

SAN DIEGO

VOL. 48 | NO. 52 | DECEMBER 28, 2023

# Reader

## Nathan Fletcher's Unending Quest



Mass transit vs. massive housing ■ The mistress of murals ■ A study of scarlet

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# LETTERS

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

## A plea to be on TV

The letter writer, Mr. David Ross ("Dan: a man with a plan", Letters, Dec. 21, 2023) misses the bigger picture. When there are merely five candidates running for San Diego Mayor and only three are covered by the major television networks, this goes against the dignity and ideals of America. This is not who we are as citizens in advocating for fair play and justice. Demand that the networks cover every qualified candidate running for mayor. I suspect some important people are manipulating the political process and this is immoral. It is not who we are as Americans. Please stop! Dan Smiechowski is a candidate for San Diego Mayor and proud American. [www.dannytri.com](http://www.dannytri.com)

Dan Smiechowski  
Bay Ho

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

## East Village sidewalk tents not dwindling

Cover Story, Dec. 13, 2023

Way too many homeless in San Diego, and it's gotten a lot worse. With no end in sight.

-Amen brother

The majority of the homeless in this article, reflecting the population overall, do not originate from San Diego, nor do they have any reason for substantial presence (e.g., family, education, work). Why are San Diego taxpayers or service providers under any obligation at all to accommodate non San Diegans who have voluntarily decided to move here with no means

to support themselves. This population drains already limited resources and even if a minority by percentage, there is a still a vast number to deal with. This problematic population makes any efforts to stabilize, treat or house the homeless completely unsustainable.

-Anon

McConnell is NO homeless advocate. There is absolutely nothing he has done to advocate for homeless all of these years of in his self proclaimed status - that we (the homeless) have not done or said for ourselves already. Why is he constantly being asked to be interviewed on this topic?

It's the Youtube and video game generation.

-Lucca lucca

## San Diego okays Complete Streets, but cyclists worry

Neighborhood News, Dec. 12, 2023

0 traffic fatalities by 2025 is not a realistic goal. That's fantasy land. Sorry, you can't fix stupid.

-One Random User

Instead of doing all of this alternative BS, why don't they just repave the streets that everyone drives on, instead of their social engineering projects?

-Logical Person

^Do you realize that the fact that everyone is dependent on a car is also a feat of social engineering?

-Engineered lives matter

^Actually, the need for cars is a screwup by urban planners. They always seem to be proposing designs and communities that turn out to have long tails of negative externalities. Row houses, Cabrini Green, LA, etc. All were the wrong plan when they were developed.

-Logical Person

^They don't. The cry for a car is freedom. Anything else is a loss of freedom. It's very interesting when people fork up a lot of their pay monthly to finance and operate a car. Sounds like most car brains are happy with their freedom stuck in traffic.

-Engineered lives matter

continued on page 4

# San Diego Reader

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December 28, 2023



PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAPE VINE, ISTOCK, GETTY IMAGES

Failing his way to the top — page 8



Every day I'm muraling — page 5



Papalo's unique BBQ style — page 20

## ADVERTISING

### Display Ads

Automotive .....	23
Cannabis .....	28
Classifieds.....	21
Health and Beauty.....	12
Legal Solutions.....	7
Music.....	17
Research Studies.....	9
Rentals.....	22
Restaurants .....	20

## NEWS & FEATURES

<b>Letters</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Neighborhood News</b>	
How Teslas get taken, tension over tunnels at the fairgrounds .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Golden Dreams</b>	
People died for dye, murals having a moment .....	<b>5</b>
<b>From the Archives</b>	
The things that make us .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Nathan Fletcher's unending quest</b>	
A brief session with SD on the QT's Man of the Year, by Walter Mencken.....	<b>8</b>
<b>Puzzles</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>News of the Weird</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>CALENDAR</b>	
<b>Events</b>	
Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance, Discussion Groups, For Kids, Lectures, Movies, Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness, Theater.....	<b>14</b>
<b>Outdoors</b>	
Not all palm fruits are dates, but they're still tasty.....	<b>15</b>
<b>Music</b>	
Blurt: From South Africa to San Diego .....	<b>17</b>
Live Five: San Diego acts you ought to check out.....	<b>18</b>
Immortal Beauty: Christmas cheer at the Shell .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Restaurants</b>	
Feast: Holy Mole! Papalo is not your average BBQ spot.....	<b>20</b>
<b>Fish Report</b>	
Looking back on 2023's catch counts.....	<b>26</b>

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

## THE ROAD

### EV thieves MO revealed Hang onto your key and phone!

Teslas are reportedly the least stolen cars in the United States, thanks to a bevy of security features. For example, Teslas have a Sentry Mode feature, which, when enabled, warns people that trigger the car's proximity sensors that onboard cameras are recording. And if someone tries smashing the windows, Sentry Mode will set off an alarm, increase the brightness of the center screen display, and play loud music on the car stereo. But "least stolen" is not the same as "never stolen," as some San Diegans have learned. A woman named Monica G. posted a photo on NextDoor last month showing a photo of an alleged thief, photographed by her Tesla's car's onboard camera. She captioned it, "Has anyone seen this suspect who broke into my white Tesla and stole it with all my belongings? The guy forgot to disable the camera on the car."



PHOTO CREDIT: AJ VELASCO

Self-driving? Maybe. But also other-driven.

driver disembarks and locks the vehicle using a Tesla key card with a Radio-Frequency Identification tag inside. The thief's accomplice then approaches the Tesla driver carrying a small device that can copy a key card's ID tag. The accomplice then sends the key card's ID information to the thief, who is able to slip into the car and drive away. In the forums, Tesla drivers suggest storing their smart keys in ID tag-protected wallets to prevent people from copying them.

In June, someone posted a video on Facebook of a flatbed tow truck hauling a Tesla somewhere in San Diego. "Is this your Model X?" they captioned it. "If so, Coastal Pride Towing has your car. And the alarm is still going off."

## THE TRACKS

### Tunnels v. tenements Can the Fairgrounds handle both?

The city of Del Mar is still trying to figure out where to build the 113 affordable units it needs to meet state housing requirements, and

"The implications of a tunnel under residences are far worse than I could have imagined."

the process has just gotten more complicated.

Many locals say a large complex would be out of place in either the city proper or on the bluffs. However, the 340-acre fairgrounds could handle 61 of the low income units — despite the challenges of providing ingress and egress for residents, the environmental and noise concerns, and the impacts on fair operations. But it's less certain it can handle those units plus an underground train tunnel.

The San Diego Association of Governments is planning to move 1.7 miles of coastal train track inland, away from the fragile bluffs, by 2035. A study on the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Realignment weighed five potential locations for the new track. The current top two options are tunnels under the city, along Camino Del Mar and Crest Canyon, but some city council members

are pushing for further study regarding a fairgrounds option.

The trouble with that option, according to a letter from fairgrounds officials to the city, is that it could come "at the possible expense of our ability to continue with productive discussions regarding affordable housing." Those officials were tipped off when the city announced last November that it would vote on a set of nine guiding principles related to the rail realignment. Those principles included "an explicit call for SANDAG to conduct further study of a potential alignment that runs through and/or underneath" the fairgrounds, wrote Carlene Moore, chief executive officer of the 22nd District Agricultural Association. Moore pointed out that it was still unknown whether any agreed-upon housing development plans might later be "significantly impacted by potential construction and/or future train service."

On Monday, mayor Tracy Martinez and council member Terry Gaasterland proposed a 10th guiding principle to add to the set

passed in November — one specific to the fairgrounds. "SANDAG must respect and protect the operational, economic, environmental and planning needs of the 22nd DAA and of the proposed Del Mar housing program on the Fairgrounds, and as a key stakeholder, the 22nd DAA must be proactively engaged by SANDAG throughout the process."

While the city has no authority over the rail project or chosen alignment, its top priorities are getting the trains off the eroding bluffs and avoiding the taking of private property.

"The implications of a tunnel under residences are far worse than I could have imagined," one Del Mar dweller wrote to the city. For the Crest Canyon High Speed Route, one portal needed 10 acres of land, which, if it were located near residential zones, could potentially equal 43 lots taken.

SHIELA PELL

"The card is like a credit card you place in the center console, and you might forget about it."

Happily for Monica, she found her Tesla, which had been stolen in Little Italy, abandoned a few miles away in Linda Vista the next day. I messaged her to learn how the electric vehicle had been nabbed, and if the thief was caught. When she didn't reply, I started poking around on my own. On December 19, I spoke with AJ Velasco, a Tesla customizer I had met at a San Diego car meet. "How could they have stolen Monica's Tesla?" I asked.

"The Tesla's key is either a phone or a card," Velasco explained. "The card is like a credit card you place in the center console, and you might forget about it. The car won't lock if the key remains inside." Online forums indicate that it's common for Tesla owners — especially newbies — to leave the vehicle and forget the key. Also, Teslas can be locked, unlocked, and even driven by using a phone app's smart key. If the driver forgets their phone in the vehicle, a thief who manages to open the phone can start the Tesla and drive away.

The comments below Monica's photo offered another possibility: a relay attack involving two people. Online PSA videos explain that the crime starts when the Tesla

Commented Velasco, "I can always track my Tesla, except when it's on a flatbed. But the minute they turn it on to drive it off the flatbed, I'll know where it's at." (Velasco, who is originally from Dallas, has towed his blue Tesla Model 3 to San Diego and other parts of the country, as it's a show-winning EV.) While in transit, "it'll show the last position when it was driven, but when it's turned on and driven off the flatbed, the signal will get picked up."

Velasco offered two additional security measures for Tesla owners. "There's an optional four-digit pin interface you can implement to drive the car, and lastly, you can turn the speed [limiter] way down so that the car can't go more than 20-25 miles per hour."

But sometimes, no degree of precaution is sufficient. In late November, Fox 5 San Diego reported that two people were arrested in San Diego for allegedly being part of a car theft and title scheme in Riverside County. One of the vehicles in question was a 2022 Tesla Model Y.

MIKE MADRIAGA



Coming through? Going under?

## UNDER THE RADAR

**Fin de U-T San Diego** It's the end of the line for the all-Spanish weekly tabloid published by the *Union-Tribune*, a newspaper that's been shrinking all over under current owner Alden Global Capital. "The last issue of *U-T en Español* will be published on Dec. 30," says a December 18 post on X by *U-T* Deputy Editor of Editorial & Opinion **Laura Castañeda**. "No announcements will be made to the community. I wish the best to my colleagues, especially [**Lilia O'Hara**] for 25 years of dedication to the Latino community on both sides of the border."

The once-vibrant Spanish newspaper, originally known as *Enlace*, saw its size and influence diminish over years of cost-cutting by a succession of *U-T* owners. Back in 2013, per a *U-T* news release, *Enlace* "grabbed the Gold Award" from the National Association of Hispanic Publications for "outstanding multiple article series; outstanding design — newspaper, broadsheet format; and outstanding event."

Under subsequent ownership by Chicago-based Tribune Publishing, *Enlace's* name changed to *Hoy* to match similar publications run by Tribune in Chicago and Los Angeles. "We compete nationwide with the best of the best in Hispanic publications," said **Tom Jimenez**, the *U-T's* vice president of Spanish-language products at the time. "We're very proud." Per the *U-T*: "*Hoy San Diego* will have zone pages for the North and South regions of San Diego County, as well as a Riverside edition and a Baja California edition named *Hoy Fin de Semana*."

But that never happened, and a round of downsizing came after Los Angeles billionaire **Patrick Soon Shiong** bought the *LA Times* and the *U-T* from Tribune in 2018. "This is the Last Edition of *Hoy San Diego*," wrote editor O'Hara in a note to readers announcing the change. "The title of this column sounds drastic, but in fact, it's good news," she added. "To support the quality of our information with even greater strength, *Hoy San Diego* changes its name and size."

An accompanying pronouncement by *U-T* editor **Jeff Light** chimed in, "Welcome to the first edition of *The San Diego Union-Tribune* in Spanish." Added Light's statement: "the decision to align more tightly with the *Union-Tribune* in English reflects our conviction that San Diego is a single community." Despite Light's promise of beefed-up coverage, the Spanish version continued to diminish during

his reign. He abruptly left his job when Alden Global Capital took over the paper from Soon-Shiong this past summer.

**Volo Beach, San Diego** San Diego Mayor **Todd Gloria**, widely regarded as a shoo-in for reelection next year despite the surprise entrance into the race of fellow Democrat **Geneviève Jones-Wright**, is raising cash for his bid for a spot on the board of the county Democratic Central Committee.

Latest to give, with \$1500 on December 14, is Volo, Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland. With Gloria on the fundraising trail, can a big-money development deal be far behind? In June 2022, Baltimore's WBAL-TV reported that Volo was seeking to "build its own recreational center in Brewers Hill, in a bid to do for social sports leagues what 'Topgolf did for golf.'" Whether by coincidence or not, the real Topgolf has been

edging closer to a controversial deal with the San Diego port district for a high-tech driving range on East Harbor Island.

Meanwhile, back in Baltimore this past summer, Volo Beach, "a 184,732-square-foot multipurpose sports entertainment venue located at Baltimore Peninsula (formerly Port Covington)," made its debut, per an August 8 news release. "The destination is a partnership between the developers of the \$5 billion, 235-acre Baltimore Peninsula development, led by MAG Partners, and Volo Sports, a national provider of social and competitive adult sports leagues. Situated on more than four acres near the waterfront, Volo Beach is located

directly behind the newly opening 1.1 million square feet of offices, shops, restaurants, apartments and hotels within Baltimore Peninsula."

*Baltimore Magazine* describes Volo as a so-called adult sports network that "initially started as a Bocce league in Federal Hill in 2010 and has since grown to offer more than 15 sports (everything from softball and kickball to corn hole and

badminton) in more than 10 cities." Says Volo's San Diego website: "Volo sports leagues are a fun way to get active and get social. You can build your squad, meet your next ex (or the love of your life), and get your sweat on..."

Sempre Energy subsidiary San Diego Gas & Electric is gearing up for an epic big money battle to hold onto its lucrative monopoly franchise against a local initiative effort launched December 5 seeking to set

*continued on page 4*



Laura Castañeda bid a sad adios to the *U-T en Español*.



Geneviève Jones-Wright thinks Todd's time has passed.

## Reader WRITING CONTEST

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



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

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

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

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

Email entries to  
[writingcontest@sandiegoreader.com](mailto:writingcontest@sandiegoreader.com)  
by January 31, 2024

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

## LETTERS

continued from page 1

Now they understand how the businesses that went out of business due to no parking and residents who used to shop on 30th Street felt, and still feel. What goes around, has come back around.

-Cause not symptom

^Please give examples of businesses that have closed specifically due to bike lanes, with analysis that backs up that claim. I haven't seen any.

-Not buying it

^Yeah, what does this comment mean in the context of the article?

-Confused

Someone needs to compute the GHGs and toxic air contaminant increase from having to slow lines of cars for bikes.

-Real science wanted

^So what you're saying is that bikes should be in an entirely separate location away from the cars so that they don't slow down traffic? Something like, oh I don't know, a protected bike lane?

-No Duh?!

^I'm not proposing a solution. If protected bike lanes slow overall traffic by removing lanes from service, then the saving from the cars off the road needs to be netted with the damage the slower speeds do to auto efficiency and green house gas emissions. We need to do that math.

-Real science wanted

^Idk man... electric cars will soon mess up this argument. Also, citizens can look at different cars other than giant SUVs that only carry one person to and from work.

-No Duh?!

^EVs change the math. Mining lithium is basically open pit strip mining. Until they have EV Terex dump trucks and EV Cat D9s, and the like, the damage done both to the land and to the GHG tally needs to be computed. The more recent approved lithium mine is in NV on Indian burial grounds. Everything has a consequence.

-Real science wanted

I-805 is NOT a city street, it's part of the nationwide Interstate Highway System.

-Just sayin'

### Fleeing Prius driver crashes into Tower Bar - third hit for punk venue

Neighborhood News, Dec. 11, 2023

I actually saw the car crash into the front door of the Tower Bar back in 1964. I was 7 y/o and my mom drove down University Ave, and right past the Tower Bar, just after it happened.

-Witness

### DeAnza Springs sheds the naked life

Cover Story, Oct. 25, 2023

I am thankful that I got to experience DeAnza Springs as a naturist. DeAnza was the first nude resort I ever visited. I was shy at first. But, meeting the residents, visitors, and staff around the property made me feel welcome and like I belonged there. I came to love hiking nude in the desert. Being naked helped my mindset. With my newfound vulnerability, I let the unimportant things go.

I will return to DeAnza Springs for more hiking, even with clothes, because I love the area. I hope the kind, welcoming atmosphere still prevails. The owners and residents

will find some common ground, and I hope it includes naturism.

Thank you for the story, Danielle! I'm grateful that I was there on that warm, humid day in August to hear the nude community concerns you voiced so well in your story. I wish you all the best with your new baby!

-Nude Jude

### Penny pinchers and pikers rarely do well at the track

Feature Story, Aug. 23, 2023

Incredible piece of writing. Move over Hunter S. Thompson!

-Hunter Gatherer

### Toros de Tijuana beisbol game: banda music, psychedelics, and Marco "el Raton" Astorga complete the night

Golden Dreams, June 21, 2023

Good times... I'd like to go to a game and maybe play if I can hang. It's a good city... Not going to lie.

