations are required. Dogs are not allowed.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 1117 miles

Hike length: .8 miles • **Difficulty:** Strenuous • **Season:** Year-round



Taking a break near the top

steps no longer alternated back and forth, but now paused mid-step – helping me catch my breath and reducing the strain on my legs.

I began to laugh at myself. Here I was, after a decade of hiking, reduced to feeling like a novice, learning the rhythm of the trail for the first time again. I bowed my head to the sky before me, sweat dripping from my nose. Although I felt bone-weary, my amusement swelled through the bellows of my soul, igniting cool embers into blue flames. The rhythm of my wild heart beat out a primal defiance against the encroaching weariness.

Step 2200

My movements, once burdened and listless, took on an uncanny fluidity. My breath found a newfound cadence, steady and deliberate. The incline, once an adversary, now bowed before my advancing presence. I flew up the remaining steps with ease.

Step 2768

At the top, I was greeted by smiling faces as people took photos together with the long incline in the background. I chatted with a group of hikers a few years younger than myself, then turned to begin my descent down a separate trail that consisted of a series of switchbacks. The trip down felt refreshing.

Later that morning, I drove to an old friend's new apartment. While parking, I looked at the three-story building and thought to myself, *I really hope he lives on the first floor.*

-Ryan Brothers



2021 TRAVEL TRAILER
\$22,500.00 2021 Prime Time Avenger 26BK. Front bedroom with door. Two rear bunks. 3 burner stove with oven and microwave, refrigerator with freezer. Outdoor Kitchen with refrigerator, sink and 2 burner stove. Outdoor shower. Rear bath with shower. Couch. njdevils3@hotmail.com

1969 FORD PICK UP Half ton. Runs \$4900. (619) 655-1830

1976 CHEVY BLAZER Runs and drives. \$7900. (619) 655-1830

1995 HONDA Asking price \$5,000. (760) 847-1162

1996 BMW 750IL 126K original miles. Must see to appreciate. \$25,000 or best offer. Please call (619) 390-2222

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

CLASSIC TRUCK MOVING SALE 1940 GMC Stern. \$4,900. Runs (619) 655-1830.

2003 FORD EXPLORER \$4100, new tires, strong engine, minor cosmetic, low miles. Pass smog (213) 561-7892

JAGUAR X-TYPE ALUMINUM WHEELS: Three Original 16" wheels, I only have three, the fourth wheel was damaged by hitting a curb, I am selling all three for only \$225. Call (760) 746-7209, in Escondido

2003 HONDA ACCORD Top line leather interior and sunroof \$5,100. Pass smog (213) 561-7892

1930 FORD Modified 1930 Ford Coupe project, 350/350, disc brakes, Chevy 4 bar rear. Title. \$6550 (760) 717-1334 for details and pictures.

2001 VOLVO S80 105,000 miles. New front brakes. Fresh oil change. New spark plugs and tags expire Nov 2024. Clean title. Smogged. Could use a paint job. \$2,900 (619) 451-3637

LOOKING FOR 1990 OR OLDER FORD CARS Please contact FGROSS0421@Gmail.com

2015 TOYOTA COROLLA S six speed manual, silver with black interior, excellent condition, 42K miles. Asking \$17K OBO. Please call (619) 390-2222.

12 PASSENGER VAN for rent \$100 a day \$600 a week churches get 10% discount mentioned the reader and get one day free with one weekly rental (619) 233-8300.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

AVP TECH, SOFTWARE DEV TEST QE LPL Financial LLC seeks AVP Tech, Software Dev Test QE in San Diego, CA to function as QA Perf Test Lead & SME resp for oversight app perf & sys stds to supp & enhance functn & perf of mob & dsktp platfrms. Req Master's or forgn ed equiv in CS, ENG, IS, IT or rel & 3 yr exp conducting QA perf testing web & mobile apps, incl dvlp & exec auto test scripts. Will accept Bachelor's & 5 yr same exp. Partial telecom:

must remain w/i comm dist of LPL SD office & report to office regularly. Salary:\$128,895.00/yr. To apply, submit resume to recruit-ment@lpfinancial.com. Reference Position AVPT200003.

