

SAN DIEGO

VOL. 53 | NO. 1 | JANUARY 4, 2024

Reader



TRAVEL
FOR
YOUR
HEALTH

Touring
Tijuana
while
saving on
surgery



CANNABIS 21+TM

SAN DIEGO



**RING IN THE NEW
YEAR WITH SAVINGS
FROM YOUR
FAVORITE BRANDS!**

20% OFF
CODE:STIIIZY20
EXP 2.15.24
*ONLY VALID WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY
ONE TIME USE ONLY, DISCOUNTS
NOT STACKABLE

\$10 OFF
WHEN YOU SPEND \$50
EXP 02.15.24
*ONE TIME USE ONLY,
DISCOUNTS NOT STACKABLE

\$20 OFF
WHEN YOU SPEND \$100
EXP 02.15.24
*ONE TIME USE ONLY,
DISCOUNTS NOT STACKABLE



LETTERS

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

Backwards La Jolla

I was horrified at the blatantly anti-semitic article you allowed to be printed in the December 23 edition ("The Al-Alloj Intifada", SD on the QT, December 21) along with a hateful image and caption (From the freeway to the sea, all La Jolla must be free). Free from Jews is the obvious implication. There is no by-line but the author quotes Amir Asham a UCSD student and a spokesperson for Students for Palestinian Promotion at length.

Mr. Asham implies that Jews should be eliminated from La Jolla and that the community should return to a La Jolla real estate policy from decades ago, restricting Jews from owning property there. He refers to Jewish people that wanted to buy homes in La Jolla as "settlers" and "colonists". The title of the article is The Al-Alloj Intifada, obviously, Al-Alloj is La Jolla backwards.

Shame on you for letting dangerous garbage like this pass for journalism. Can you imagine the outrage this article would have caused if the target was the Black Community, or Hispanics, or Asians, or LGBTQ? Is it only OK if it's directed at Jews, the object of the oldest prejudice/hatred in the world.

I believe you owe the few readers you have left an apology.

Peeved
San Diego

Dear Peeved, SD on the QT is the Reader's Almost Factual News column, and has similarly "targeted" the Black Community, Hispanics, Asians, and LGBTQ. If it helps, you

might consider whether or not Jews are the actual "target" here. Hint: the guy's last name is A-sham.

Un-housed but not unheard

I appreciated hearing directly from un-housed people ("Mobile Homeless", Cover Story, December 13) and the attention given to the Boomer population's great wealth (and growing inequities).

Jenny J
Bankers Hill

What's the plan, Dan's fan?

Dan has a fan; Vol 48 Letters: Dan has traveled the world, so no doubt will not cherry-pick an example-city unconstrained by existing infrastructure, Federal Government formats, or other fixed limitations that many US cities including San Diego are burdened with as Dan retrofits those world-class city amenities into an aging, land-locked, almost 300 year old city like SD. No doubt Dan has examples on exactly how to "world-class" San Diego on day one.

Dan's fan may be onto something with eliminating pensions and placing everyone onto Social Security, but don't be surprised if in parallel, Dan's fan not only supports but rigorously advocates for significant cuts to said Social Security. I wonder if each of those world-class cities from Dan's travels follows that same vision? I wonder if Dan's fan himself relies solely on SS, or is that just for workers?

Remember, though, that Pensions are earned by employees throughout their career, with those earned benefits paid out upon retirement, and the cycle continues with new employees paying in (earning) and then receiving those benefits upon their retirement. Not very complex nor sexy sounding, but it does sound like a must-component of world-class, just like Dan's fan envisions.