-Dreams of Beisbol

### Summer of Si!

SD on the QT, Jan. 1, 2023

Saying that Antifa are just people that are anti-fascists is like saying that Hitler was just a humble painter.

-Antifa Want POWER and MONEY

### Saint Malo: A home more informed by English Tudor than French Normandy style

Unreal Estate, July 20, 2022

A dream house...

-Tudor

### Before City Heights

Feature Stories, Nov. 10, 2021

My heart lives in East Side San Diego, and East Side goes where ever I go.

-Carlos Solla aka "Titito"

### Former Eckankar re-visits the movement

Cover Story, June 22, 1995

When the student is ready, the Inner Master appears. That Master will take on whatever countenance works best for the student. No organization or leader is required. One looks back at all the time spent intellectualizing and feels sadness for those still needing to do it.

-Wise words

## Under the radar

continued from page 3

up a city-owned utility. "It's based on the premise that the system is broken at this point," Bill Powers, chair of the Power San Diego campaign, told TV station KNSD. "San Diego Gas & Electric has the highest rates in the country. If we don't move on doing this, we are stuck in a corner with San Diego Gas & Electric." The group needs to collect 80,000 valid signatures to qualify the measure for the 2024 ballot, per the report. SDG&E's counter committee, Responsible Energy San Diego, filed a December 15 registration with the city clerk's office, listing Scott Crider as principal officer. He's SDG&E's Senior Vice President of External and Operations Support, according to the company's website.

— 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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**Tuna found in the desert?**

OK, fair enough: that's *tuna*, as in the Spanish for prickly pear, the fruit of the nopal. Ken Factor and I have spotted an ancient cactus tree growing close to the veranda outside the visitors' center here in Old Town plaza. Their natural habitat, of course, is out where you'd find Pecos Bill: in places like the Anza Borrego.

"These are beautiful," I say to Factor, one of the State Park staffers. Indeed, the *tuna* are red, luscious-looking fruits, bursting through the green skins of the cactus paddles.

"Yes, but if you're looking for real treasure," says Factor, "you should look at the white fuzzy stuff between the *tuna*. Kings and princes fought wars for these little things."

Now Ken mentions it, I do notice the tiny webs growing on most of each of the cactus' paddles. "Why so valuable?" I ask.

"Watch this," Ken says. He leans forward, and with his finger and thumb, picks up one of the white smudges. He squashes it. It turns instantly scarlet.

"Blood? Did you prick yourself?" I ask.

"Not *my* blood. It's the liquid that this little creature spurts out to damage anything trying to eat it. It was a sensational red dye discovery. Like the tulips of Holland, it was suddenly the thing. In dull 1600s Europe, this electric red came out of nowhere."

"Was it the only red dye around?"

"Well, yes, it was. It was roughly ten times more intense than any red dye known to humankind. Ten times as red! It had always been around. Native American chiefs used it to color their robes." In Mexico, it seems, around centers like Oaxaca, the Aztec workers spent their days using lopped-off deer tails to wipe the cochineal scale off cactus paddles while avoiding the cactus spines. And when the Spanish came, the *conquistadors* started sending shiploads of it back to their kings, to give them the brightest robes — and, among their elite troops, the most fearsome scarlet uniforms. The Spanish ruled this trade — and kept the secret of what the dye was and where it came from — for centuries. Everybody craved it. Think of the British Redcoats. Only officers could dye their jackets with cochineal.

"Remember," says Factor, "Europe was a brown and green world. They had never seen anything this spectacular." Self-respecting monarchs, he says, could not afford to be seen in anything less. The price of "cactus blood" skyrocketed. Fortunes were made. Cochineal became Mexico's biggest export after silver. Factor rubs his red-stained finger against his thumb. "And all from this little parasite that



**Tiny cochineal bugs like to drink sap from cactus. If you squish them, you get a scarlet surprise.**

likes to drink cactus sap."

So why don't we hear about this miracle bug any more? "Cheap synthetic pigments and dyes came along in the late 19th, early 20th centuries. They just about killed off cochineal." But not quite. Recent concern that some commercial synthetic red dyes and food colorings may be carcinogenic have spurred a rethink of cochineal, which has been found to be neither carcinogenic nor toxic — and so okay to use as a beauty colorant.

"I was leading a tour around Old Town," says Factor, "and one of the older ladies stopped. She squished a cochineal growth, then proceeded to slowly smear it across her lips, like lipstick. 'I am Mexican,' she told me. 'This is what we have always used it for.' Maybe she's ahead of the next wave of natural beauty products."

**Daly's daily murals**

Hanna Daly is putting finishing touches on the larger-than-life dancing lady she has painted, freehand, on the alley-side wall of a dance studio in Coronado. It's the kind of mural Daly can knock off on a, uh, daily basis. She's used to working fast, thinking on her feet. "Typically, we might have a little conference in the morning, the owners and I, to make sure we're



**Hanna at work on one of her most popular subjects, the owl.**



**The red remains of a squished cochineal insect, in Old Town's Plaza.**

on the same page," she explains. "Maybe a sketch or two, but nothing more. When I start on a wall, I often have no idea what's going to appear. I like to be as spontaneous as I can."

Daly the muralist can't keep up with the

"When I start on a wall, I often have no idea what's going to appear. I like to be as spontaneous as I can."

orders and requests she receives: her career has grown right alongside the spectacular expansion of mural art as an accepted part of San Diego's cityscape. It helps that she's a veteran of the scene. "I've been painting murals for 19 years now, so over time I've gotten really good at laying stuff out on a really big surface," she says. "Yes, I just free-handed the dancer. She's probably about 9 or 10 feet tall. It wasn't that hard, really. Most of it is just eyeballing."

She says murals are busting out all over — not only here, but around the world. "I started doing this in 2004 in San Diego, one of maybe four muralists in town. People didn't even know what murals were. Plus, business owners were afraid of putting public art on their businesses. They didn't want

to offend, they didn't want it to be too colorful. They didn't want to draw attention. And they were afraid of getting graffitied. But nowadays, people are embracing art more. Every business wants a mural now. And honestly, this mural art ends up *detering* graffiti artists. I have painted thousands of murals around San Diego, 50 in schools, and only three have been attacked over the years."

In all, she says, she paints almost 100 murals a year. "I am quick. The dance studio mural has taken me one day.

I get maybe \$1250 per one-day mural." She learned to be speedy because she had small children. "I worked maybe two days a week. But I'm super busy now. I feel super lucky to have this job, because I love being able to see

the fruits of my labor."

The amazing thing is, she has never had an art lesson in her life. "I did go to school, UC Santa Barbara — but not to get an art degree, because I thought I wouldn't be able to get a job in art." She laughs. "Instead, I got a linguistics degree and studied Spanish and French, but ended up not really using that. Whereas I can work every single day of the week at my art, and I could work twice as much if I needed to. And yet art-wise, I'm all self-taught."

At 42, she's fit and young, but admits that that painting on a ladder or a scissor lift for eight hours a day is difficult. "It's very physically taxing. My shoulders are always quite sore. I'm an open-water swimmer, so that helps. But that's why I'm thinking someday I'll just do canvases, like Diego Rivera." ■



**She specializes in freeform art.**

# Formative material

## Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man

Mom's taste lay to Wordsworth and Henry James, and the Joycean-flavored wordplay grated on her nerves. That disconcerting beginning of paragraphs in the present tense, then dissolving into stream of consciousness, and the low-class, drunken adventures that went on and on without letup, and nothing uplifting about any of it. This book was a scandal! But banning it from the house was closing the barn door too late. He started smoking like a chimney — Gaulloises, for God's sake. — *Robert Houghton* **MAR. 11, 1993**

## A Fairy Godmother's Art

I can recall the way a certain blouse, puffy-sleeved and lace-collared, tugged at the pits of my arms the year I fell in love with Matt Denhalter. The same mistakes I made in the changing rooms of department stores were made again in the sewing room, where the clothes that looked so perfect on the front of the pattern puckered at the wrists, ballooned at the chest, and hovered well above the ankles. — *Laura McNeal* **JAN. 2, 1997**

## Bill's Memory Machine

"My mother and father," Mike said, "were very frugal. They were very cost-conscious, so my mother didn't have money for carpeting, obviously, or even rugs, so she'd take old

pieces of clothing and cut them up." Then she crocheted the strips of cloth into rugs that sat beneath and beside the handmade furniture. "My father built all the furniture in the house," Mike said, "or a lot of it. Couches and chairs, dressers, cabinets." — *Laura McNeal* **OCT. 30, 1997**

## Small Hours

I ventured out one day during my friend's stay to return some overdue library books. I am forever accosted by eager minds needing to know something. That day was no exception. The old man tapped me on my shoulder. "Do you believe in God?" he inquired at the corner of Eighth and E streets. If I had used the after-hours drop box, the question

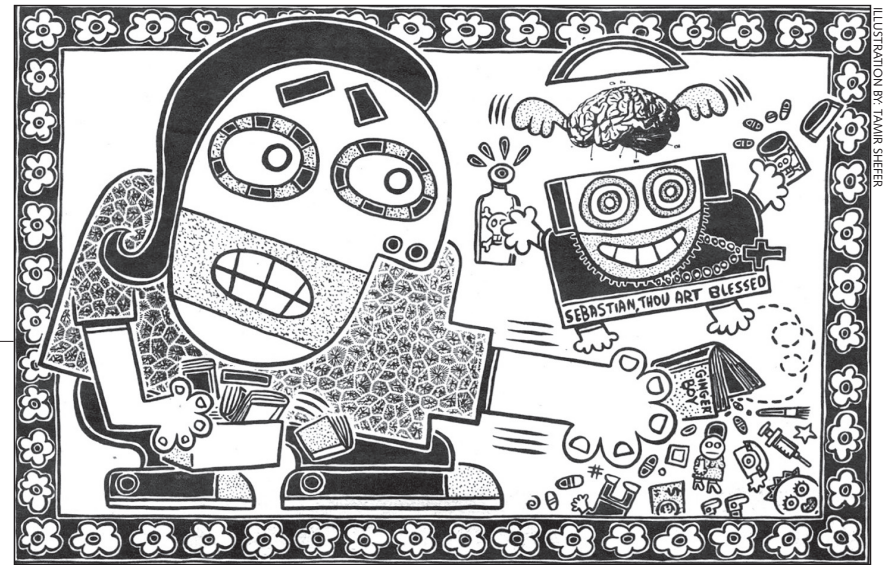


Illustration of the author and his brother

would have never been posed. "Yes, well, yes I do." — *Abe Opincar* **JUNE 16, 1988**

## I Wonder What You Can See as You Trouble My Silence

Your birthday is always such an emotionally difficult time for me. I remember the day you were born and how excited all of us

were. I wouldn't trade that moment for anything. That day was one of the most precious of my life. I'm so thankful God allowed me to have that moment unmarred by sorrow. You seemed so perfect, the fulfillment of my most cherished dream. But the dream was just that, a dream. — *Jangchup Phelgyal* **NOV. 13, 1997**

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# Nathan Fletcher's Unending Quest

*[Note: None of this actually happened. Well, some of it did.]*

**Scene:** The dated and faded but still warm and inviting interior of the office of Dr. Walter Mencken, Doctor of Psychiatric and Career Restoration. There is a knock at the door, and in walks Nathan Fletcher, troubled politician and 2023's *SD on the QT* Man of the Year, gripping

a bottle of whiskey in one hand and a child's stick horse in the other.

**Dr. Walter Mencken:** Ah, Mr. Fletcher, welcome. Please, lie down on the couch, make yourself comfortable. And...maybe put down the bottle?

**Nathan Fletcher, after taking a hearty gulp:** You read the news, doc. I told people I was going

away to deal with alcohol and PTSD. But like Hitler and Napoleon before me, I'm a soldier as well as a politician, and both of those guys showed the world what happens when you try to fight a war on two fronts simultaneously. One thing at a time.

**WM:** Let's put a pin in the Hitler reference and stick with Napoleon, shall we? If only because

of your...horse.

**NF:** Marengo? Had him since I was a little scamp growing up in Carson City, Nevada, watching my dad keep the peace in a town where folks still wore six shooters on their hips. Rode him clear to Smackover, Arkansas, then back to Carson City, and then all the way to Eureka, California.

**WM:** According to my records, all that took place before you were four years old. Something about bitter custody battles, involving two father figures — Dad and stepdad.

**NF:** You're the one with the records, doc. My point is that a man on a mission needs a trusty steed, a traveling companion on the lonely road.

**WM:** But some missions take lonelier roads than others, don't they? I mean, I'm only a humble Career Restoration counselor, but it doesn't take a Freud to see that all that bouncing between dads when you were young was followed by a certain degree of — well, I don't want to call it instability just yet. Let's say "restlessness."

**NF:** I'm restin' now, doc.

[Takes another long pull from bottle.]

**WM:** Fair enough. Still, it's been a long and winding road to get to this point, hasn't it? Career-wise, you've gone from politician, to corporate strategist for Qualcomm, and back to politician, with a brief stop at teaching at UCSD along the way. And even when you were getting going in politics, you mounted up and rode off to fight for your country with the Marines — not once, but twice! Politically, you went from a conservative Republican arguing for school choice to a progressive Democrat arguing for mandatory vaccines, with a brief stop at Independent along the way. And of course, there's your marriages.

**NF:** Careful, doc. You've got me on the couch, not my wife. And you don't want to tangle with her. Remember, she made the richest man in the world move the most valuable car company in the world from California to Texas with a single Tweet.

**WM:** Ah yes, "F\*ck Elon Musk." She does have a way with words. But don't worry, we're here to talk about you, not her. She's

part of the whole restlessness narrative, because, of course, she's not your first wife. She's not even your first politically connected wife. As with your politics, you started out with a Republican — the comms director for the National Republican Party, no less. Let's see, you married Mindy in 2003, right around the time you jumped ship from the California Republican Party and went to work for Randy "Duke" Cunningham. He was a big fish, that Randy, even if he stank worse than just about any of San Diego's many, many Very Bad Good Old Boys — and I say that as a man who once drank with Duncan Hunter, Jr. But getting back to you: after you divorced Mindy, you married Lorena in 2017, right before you re-entered politics and ran for the County Board of Supervisors.

**NF:** I don't think I like your insinuation there, doc.

**WM:** I'm not insinuating anything. I'm just noting the calendar. Because, well, here you are in February of 2023, announcing your intention to move up from County politics to the

# Fletcher's Founding Framework

## Declaration of Racism as Public Health Crisis sets new priority for County



**Super-supervisor Fletcher:** "In declaring racism a public health crisis, we are acknowledging that racism underpins health inequities throughout the region. I strongly condemn the coronavirus for its racist behavior: infecting, hospitalizing, and killing Blacks and Latinxs at much higher rates than whites."

In a brave, bold move that will no doubt serve as inspiration to many of his fellow whites, Nathan Fletcher today announced his intention to relinquish his position as a newly elected County Supervisor to a person of color. "It's wonderful that we finally have minority representation on the board in the person of District 1 supervisor Nora Vargas, but it's not enough, not nearly," explained Fletcher. "The Board of Supervisors has been lily-white for far too long, and it's time for bold action in the service of dramatic change. That's why I am voluntarily stepping down from my position of power to make way for a more equitable future. But before I go, I'm proud to put forward my Framework for combating the systemic racism built into San Diego's institutional structures, a framework built upon the declaration that racism

is a public health crisis. Just look at the way Blacks and Hispanics are occupying a disproportionate number of our ICU beds during this pandemic. It's not fair, and it's not right. The distribution of resources must be equitable. That's why the Framework recommends that all county departments, from the Fire Advisory Board to the Fly Abatement Board, incorporate an Equity Impact Statement in all their letters and action proposals. Everybody knows that the way to combat racism is through allocation of funds, and this Framework will help make that happen. Covid-19 has been terrible, but if its disproportionate impact on people of color can help us take inventory of our policies and practices using an equity lens, then some good will have come of it."

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# A POX ON THE POX

Fletcher: “Vaccines are not enough. We must fight the real enemy.”

Last week, as case numbers in San Diego County continued to rise, San Diego public health officials declared a public health emergency in response to the recent monkeypox outbreak. In a speech praising the move, Super-supervisor Nathan Fletcher offered the following statement: “In January of 2021, as part of my declaration of racism as a public health crisis, I took the bold step of condemning the coronavirus for its racist behavior: infecting, hospitalizing, and killing Blacks and Latinxes at much higher rates than whites. Sadly, it seems that history is repeating itself while at the same time moving backward. Now we face another pandemic, monkeypox, and another public emergency. This time, we have a disease that disproportionately infects gay men. Sometimes, I feel as though nature itself was not only racist, but homophobic. In that case, it is the duty of every San Diegan to take a stand against nature. Because if we don’t, then even if we defeat the monkeypox, we will have lost.”



**Super-supervisor Fletcher:** “We must not let monkeypox make a monkey out of us. But it will be difficult. On the one hand, the coronavirus taught us that we must sometimes take drastic measures to stop the spread: closing businesses, churches, and schools; preventing public gatherings that are not political protests; and all the rest of it. On the other hand, the disease in this case seems to be mostly spread through sexual contact, and it’s not like we can ask people to stop having sex. This is America. And more to the point, this is California, which, as Governor Newsom has reminded us recently, is the Freedom State. How can we follow his call to Choose Freedom if we can’t even Free Willy?”

state Senate, and then a month later...