SR. STAFF ENGR-PROCESS DEVELOPMENT (Req# IIC1459) ID, dvlp & manage continuous improvement projis within Flow Cell manuf process. Local telecommuting permitted. Req BS followed by 5 yrs prog rldt exp. \$124,300-\$186,500/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

PROGRAM MANAGER Becton, Dickinson & Co. (BD) seeks a Program Manager in San Diego, CA to partner with the business to prepare and present project business case/strategy. Req. BS + 5 yrs of exp. *Employer will accept a 3 or 4 year baccalaureate degree. Salary range for position \$136,290.00 to \$199,800.00. Hybrid in-office/remote position. To apply, mail resume to: (BD), Attn: BDHR - CS, 3750 Torrey View Ct, San Diego, CA 92130. Submit a resume to ://www.calljobs.ca.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx, OR submit a resume to bdx.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/EXTERNAL_CAREER_SITE_USA. Must reference Job Title & Job Code: R-480530. EOE.

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following position in San Diego, CA: Product Designer (ref# 4532-3825092): Facilitate cross-functional workshops to align on problem space definition & customer success criteria. Telecommuting permitted. Annual salary \$111,092-141,092. Email resume to servicenowresumesUS@servicenow.com. Or mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 2225 Lawson Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Resume must include job title, job ref. #, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

VP STRATEGY San Diego, CA. Seeking MBA or closely rel. and 1 yr. executive or sales mgmt. exp. Mail CV to Attn: HR/Job #1121, Cloudbeds, 3033 Fifth St. #100, San Diego, CA 92109.

SEEKING FOR A DRIVER We are seeking for a driver for my old grand father on a part-time basis (Mondays & Fridays only)\$410 weekly must Have a valid state-issued driver's license Must be professional, safe, patient email: simonpet1147@att.net

ADVANCED SOFTWARE (SW) ENG. Mng life-cycle of SW devel. Req'd: BS in Elec Eng, Mech Eng, or Comp Sci pls cert in Python prgm language. Home worksite in U.S. Salary: \$172K-177K. Contact M Pellinat, VisionTree Inc., 8885 Rio San Diego Dr., Ste. 220, San Diego, CA 92108.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1450) Collaborate with business teams & cross functional GIS team members to ana-

lyze 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#.

CAREGIVER I'm a disabled man who needs two overnight shifts covered, Friday and Saturday nights, 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM. Duties include: Personal/bowel care, turning me, showers, light housework, dishes, laundry etc. (619) 582-2367 Mark

FIRMWARE TEST ENGINEER 2 (Req# IIC1446) Triage instrument SW/FW issues discovered by other teams, ID gaps in functional testing. Work with SW/FW Team to reproduce problems, design & run tests to prove correction. Telecommuting permitted. Req MS+2 yrs exp. \$93,184-\$123,184/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

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

SR. BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1455) Serve as critical resource on the GIS Commercial Service team for proj implementation & ongoing support of global SAP Order Mgmt sys. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in US. Req MS+2yrs or BS followed by 5 yrs prog rldt exp. \$133,349-\$173,349/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

SR SUPPLIER QUALITY ENGINEER (Req# IIC1449) Work with strategic partners & suppliers to ensure global awareness & compliance to procedures & specs. Provide QA expertise & guidance for on mkt product engg. Travel may be req 15-20% to conduct supplier audits both domestic & int'l. Telecommuting permitted. Req MS+3orBS followed by 5 yrs prog rldt exp. \$123,115-\$151,800/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

OIL CHANGE Additional \$5 cartridge fee. Plus tax, haz waste, & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to \$95. 10w/30 oil. Special only for 4cyl vehicle. 6-8cyl vehicle does not apply.	\$29⁹⁵ most cars
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RADIATOR or Transmission Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	\$45 most cars 4 cyl.
TIMING BELT Parts & Labor *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	\$75 most cars 4 cyl.
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SR. COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER (Req# IIC1454) Build & manage non-enterprise-wide productivity apps & tools for the commercial org. Collaborate w/multiple functions & across the globe to gather reqs, estb plans & deliver execution. Telecommuting permitted. Req BS+2yrs rldt exp. \$98,845-\$138,845/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

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/yr. 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.

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.