City assets, charters, and rezoning: no doubt Dan's

continued on page 4

San Diego Reader

SanDiegoReader.com
619.235.3000

January 4, 2024



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ. MURAL BY ALFREDO "LIBRE" COUTIERREZ

Touring a Kiwi through Tijuana — page 8



Not a Bikini Bottoms rave — page 16



The search for the biggest omelette — page 19

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	23
Cannabis	28
Classifieds	20
Health and Beauty	9
Legal Solutions	7
Music	14
Research Studies	9
Rentals	20
Restaurants	19

NEWS & FEATURES

Letters	1
Neighborhood News	
Parking pros trade tips, Loveland gets a grant	2
Golden Dreams	
The Oak Lady of Escondido gets a successor	5
Unreal Estate	
Downtown commercial goes residential	6
Travel for your health	
Touring Tijuana while saving on surgery, by Matthew Suarez	8
Puzzles	26
News of the Weird	27

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance,	
Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures, Movies	
Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness, Theater	10

Outdoors

Baby, it's as cold as it gets outside	12
---	----

Music

Blurt: Piano gives way to guitar for Matthew Phillips	14
Live Five: San Diego acts you ought to check out	15
The Gonzo Report: Goldfish in a Box, not a bowl	16
Immortal Beauty: The best concerts of 2023	17

Drinks All Around

Pacific Coast Spirits' Good Morning, Cowboy	18
---	----

Restaurants

Tin Fork: The search for the six-to-eight-egg omelet	19
--	----

Fish Report

Systems and swells don't tamp down trout	22
--	----

Roam

A hiker stands in line	24
------------------------------	----

Earn up to \$125 for your story and photos. Go to sdreader.com/write

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

THE ROAD

Got a spot?

Parking solutions, legal and otherwise

When I attended college and parking was unavailable, I would pick up other students and drive them to their cars in exchange for the parking spot. I wasn't alone. Parking has long been a problem in San Diego, and it's only getting worse: a November study from *Finn.com* proclaimed San Diego as the worst city in the U.S. for parking. The study noted that the cheapest monthly cost in San Diego to park is about \$200 per month — "one of the highest prices in the U.S." How does that play out for ordinary people?



No available parking in Pacific Beach.

capped — sometimes see cars parked in handicapped spots with no placards on display.

In 2021 alone, 3480 citations were issued to drivers parked in handicapped parking spots without a placard, according to the city's records. Each citation cost the driver \$452.50. Officers issued another 637 citations at \$826.50 apiece for disabled placard misuse. Many of those citations involved people bor-

rowing placards from a disabled person and using them to nab convenient parking near their destination.

On NextDoor, users report that some car owners will paint over red curbs with gray paint in the hopes that parking enforcement officers will not notice. In some cases, people take the opposite approach, painting curbs red in the hopes of keeping people away from their driveway entrances. Commenter Julie C. wrote, "There is an easy solution, but technically, it's not so legal. I got so tired of the same problem that I eventually just painted 3 feet of the curb on each side of my driveway with red paint. Worked like a charm." A more extreme example: in 2020, a La Jollan painted a sec-

rents for \$109 monthly, but most run \$200 and up. And for short-term parking, the Spot Hero app shows parking spots in the vicinity.

MIKE MADRIAGA

ALPINE

Loveland, sure, but love water more

It may be a trail grant, but where do those trails lead?

Sweetwater Authority officials and Loveland lake users are in the midst of discussions about what to do with a \$750,000 state grant the agency has received for trail improvements. Despite a last-minute change of venue from Alpine to Chula Vista, a large crowd attended the first workshop last month, and while the funding is earmarked for trails and access to those trails, there was also considerable talk about water levels. Because for many visitors to the East County reservoir, the

"I eventually just painted 3 feet of the curb on each side of my driveway with red paint. Worked like a charm."

"My wife has a condition that makes it difficult to walk long distances," Bob LaRose told me in a recent interview. "So she has a handicapped placard, so she can try to find a designated handicapped space when they are available." LaRose and his wife Joan are in their 70s; when handicapped parking is not available in their North Park neighborhood, LaRose drops off his wife near their home, scours the area for parking, then parks the car, sometimes far away. The LaRoses — like many other San Diegans who are handi-

rowing placards from a disabled person and using them to nab convenient parking near their destination.

On NextDoor, users report that some car owners will paint over red curbs with gray paint in the hopes that parking enforcement officers will not notice. In some cases, people take the opposite approach, painting curbs red in the hopes of keeping people away from their driveway entrances. Commenter Julie C. wrote, "There is an easy solution, but technically, it's not so legal. I got so tired of the same problem that I eventually just painted 3 feet of the curb on each side of my driveway with red paint. Worked like a charm." A more extreme example: in 2020, a La Jollan painted a sec-

and wait till somebody pulls out and then grab that spot."