**NF:** Yeah, yeah. [Takes brief swig.] Grecia.

**WM:** Yes, Grecia. Was she hoping you’d make a habit of “new life, new wife”?

**NF:** No comment.

**WM:** Yes of course. Pending litigation and all that. Plus, there was a Tweet from She Who Tweets. “Sorry, I’m not sorry,” right? Referencing Beyoncé’s “Sorry, I ain’t sorry”

blast against her hubby after his alleged infidelities? Yes, probably best to stick with “no comment.” I’m not a family therapist, after all. Just pointing out what looks, from the outside at least,

like another bend in the lonely road.

**NF:** Not totally lonely. I’ve still got Marengo.

**WM:** Let’s talk about that. A horse may be a great traveling companion, but he’s not the best company at the journey’s end. And that’s what I want to talk about: where do you see this ending? You talked about being a man on a mission. What’s the mission, exactly?

**NF:** What do you think it is, doc?

**WM:** Well, your next stop was supposed to be Sacramento. But you’ve already been there, with the Assembly. Surely that’s not the end of the trail. You weren’t just gonna tie Marengo to the Senate hitching post and settle in for a few decades of mutual back-scratching.

**NF:** You watch much television, doc?

**WM:** Not if I can help it.

**NF:** There was a pretty good show on in late November. More of a seasonal special. Couple of guys roasting each other about their home states.

**WM:** Ah. The Newsom-DeSantis debate. The one where DeSantis pulled out the map showing public poop alerts around San Francisco.

**NF:** Yeah, that was funny. But it didn’t matter. Because Newsom won that debate the second he got up on a stage, on national television, to debate an official Presidential candidate, just for kicks. He got DeSantis to step into the ring. That was like Apollo Creed fighting Rocky — Rocky had no business being there, but once he was, he had credibility. It didn’t matter if DeSantis had a poop map and

a good story about Newsom’s father-in-law. The night was Newsom’s. His path is clear now. He’s a man on a mission, just like me.

**WM:** Just like...you. Oh my God. That’s it. It all fits. He’s just like you. Or rather, you’re just like him. The youthful religiosity: you the debater from California Baptist University, him the Jesuit-educated “Irish Catholic rebel.” The rightward lean of the early political career — Newsom called himself a centrist, his opponents actually called him a conservative — before the full-on embrace of California progressivism. The first marriage to a Republican operator — Kimberly Guilfoyle went on to work for Fox and Trump, for goodness sake. The stint on the Board of

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# Supernatural Supervisors

In brilliant capstone to its declarations, Board of Supervisors declares “the evil that lurks in the depths of every human heart” a public health crisis.

“It started with racism, because it had to,” says County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher-Ram as he looks back on his Supreme Council’s ever more complete triumph over evil. “We here in San Diego simply had to respond to the forces that were unleashed across this fundamentally flawed nation by the murder of George Floyd in Minnesota. And it didn’t take us long to realize that a resolution condemning racism, while necessary, was not enough. It didn’t give us the power to act. But public health, *that* we’re charged with protecting. And what is racism but a degenerative disease that has been with America since birth, one that infects the hearts and minds of so many of those who make up its body politic? Naturally, it was a huge success. Our mandate to protect health has allowed



**Nathan Fletcher-Ram:** “Managing a public health crisis is simple, really. You find the source of the problem, and remove it, whether that source is systemic racism, Twitter posts about Covid, or the unknowable recesses of this little four-chambered pump I’m holding.”

us all sorts of authority in this realm, from schools to workplaces. Following suit with a similar declaration regarding vaccine misinformation was a no-brainer — yes, we were attacking the dissemination of information, but it was information about *health*. Totally within our purview. We’ll have the vaccine-hesitant gibbering for

the job in no time. And the state Assembly has followed our lead! But really, we at the Council have come to realize that we have been addressing the symptoms and not the disease itself. This declaration will correct that. ‘Supervisor,’ after all, is just a fancy word for ‘Overseer,’ and it’s time we put that oversight to good use.”



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# GET ON HIS LAWN!

El Cajon mayor sends homeless to set up camp in County Supervisor Fletcher's yard



Fletcher: "This kind of heartless gamesmanship is just the sort of thing we've come to expect from Republicans. It reeks of NIMBYism. How would Mayor Wells like it if we sent homeless people from around the county to live in his city? What's that? We did? Well, at least we gave them hotel vouchers."

Last week, California Attorney General Rob Bonta sent a letter to El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells warning him that he was violating state and federal housing laws when he threatened to fine motel owners for participating in the county's Bridge Motel Voucher Program for the homeless. County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher was quick to praise the move, and even quicker to condemn Wells' response: sending

five homeless people to set up tents on his front lawn. "I suppose it's not surprising after DeSantis' stunt with the migrants in Martha's Vineyard. But just as that backfired when the Vineyard's kind souls rallied to support the migrants before shipping them off to a military base the next day, I'm pleased to say that I'll be distributing peanut butter sandwiches and Cokes to these poor souls before calling the cops."

# FLETCHER FALLS TO FILNER'S FOLLY

Are San Diego's Democrats cursed?



Ex-mayor Bob Filner's grinning ghost is seen here peering over former Democratic superstar Nathan Fletcher's shoulder, perhaps in silent benediction of Fletcher's decision to place personal pleasure over political power. Or perhaps not so silent: "Listen kid, the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. It won't take a second to find another handsome Dem with the right ideas. So don't worry about setting back the cause of progressivism. You gotta get yours while the getting's good."

"It's baffling," says San Diego Democratic Party Chair Becca Taylor. "Democrats are obviously the good guys in this world, fighting against the policies of the racist, sexist, corrupt, exploitative Republicans. And here in San Diego, after what seems like forever, we're actually winning! And yet somehow, even though we're the party of sexual enlightenment, we

keep running into these...issues. Mayor Filner and the groping. Former head of the state Democratic party Eric Bauman. Heck, I'm only here because of the sexual assault allegations against Will Rodriguez-Kennedy. And now Fletcher! Even if the assault allegations are false, he was cheating on his political meal ticket! Seriously, please help me understand it."

Supervisors. Hell, there's even the prescient early support of gay rights: your 2010 floor speech in the Assembly calling for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and his 2004 move as mayor of San Francisco to issue illegal marriage licenses to gay couples. And now, you've got the affair and rehab, just like him, even if the timing and details don't quite align — he slept with his friend's wife during his first marriage, and

went to rehab just after starting his second. But still; it's one more piece of the puzzle. You're not setting yourself up to be Newsom's successor when he goes national. You're going to be his replacement; his doppelganger. California's not even going to notice the change. And the astonishing thing is, you must have been planning this for years, like Eve Harrington. The poor kid from Smackover, stepping into the role held by

a kid born Getty-adjacent and Pelosi-related, all thanks to careful study and imitation. **NF:** [Takes comically long pull from bottle, never breaking eye contact with Mencken. One swallow. Two swallows. Three. Four. Finally, he lowers both the bottle and his gaze. He chuckles, then looks back at Mencken.] Crazy theory, doc. But still, good to talk. You know what? I think I'm feeling better already.

— Walter Mencken



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# Pathological Politics

## Philandering Fletcher announces withdrawal from public life



“This will be my last press conference.” Nathan Fletcher addresses reporters prior to entering Scotland’s Kagyu Samye Ling Buddhist monastery, where he will remain until he is humble and whole enough to rejoin his family and live invisibly.

Statement from former County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher: “As I look back over my career as a County Supervisor — at my support for draconian lockdown measures during covid, at my insistence on covid vaccines for low-risk youth, at my insistence that racism was a public health

crisis, and on and on, that It’s clear to me now that my deep desire to control the lives of others arose from my profound inability to control my own. While the exposure of my marital infidelity is the proximate cause of my leaving political life, my real problems are much deeper. Struggles with

alcohol abuse, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder related to my time in the military, and even childhood trauma. Those are the problems I need to deal with — not winning elections and governing others. Take my advice people, and look within. Goodbye.”

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# Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

## Thursday | 28

### LIGHTS AT THE LAKES

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**WHEN:** Thursday, December 28, 5:45 pm to 8 pm

**WHERE:** Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve, 9310 Fanita Parkway, Santee, [santeelakes.com](http://santeelakes.com).

## Saturday | 30

### WILD HORSES FESTIVAL

The third edition of the all-ages Wild Horses Festival will bring an expected 40,000 country music fans to Petco Park. Headliner Zach Bryan made his Grand Ole Opry debut in April 2021, and is now a regular staple at prominent festivals like Stagecoach and Austin City Limits. Other performers include Duluth, Minnesota bluegrass rockers Trampled By Turtles, West Virginia singer-songwriter Sierra Ferrell, and locals The Silent Comedy.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 30, 7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard, East Village, [petcoparkevents.com/event/wild-horses-festival/](http://petcoparkevents.com/event/wild-horses-festival/).

## Sunday | 31

### NOON YEAR CELEBRATION AT THE PLUNGE

Suit up and take on the floating



obstacle course in the 83-degree heated pool under a retractable roof. If you don't want to swim, there will be plenty of dry land activities and games for all ages, plus vendors, prizes, candy, and giveaways. Enjoy the balloon drop right

at noon, the DJ, and a cocktail or other drink if you've got that New Year's Eve day thirst. Bonus: plenty of NYE swag items available for purchase.

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 31, 10:30 am to 1 pm  
**WHERE:** Plunge San Diego, 3146 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. [plungesandiego.com](http://plungesandiego.com).



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28: LIGHTS AT THE LAKES

## MONTE CARLO NYE CASINO CRUISE

Hop aboard a casino-themed voyage and celebrate New Year's Eve with a champagne toast and casino table games. The cruise will feature a mini

dessert station, live entertainment, a cash bar with specialty drinks, a photo booth, and party favors.

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 31, 8:50 pm to 1 am

**WHERE:** Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach. [bahiahotel.com](http://bahiahotel.com).



## Tuesday | 2

### SUMMATION

*Summation* celebrates the artist's vision, journey, and process through an exhibition featuring work produced by local



San Diego and Southern California artists. Poet's

INC will produce its annual *Summation* publication with poetry inspired by these works of art. In the Expressions Galleries:

"Friends: a group show featuring Elaine Noshay Lindberg, Ernie

Orfila, Jon Ohl Webster." In The Innerspace Gallery, the PhotoArts Group presents "Land and Sea." In

Gallery Too, "Small Treasures" from Linda Doll, Virginia Cole and Carol Mansfield.

**WHEN:** 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Through January 5.

**WHERE:** Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue, Escondido. [escondidoarts.org](http://escondidoarts.org).



PHOTOGRAPH BY KATRINA PASKANON

ZACH BRYAN



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

## ART

### Closing Reception: Amor Terrae Letters to the Wild

The closing reception with artist Stefanie Bales is free and open to the public. Wine and ticket sales proceeds to benefit Postpartum Health Alliance, plus a surprise raffle. Thursday, December 28, 6:30pm; free. 18 and up. Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Summation** Summation celebrates the artist's vision, journey, and process in 2023. Consistently, this exhibition features some of the finest works of art produced by local San Diego and Southern California regional artists. Tuesdays, 11am; through Friday, January 5, free. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

## CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

### Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Celebrate the holidays as the Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Who-ville, right down to the last can of Who-hash. Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays, 7pm; Saturdays, 7pm; Sundays, 10:30am; Tuesdays, 7pm; Wednesdays, 7pm; through Sunday, December 31, Old Globe - Donald & Darlene Shiley Stage, 1363 Old Globe Way. (BALBOA PARK)

### Rady Children's Ice Rink

Now in its 27th season, the ice rink is the perfect way to kick off holiday festivities and give back to San Diego families struggling with childhood cancer. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; Mondays, 10am; Tuesdays, 10am; Wednesdays, 10am; through Sunday, January 7, \$15-\$20. Arts District Liberty Station, North Promenade, 2875 Dewey Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### Beginning Hip Hop Dance Classes for Adults

Dance classes with Teejay Bundalian. Tuesdays, 8pm; through Saturday, June 1, \$15. 18 and up. Dancehouse Point Loma, 2180 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

### Bring in the New Year with Divine Light

Bring in inspiration for the New Year and a new flow of Divine Light for 2024. Sunday,

# OUTDOORS

## Gray whales are passing through, California fan palms bear fruit

Gray Whale Migration Off San Diego County's Coast peaks from now until February. The best view spots from land are high points close to the surf. Aside from the whale watching overlook at Cabrillo National Monument, try Sunset Cliffs, the pocket parks and dead-end streets from Pacific Beach to Scripps Park in La Jolla, various ocean overlooks on the trail system at Torrey Pines State Reserve, the cliffs opposite Carmel Valley Road south of Del Mar,



A CLOSE-UP OF A CLUSTER OF FAN PALM FRUIT



A BREECHING GRAY WHALE

overlooks opposite Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, and various cliff-top view points and beach access stairways in Encinitas and Leucadia. Scan the ocean a few hundred yards to a couple of miles out using high-powered binoculars. Best times for viewing are about 9 am to noon.

**Ripening Palm Fruit, Hanging In Great Clusters** on California's native fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), can be seen (and tasted) this month. The black, pea-sized fruit consists of a deliciously sweet but almost paper-thin skin surrounding a hard seed. (These are not to be confused with "California dates" — the fruit of cultivated palms introduced into California's deserts from northern Africa.) Our native fan palms can be seen in their natural habitat in about two dozen canyons within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. They have also been planted widely elsewhere in California, including along the main streets of Palm Springs.

December 31, 1pm; \$25. 18 and up. Spiritual Arts Institute, 527 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

### Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting

Learn about how the Mission Valley Friends of the Library support their mission. This meeting is both in-person and on Zoom. If you would like a Zoom link so that you can participate, please email [MissionValleyFriends@gmail.com](mailto:MissionValleyFriends@gmail.com). Tuesday, January 2, 11:30am; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

### Macro VA Micro Dosing

Learn all about the effects and benefits of different dosages. Thursday, December 28, 6:30pm; \$5. Divine Bubble Metaphysical Boutique and Healing Center, 4639 30th Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

### Meditation, Awareness & Awakening

Hosted by Turf'ya Dhara Saturday, December 30, 11am; free-\$20. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

### Pumpkin Preservation Workshop

Learn creative ways to use pumpkins and other winter squash in your kitchen. Thursday, December 28, 10am; \$44-\$49. Living Joy Homestead, 2045 69th Street. (LEMON GROVE)

### Sound Bath & Gratitude Meditation

Join Jeny of Zen Soul Balance for a sound bath. Saturday, December 30, 4pm; \$40. Sacred Sound of the Soul, 162 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd. Suite A40. (ENCINITAS)

### Swing Dancing Classes & Social Dancing

Lindy Hop dance classes taught by Mercedes Moore, for beginners and seasoned dancers. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Friday, February 2, \$10-\$15. Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio Street. (NORTH PARK)

### Vision Board Class

A vision board is a powerful, visual representation of all the things that you want to do, be and have in your life. Please register in advance. Friday, December 29, 2pm; Saturday, December 30, 10am; \$52-\$59. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

## COMEDY

### All Hands On Deck

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

### Comedy Heights

PG13 stand-up comedy show. Saturdays, 8pm; through Saturday, January 20, \$5. Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

### Harland Williams AS SEEN ON:

Half-Baked, Dumb & Dumber, NBC, HBO, Conan & more! Friday, December 29, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 30, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Sunday, December 31, 7pm and 10pm; \$15-\$25. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

### Improv VS Standup

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

### Indie Night

Local improv teams perform, explore and try new formats. Sundays, 7:15pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$5-\$20. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

### New Year's Eve Comedy

Champagne toast and party with the cast, lineup TBA. Sunday, December 31, 9pm; \$59. 18 and up. National Comedy Theatre, 3717 India Street. (MISSION HILLS)

## DANCE

### Salute to Vienna

With timeless music, dazzling costumes, breathtaking dance, and stunning floral designs, the Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert is freshly updated each year with a new cast and musical programme. The Maestro, an expert in Viennese music, will lead the orchestra and the audience on a journey through the Golden Age of Vienna with wit, charm, and more than a few jokes along the way. Sunday, December 31, 2:30pm; \$55-\$115. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

### Film Forum Coronado: The Rocking Horse Winner

*The Rocking Horse Winner* (1949, 91 minutes): With John Mills and Valerie Hobson. Film Forum Coronado is held in the Winn Room at Coronado Public Library, on the first and third Wednesdays with an introduction before the film and a discussion afterward, led by Ralph DeLauro. Wednesday, January 3, 6pm; free. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

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## FOR KIDS

**Color In A New Light** Step into a world where you can unveil the secrets of light and color, captivating your senses and sparking your curiosity. Dive deep into the fascinating realms of darkness, visible and invisible light, and color. Each area offers a unique and interactive experience that will illuminate and enlighten. Thursday, December 28, 10am; Friday, December 29, 10am; Saturday, December 30, 10am; Sunday, December 31, 10am; \$19-\$24. 3 and up. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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

**Frozen Dance & Musical Theater Camp** Frozen Winter Wonderland Dance & Musical Theater Camp: Sing, Dance, & Act to songs from *Frozen* and other winter holiday favorites. Students will enhance their confidence, compassion, and creativity. The week will conclude with a small, in-studio performance for parents and families on January 5. Open to students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Students will need to bring a snack and lunch. Tuesday, January 2, 9am; Wednesday, January 3, 9am; Seaside Arts Center, 11130 East Ocean Air Drive Suite C-105. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