SOCIAL WORK MSW level Social Worker needed to case manage 80+ homeless individuals w/SMI wide-ranging SUD issues, knowledge of SD-based resources. Please email resumes to: resumes@tacosd.org

SR. FINANCIAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST III (Req# IIC1453) Design & implement of large-scale planning & analysis

initiatives serving a wide array of cross-functional groups. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in US. Req MS+3orBS followed by 5 yrs prog rldt exp. \$133,349-\$186,500/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

SR SAP BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1448) Install & maintain the SAP envirn (dvlpmt, test, train, validation & production). Telecommuting permitted. Req BS followed by 5 yrs prog rldt exp. \$148,366-\$178,366/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

SR. SCIENTIST (Req# IIC1458) Create genomic analysis tools used in the leading edges of research & variety of applied commercial mrkts (RUO, IVD). Work to create novel, robust products for seq platforms. Req PhD+3 yrs rldt exp. \$106,350-\$136,350/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

SR STAFF ENGINEER - DEVELOPMENT (Req# IIC1442) Design & dvlp novel consumable devices for next gen seq sys to enable improved data quality, faster time to answer & lower cost. Req MS+3 or PhD. \$133,400-\$206,800/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

STAFF ENGINEER - DEVELOPMENT (Req# IIC1445) Contribute to fluid sys arch design & down selection to meet sys-level reqs & specs. Req PhD+3 or MS+6yrs exp. \$116,709-\$170,400/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

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'Tis the season for local trout and Baja's excellent Mag Bay mangrove fishing

Dock Totals 12/3 – 12/9: 486 anglers aboard 26 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 60 bluefin tuna, 14 calico bass, 14 lobster (33 released), 2691 rockfish, 5 sand bass, 48 sculpin, 34 sheephead, 3 triggerfish, 16 whitefish, and 7 yellowfin tuna.

Saltwater: Rockfish continue to be the prime target for the local boats working that deeper zone beyond the 300-foot minimum depth allowed, with most anglers getting limits. As this is the time of year many of the boats that run longer trips in the mid-range fleet from 1.5-day to 6-day trips are in dry dock for maintenance, pelagic species including tuna, yellowtail, and dorado are being caught mostly by the long-range boats working much further south along the coast — with the exception of the bluefin tuna that are still holding out west and to the southwest of Point Loma.

The lone boat reporting pelagic species in their counts was the *Polaris Supreme* on a two-day run with 22 anglers aboard that returned on Wednesday, December 6. They had a solid outing on bluefin tuna with 60 caught, along with 7 yellowfin tuna. The latter is a bit of a surprise for this time of year within 2-day range, though as the seasons roll over from fall to winter mode, there are occasionally a few yellowfin found among the bluefin schools, or caught on the troll when moving between areas. And as the bluefin have been hanging around out there between the Corner and San Clemente Island throughout the past few winters, I expect to see at least a few in the 1.5- to 3-day counts moving forward.

As per reports from south of the border from off the south end of the Coronado Islands, Erendira, and south to the mid-peninsula, yellowtail have been showing well for private boaters and *pangeros*. These fish are not on the surface; they have been holding deeper, in 200 feet of water, give or take. Once metered, yoyo irons and slow-pitch knife or butterfly jigs in 200-gram or larger sized have been working very well on these fish. When yellowtail are not found, operations working the high spots have been doing very well on rockfish, whitefish, and lingcod in 150 to 250-feet in Mexican waters, where there is no minimum depth for those species. If no trips are available out of San Diego, the nearest best bet for yellowtail would be Castro's Fishing running out of Erendira, which is between Ensenada and San Quintin, and about a 3.5-hour drive from the border.

Once past the Vizcaino Bay, from Cedros Island south along the coast, yellowtail and yellowfin tuna are the primary catch, with a few wahoo still being found off the high spots and increasing in numbers the further south you go. Captain Juan Cook has been splitting his time between fishing the mangroves for pargo, corvina, grouper and snook inside of Bahia Magdalena and working offshore for tuna and wahoo near the Ridge, where, along with local operations like Salvaje Sportfishing, San Diego's long-range fleet have been focusing their efforts with good results.

Captain Cook has been moving with the action all year, and not to diminish any of the other operations working the fishing towns along either side of the Baja Peninsula, but he is a great go-to guide year round, whether working out of

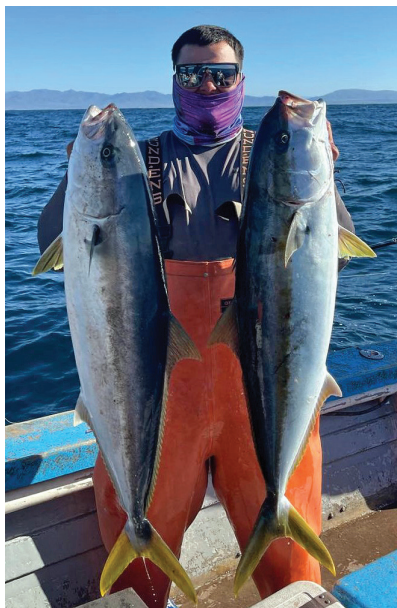


Captain Juan Cook with a solid 'Mag Bay' snook caught within casting distance of shore.