Normal Heights resident Jay Smith says, "Parking here has gotten so bad. I'll find parking about a mile away and skate home or get an Uber ride home." Other people are using foldable e-bikes, such as the locally made Jack Rabbit mini bike, after parking on streets about 5-10 miles away from their homes. Noted Smith, "Those Jack Rabbit e-bikes weigh only 20 pounds and are small enough to fold and fit in my Prius's trunk."

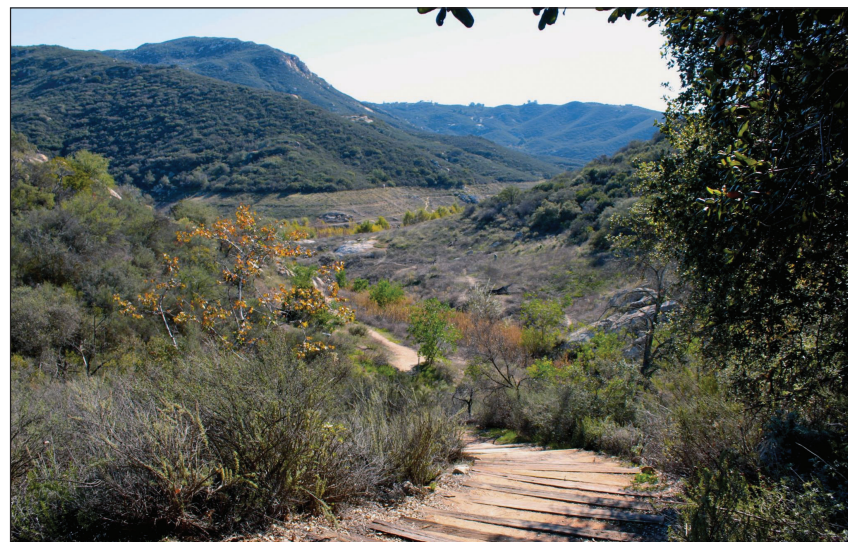
Another option: on *Neighbor.com*, home and property owners can rent you a parking space. A 20-foot spot on 49th Street with a security camera



Can't say you weren't warned, even if it was just by a local crank.



"Those Jack Rabbit e-bikes are small enough to fit in my Prius's trunk."



The start of the Loveland Reservoir hike.

trails are for getting to fishing spots.

One idea favored by the Authority was to rebuild the bridge. "Basically, the area was eroded and there's no way to get from one side of the trail to the other," said Sweetwater general manager Carlos Quintero. The trail is Sweetwater's property, but an easement granted to the forest service, which administers it, provides public access for hiking and fishing at the reservoir (which also provides drinking water to Sweetwater customers in National City, Bonita, and parts of Chula Vista). That access has been limited, lake advocates say, by the draining of the lake to benefit water customers, and by hours far shorter than the "sunrise to sunset" period the easement describes.

Most of the extant trails around the lake were created by recreational users, said David Thomas, who has been fishing at Loveland for 40 years and has hiked "every trail out there." But right now, no trails are being maintained. As a result, he said, "Some of the most danger-

continued on page 29

UNDER THE RADAR

U-T on the cheap A year-end offer of cut-rate, online-only subscription prices has triggered another round of speculation that the once-venerable *San Diego Union-Tribune* may be losing its life in print. New subscribers can get the *U-T*'s so-called e-edition for just \$3 for their entire first year, according to an online offer. At the end of 52 weeks, if subscribers hold on that long, the cost jumps to \$3.99 a week. "Offer is only available to new subscribers and subscribers who have not had an active subscription in the past 180 days," per the fine print.

The *U-T*'s subscription deal is a third of the price of those being offered by other Alden-owned papers, including the *Chicago Tribune*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Denver Post*, and *Orange County Register*, all currently advertising \$9 for the first year, with renewals after that range from \$4.99 a week in Chicago and Baltimore to \$14.99 a month in Denver and \$3.50 a week in Orange County. By comparison, the *Los Angeles Times*, owned by **Patrick Soon-Shiong**, who sold the *U-T* to Alden in July of last year, is currently charging one dollar for six months, with renewals \$4 a week thereafter.