**Glow Big Noon Year Celebration** This event is brought to you by Children's Primary Care Medical Group. Sunday, December 31, 10am; \$15-\$65. AleSmith Brewing Company, 9990 Alesmith Court. (MIRAMAR)

**Kids Craft Time** Get crafty at the library every week. Each week there will be a unique craft that is fun for all ages. All supplies will be provided. Thursdays, 12:30pm; through Thursday, December 28, free. Ocean Beach Library, 4801 Santa Monica Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

**Noon Years Eve** Families and kids are welcome to celebrate the new year with a special craft and storytime. Sunday, December 31, 11am; free. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

## LECTURES

**Adult Lecture Series** Samantha Passovoy will discuss the most commonly seen reptiles and amphibians found in the Carlsbad area, including in and around the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. Live animal ambassadors will be present for guests to meet up close and even touch or hold. Wednesday, January 3, 5:30pm; free-\$10. 18 and up. Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center, 1580 Cannon Road. (CARLSBAD)

## NATURE

**Guided Nature Walk** Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park along a scenic trail. 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. Walks are canceled if raining. Sunday, December 31, 9:30am & Wednesday, January 3, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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

**Wheelchair-Accessible Botanical Tour** Join Park Ranger Herrera for a journey through a lesser-known botanical treasure. This easy, 1/4 mile trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Bring water and sun protection. Leashed, friendly dogs are welcome. Meet near the playground. Saturday, December 30, 11am; free. Charles Lewis III Memorial Park, 4639 Home Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

## SPOKEN WORD

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

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**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. Thursday, December 28, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

**San Diego Seals home game** The defending National Lacrosse League West Conference Champion San Diego Seals will host a rival at Pechanga Arena. Friday, December 29, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

**San Diego Sockers home game** The 16-time champion San Diego Sockers will host a rival at Pechanga Arena. Saturday, December 30, 7:05pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

**WWE Monday Night Raw** Kick off the New Year with WWE Monday Night RAW! See "The American Nightmare" Cody Rhodes, Jay Uso, Seth "Freakin" Rollins and many more of your favorite superstars. Monday, January 1, 5:30pm; \$20-\$110. 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.*

### Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

*You all know the story, the sweet simple plot/ Of how the old Grinch learns what Christmas is not/ For twenty five years now, this show has been playing/ So surely there's nothing new that's worth saying!/ It's fun for the kiddies, the sets are outstanding/ And yet, something's odd in the whole Whoville branding... Ok, enough of that — though it's worth noting that the Old Globe's adaptation of this Christmas classic plays fast and loose with the rhythm of Seuss when it suits. But the point stands: after you hear the Who kiddies scream "Mine!" as they fight over their toys, and see the Who grownups sing about how it's the thought that counts even as they chase madly after every one-sale gift item, you may be tempted to conclude that the Grinch has a point in his hatred of Christmas. You may even start to like the old Grinchy rotter (played as a cross between Jim Carrey and Tim Curry by Andrew Polec, resplendently made up and costumed, and nailing it in the facial expressions department). And if that happens, well, it sort of takes the wind out of the dramatic sails. He's not an anti-hero; he's a bad guy in need of saving. Still, at least his conversion at play's end still makes sense. For their part, the Whos could use a come-to-Jesus (well, come-to-Cindy Lou Who) moment to explain their astonishing response to losing everything they've worked so hard to achieve. They assure us in song that Whos like Christmas, but why, exactly? Maybe that's just their jam? The planning, the presents, the party? That's what they tell us, anyway. But soft — even as I type this, I can hear the "Bah, humbugs" echoing in my brain, warning me against dimming the Christmas cheer and urging me to laugh and sing along. (The sing-along is a great touch, by the by. *You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch...*)*

OLD GLOBE - DONALD & DARLENE SHILEY STAGE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 7PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 10:30AM SUNDAYS.

### 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-



### Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom: If this isn't your next tattoo, what is?

actor Lani Gobleza, directed by Earl Paus, contains some mild language, LGBTQIA+ 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.

## 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.*

### Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom

— What's that you say? There's an eldritch horror frozen underneath the ice longing to be released by an act of nightmarish evil, and the King of Atlantis must reconcile with his estranged and deposed brother to stop it? H.P. Lovecraft meets Arthurian legend? Could be good! Oh, there's an octopus sidekick, and a villain out to destroy the world via climate change brought on by the excessive burning of fossil fuels? Well, as long as it's done right, I guess. What's that? There's an embarrassing amount of product placement, a curious amount of butt-related bad language, and unfinished CGI? Hm. Um, the big lesson is "just keep at it" and the big battle is resolved through a goofy reference to Robin Hood? Oh well. It's still better than the first one. (2023) — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**The Iron Claw** — Writer-director Sean Durkin broke through in 2011 with *Martha Marcy May Marlene*, the story of a young woman who has escaped from a cult and must now find a way to reconnect with her family. But here, the cult is the family, and the only hope lies in escape, which proves all but impossible. (There are frequent mentions of a curse in this based-on-real-life story, and the seemingly endless parade of disasters, some random, others less so, serve to give the claim some weight. They certainly don't square with Mom's blunt reassurance of God's love.) The four Von Erich brothers are caught in the

crushing grip of their father Fritz, a pro wrestler turned venue-owner who never got his shot at the championship. (His signature finishing move was called the Iron Claw — how terribly fitting.) Fritz doesn't have to punish his sons to get them to follow in his footsteps and succeed where he failed. He doesn't have to threaten them, or fight with them, or do anything but ask and instruct. They are his, and content to be so. And they have each other for support and consolation. (A big part of the film's appeal is the brotherly love on display between Zac Efron's big brother Kevin, Jeremy Allen White's brooding Kerry, Harris Dickinson's good guy David, and Stanley Simon's tender Mike.) The women may have thoughts on the matter, but they keep them to themselves. Only Kevin manages a hesitant bleat here and there, and even then, he's not about to defy Dad. So they march on, their ranks thinning, their bodies breaking alongside their hearts, under Durkin's watchful (and frequently very close-up) eye. The only thing we get by way of relief is regular doses of the brightly colored phantasmagoria that was '80s pro wrestling. And that's not nothing — even if it does get indulgent in places. (Gosh, but we get a lot of talk from Ric Flair.) Until. But that's where things get weird: at the end, where the real-life drama ought to take over from the scripted contests in the ring and pin us to the emotional mat, Durkin wriggles free of his own story and brings on not one but three happy endings — one in real-time, one in eternity, and one in posterity. If it feels like a bit of a slippery move, well, this is wrestling we're talking about. (2023) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**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 achingly 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)

**Wonka** — The flaws in Paul King's prequel are obvious, starting with the fact that he's taken the anarchic and unsettling confectionary overlord given to us by author Roald Dahl (and famously embodied onscreen by Gene Wilder) and turned him into a human version of his previous star, the wonderfully polite and sweet young bear named Paddington. (The human in question is Timothée Chalamet, who at least manages to convey some of the character's uncommon character.) You remember Paddington: the sort of fellow who genuinely believes he can win through pure decency. When an orphaned waif tells young Wonka that the greedy beat the needy and that's just the way of the world, he responds with unutterable sincerity that they'll simply have to change the world. Of course, it helps that despite his utter destitution — a plot point that puts him in his primary predicament here — he still carries a portable version of his chocolate factory, one capable of conjuring vast quantities of enchanted edibles from something very close to thin air. He sings that all he's got are a hatful of dreams, but his sales sheet says otherwise. Oh yes, there are songs. The good news is that they mostly fit seamlessly and harmlessly into the narrative, and when they don't, as in the big production seduction number "Have You Got a Sweet Tooth," the show-stopping makes sense. The less good news is that Chalamet sounds weirdly tamped down when he sings, almost as if they did something to his voice in post. The virtues are obvious as well: King's love for his characters and their world is palpable, his story mechanics tick away as precisely as Wonka's marvelous candy contraption, and his trademark whimsy is in plentiful supply. Hm, well — perhaps too plentiful, sort of like an action director who finally gets the budget to do a 20-minute car chase. Oh drat, I seem to be back to flaws. But here's the truth of it: for the most part, they didn't come to me until after I'd left the theater. Because the great virtue here is charm — which has a way of covering a multitude of sins in the magic of the moment — followed by, yes, sweetness. 2023. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

# blurt the inside track

**Savage savaged then soothed** In the mid-'90s, the band Arapaho were the rock darlings of Durban, South Africa. With multiple chart-topping hits — including “Dump Truck,” which stayed at number one for multiple months, and “Butterfly Angel,” written by bassist Brett Savage after the passing of his father — Arapaho were on their way to becoming something much larger than what anyone anticipated.

“1994 is when we started getting famous,” says Savage. “We grew popular really quickly. Primarily because in South Africa at the time, during apartheid, there were sanctions on music. You couldn't bring music into the country. Local music was primarily ethnic black music, which white people just didn't listen to. Then, when Nelson Mandela got out of prison and apartheid was unraveling, the sanctions were lifted. The reason our band was so successful is because of timing. We were one of the first South African bands to be signed to an international record label, during an apartheid era where we sang anti-apartheid songs in support of a new country. That's when we became super-famous. South Africans gravitated towards Arapaho because we were one of the only options. We were an average band. If you brought us to America, we probably wouldn't have been famous.”

Savage chucked deuces for Southern California after finding himself in the crosshairs of a major drug kingpin. “When I left South Africa, it was very controversial. I was badly beaten up by a drug dealer who was dating an ex-girlfriend of mine. This

guy lost his marbles and beat the crap out of me. So, I left the country under that premise, and the band turned a cold shoulder on me. The whole situation was very traumatic. There were photographs of me coming into this country with strangle marks on my neck. The U.S. government expedited



Brett Savage found a home away from home in San Diego.

a four-day visa for me to get out of there. It was gnarly. It made the front cover of the newspaper over there.”

Not long after Savage's departure, Arapaho found a replacement bassist. But without his songwriting skills, they've yet to make another album. For his part, Savage never went back to live in South Africa. He notes that San Diego reminds him a lot of his home country, which makes sense, since so many former South African citizens relocate to Southern California. “I got here and got a taste of the people and city and landscape. If you go to La Jolla, you'll hear a lot of South African accents. La Jolla is so similar to Cape Town. It actually *smells* like Cape Town, with the seals and kelp from the ocean.”

Now, after a decades-long residence in Carlsbad, Savage and his sons, ages 20 and 16, are creating music together. The father/sons trio call themselves SONSOFSAVAGE. Although they inhabit a

completely different genre from Arapaho — the new outfit favors more of an electronic sound — the elder Savage is still able to give musical guidance and direction based on his previous experience. He's eager to note his son Vann's swelling potential, saying, “He's been making his own beats since he was thirteen. He's so quick and so fast. His plan is to go to USC for music production. The songs we've put on Spotify, he's produced them all. The hope is that when he turns 18, we can tour together. We want to do a twelve-song album.”

Working with his sons and experiencing the inevitable creative differences has resulted in small problems, but none without simple solutions. “Me and my son [Vann] sometimes argue in the studio about what we're going to release. It's interesting, because I have to sometimes pull the dad card. When

you're working with your son, he acts like a son, and doesn't want to do what you tell him to do. So what I have to do is treat him like we're in a business. I pay him 50 bucks an hour. I am paying him, so I am the client and he needs to listen to me. In six months, it's made a huge difference. So now he's got a couple grand in the bank, and I've gotten my own way. I can spend the money on my son, and he can learn, because eventually he's going to be doing it for other people, versus me barking at him all the time.”

If you put your ear to the ocean and listen closely, you can still hear Arapaho playing on the radio airwaves in South Africa, providing Brett Savage the steady stream of small royalty checks he can use to pay his son for his present-day productions.

— Jake Peterson

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

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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

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SAT. FEB. 24 <b>HULDER</b> Devil Master, Worm, Necrofier	SAT. JAN. 20 <b>DAYS N DAZE</b> Sister Wife Sex Strike
SUN. JAN. 28 <b>JARED JAMES NICHOLS</b> The Bites	SUN. FEB. 25 <b>VADER</b> Origin, Inhuman Condition
SUN. JAN. 21 <b>GOROD</b> Wormhole, Hath, Theosis	MON. FEB. 19 <b>CALIGULA'S HORSE</b> Earthside
FRI. MAR. 8 <b>WACKEN METAL BATTLE ROUND 1</b> Blackcast, The Provoked, Brutalio, Defy the Tyrants, Gravity Grave, Old Gods	SUN. JAN. 21 <b>FATSO JETSON &amp; SCORPION CHILD</b> Motokill
TUE. JAN. 23 <b>FATSO JETSON &amp; SCORPION CHILD</b> Motokill	THU. FEB. 22 <b>KOFFIN KATS</b> Hans Gruber and the Die Hards
FRI. MAR. 8 <b>WACKEN METAL BATTLE ROUND 1</b> Blackcast, The Provoked, Brutalio, Defy the Tyrants, Gravity Grave, Old Gods	SAT. MAR. 9 <b>WACKEN METAL BATTLE ROUND 2</b> California Villain, Cascade Effect, Faerie Queene, Maskeratt, Woods Witch, Cranial Detriment

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# LIVE *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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## THE SCHIZOPHONICS SOUL REVUE at the Casbah

DEC 29



Founded in 2009, the Schizophonics plays fuzzy, psychedelic rock. Singer-guitarist Pat Beers fronts the band with his wife Lety Mora (the Rosalyns), who attended high school with him in Arizona. The little Italy bill includes Creepxtotica and a set from DJ Tony the Tiger. The Schizophonics will return to the Casbah on Saturday, December 30, to co-headline with local horror rockers The Creepy Creeps.

## TRANSFER at the Belly Up

DEC 29



Founded in the early 2000s, Transfer has earned several San Diego Music Awards and nominations in categories such as Song of the Year, Best Alternative Album, Best Rock Band, Best Rock Album, and simply Best Rock. The show will be opened by locals Miniaturized (whose self-titled debut album dropped in March) and Sun Bender.

## BAREFOOT HOCKEY GOALIE at Fast Times

DEC 30



Barefoot Hockey Goalie creates bizarre mini rock operas, such as *Fedik's Butcher Shop*, about Estonian Butchers and their adventures in America. "We are currently recording a new release," reports singer Blair Hatch of new songs in progress, including "Too Fast Too Young" and "FU I'm From." For this rare live performance, "We will be commemorating the 30th anniversary of the rock opera *Darius* and premiering the new release of *Clairemont*, a suburban rock opera."

## ALMOST MONDAY at House of Blues

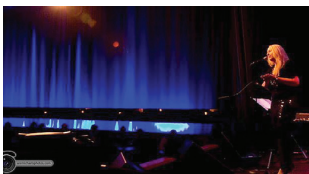
DEC 31



Almost Monday is an alternative rock band featuring teen surfing pals Dawson Daugherty (vocals, bass), Luke Fabry (guitar), later joined by Cole Clisby (guitar). Summer 2023 saw the release of a single, "only wanna dance," now making its way up the Alternative Radio Chart. They also joined AJR for select dates and made several festival appearances including Wonderstruck, Have A Nice Trip (Korea), Wonderbus, and Life Is Beautiful.

## ALLISON ADAMS TUCKER at Humphreys Backstage Music Club

JAN 7



The release party for the latest installment of Allison Adams Tucker's *RETRO Trilogy* album series will feature guitarist Peter Sprague, Danny Green (keys), Justin Grinnell (bass), Matt DiBiase (synth, xylophone), and jazz ukulele artist and drummer Abe Lagrimas Jr. The performance includes 3D animated motion graphics synched to DiBiase's synth xylophone and live hula hoop artist performances.

## OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: DOWNTOWN

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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

## THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

### Aquarius Bar & Grille:

Monday, 5pm — Santana Soul. \$5.

### Balboa Theatre:

Thursday, 8pm — Jerry Harrison and Adrian Belew. \$46-\$90.

### Barefoot Bar and Grill:

Friday, 6pm — Puro Feeling.

### Beach House Grill:

Saturday, 8pm — Camelphat.

### Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Donovan Frankenreiter. \$35-\$6.

Friday, 8pm — Transfer and Miniaturized. \$18-\$32.

Sunday, 8pm — Thievery Corporation. \$155-\$265.

### Bogey's Pub and Grill:

Saturday, 7pm — Anthony Cullins. Free.

### Books & Records:

Friday, 7pm — The Garners Trio. Free.

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

### Cannonball:

Thursday, 5pm — Jemille Violet.

### Casbah:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Black Lips. \$25.

Friday, 7:30pm — Schizophonics Soul Revue and Creepxtotica.

Saturday, 7:30pm — The Creepy Creeps and The Schizophonics. \$20.

Sunday, 8pm — NYE Gothic Ball.

### Cordova Bar:

Sunday, 9pm — NYE with DJ Hendo Froth. Free.

### Duck Foot Brewing

#### Company:

Saturday, 7pm — Johnny Deadly Trio. Free.

### Duke's La Jolla:

Tuesday, 4pm — Orion Song.

### Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Friday, 6pm — Whitney Shay.

Saturday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.

Tuesday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.

### F6ix Niteclub:

Friday, 9pm — 310babii. \$5-\$40.

Sunday, 8pm — A Black & White Affair New Years Event. Free.