Bahia de San Luis Gonzaga in the northern half of the Sea of Cortez, Bahia de Los Angeles a little further south, or on the Pacific side from his home port in San Quintin to where he is now in Bahia Magdalena. His knowledge of the fisheries in Baja is profound, and his trips for up to four people on his comfortable 28-foot Parker cost around \$700, always a bargain for budget-minded anglers with hopes of catching a trophy or just putting meat on the table.

Fishing the mangroves inside of Baja's lagoons can be an exciting experience when wrestling fish hiding in and along the roots, where the bullish groupers like to run when hooked. Snook and Corvina (either orangemouth or shortfin) are known to haunt the shallows, but when most folks think of pargo, grouper, and jacks, the idea of catching them so near to shore that a cast line gets snagged in a mangrove tree seems odd. However, that is where they can be found, and in good numbers, especially if offshore conditions are too tough to head outside. It's an exciting alternative for anglers who might otherwise have been stuck at home awaiting calmer seas. With its San Diego-in-summer weather in December and January, fishing out of Bahia Magdalena can be a great option when wintertime blues and cold weather set in further north.

Freshwater: Trout fishing in those area lakes that stock them through the winter has been very good, with mini-jigs for the lure-chuckers and PowerBait for the bait-and-wait anglers working best. The more central San Diego County lakes, Santee Lakes, Lake Jennings, Lake Morena, and Lake Poway have been reporting good catches of rainbow trout and lightning trout where stocked, though all area lakes provide a good opportunity to get a limit of stockers. Lakes Wohlford and Dixon, both great lakes for shore or rental boat fishing, are a little further and just north outside the county line. And of course, if you want a true wintertime fishing alpine lake experience at 4613 feet above sea level, Lake Cuyamaca holds trout year-round, along with largemouth bass, and also provides the only opportunity in our area for a rare white sturgeon. They're out there, so go get 'em!



A nice pair of jacks. Good yellowtail fishing is just a few hours' drive south of the border out of Castro's Fishing in Erendira

DANIEL POWELL

STAFF BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1451) Lead & drive the SAP Ariba Supply Chain Collaboration (SCC) Supplier Enablement. Drive SAP Ariba SCC B2B integration for direct suppliers. Local Telecommuting permitted. Req MS-60rBS followed by 8 yrs prog rtd exp. \$133,349-\$163,349/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

STAFF BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1447) Serve as critical resource on the GIS Research to Release team for proj implementation & ongoing support of global OpenText Vendor Invoice Mgmt for SAP system. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in US. Req BS followed by 5 yrs prog rtd exp. \$133,349-\$193,349/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

STAFF BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1444) Resp for supporting Field Service capability maturity priorities for service & support organization (Salesforce.com & Servicemax tech). Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in US. Req BS followed by 5yrs prog rtd exp. \$133,349-\$195,200/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

STAFF ENGINEER (Req# IIC1456) Significantly contribute to dvlpng new arch for high volume medical device consumables that integrates microfluidics, chemistry & sensing. Partial Telecommuting permitted. Req BS followed by 5 yrs prog rtd exp. \$131,560-\$161,560/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

STAFF PROGRAM MANAGER (Req# IIC1443) Dvlp & scale global supplier risk program with focus on identifying, assessing & mitigating supply risk at commodity, supplier & SKU level. Req MS+3 or BS followed by 5yrs prog rtd exp. \$132,766-\$162,766/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

STAFF PROGRAMMER/ANALYST (Req# IIC1457) Design, dvlp, test, implement & support SAP ECC/APO/GTS appl sfwr using SAP ABAP and U15 technologies. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in US. Req BS followed by 5 yrs prog rtd exp. \$133,349-\$170,400/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

SOCIAL WORKER MSW level Social Worker needed to case manage 80+ homeless individuals w/SMI, wide-ranging SUD issues. Knowledge of San Diego based resources required. Email resumes to: resumes@tacosc.org

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER and 3D Program Coordinator (Safdie Rabines Architects; San Diego, CA): Produce architectural designs, working drawings, charts, forms, and records using traditional and computer-aided drafting (CAD) equipment. Salary: \$75,000 to \$90,000 per year. Send resume to: Safdie Rabines Architects, 925 Fort Stockton Dr., San Diego, CA 92103.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN WANTED Medium to Heavy Line. Electrical Diagnostic. Cliff Brown Automotive (619) 297-4204

IHSS CAREGIVER WANTED IHSS Caregiver Needed for senior lady. 29 hours per week. SDSU College area. Flexible schedule. Transportation, miscellaneous household chores, laundry, meal prep, medication organizing, light medical care and equipment assistance. (619) 501-1057; Cell: (619) 831-3000

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

AVAILABLE IHSS CAREGIVER WANTED Offering a full or part time job. Person must have an IHSS care giving certificate and a vehicle for a sweet 55 year old woman. Please call Miss Carmen, (619) 269-3434.