**Farmer & the Seahorse:**  
Friday, 4:30pm — Tolan Shaw.  
Saturday, 11am — Jonny Tarr.

### Fast Times:

Saturday, 7pm — Barefoot Hockey Goalie.

### Golden Island:

Friday, 6pm — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra. Free.

### House of Blues:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Baby Smooove. \$68-\$89.

Friday, 7pm — Black Flag. \$25-\$85.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Oh Snap! Party. \$10-\$35.

Sunday, 7:30pm — Summer Salt and Almost Monday. \$30-\$85.

### L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.

Friday, 7pm, Wednesday, 5pm — Marelle.

Saturday, 7pm — Alex Elisabeth.

### La Valencia Hotel:

Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.

Saturday, 6pm — Perry O'Neal.

Saturday, 11am — Tolan Shaw.

### Mission Bay Resort:

Friday, 5pm — Tyler F. Simmons.

Saturday, 5pm — Jemille Violet.

Monday, 5pm — Marcela Mendez.

### Morgan Run Resort and Club:

Friday, 5pm — David Shyde.

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**Roxy Encinitas:**  
Saturday, 8:30pm — Blame Betty.  
Free.

**San Diego Civic Theatre:**  
Thursday, 7:30pm — Mannheim  
Steamroller Christmas. \$39-\$129.

**Side Yard:**  
Saturday, 6pm — Christian  
Taylor.

**Soda Bar:**  
Thursday, 7:30pm — Decent  
Criminal and Los Pinche  
Pinches. \$7.  
Friday, 9pm — Noche de Verano  
Sin Ti. \$19.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Disclosure  
vs. Fred Again. \$19.

**Sound:**  
Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm —  
Thee Sacred Souls.

**Sycuan Casino:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Straight No  
Chaser. \$693-\$99.

**Sycuan Live & Up Close  
Theatre:**  
Friday, 8pm — Big Bad Voodoo  
Daddy. \$69-\$79.

**Tidal:**  
Saturday, 5pm — Johnny Martin.

**Winstons Beach Club:**  
Sunday, 9pm — NYE With  
Electric Waste Band.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Alejandra's Fine Mexican  
Food & Cantina:**  
January 4 — Andrew Peña

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:**  
January 6 — Christian Taylor

**Bellamy's Restaurant:**  
January 4 — Jake Taylor Smith

**Belly Up Tavern:**  
January 4 — Joe Wood's Change  
Today and Dark Alley Dogs  
January 5 — The PettyBreakers  
January 6 — Don Carlos  
January 10 — Back to the Garden

**Brick by Brick:**  
January 7 — Terror, Dead Heat,  
Momentum

**Cannonball:**  
January 4 — David Shyde  
January 9 — Puro Feeling

**The Casbah:**  
January 4 — El Ten Eleven and  
Optiganally Yours  
January 5, January 6 —  
Starcrawler  
January 7 — Kid Congo & The  
Pink Monkey Birds  
January 8 — Bowie Birthday

## IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

### San Diego does Christmas right at the Shell

*Noel Noel*, the San Diego Symphony's Christmas concert at The Rady Shell, was fun, festive, and full of holiday spirit. It was everything that December Nights in Balboa Park was not. *Noel Noel* had traditional Christmas songs instead of the bad rock 'n roll cover bands at December Nights. It had high production values, as opposed to the podunk productions at December Nights. *Noel Noel* also had a story it was trying to tell, which contrasted with the fundraiser vibe at December Nights.

I'm not trying to pit various expressions of San Diego's civic pride against each other. However, I would recommend *Noel Noel* to anyone looking to find some

Christmas joy in a collective setting. I would not recommend December Nights to anyone, unless they were dying to either walk two miles to get to the Park or wait for hours in a traffic jam that has a \$30 parking fee at the end.

*Noel Noel* started off with a rousing version of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Our guide for the evening entered not long after, in the form of musical theater tenor Devin DeSantis. At first, I was a bit put off by the aggressive placement of DeSantis's tone, but he soon won me over as he softened and relaxed his voice — while turning up the charm. DeSantis played the role of crooner in the first half

of the concert. Then about halfway through, a group of children, led by a young woman named Noel, started looking for Santa Claus, and DeSantis portrayed a string of Santa imposters that included a surfer Santa and an uptight professorial Santa. The children tested each pretender and found that none of them were the true Santa.

The sketches presented between musical numbers had an innocent sense of humor that was refreshing. There was no sarcasm, no sardonic take on Santa as a primary player in the patriarchy. Santa was the spirit of Christmas — which is what he's supposed to be.

The music was top-notch



Christmas at the Shell: fun, festive, and full of holiday spirit.

as well. I'm a big fan of mid-century Christmas fare, and the inclusion of such classics as "The Christmas Waltz" and "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" made me confident in the Christmas chops of the musical programmer.

Australian conductor Christopher Dragon led the concert and interacted

with both the audience and the actors. His exuberant energy on the podium came through in the sound of both the orchestra and The San Diego Master Chorale.

I've often that San Diego is a town that just doesn't do Christmas. On this night, I was wrong. "Noel Noel" did Christmas and did Christmas right.

## Classical Music this week

**Mannheim Steamroller Christmas** America's favorite holiday tradition for over 35 years! Grammy Award winner Chip Davis has created a show that features Mannheim Steamroller Christmas classics in the distinctive Mannheim

sound and includes dazzling multimedia effects performed in an intimate setting. Experience the magic as the spirit of the season comes alive with the signature sound of Mannheim Steamroller. Thursday, December 28, 7:30pm; \$39-\$129.

San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

**Salute to Vienna** with timeless music, dazzling costumes, breathtaking dance, and stunning floral designs, the Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert

is freshly updated each year with a new cast and music. The music of Johann Strauss and his counterparts will spring to life in a joyful spectacle. The Maestro, an expert in Viennese music, will lead the orchestra and the

audience on a journey through the Golden Age of Vienna with wit, charm, and more than a few jokes along the way. Sunday, December 31, 2:30pm; \$55-\$115. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

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

**Bash**  
January 10 — Sutton James and  
Finest City Band

**Duck Foot Brewing  
Company:**  
January 4 — Dead Heads Night  
January 6 — Anthony Cullins  
January 8 — Bluegrass Monday  
January 9 — SD Jazz Collective

**Duke's La Jolla:**  
January 5 — Farrah Camu  
January 7 — Keni Yarbro  
January 9 — Orion Song

**Estancia La Jolla Hotel and  
Spa:**  
January 5 — Blaise Guld  
January 6 — Helena Holleran  
January 9 — David Shyde  
January 10 — Keni Yarbro

**The Holding Company:**  
January 9 — Karaoke

**House of Blues:**  
January 5 — Wifisfuneral  
January 5 — Taylor's Version  
January 6 — The Charlatans UK

**Humphreys Backstage Music  
Club:**  
January 7 — Allison Adams  
Tucker Album Release

**L'Auberge Del Mar:**  
January 4 — Tolan Shaw  
January 5 — Helena Holleran  
January 6 — Johnny Martin

**La Jolla Woman's Club:**  
January 7 — Le Salon De  
Musiques

**La Valencia Hotel:**  
January 4 — Christian Taylor  
January 5 — Keni Yarbro  
January 6 — Orion Song

**The Magnolia Performing  
Arts Center:**  
January 6 — Who's Bad

**Mission Bay Resort:**  
January 5 — Johnny Martin  
January 6 — Blaise Guld  
January 7 — Helena Holleran

**Morgan Run Resort and  
Club:**  
January 5 — Jonny Tarr

**Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:**  
January 6 — Tube Amp'd

**Museum of Making Music:**  
January 5 — Band of Brothers

**Music Box:**  
January 4 — Strange Crew and  
The Joshua 3  
January 5 — Princess Goes  
January 7 — Pacific Records Fest

**Navajo Live:**  
January 5 — Retro-X, Plenum,  
Maverick

**Nick & G's:**  
January 5 — Matt Heinecke

**Observatory North Park:**  
January 5 — Kawaii Rave  
January 6 — Pon Mas Reggaeton

**Pure Project Vista:**  
January 6 — Saturday Sessions:  
Lambert Fooks Trio

**Soda Bar:**  
January 4 — Israel's Arcade

January 5 — Smoking Popes and  
Bad Cop/Bad Cop  
January 6 — Fresh Veggies Micro  
Brass and PlexusPla  
January 8 — Auz Fontaine

**Templar's Hall at Old Poway  
Park:**  
January 5 — Gregory Page

**Tidal:**  
January 6 — Olivia Rohde

**Union Kitchen & Tap:**  
January 5 — Tolan Shaw

**Verbatim Books:**  
January 8 — Foghorn Stringband  
& Clinton Davis

**Waterbar:**  
January 4 — Ryan Hiller

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# New School BBQ?

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit [SDReader.com/feast](http://SDReader.com/feast)

## In La Mesa Village, Papalo blends herbs, moles, and smoke to create Sonoran BBQ

**Papalo, 8323 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa.** When my ribs plate arrives, it doesn't look all that different from the average BBQ order. There's a metal serving tray, lined with butcher paper, and there are smoked ribs in a glistening coat of dark brown sauce. But one sign that this deviates from Texas or St. Louis or Kansas City or any other familiar style of BBQ would be that each rib is also topped with a mix of chopped herbs and nuts.

Another: when the first tender bite pulls away from the bone, the sauce turns out to be cherry glaze merged with Oaxacan mole.

I'm in La Mesa Village, visiting its newest restaurant, Papalo, for the third time already. Drew Bent, the founding chef behind the wood-fired taco menu of Michelin-honored taco bar Lola 55, opened this BBQ counter shop in early November, after testing out the concept with pop-up eateries in North Park and East Village.

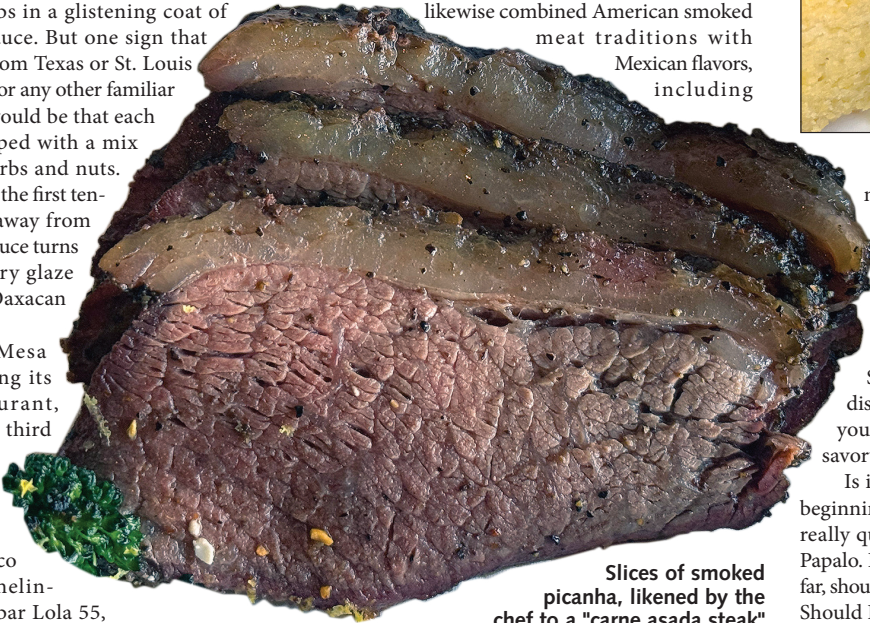
The concept? Sonoran BBQ, an idea that claims the Sonoran Desert as a starting point. It was while breathing that fragrant desert air, Bent tells me, that he decided, "I want to make food that tastes how that smells."

The Papalo dining room is accented with sage plants and desert sunset colors, while its kitchen cooks with local oak, infusing a range of proteins with smoky, southwestern aura. But the influences don't end at the borders of the desert, which covers half the Mexican state of Sonora, much of Arizona, and surrounds greater San Diego to the east and south.

Bent has devoted a good chunk of his life

devoted to Mexican cuisine, which is why I wind up finding Oaxacan flavors in that cherry glaze BBQ sauce. They may have developed on different sides of the border, Bent figures, but in a sense, mole and BBQ are cousins. As sensational as this fusion tastes on the ribs, a different mole BBQ, Papalo's house sauce, arguably works even better on the restaurant's boneless grilled chicken.

For those of us attuned to San Diego BBQ spots, Papalo's arrival may soften the loss of El Barbecue, which closed this fall after a three-year run that likewise combined American smoked meat traditions with Mexican flavors, including



Slices of smoked picanha, likened by the chef to a "carne asada steak"

mole and BBQ sauces. However, when it came to proteins, El Barbecue's menu matched up with the traditional offerings shared by several local smokehouse menus: most notably Texas brisket and Santa Maria tri-tip. Outside of the pork ribs, Papalo and its Sonoran BBQ takes a different approach. Its menu doesn't specify any particular cut of beef or pork, instead offering daily beef and pork plates (\$19 each, with two sides, \$8-9 a la carte).

If you're looking for brisket, see the house cheeseburger (\$17), which features a charred hockey-puck of a smoked brisket patty. Most days, the beef of the day is *picanha*. That's a Brazilian cut of beef comprising what American butchers



Smoked pork ribs dressed with a cherry and mole BBQ sauce

might call top sirloin cap, what the French call a *coulotte*. Like brisket, it features a ribbon of fat to add flavor. Bent chars the fat and smokes the beef to produce what he likens to a steak of carne asada. Instead of BBQ sauce, this one's served with a spicy *chimichurri*, rounding out the South American influence and yielding a distinctive cut of BBQ that basically blesses your mouth with the lingering pleasure of savory smoke.

Is it the taste of southwestern desert? The beginning of a new school of BBQ? These aren't really questions I ask with each return visit to Papalo. It's more like, everything's tasted great so far, should I try the fried chicken sandwich (\$15)? Should I try the sliced pork shoulder steak with the chipotle-inflected white BBQ sauce? Or, if it's Sunday, should I sample the birria? These questions have ultimately proven more relevant, and so far the answer has always been yes.

-Ian Anderson

## FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

**New Year's 3 Course Prix-Fixe with Live Music** Sway to the rhythm of Candy Sliva & Jesse Cox performing sing-along classics. Sunday, December 31, 4pm; Parc Bistro Brasserie, 2760 Fifth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

**New Year's Day & National Bloody Mary Day A** New Year's Day beachside brunch featuring a one-of-kind bloody mary topped with sustainably-sourced crab and oysters, available exclusively on that day. Monday, January 1, 10:30am; free-\$125. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

**New Year's Eve** Full dinner menu plus Chef's celebratory features. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; Lumi, 366 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**New Year's Eve** Featuring regular dinner menu plus celebratory features like Crab Salad, Truffle Corn Hush Puppies, Loin Chop, and more. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; Rustic Root, 535 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**New Year's Eve** Full dinner menu plus Chef's Celebratory features including: Caviar Soufflé Crème fresh, chives, cured egg yolk Roasted Duck Dry-aged breast, confit legs, duck neck sausage, grilled chicory Gnocchi Brown butter, sage, parmesan. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; Huntress, 376 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**New Year's Eve Dinner** Executive Chef JoJo Ruiz has crafted seafood dishes with a Mediterranean flare and other specialties complemented by seasonal ingredients from the best of the region's oceans, farms and fields. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; free-\$195. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

**New Year's Eve Dinner** Four-course menu and champagne toast with up to two choices per course, indulge in sustainably sourced seafood and Prime meats made with innovative twists. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; free-\$170. Lionfish, 435 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**New Year's Eve Dinner** Celebrate New Year's Eve with a special 3-course prix fixe menu including a glass of bubbles. Sunday, December 31, 6pm; free-\$120. George's at the Cove Ocean Terrace, 1250 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

**New Year's Eve Pre Fixe** Enjoy a five-course menu, complimentary midnight champagne toast, and a live music set by Adrian Hibbs. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; \$110. 21 and up. Desmond, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**New Year's Eve at Bronze Bird** Experience a 3-course dinner with your choice of Maine Lobster Bisque or Goat Cheese Cake Salad. Reservations are recommended. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; Westin Gaslamp Quarter, 910 Broadway Circle. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**New Years Eve Pre-Fixe Dinner** Embark on a culinary adventure with a meticulously crafted five-course set menu, a symphony of flavors curated by Chef Itze Behar. Elevate your experience with an optional wine pairing. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; Black Radish, 2591 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

**New Years Eve Prix Fixe Dinner** New Year's Eve celebration at Piper with an exclusive prix fixe dinner crafted to mark the arrival of a new year in style. Sunday, December 31, 5pm; \$45-\$99. Seabird, 101 Ocean Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

**New Years Eve Prix Fixe Dinner** Glass Box invites you to indulge in a five-course prix fixe menu this New Year's Eve. Sunday, December 31, 4pm; \$85. 21 and up. Sky Deck, 12841 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

**New Years Eve Special** Enjoy a three course dining experience on New Year's Eve. Sunday, December 31, 11:30am; El Sueno, 2836 Juan Street. (OLD TOWN)

**New Year's Dinner** Celebrate with two pre-fixe menus, the first featuring a Cesar Salad, Shrimp Cocktail, Clam Chowder, Oysters Rockefeller, their beloved Seabass, Seafood Pasta, and a Chocolate Cake. Sunday, December 31, 5am; Fisher's, 555 West Beech Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

**Ring In 2024** Enjoy a four-course menu prepared by Executive Chef, Jerry Ranson Sunday, December 31, 5pm; \$30-\$95. 18 and up. JRDN, 723 Felspar Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Shuckin NYE Pre-Fixe** Shuckin New Year's Eve pre-fixe dinner with a four-course menu inspired by New Orleans creole fusion and the bounty of the ocean. Upstairs bar Cocabana will redeem two complimentary drinks that are included with live music and dancing. Sunday, December 31, 3pm; Q&A Restaurant & Oyster Bar, 408 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

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## PERSONALS

**BUT I STILL DID WHAT I SAID** I would remember who you were dealing with. Yeh the mountains home we guys. We are not like these wanna-be's. No, I'm surprised of you but there's not many outlaws anymore. We're born not made.

**FORKED TONGUE?** I was pretty real. Oh text yeh I hate ghosts, cal valium, etc. We fix stuff here. They ignore it to death. Yep a golden rule - Never trust or respect anybody who ghosts you. I kind of enforce it too.

**IF YOU CAN'T BE HUGGED** or have a friend grab your hand and show you love then I'm not it. I'm just a dumb boy running out of time. I'm moving if I have to deal with these plastic cold CA freaks anymore.

**I HESITATE** I've already been through the California stigma. I kicked its butt. I'm ugly, but I have character. They'll never enjoy starving for a wholesome mountain girl's company. If you all San Diego, stay away. Yeah, it's like that. I assume you feel alike by now.

**LIFE IS SHORT** It's now or never. Let the good in. We were pretty messed up. You think? If so, please know I'm innocent I've never hurt a woman in my life. Please don't make me feel like I have or will. You'll learn a unique thing. Just be completely relieved of all that you are safer with me than your home boy; than any body in this prison town.

**NEVERMIND** All I hoped for was kindness and a friend not some head trip. The dad and the ball really had me down. Got new ball for his friend but touch an abused woman is hard. It was not my fault. I'm just ugly, but I don't talk anymore. Sign classes

**SO TIRED** of superficial women. I'm sorry I got old, but at least I didn't let it cow me into a blob of poop.

**YES I KNOW HATE WELL** We both do. I'm just old school. Ghosts get that. You should know us Washington folks are quite bright.

**REALLY, HUH** I always thought that you did hate really, really well, but don't blow anyone up.

**THANK YOU DAMIAN AYALA** Thank you for playing Santa Claus at Food-4-Less. The groceries were appreciated. God Bless you. Hope

**DIFFERENCE IN COSTCO HOTDOGS** Does anyone know the difference between a Polish sausage and a hotdog at Costco?

**I PREDICT** the tush push, will be made illegal before the next football season.

**((OLDER MAN FOR FRIENDSHIP))** Hi, I'm a Young Grandma Looking to Find an Older Man For Friendship for sharing Dinner Dates, Movies, Holidays. I like to cook, and do clean up afterwards. I'm a young 60 Divorcee Looking for an older man for Friendship. Text (619) 773-4784

**REDUCTION OF ALL POSTED STREET SIGNS** We at the Driveway Society would like to suggest a 10 mile per hour reduction of all posted street signs until January 1st. Please have a safe and happy new year!

**DEAREST FUN SIZE** It's a hectic holiday season out there, but through it all, I want to say I love you more each year. Enjoy the new year ahead. Frank

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANN** I know I'm green and nasty this time of year but I take a pause to wish my friend Ann a happy birthday on Wednesday. Now presents you made get who else but me would take the time to put you in the Reader you see. Now let's get back to business; Christmas is near and I can't wait. Ho, ho, ho The Grinch you fear.

**HO, HO, HO CITY OF SAN DIEGO** I got my eyes on you the Grinch

**LIFE IS SHORT** and lemons and instant breakfast is what you have.

**THE DRIVEWAY SOCIETY** wants to wish everybody a happy holiday season and remind folks to dim their vehicle high beams when approaching on-coming traffic.

**MELISSA MY LOVE** I miss you, I can't wait to see you again :). My heart hurts when we are apart, your my little mama - Lover

**DEAR KEVIN,** Thank you for watching stupid RomComs with me. You are so sweet! I love you so much!

**IN SOME PLACES** How much people know about me the better. It is for me because we had to earn all that.

**MY DARLING FRANK** I love you and your cats. Happy Holidays honey!

**WHY DIG A 300 FT. DEEP HOLE** When a 150 ft. deep hole would do just fine? I do like the Grass and bon bon components though.

**WORDS SAID IN PERSON** are received by a person. Words typed are received by what can't live inside a head.

**CHRISTMAS IS MINE SAY NO MORE** Trees and pencils and presents galore. All mine for the taking; even the road should be from Alan next door. Special shot out to you and ho, ho, ho. The Grant

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** Melissa K., Merry Christmas to You. Nancy and I really enjoy our new neighbor. We are like your "Grandparents". Love ya. Gary and Nancy.

**SHAWSHANK** Merry Christmas Nancy Jo. I love you Angel Cakes. Happy 4th Anniversary coming soon. They said it wouldn't last. HA Hugs and Kisses Baby. GMAN

**NICE LOOKING GUY** I am 71, fit, well-established, good-natured, love the outdoors. Would love to meet a fit and attractive lady for fun travel. Life is so much better when you have someone special to share and do things with. Larry. tuna422@aol.com

**YOU SOUND GOOD** Look Bad? What's that Smell? Can you even tell? Forked tongue still suits you well Before reentry to Unwell Motel.

**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.

**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.

**ASTOUNDED** It's too late. Loneliness is deadly; so is kindness. I wish I could have been a good thing to you, but I guess I was a threat to you somehow. Being ugly is the worst, but I do speak in sign now. I guess I did something wrong from day one.

**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. Errrr!

**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.

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

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

**STAND** for something or fall for anything.

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

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

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

## NOTICES

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

**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.

**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.

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

## CLASSES / LESSONS

**SEWING LESSONS LEARN TO SEW!** Anyone who wants to learn the timeless craft of sewing. Begins 3/2/2024. Instructors have 50+ years of experience. Attend hands-on. 6:1 Ratio. \$90 for 2 hours of instruction on Saturdays. For more info: ALM SERVICES@yahoo.com. Save

**MACRO VS MICRO DOSING** Join us Thursday, Dec 28th for an enlightening discussion, where we dive into the fascinating world of macro-dosing and micro-dosing! Learn all about the

Legals@SanDiegoReader.com ■ 619-235-3000

# LEGAL NOTICES

We are a full adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

State of California – The Natural Resources Agency  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Rancho Canada de San Vicente Ecological Reserve  
State Owned Housing Repairs  
Ramona, California  
Invitation for Bid Number: P2399030

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Lands and Facilities Engineering Branch, 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, California, 95605, until 2:00 p.m. **January 23, 2024**, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read for the work as follows:

Provide all labor, tools, equipment, materials, incidentals, permits and taxes necessary for repairs on State Owned Housing (SOH).

License Required: A - "General Engineering Contractor" or  
B - "General Building Contractor"

Engineers Estimate: \$ 400,000.00

Prospective bidders may examine and obtain the bid forms, specifications, plans, and addenda (if any) by downloading this bid package from the California State Contracts Register (CaleProcure) website at <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/Events-BS3/event-search.aspx>. At the website on the left-hand side of the page under the SEARCH pane, enter the following Invitation for Bid Number: **P2399030** and select the "Search" button. Select "Description" to view the full advertisement. Any discrepancies, omissions, ambiguities, or conflicts in or among the contract documents or doubts as to meaning shall be brought to the State's attention by email to CDFW at [Dawn.Otis-Drowne@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dawn.Otis-Drowne@wildlife.ca.gov) no later than 5 P.M., seven (7) calendar days prior to bid opening date.

It is the responsibility of the bidders to download any addendum as needed from Cal eProcure website address stated above.

Pursuant to Section 1770 of the Labor Code, the Department of Industrial Relations has ascertained the general prevailing wage rates to be as listed in the "Prevailing Wage Data Base", located at [www.dir.ca.gov](http://www.dir.ca.gov), or is available for inspection by interested parties at the address shown above.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 10115 et seq., State law requires that contracts have a participation goal of 3% for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE's) for all contracts of \$10,000 or more. Bids will only be accepted from those bidders who certify that they have achieved the goal as outlined in the instructions with the bid forms.

To qualify for the DVBE Incentive Preference, the bidder must achieve a minimum DVBE participation goal of 3%.

The project's bid award is subject to the "Small Business Procurement and Contract Act" five (5) percent bid preference rules.

A bidder's bond of at least 10% of the bid amount shall be submitted with the bid.

A 100% performance bond and 100% payment bond are required for this project.

effects and benefits of different dosages from our expert speaker. \$5. 4639 30th st. SD 92116 (619) 542-9191 / thedivinebubble@gmail.com

**TAPPING & CRYSTALS FOR HOLIDAY** Learn how to combat stress, anxiety, and even chronic pain with EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) and crystal healing. 4639 30th Street, 92116. December 21st. Time: 6:30 - 8ish PM. Just \$5. www.thevinebubble.com. to preregister (619) 542-9191 / thevinebubble@gmail.com

**PERSONAL TRAINER SAN DIEGO** Accomplish your fitness and nutrition goals long term! I offer a very easy going approach to fitness training. I work online, at the gym, and in home! Visit my website for more information!! www.healthylwildjenna.com (607) 227-5091 / healthylwildjenna@icloud.com

**INDIVIDUALIZED WRITING HELP** Together we will find the words to say what you've been meaning to. Affordable and heartfelt guidance. george@splitbound.com

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

**HORTICULTURE, LANDSCAPE DESIGN**, redesign, troubleshooting, diagnostics on the spot. Solve your problems, improve your design, improve your maintenance today - no guessing! Educated, trained and experienced, 6th generation native, 6th generation horticulturalist in San Diego County. No sales, no installation,

no maintenance. Check me out at EdwardsHorticulture.com, then call (619) 402-8670.

## ROOMMATES

**NEED ROOMMATE** Seeking hip artsy, musical, Eastern spiritual natural male/female. \$550. deposit negotiable, work exchange / for reduced rent. fungi/420 /friendly living space. includes electricity. (619) 457-8516

**LOOKING FOR A ROOM OR STUDIO** 59 year old male looking for a room or studio or 1 bedroom in east county area. Please call if this sounds like a good fit (619) 405-2389

**SEEKING SMALL LIVING QUARTERS** Active, female senior, court certified, holistic healing nurse, chiropractor looking for small living quarters in or around La Mesa area. Please call (619) 622-3399.

**\$797 FURN BDRM-IN HOUSE 92113** One male adult ONLY. Includes utilities+WiFi. Parking space. Close2Bus. No smoke/vape/pets. Share House: Bathroom + kitchen + washer&dryer. Required: Current job w/income+rental history. Sec dep. North of National City (92113). Text ONLY: (858) 367-9736 AcaciaStHouseSD@pm.me

**HOMELESS PREGNANT WOMAN** I am a homeless pregnant woman that has a job and my boyfriend helps need a roommate will help pay rent (714) 576-9274

**BEDROOM IN RAMONA** One spacious bedroom with private bathroom, make up counter, large mirrored closets. In Ramona at Country Estates. \$1800/month. (619) 823-3498

**LA MESA \$1600** Share a great condo, downtown La Mesa \$1600. Includes your own

bedroom, bath, utilities, beautiful view, spacious, parking, quiet, secure, clean, and fun. Text Brad (858) 775-3477.

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

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

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

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

## RENTALS

**SENIOR SEEKS STUDIO** Quiet senior seeks studio with private entrance, off-street parking. Budget is \$2,000/month and would like to rent in April. Kitchen and furniture is unnecessary. Email only, monkandrea2@gmail.com.

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

**1 BEDROOM FOR RENT 1** Bedroom \$1965 Chula Vista. Call (619) 426-8060 Move-In Special \$200 credit towards first month rent. / rubi.murphy@coxbusiness.net

**OFFICE SPACE M2** Office Space Zoned M2. @950 Square Feet (760) 855-3760 / exumrecording@gmail.com

**SPRING VALLEY, \$1750** 2BD+1BA. Newly remodeled kitchen and bath, laundry on site, off-street parking for 1 car, large living space and dining room. No pets. 3635 S. Barcelona. Agent, (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com/

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

**RENTAL WANTED** Independent Female seeking a room for rent. I am drama-free & a non-smoker. Prefer west of the 15 and north of the 94. (858) 337-5965

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

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

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

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

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

**DOWNTOWN \$1799-2799.** 1BD \$1799. 2BD \$2299. 3BD \$2799. Ball Park Square, 1 milla al sur de Petco Park Harbor Village. NASCO. Parada de tranv'a. 2850 Main Street. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

**NEED A PLACE TO STAY SHORT TERM?** Make your reservations now. Studio+1BA available. Call for Monthly, Weekly and daily specials. up to 15% OFF. \$25 off Daily rate. Includes: weekly cleaning service, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (\*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (858) 799-0219. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

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

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

**MEXICO ENSENADA ROSARITO** La mission three bedroom two bathroom directly in front of the river five minute walk from the ocean \$1200 a month (760) 250-7055.

**MEXICO ENSENADA ROSARITO** two bedroom two bathroom directly in front of the River ocean five minute walk bring your motorcycle pets we call this Rancho Santa Fe south of the border exclusive neighborhood Gated and garden (760) 250-7055.

**PENTHOUSE** two bedroom two bathroom Jacuzzi directly in front of the river and ocean the ocean five minute walk away \$1500 a month Rosarito and Ensenada La mission 30 minutes across the border (760) 250-7055.

**STUDIO FOR RENT** directly in front of the river the ocean five minute walk away completely

furnished wash machine and dryer 750 a month long term 13 months Mexico 30 minutes from San Diego borderline to Ensenada rosarito La mission. (760) 250-7055.

**NORTH PARK, \$2350.** Spacious remodeled 1BR+1BA near Morley Field. New kitchen cabinets with quartz countertops. New stainless steel appliances. New wood floors throughout. Off-street parking for 2 cars, laundry on-site. Located in small apartment community. Walking distance to restaurants, easy freeway access. 3711 Arnold Ave. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

## REAL ESTATE

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** California Property Group. Personally managed by Owner/ Broker. 30+ years of Real Estate experience for the benefit of our clients. In-person meeting at your convenience. www.Californiapp.com (619) 908-1122

**K38 SURF PAD** 1 bed 1 bath, sleeps 6, 700ft2, steps from stairs down cliff to multiple waves, "Surf Ranch." \$10k + \$100/monthly for 1/4 share ownership (760) 975-2598 / paulleohoward@gmail.com

**HOME FOR SALE - HIDDEN MEADOWS** This gorgeous home features high ceilings, spacious rooms and many upgrades (new flooring, solar panels, back-up battery, EV charging station, fresh paint and much more). Call Simona @ (619) 370-4257, REALTOR-RE, DRE#01951026 Berkshire Hathaway HCP / Simona@GyldanGroup.com

**SFR FOR SALE IN SHADOWRIDGE** Nestled in the community of Shadowridge, this residence blends the convenience of single-story living with breathtaking views, unparalleled privacy, and serene tranquility. Call Simona @619.370.4257. REALTOR-RE, DRE#01951026, Berkshire Hathaway HCP (619) 370-4257 / Simona@GyldanGroup.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

**BEATLES RECORDS** (808) 931-0524

**REHEARSAL FOR WOMEN SINGERS** Singers. Ladies, start the new year singing four part harmony. Come Monday, January 8 rehearsal. No experience. 7pm in La Mesa, www.californianoteatchers.com

**SINGER DESPERATELY SEEKS BAND** Anthony (619) 273-7577. Joel, Beatles, Simon, Aerosmith, Tull, anything!

# DOWNTOWN \$590-\$900



## Golden West Apartments, in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter!

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

**720 4th Ave., San Diego, 92101**  
**619-233-7594**

### DOWNTOWN \$650-\$750

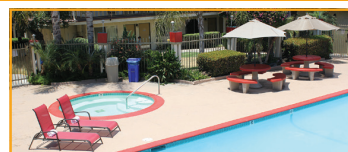


Classic building in downtown San Diego. Nice sized private rooms share common bathrooms. Property is well maintained with friendly staff. Peaceful and comfortable building with cable TV hookups and on-site laundry. Close to work. MTS trolley stop very close with easy access to the downtown free shuttle.

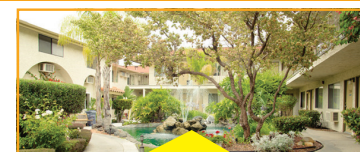
**Southern Hotel**  
1159 Sixth Ave. and B St. • 619-239-3808

## Need a place to stay Short Term?

CALL NOW FOR THE BEST AVAILABLE RATES



Up to 15% Off Daily Rates Call Now!



Weekly starts @ \$575.00 plus tax Call directly for more details.

**California Suites Hotel**  
www.californiasuiteshotel.com

Sorry we do not accept pets. Subject to availability. \*Some hotel amenities included. Please call for details.

- Free utilities • Heated pool & spa • Laundry facilities • Free parking
- Microwave • Refrigerator • Easy freeway access • Centrally located
- High speed internet services • Cable TV • Access to WiFi

5415 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (just west of the 805) San Diego, CA 92117  
**(858) 799-0219**





**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

**BAND PRACTICE STUDIO**  
monthly lockout available. La Jolla, Miramar area 10:00 am-12:00 am #35. Sound-proof rehearsal studio 20'x13'x13'. Fits 5 to 8 piece band. Central AC. \$650. per month. Universal Sound Inc. (858) 401-2973.