JOBS WANTED

GOT ELVES? NEED HOLIDAY HELP? two females available anytime to wrap gifts, serve, clean, host/entertain in costume. Please call Santa's Helpers Bee or Tee (619) 552-6123

PLEASE HIRE THIS BROKE FEMALE! Mature gal in serious need of cash paying. gigs as I'm on a major struggle bus here!! I'm responsible, reliable, respectful & real! Experience in housekeeping, doing laundry, cooking, baking, dog walking, pet sitting & house sitting! Thank you so much!! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

SHAVE YOUR HEAD FOR \$ Hi im looking for girls open to having their head shaved and the experience filmed. If interested please message me with pics. Cash is payed based on overall appearance. Ideal candidate. 18+. Must have shoulder length or longer hair. Must have pics

HOUSE SITTING I can do house sitting in San Diego. Long term preferred. spressman@hotmail.com

DOMESTIC/BABYSITTING/ELDERCARE Housecleaning; Cooking; Babysitting; Elder care; Experienced. I come to you. Mainly in El Cajon and Lakeside, may be willing to expand. All day, every day. Hardly any job too big or small. Call or text for reference and a quote. Cynthia, (619) 773-4784. / welchcynthia777@gmail.com

COOK OR DISHWASHER PREFERRED Seeking Temp. or p/t employment. 15 yrs. exp. Prefer Mid-City location. Kevin Miller (858) 424-0037

PERSONAL ASST./ CARE-GIVER FOR HIRE 7 years exp. Live-in preferred. Expected salary min. wage per hour. Kevin Miller (858) 424-0037

ELDER CARE SPECIALIST Elder care provided by a respectful, gentle and kind lady. North County coastal area. All aspects of care. Nights only. Call Stella (442) 944-1120

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

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

WANTED / TRADE

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

SEEKING EXPERIENCED AGGRESSIVE CIVIL ATTORNEY Regarding TRO slash defamation. Jim Smith (760) 789-8774

LOOKING FOR OLD TUBE STEREO'S I am looking for that old Tube Stereo System that your Dad used to play. These Stereo Components were made in America, in the early 1960's, by such Companies as Fisher, Scott, McIntosh, Dynaco & More. I pay Ca\$h, so please call Jack (619) 296-3100 / jack222@cox.net

TREADMILL WANTED I am looking for a used treadmill to buy/trade. I have a Gazelle exercise machine-a fun way to exercise. You can Google it for info and pics. (858) 272-9525 / sharina.moore@outlook.com

NEW & USED SOLAR PANELS WANTED I'm looking for solar panels that are reasonably priced or if they are old I will haul them away for free. I'm setting up an off grid system connected to the electric grid. Let me know what 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

WANTED: KIEF/INDICA FLOWER Looking for kief and/or sultry (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

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

BUYING OLD BASEBALL CARDS Buying old baseball and other sports/non-sports cards.

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

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/ARTS 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

VINTAGE DRUMS I'm looking to buy vintage drums (619) 806-6703

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.

I BUY MILITARY PILOT HELMETS (619) 806-6703

I BUY VINTAGE SLOT CARS I buy vintage slot cars (619) 806-6703 Scott

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

ESTATE SALE Estate Sale 1 day only. 4696 Greene Street, Ocean Beach 92107. artwork, furniture, household items, clothes & lots of misc. new & used items (619) 719-7788 / kathy@battenaccountancy.com

MISSION VALLEY FAMILY IS MOVING Gigantic selection of woman's clothing, small household items; too much to mention. Items are going from \$2-\$3 dollars each. Please call for viewing appointment (619) 269-3434. Everything must go!

GARAGE SALE SATURDAY 12/16/23 Garage Sale in Tiersanta on Saturday 12/16 from 8 am to 12 pm. Will be selling housewares, electronics, CD/DVD's, small furniture, misc. holiday items, etc. Address is 5786 Guincho Rd.