**MUSICIANS WANTED AVAILABLE** Composer seeks assistant/ copyist/ piano/ sightreading. Room / board/ stipend, composition lessons. Busco musico assistente que sepuede leer musica/toca piano. Cuarto, comidas, felia. (619) 457-8516 jebroe5@gmail.com.

**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



**ENGLISH BULLDOGS PUPPIES**  
FREE Xmas Gorgeous English Bulldogs pups for free adoption ready for a new home previous owner just died contact:kellycoux33@gmail.com. This Gogeous White and Brown English Bulldogs as been trained to play with kids, and also the puppies are registered (619) 280-1449



**GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES**  
Male & Female pups 9 weeks, AKC, Health Guarantee, shots/dewormed. Parents on site. Beautiful, Happy Healthy ready for a new family. \$800,

djsanimals@yahoo.com or tx (619) 952-9100 (Jamul Area)

**HUSKY/SHEPARD MIX PUPPY FOR SALE** 3 month old pup looking for new home. \$80. Luzmk@gmail.com or (760) 441-5425 text

**BLONDE TERRIER PUPPY DOGS** Blonde Terrier Puppy Dogs in need of forever homes. Less than a year old. (619) 470-0733 (Call only, no texting) / lesliesinbox76@yahoo.com

**CUTE RAGDOLL KITTENS** We have sweet and loving Ragdoll babies for adoption to qualify homes only. They are all TICA registered, Health guarantee, Vaccinated and weaned. Pickup at our home in Crescent City California. Will ship if needed. Text for more info if interest

**DOBERMAN PUPS AVAILABLE** 5 Pups 2males/3females ready for pickup - If anyone is interested in this true steal of these DNA verified 100% Doberman pups send text to (619) 302-9929

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

**LOOKING FOR CHIHUAHUA TO ADOPT** I want to adopt or buy small dog or puppy. Text only (442) 238-7382

## SPORTS

**IMPROVE YOUR TENNIS GAME** Improve your tennis Swing and Serve, by purchasing The Swooper SideKick Tennis Training tool. This amazing device sale for only \$9.99. It attaches to the top of any Tennis racket. You'll be able to retrieve tennis balls off the court without bending (619) 931-8900 / sstandavid@aol.com

**PICKLEBALL SETS** Pickleball Sets. Assorted, colorful PickleBall Sets for sale. Paddle ball sets include 2 paddles, 4 yellow balls and 1 carrying cases. \$39.99 each. Great Christmas gifts. (619-931-8900/ sstandavid@aol.com (619) 931-8900

**TWO SKATEBOARDS** I made this long board skate board water ski with struts from a board I still have. I have an original YELLOW BANANA BOARD. \$20.00. for both. Lakeside. (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

**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

**SHOHEI OHTANI 2018 ROOKIE CARD** from Japan. Psa9. Best offer call for more info (619) 753-8473

**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

**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.

**CANNONDALE QUICK: SIZE SMALL** 27 speed, lightweight., great condition, lightly used,

clean. brand new break pads/ cables, two stems. For someone 5'3" or less. \$325 (619) 430-5557

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

**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. (562) 846-9299 and ask for Steven.

## MOTORCYCLES

**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

**BMW 1996 750 IL V12** automatic. 164K Miles. White/ tan. Beautiful car. Must see to appreciate. Asking 25K dollars or OBO. Please call (619) 390-2222.

**LUMBER RACK FOR TRUCK** 126 inches long and 56 inches wide. It's meant for a smaller truck like a Colorado or something of that nature. (619) 933-6302.

**PREMIUM USED AUTO PARTS- ENGINE** Explore the Best Engines for Sale in California- Premium Used Auto Parts. As the leading provider of premium used auto parts in California, we understand the importance of reliable engines. Find the perfect match for your vehicle with industry standards. kadal.puap@gmail.com

**SET OF 4 TIRES SAILUN TERRAMAX HT 265-70R-17.** \$40 all good thread. (619) 586-7736

**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.

**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

**STOLEN RED 65 SHELBY AC COBRA** Located in Newhall, California about five days ago. Very identifiable. It has some racing team stripe on the front fenders. Reward. Call Jessie (619) 875-4918

**1999 HONDA SUPER HAWK** Low mileage, excellent condition. Firm Blue Book Value \$3,750.00. (619) 201-4520

**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

**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

**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

**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.

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

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

**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.

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

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

**TOYOTA 4RUNNER** for rent \$300 a week rent to own program available (619) 233-8300.

**OIL CHANGE \$29<sup>95</sup>**  
Additional 55 cartridge fee. Plus tax, hot waste, & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w/30 oil. Special only for 4cyl vehicle. 6-8cyl vehicle does not apply. most cars

**AC SERVICE \$49**  
Diagnostic \$95 Recharge from

**BRAKES** Front or rear From \$49 most cars  
\*Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.

**30K 60K 90K \$65**  
Scheduled Services \*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

**RADIATOR or Transmission Services \$45**  
\*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.

**TIMING BELT \$75**  
Parts & Labor \*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.

**STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS \$95**  
Plus labor. most cars 4 cyl.

**FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT** \$6 and up.

We'll beat any written estimate! Dents, dings, scratches? Now offering bodywork! B.T. Auto Wrench Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary! 8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C 858-533-8120

**TOYOTA CAMRY** for rent \$99 a week 350 a month pay cash get one day free (619) 233-8300.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HELP WANTED

**MARKETING ASSOC** Pacific Coast Trial Law Firm seeks Marketing Associate in San Diego, CA to monitor competitors'

marketing activities, optimize campaign metrics, & more. Salary: \$63,877 per year. Resume: 7380 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Ste. 200, San Diego, CA 92111

**SR. VP, PRODUCT MANAGEMENT** LPL Financial LLC seeks Sr. VP, Product Management in San Diego, CA to dvlp & execute strat to evolve int tech tools & infra for person mgmt. Reqs Master's in Business Admin, Business Analytics, Data Sci, or rel (or forgn ed equiv) & 4 yr exp as SVP Prod Mgmt (or rel occ) performing stat forecast & quant anlysis to dvlp data-bsd business cases for strategic invest, manage projects, dsngn efficient business process & execute mkt stratgs to drive business profit. Will accept Bachelor's & 6 yr same exp. Applicants are permitted to work remotely from at-home worksite anywhere in US. Salary: \$216,736/yr. To apply, submit resume to recruitment@lplfinancial.com. Reference Position VPPM200376.

**VETERINARY:** Medical Management International, Inc. (dba Banfield Pet Hospital), Multiple Openings, Associate Veterinarian - San Diego, CA / San Diego-Carlsbad, CA metro area. DUTIES: Diagnose, treat and control diseases and injuries in pets; perform surgery on pets; prescribe and administer drugs and vaccines. Lead veterinary hospital team through daily schedule / caseload and delegate tasks. Deliver highest quality veterinary care and exceptional client experience. MIN. REQTS: DVM degree (foreign equivalent accepted) and CA veterinary license. Client needs & work volume may require 40+ hrs./ week to complete essential duties. Requires working weekends & evenings. TRAVEL: May be asked to cover shifts as needed for Associate Veterinarians on PTO at Banfield hospitals owned and operated

## GOOD PRICE IN TOWN!

<b>OIL CHANGE \$50</b> 4-cyl., Most Cars Up to 5 qts. Synthetic	<b>USED ENGINES &amp; TRANSMISSION \$899*</b> + From Labor. Most 4-cyl., Cars
<b>Low Prices On Body &amp; Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers &amp; Cat</b>	<b>SMOG CHECK \$267.50</b> Most Cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & Convenient *Not a star station. From 2000 & up
<h3 style="color: blue; margin: 0;">TIRES ON SALE!</h3>	
<b>BRAKES</b> from \$50 Front or rear Most Cars + Labor	<b>4 Wheel Alignment \$75</b> Most 4-cyl., Cars
<b>HEAD GASKET \$799</b> 4-cyl., & Most Cars & Machine Extra	<b>AC SERVICE \$95</b> Most Cars
<b>FREE CHECK ENGINE LITE '96 &amp; up. Most Cars.</b>	
<b>REPAINT BUMPER OR FENDER</b> from \$295 each. Most Cars	<b>30K SERVICE \$195</b> 4 cyl., Most Cars
<b>TIMING BELT \$195</b> 4-cyl., Most Cars	<b>AXLE SHAFT \$99</b> 4-cyl., Most Cars Plus Labor each
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>SMOG CHECK</b>  <small>Test Only</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>SAVE AUTO</b>                  9280 Kearny Mesa Rd., SD 92126                  (By 1-15 off Miramar Rd. next to Holiday Inn)  <b>858-586-6666</b> </div> </div>	

by Medical Management International, Inc. (dba Banfield Pet Hospital) located within same MSA/ area of intended employment; such coverage involves local travel within MSA. Annual domestic travel for vendor visits and associate education may be needed. \$102,000-\$250,000/year, plus production. What we offer: Competitive salary w/PTO; Medical, dental, and vision ins.; Fertility and family-building assistance; Paid parental leave; Competitive referral program; 401(k) after 60 days; HSA; Practice Paid Basic Life Insurance, Short- and Long-Term Disability; Liability and malpractice insurance; Veterinary Student Debt Relief Programs—includes monthly contributions for full-time veterinarians, student loan advice, and lump sum contributions for student job program participation; Mental health support and resources; Paid volunteering; Optimum Wellness Plans® for up to three pets; A variety of discounts including Mars, PetSmart, RoyalCanin, fitness, cellular and so much more. For details and to apply visit https://vca.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/BFCConf/job/Banfield-San-Diego-CA000140/Associate-Veterinarian\_R-146772-1 or email Faith.Mendoza@banfield.com.

**CAREGIVERS NEEDED** for disabled man. Morning & evening shifts available. Personal hygiene, range of motion, dressing, hoist lift, positioning in wheelchair & bed, meal prep, light housekeeping. Caregiver needs to be reliable and trustworthy, have a passion for serving others, good references & a car. Good pay. Clairemont area. Contact rayzambo@gmail.com.

**AI AUTONOMY SOFTWARE ENGINEER.** Job location Poway, CA. Telecommuting is available. Send resume w/this ad to Job Code 2388-AIS. E. Ryu, EpiSci Science, Inc., dba EpiSci, 13025 Danielson Street, Suite 106, Poway, CA 92064

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

**ASSOCIATE STAFF SCIENTIST** Viridos seeks Associate Staff Scientist, Strain Dev. in La Jolla, CA to conduct genetic engineering of algae, perform data analysis on large data sets, & more in a lab environment. Resume: 11149 N Torrey Pines Rd. La Jolla, CA 92037 Salary:\$86,445 Attn: Brittney Maxey

**FINANCE: ACCOUNTANT** \$41.65-\$52.07/hourly. Must be a self-starter and quick learner

with excellent attention to detail, possess experience performing revenue/expense, and financial analysis. Two (2) years of professional accountant work in analyzing/maintaining accounting and financial records/reports. Please visit our website www. odaywater.gov for requirements and to apply online. Open until filled. EOE

**DOCUMENTATION SPECIALIST** Trandes Corp. is hiring a Technical Documentation Specialist. To submit a resume and apply for the position, please use the following link: trandes. balancetrak.com/TRA102023002 ksauer@scainc.biz

**PET SITTER/ WALKER NEEDED** 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.

**CAREGIVERS NEEDED** for disabled man. Morning & evening shifts available. Personal hygiene, range of motion, dressing, hoist lift, positioning in wheelchair & bed, meal prep, light housekeeping. Caregiver needs to be reliable and trustworthy, have a passion for serving others, good references & a car. Good pay. Clairemont area. Contact rayzambo@gmail.com.

**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

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

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

**SALES** Win Time, LLC seeks Sales, Pacific Region in San Diego, CA to assist owners in accruing & maintaining hotel customers from the Pacific Region. Bach or for. equiv in Tourism Management or related plus 1 year of experience in Customer Service req'd. Must b. 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.

**IHSS CAREGIVER** Certified in-home supportive care giver needed in Mission Valley for a senior woman from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM three days a week. Days are open. Please call for more information (619) 488-0822

**SEEKS DRIVER AND SHOPPING ASSISTANCE** Senior woman in Mission Valley is looking to hire a driver and someone to help me shop at the local shopping Center. A few miles from my home. Willing to pay a flat fee of \$25 twice a month. Please have a reference and feel free to call (619) 269-3434

**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.

**CAREGIVER COMPANION NEEDED** Educated female individual wanted in Oceanside for kind consideration and support of 83 year German lady. Care giver companion should be younger and MUST speak German. In-house chores and some light assistance with keeping order of items and clothes. No cooking, washing or cleaning required. My wife would like some simple but stimulated conversations. She uses a walker and would like to be driven to small events, lunches and to areas such as the beach or back country. Two to three days a week, no fixed schedule necessary. 3-4 hours per day. Payment offered \$20/hour and \$0.70 per mile driven. Please email tangaroa700@gmail.com

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

## JOBS WANTED

**CAN YOU TEACH ME TO SELL?** I want to learn to sell. selling is a beautiful skill I want to learn. Im great at customer service and do well at sales but want to be great. Can I learn from you? a mentor? licensed RE agent and Boutique owner

but want more. jimellen1974@gmail.com

**CLASS B DRIVER SEEKING TEMP WORK** Can perform commercial deliveries. Possesses CDL and can operate lift gate. Manual or automatic. Semi-retired. Call John (858) 277-4908

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

**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

**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. / weichcynthia777@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./ CAREGIVER FOR HIRE** 7 years exp. Live-in preferred. Expected salary min. wage per hour. Kevin Miller (858) 424-0037

**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 housekeeping, provide companionship, and much more. Please call Carol at (858) 731-6996.

## WANTED / TRADE

**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

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

**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. 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. (832) 651-8302 / ashscot@aol.com

**SWIM NOODLES WANTED** Out of Season, wanting at least 4 for project, the long ones, 52". Can Pick Up locally. Please call Cecilia. And, Thanks in advance. (619) 309-8992

**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 / jack22@cox.net

**THREE WHEEL MOTORCYCLE TRIKE** For \$450 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 HAMMOND ORGANS AND LESLIE SPEAKERS** (619) 279-7833.

**I BUY BIG FISHING REELS** Text me pictures or call (619) 279-7833.

**I BUY MILITARY PILOT HELMETS** (619) 806-6703

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

**I BUY CAMERAS** Cash offers. (619) 279-7833

**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.

**OLD GUITARS AND AMPLIFIERS WANTED** Call (619) 279-7833.

**ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS** is my two front teeth. Sponsorship/help needed for dental implants. Please contact Keith, (619) 551-6368, williamkeith848@gmail.com.

## GARAGE SALES

**ART & GARAGE SALE** Large family home purging lots of goodies! Plants, Clothing, Jewelry, Books, Movies, Music, VW Baja Bug Front End, ART, and Misc Household Items. 4550 Mira Monte St. La Mesa, CA

**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!

**MIRA MESA GARAGE SALE** Women's sweaters, men's sports hats, men's t shirts, various sci-fi convention souvenir books and posters. knick-knaks'. By appointment only. Call (858) 693-3409, evenings.

## FOR SALE



**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 / cadbcas@gmail.com



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

**SOLID WOOD BARSTOOL (23.5"H)** This unique corner counter height bar stool has a strong and sturdy solid wood base. Some wear on wood but still structurally sound. Black Cushion is worn on sides & covered with tape. Clean & in good working condition. \$15. Text

# CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE

With any Service or Repair

SMOG CHECK SPECIAL

★ STAR Certified

Smog Test or All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through January 4, 2024

\$3175\*

+\$8.25 cert

★ STAR Certified

SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$5175

+\$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice. Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.

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**VARIOUS HAND TOOLS-** as I am not using these anymore - all the items displayed are \$25-. if I don't answer you right away I'm out and about - but I will answer emails that come through-the drill charger was stolen so this has no charge- jimw5841@gmail.com

**4 BEAUTIFUL NEW INTERIOR DOORS** Premium knotty alder, solid wood, mfg. by Craftsmen In Wood in Arizona, 1-3/4" x 3'

x 8', no hinges or handles, they are extra doors from my remodel. I paid \$1,500. each. Selling for \$750/each. Call (760) 746-7209.

**AFX SLOT CARS** Call for info and price (619) 753-8743

**BEAUTIFUL VINTAGE BLONDE MINK STOLE** Bullocks. Pockets. Stored. S-M. Perfect. \$375. Taking offers. Birmingham, Cardiff. Leave message or text. (760) 692-7741

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**CHRISTMAS ITEMS** Chip and dip reindeer platter 15 inches by 12 inches, \$10. New artificial tree for coffee table, \$10. Santa musical mobile by Fitc and Floyd, \$20. (619) 218-4031.

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**FROZEN FRUIT SOFT SERVER MAKER** This Yonanas stainless steel silver maker creates "ice-cream" or "sorbet" like treats that are healthy, vegan, Keto & dairy-free without additional fat, sugar or preservatives. 200 watts. Clean in good working condition. \$15. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

**SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SF12:** for Cabinet makers,

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

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

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

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

**NEW BLACK FOLDING WALKING CANE** This cane has contoured T-handle, push-button height adjustment (32"-36") & locking collar for safety. It fits easily in a bag for travel, weighs only 1 lb. but supports 250 lbs. New, never used in original carrying bag. \$12. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

**VINYL RECORDS CDS DVD FOR SALE** Saturdays and Sundays. 8am to 4... 3939 Iowa St. Suite 2. SD CA 92104.... THOUSANDS of VINYL

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**70'S CARTOON GLASSES** I have 10 cartoon glasses, 1 coca cola, 3 stines. Make offer (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

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**HO LOCOMOTIVE HO** Locomotive and coal car w/ cabus. Make offer (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

**CAMPING CHAIR** Folding chair with carrier bag. \$10.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

**DYMO LABEL UNIT** DYMO RINO label Unit for patch panels, one 10 blocks. ETC. MAKE OFFER. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

**IPOD NANO & IBASE** 1st generation IPOD NANO 4G and IPHONE HOMEBASE. Used for an alarm clock for a little while. \$40.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

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

**SNOW CHAINS** Snow chains from my truck. Maybe used at least once. #10.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

**BEAUTIFUL SILVER GARLAND 60"** This Pottery Barn Pepperberry metal silver garland has mini tinkling bells that jingle lightly. Made in India, new with tag, never used and in excellent condition. \$25. Text or email for more information and pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**YETI RED 12 OZ. WATER BOTTLE** This ultra durable Rambler kids water bottle (3"x 8.4"H) is puncture & rust-resistant, very well constructed with stainless steel, double-wall vacuum insulation & leak-resistant straw cap. Clean in very good condition. \$15. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**VINTAGE ITEMS** Pre War Remington Typewriter - \$350 w/ case. Wooden Chest from the 1800's ; very vintage - \$1,000. Two Las Vegas slot machines \$750/each and 2 vintage Singer sewing machines from \$250-\$300. (619) 381-2134

**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 OUTDOOR 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.

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- 4-cyl. Most cars

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

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# Comparing 2022 to 2023 after the rockfish depth change – Pelagic species numbers drop, except for bluefin tuna

## Dock Totals 12/17 – 12/22:

257 anglers aboard 14 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 6 bluefin tuna, 1 bonito, 52 calico bass, 1 halibut, 6 lobster (29 released), 13 rock crab, 1192 rockfish, 120 sand bass, 27 sculpin, 60 sheephead, and 78 whitefish.

**Saltwater:** Between a fast-moving storm and upcoming holiday preparation, it was a slow week for the fleet. Even so, rockfish, calico bass, sand bass, and sheephead bit well for the bottom-fishing trips, while bluefin were stubborn for the one boat out looking. Concerning rockfish, the season comes to a close on 12/31 and doesn't reopen until April 1, 2024, at least at this point with no new releases from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) concerning the 2024 groundfish regulations. Assuming it will be a repeat of 2023, it will open at all depths on April 1, then be restricted to over 300 feet from September 16 through the rest of the year.

So, given new groundfish depth regulations, how did this year fare against previous years? Let's take a look. First, we need to identify the species listed as groundfish. "Rockfish" is a general term and includes, for nearshore species statewide, black, black and yellow, blue, brown, calico, China, copper, gopher, grass, kelp, olive, and quillback rockfishes. Shelf rockfish includes canary, chilipepper, dusky, flag, greenblotched, greenspotted, greenstriped, harlequin, honeycomb, Mexican, pink, redstripe, rosethorn, rosy, shortbelly, silvergray, speckled, squarespot, starry, stripetail, tiger, vermilion, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes. Slope rockfish includes aurora, bank, blackgill, darkblotched, redbanded, roughey, sharpchin, shortraker, splitnose, and yellowmouth rockfishes, and Pacific ocean perch. That's a lot. But in Southern California waters, we tend to get mostly starry, vermilion, chilipepper, Mexican, and olive rockfishes, treefish, and bocaccio. Protected or no-take species are Bronzespotted, quillback, and yelloweye rockfishes, and cowcod.

Looking at the totals per landing for each year gives us an idea of how the different depth restrictions for 2023 affected the overall catch when compared to 2022. As the reports rarely separate each species, we'll look at the overall count. Also, lingcod are often the "prize" species on rockfish trips, so we'll look at those, too. This is only for trips up to 3 days in length, as the longer range trips do not all commonly report their numbers.

The dock total on rockfish from the season opener on April 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 for Fisherman's, H&M, Oceanside, Point Loma, and Seaforth landings is 80,028 rockfish caught and kept. Lingcod, though not always reported separately (thus the low number) by all landings, totaled 759 for the same period. As we are not quite to the end of the year, I'll be comparing from April 1, 2023, through today, December 23, to get the general idea. Total rockfish caught for 2023 was 143,730 kept, and total lingcod caught and kept was 453.

As lingcod prefer depths from around 80 feet to 330 feet, we can see why the numbers



Due to depth restrictions in 2023, lingcod numbers had dropped, but boats working south in Mexican waters continued to get a good mix, including this nice lingcod caught aboard the *Royal Polaris*.



A very nice yellowtail caught aboard the *Royal Polaris* this week. Yellowtail also favored Mexican waters as well this year. There was a huge drop in local catches; venturing south produced much better results.

dropped with the 300-foot-and-less depth closure beginning in September through the end of the year. The new depth restrictions made for a much better year in counts and size of fish caught, as the depth beyond 300- feet being closed allowed for a thriving deep-water biome for them, with no pressure. The depth restriction at 300 feet was first enacted to protect cowcod, and though they are still protected, the recovery of the species has been good enough to allow access to those deeper waters. This also relieves pressure on the inshore biospheres, which should improve those areas during the latter half of the season if restrictions remain as are now going forward.

Whitefish and sheephead are not counted as rockfish, but are often caught on those same trips. Sheephead tend to inhabit shallower water near kelp beds, but I have caught them to well over 150 feet. Ocean whitefish thrive in water from the kelp edge out to 500 feet or so. The total catch for sheephead and whitefish, respectively, in 2022 was 3,622 and 17,381. For this past year, 3,169 sheephead and 13,439 whitefish. So we see little effect on sheephead overall, but the ocean whitefish numbers dropped substantially. As sheephead are often caught on trips to the kelp edge for calico bass, that can explain their number being steadier, and the fact that whitefish were still being caught during the closure of 300 feet and shoreward, but were less prevalent, is shown in the dip in their numbers for this past year. So all in all, for our endemic non-migratory species, 2023 was a much better year for anglers than 2022.

How about those glamour fish? You know, the migratory species that get our blood moving and anglers hollering "Hookup!" The numbers there have a lot more to do with their changing annual patterns. We'll look at the two most commonly caught tunas; yellowfin and bluefin, and the jacks; yellowtail and dorado. The 2022 yellowfin catch total was 32,348. For bluefin, 44,201 were caught. We saw 83,335 yellowtail and 81,550 dorado caught in 2022, which was a standout year for both species. This year, 22,836 yellowfin, 67,867 bluefin, 15,616 yellowtail, and 27,379 dorado were caught. Though bluefin fishing has been great for the past several seasons, this season has been tops. But for the rest of our common pelagic species — yellowfin, dorado, and especially our beloved California yellowtail and the exotic dorado — 2023 was a much slower year than 2022 for the San Diego 1-to-3-day fleet.

The pelagic fluctuations will continue year to year and season to season, as life out there is a balance of currents, tides, temps, available bait, and pressure. For our endemic fisheries, it looks very good, both now and going forward, due mostly — given the massive amount of pressure — to good management. For pelagic species, it's always a coin toss, given the coming and going of the patterns that drive them. Hope everyone had a pleasant and fishy Christmas, and here's to an excellent fishy 2024! They're out there, so go get 'em!

## DANIEL POWELL

Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcasd@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 / cadbcasd@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 / cadbcasd@gmail.com

**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 / cadbcasd@gmail.com

**MAKE 1K REFERRING MY WATER** Whole home alkaline water filtration system. Turn your home into a drinkable alkaline

spring of living water. 500 gift visa card with code SH808. Text or call for more information. (619) 777-6328

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

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

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

**TEETER HANG UP BACK MASSAGER** Machine is about 6 feet tall. You will need an SUV or truck for pickup. Asking \$100. Located in North County. Call (442) 303-5605

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

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

**MISCELLANEOUS** Gorgeous high-end purses. \$10/upp. Tiffany silver circle pendant, Elsa Peretti, pouch, box. \$75. Waterford "Memories" music. \$55. Everything new. Leave a message or text. Cardiff & 5. (760) 692-7741

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

**MASSAGE TABLE, CHAIRS AND VASES** Great condition. White. Has a few crackle spots between the seat and the headrest. \$75 or bet's offer. Two oak chairs. \$20 set. Glass flower vases in various sizes, shapes

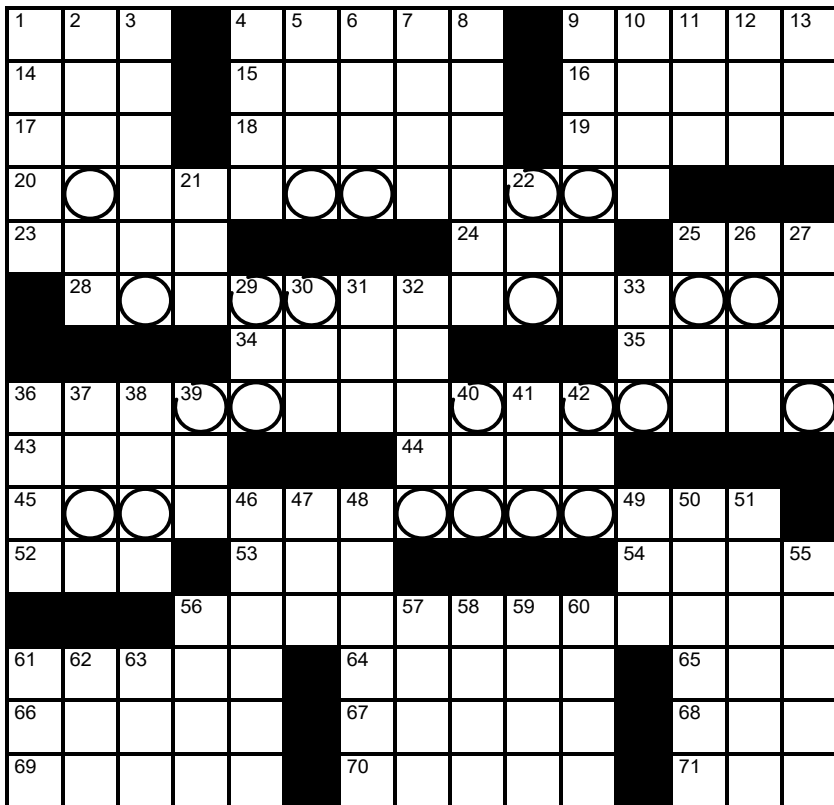
and colors. Assorted prices. Will go for good price. Call (619) 601-3591

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

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

**CHRISTMAS DECOR** Christmas display board 63L x 63W, plexiglass, \$25. Department 56 snow village items, \$15-25.

# CROSSWORD



© 2023 DAVID LEVINSON WILK

For over 2 decades, David Levinson Wilk has created puzzles for the Reader weekly publication. This week is David's final puzzle for us.

We look forward to our new relationship with Matt Jones and Jonesin' Crosswords beginning January 4, 2023.

Reader T-shirts and hats are available at [sandiegoreaderstore.com/](http://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 Yankovic'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:



# SUDOKU

**HARD:**

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

**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:**

**EVIL:**

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

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<b>TUE</b>	PHAT PANDA	KINGPEN	Good Hide	ELEM		
<b>WED</b>	Smokies	PAX	Buddies			
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**Bright Idea**

— If you're looking for a crafty project for 2023, the online shop Savor has you covered, *Slate* reported. For the low, low price of \$46.95, you can put together your own "In Case I Go Missing" binder, which Savor says "makes it super easy for the true-crime obsessed to record their key stats for their loved ones." Those facts include medical and financial information, fingerprints and lists of "hangout spots." One woman said she added "a hair sample just in case they need it for DNA testing." Elizabeth Jeglic, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, soothingly says, "The majority of adults will not go missing or be kidnapped." Her colleague Patrick McLaughlin offers some ideas for the kit, though: recent photos, the unlock code for your phone, pics of tattoos, scars or birthmarks, and handwriting samples. Still, he warns that such binders might not be admissible as evidence in court.

**The Aristocrats**

— Wow! Things went literally and physically south on July 11 at a press dinner on New York's Upper East side in support of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s presidential campaign. According to Page Six, as Kennedy answered questions, someone posed one about climate change, but before Kennedy could answer, Doug Dechert, the event host, screamed, "The climate hoax!" This brought a scold from art critic Anthony Haden-Guest, who called him a "miserable blob." The two continued their exchange, with

Kennedy calmly looking on, until Dechert loudly released a "prolonged fart" while yelling, helpfully, "I'm farting!" After several attempts to change the subject and more verbal antics, the evening wound down. The next day, Dechert told Page Six, "I apologize for using my flatulence as a medium of public commentary in your presence." How do I get on this guest list?

**Bright Idea**

— Michael Raduga, 40, founder of the Phase Research Center in Russia, but – critically – NOT a doctor or neurosurgeon, nearly lost his life in June when he tried to implant a chip in his brain on his own, in his living room in Kazakhstan. *The Daily Mail* reported that Raduga lost more than a liter of blood in his quest to control his dreams. He said he practiced on five sheep's brains and watched hours of neurosurgery on YouTube before starting on his own head. "During the first 30 minutes I was ready to give up many times because... I was afraid I could just lose consciousness," Raduga said. "I finished the surgery, I took a shower, and I worked for 10 hours straight. People didn't know." But neurosurgeon Alex Green of the University of Oxford wasn't having it. "This is an extremely dangerous thing to do," he said. "We are probably decades away from being able to synthesize new experiences."

**Weird Fashion**

— It's about time! Japanese garment company

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

**New World Order**

— Tired of your John Hancock looking like a child's scribble? Priscilla Molina of Los Angeles can help with that. The Associated Press reported that Molina's business, Planet of Names, will make over anyone's signature for between \$10 and \$55. People seeking her service are "not happy with their signatures," Molina said. "They don't relate to who they are. They don't give the message they want to convey to the world." She designs up to 300 custom signatures per month, and offers a range of styles, from elegant and artistic to ... illegible.

**Can't Possibly Be True**

— Pastor John Lindell of the James River Church in Springfield, Missouri, claimed on the congregation's livestream on March 15 that a "creative miracle" had taken place the day before at the church's Joplin location, the *Springfield News-Leader* reported. Lindell explained that "prayer team members" had prayed over Kristina Dines, who had had three

toes amputated after her husband shot her in 2015. "As the ladies prayed for Krissy... all three toes grew, and by that point, were longer than her pinky toe," Lindell said in the livestream. "Within an hour, nails began to grow on all the toes," he added. While Dines hasn't commented to the paper, she said in a video on Twitter that she saw the toes reforming. "Listen, do you understand? I can stand on tippy toes. No, I couldn't do that [before] because I didn't have toes to tippy on," Dines said. During the livestream, Lindell also suggested to parishioners that other miracles are coming: "Some people in this room -- you're gonna raise people from the dead. It's going to happen." Stay tuned.

**Creme de la Weird**

— The Mondaiji Con Cafe Daku (loosely translated: Problem Child Concept Cafe) in Sapporo, Japan, was forced to fire one of its waitresses in April after she was discovered to be adding her own blood to cocktails, the *Daily Mail* reported. The cafe owner called her actions "absolutely not acceptable" and said the establishment would close while every drinking glass was replaced. "We will hire a contractor to clean the store, change glasses and dispose of alcoholic beverages that may have been contaminated," he said. He called her actions "part-time job terrorism." A local doctor said anyone who had patronized the cafe should visit a doctor and have a blood test.

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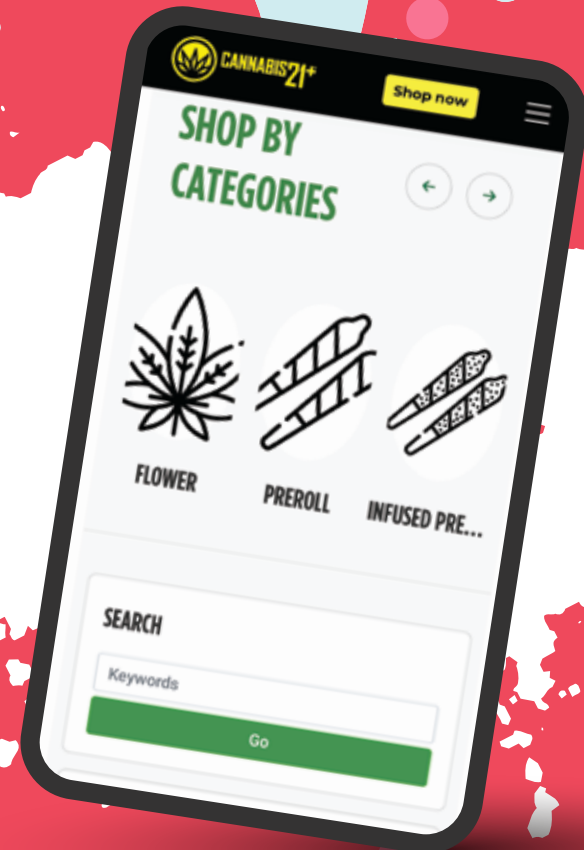


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