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

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

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

ARIAT WOMEN'S NEW WESTERN BOOTS 2 Pairs Size 6 and 6 1/2. \$50.00 all. Text (442) 238-7382



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. \$35. Text or email for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Used and Beautiful - Blow-Out sale! 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Friday, December 16th, Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December

18th at Alexandra Institute (3545 Midway Drive #G, Sports Arena San Diego, CA). Call (619) 298-3422. www.Alexandrainstitute.org

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

HEAVY DUTY METAL OUT-DOOR CHAIR This gray outdoor patio chair is heavy & very sturdy for a full-sized adult. Beautiful decorative seat back, armrests & legs. Metal frame & heavy vinyl strap seat provide for comfort & good support. Excellent condition. \$45. Text for more info/pics (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SERVING TRAY AND CERAMIC BOWL Black, round, wrought iron serving tray, glass bottom \$35. Ceramic bowl with matching pitcher \$25. Txt (760) 835-0322 Cash only.



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

DARK GRAY ROLLING OFFICE CHAIR This high quality professional office computer desk chair is well constructed and very comfortable with ventilated curved mesh back, fabric seat & armrests. The chair rolls & swivels smoothly and in very good condition. \$35. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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



KIDS TRICYCLE PUSH BIKE This SmartTrike bike has parent / child control, 3-way safety belt, foldable footrest & rear storage for toddler & infant ages 15 to 36 months. It is the perfect ride for your little one. Color fade but fully functional. \$25. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SMOG CHECK \$29.75

Year 2000 and newer. Plus \$8.25 certificate. By appt only.
Vans and trucks extra. Free retest when we do the repair.
Experienced Mechanic needed



OIL CHANGE

up to 4 quarts & oil filter Most 4 cylinder cars, Trucks extra.

Synthetic blend extra

\$29.95 +tax

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES

- Front or Rear Axle
- Parts & Labor
- Turn Rotors / Drums
- Premium Pads
- Most 4 cylinder Cars + tax

\$179
Free Inspection

TRANSMISSION SERVICE

Includes filter, pan gasket, fluid, most cars. From \$179 + tax & hazardous materials fee

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.

\$149

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



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ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

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TIMING BELT

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AC SERVICE

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12,000 mile, 1 year warranty

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(619) 430-4369 • 1616 Precision Park Lane, San Diego, 92173

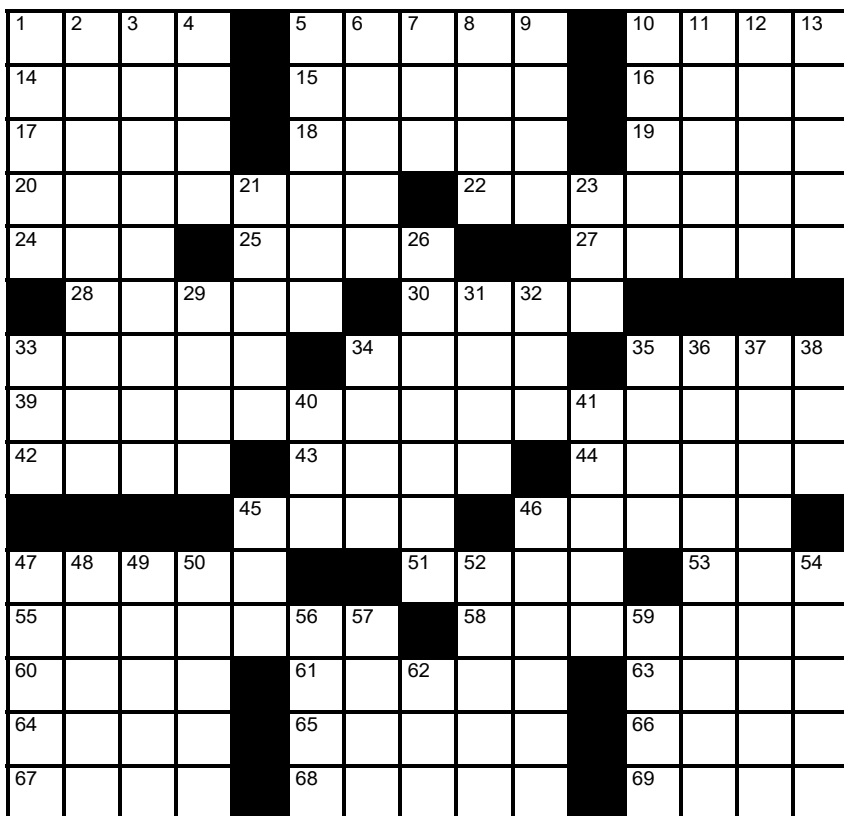
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CROSSWORD



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

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

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

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

Across

- 1.** Kaplan who appeared on ABC's 1976 debut of "Battle of the Network Stars"
5. French model and actress Laetitia
10. Crossword solver's cries
14. Some along the Somme
15. Halle Bailey's role in 2023's "The Little Mermaid"
16. Sarah ____ (1840s First Lady)
17. Raquel Welch film "____ Breckinridge"
18. Make a face, say
19. ____-poly
20. Provide staff for a one-named supermodel ... or a guy who likes getting his nails done
22. Jump over a breakfast chain ... or a Southwest tribe's high school dance
24. Forest's Oscar role

25. Not close

- 27.** Overjoy
28. Brink
30. Verdi work commissioned by Cairo's Khedivial Opera House
33. Video-sharing site that's an anagram of "movie"
34. "Yeah ... pass"
35. West Point sch.
39. "Whichever is fine by me!" (or an apt observation about 20-, 22-, 55- and 58-Across)
42. Splinter group
43. Firebug
44. Bohr who gave a shout-out to Einstein in his 1922 Nobel acceptance speech
45. All-knowing
46. 10 out of 10
47. U.S. president whose U.S. Supreme Court nominees were all women

51. Word that follows comfort or danger

- 53.** Org. with a National Explosives Detection Canine Program
55. Was in charge of a Middle East country ... or an Indian royal took off
58. Prohibit a construction piece ... or a place to get a drink along the Adriatic
60. City home to the Railroad Museum of Oklahoma
61. "Game of Thrones" timeline
63. \$.01
64. Honey Bunches of ____
65. Rapper who founded Ruthless Records in 1986
66. Uber ____
67. Thin strip
68. Angioplasty tube
69. 6/6/1944

Down

- 1.** ____ bears (Haribo candy)
2. "Little help here?!"
3. "The Original Kings of Comedy" comedian
4. Morales of "How to Get Away with Murder"
5. It might hold a red or white
6. Prince or Queen's venue
7. "Chandelier" singer
8. It might be high or low
9. The "A" of SATB vocal ranges
10. National Minority Health Month
11. Ado
12. Dole out
13. Zoom precursor
21. Grandson of Noah

- 23.** It might be cast from a pod
26. Sara who portrayed the longest-running LGBT character in U.S. television history on "Grey's Anatomy"
29. Flat fee?
31. Big on
32. "Waverly Hills, 9-0-2-1-____" ("The Simpsons" episode)
33. Word before and after "à"
34. 180s
35. Actor Michael of "Ugly Betty"
36. It might make a small splash in a gym
37. December job posting
38. Shakespearean cries
40. Nail polish brand that began as Odontorium Products Inc.

- 41.** Rear-____
45. "Love is like ____: easy to begin but very hard to stop": H.L. Mencken
46. How butterflies might be caught
47. Treats that are the subject of Weird Al's "The White Stuff"
48. Yawn-inspiring
49. "West Side Story" role
50. Thick (of)
52. Professional who brings out the kid in you?
54. Like improv theater groups
56. Half brother of Athena
57. Well-kept
59. Word before coffee or tea
62. Suffix with sermon

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

MEDIUM:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:

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

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. \$60. Text for more info/pics (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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TYCO TRAIN STUFF Several cars, one engine, two power supplies, and a box of track. \$25.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

SNOW CHAINS Snow chains P245/70R was to be used for my 4X4. \$20.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

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APPLE IPHONE 13 PRO MAX 256GB Was used on Verizon network, sim unlocked great condition. Simply selling as I upgraded to 15. \$650 jesse04ram@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 security. New, never used with original tags+stickers. \$15. Text for email for more info/pics (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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Awkward

— Arnaldo Chamorro, chief of staff for Paraguay's Agriculture Ministry, lost his position on Nov. 29 after an embarrassing episode in which he signed a "proclamation" in October with the United States of Kailasa, Fox News reported. Trouble is, the USK doesn't exist; the fictional country is the brainchild of a fugitive guru, Nithyananda, who is wanted in India on several charges including sexual assault. Chamorro admitted during a radio interview that he was not familiar with Kailasa but said he signed the agreement because the country offered to help Paraguay with a variety of issues, including irrigation. *News of the Weird* has reported before (March 2023) about the posers, who have also fooled the United Nations and Newark City Hall in New Jersey, which signed a sister city agreement with the country.

The Way the World Works

— Can't a grandma send her grandson home with an early Christmas gift without raising suspicions among the TSA? No, she can't. Actor Brett Gaffney headed back to Los Angeles on Nov. 25 after spending Thanksgiving in his native Kansas, *People* reported. At Kansas City International Airport, he said, "I got stopped at the airport security, and ... it was because of this briefcase my grandma gave me as an early Christmas gift, and she said don't open it until you get to California." Gaffney followed her directions, but TSA wasn't having it. "They asked me what was inside, and I said, 'I don't

know, I don't know.' They said, 'What do you mean? You're bringing a briefcase and you don't know what's inside?'" Turns out, Gaffney's nana had gifted him a vintage Smith-Corona typewriter. "Who am I, Tom Hanks?" Gaffney joked. He continued his story on TikTok: "I didn't think I'd use this, but here we are. It's so calming. All I want to do is stay home and type on my typewriter." Thanks, Grandma.

Crime Report

— After getting a Waffle House logo tattooed on his calf on Dec. 2 in St. Petersburg, Florida, 33-year-old Max Alexander Krejckant of Clearwater "refused all options to satisfy his debts," police said — which amounted to \$250. As a result, *The Smoking Gun* reported, he was arrested at the Ink Godz shop; police found only \$6 and a driver's license on his person when he was frisked (although they noted he was under the influence of something). Krejckant bonded out and pleaded not guilty (huge Waffle House tattoo evidence notwithstanding). Wonder what the charge is for bad inking decisions?

Animal Antics

— The mystery of who has been slashing tires in the southern Italian city of Vastogirardi has been solved, *The Guardian* reported. The wave of damaged tires began in July and ramped up again in October in the town of about 600 residents, forcing police to place undercover cops on patrol. Finally, they mounted surveillance cameras, and in late

November, they collared their suspect: a dog named Billy, who was suffering from a painful case of gingivitis. "It is a peaceful village -- we knew it couldn't be anyone from outside as we are always aware of any suspicious movements," said deputy mayor Remo Scocchera. "It's a positive thing that the perpetrator wasn't a person in the village." Still, Billy's owner will probably have to pony up for the damaged tires -- not to mention dental work.

News You Can Use

— In Stenlille, Denmark, a vehicle fire also damaged a nearby house on Dec. 2, *InShort* reported. Police issued a warning to the community after the fire, cautioning people against using toasters under the front of cars to keep EV batteries warm. While there were no injuries, the car was heavily damaged, and the owner likely will have to pay a fine.

Least Competent Criminal

— A 62-year-old woman from Haslett, Michigan, picked a poor time to dash through the self-checkout at Walmart with \$700 worth of merchandise in her cart, WJRT-TV reported. On Dec. 2, as the store participated in a Shop With a Cop event in Genoa Township, a clerk notified one of about 75 police officers on hand about the shoplifter. "I do have to say it surprised me," said Michigan State Police Lt. Rene Gonzalez. "When you see 75 cops in the store, I mean, I don't know if maybe they thought we were too busy." The alleged thief was detained in the parking lot and taken to jail.

Nah, I'm Done

— Joshua James Pinquet, 21, of Orlando, Florida, made an apparent sudden decision on Nov. 28 to quit his job, *Iredell Free News* reported. As he was driving a van with four prison inmates locked in the cargo area, Pinquet contacted his boss at the inmate transport company and said he was done. He was supposed to deliver the inmates to Hickory, North Carolina, but instead he kept going; when Iredell County sheriff's officers caught up with him, he was arrested and charged with second-degree kidnapping and larceny.

Saw That Coming

— In Venice, Italy, on Dec. 3, tourists once again behaved badly -- and this time they ended up all wet. *The Guardian* reported that travelers from China were riding in a gondola through the city's canals, shifting around and standing to take selfies, when the gondola capsized, dumping them in the cold water. The gondolier had repeatedly asked them to stay seated, but as he maneuvered under a bridge, the vessel became unbalanced. He, too, ended up in the water, where he assisted his passengers to safety.

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* Treatment plans vary case by case, restrictions may apply. Call office for details. Offers cannot be combined. Offers for cash patients only. For insurance patients, insurance fees apply. Offers good through 1-15-24. **No-Needle system cannot be used on all cases. Use of conventional anaesthesia may still be required.

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