Along with the bargain rates, *U-T* subscribers can stuff their email boxes full of newly hatched newsletters, including *Watchdog Week* ("Hold your local officials and institutions to account with original investigative, watchdog and government reporting"), *San Diego Union-Tribune en Español*, and *U-T Business*. Since both print space and staff for those topics have been slashed by Alden, it remains unclear how successful the newsletters will prove, but Alden, a widely known vulture investment fund, is said to be counting on the growth of newsletter advertising to offset falling print revenue.

Gambling wars

Termed-out San Diego state Senate Democrat **Toni Atkins**, gearing up to run for Lieutenant Governor in 2026, continues her blistering special interest fundraising pace, picking up \$5000 from the Sports Betting Alliance, using a Lubbock, Texas address, on December 26. Back in November 2022, ex-Texas Republican Governor **Rick Perry** became the public face of the alliance, according to an account by NBC Dallas-Fort Worth. "This is a way to regulate and to make legal this activity that is going to go on," Perry declared. "The idea that somehow or another people are going to stop betting on sports is a bit of a fallacy. Well, it



Rick Perry: betting on people betting is a safe bet.

is just not going to happen." Perry added, "I love the idea that the Texas House is going to bring this forward. Two-thirds of them have to agree to it, two-thirds of the Senate, then it goes to the people of the state."

But the ex-governor, who was Donald Trump's Secretary of Energy, is not without controversy. According to a September 10, 2020 account by *ProPublica*, "Perry was a leading figure in the impeachment inquiry last fall. He was among the officials, known as the 'three amigos,' who ran a shadow foreign policy in Ukraine on Trump's behalf. Their aim, according to the findings of the impeachment inquiry in the House, was to embarrass Trump's main political rival, Joe Biden."

Perry's battle for gambling was waylaid last year by the Texas legislature, despite the big money behind the effort, forcing the pro-gambling forces to target the 2025 legislative session to get a legalization measure on the ballot. "The Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Stars, Dallas Mavericks, Texas Rangers and FC Dallas are partners in the Texas Sports Betting Alliance, along with other teams across the state," says the NBC report. "So too are large sports websites like *Bet MGM*, *Draft Kings*, *Fanduel* and *Barstool Sports Book*."

On December 20, 2023, the Sports Betting Alliance, using an Arlington, Virginia address, registered a California campaign committee called Sports Betting Alliance NONPROFIT 501(C)(6). On December 19 the committee gave \$13,000 to the California Democratic Party and \$1000 each to 34 legislative incumbents and candidates, including Assembly Democrat from San Diego **Chris Ward**. State senator **Monique Limón** got \$2000.



Kevin Faulconer got a little love from Little Italy.

Payback city San Diego mayor **Todd Gloria**, running both for reelection and for a seat on the county Democratic Party Central Committee, pulled in \$6500 on the day after Christmas from the Sacramento-based California Apartment Association's political action committee. Meanwhile, painting contractor **Onofrio Pecoraro** gave \$1000 on December 13 to Republican ex-mayor **Kevin Faulconer**'s county supervisorial bid against Democratic incumbent **Terra Lawson-Remer**. His father Nick is widely known as the Godfather of Little Italy. "Silver fox Nick Pecoraro dons his dark black sunglasses, gold chain, and Italian leather shoes as he sits in front of

continued on page 29

Reader WRITING CONTEST

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Vaccine Trials for All Ages



We have vaccine research studies for volunteers of all ages, including Flu, RSV, Pneumonia, Covid-19, Monkey Pox & more. Call for information & priority status. Participants can receive up to \$2,800 in compensation.

Call (619) 658-5418

California Research Foundation



Tooth Replacement with Dental Implant!

All-On 6 Special

\$12,000 No More Dentures!

Root Canal Special

starting at **\$500**

Extra treatment for additional cost.

Start to Finish!
(Implant, Abutment, Crown)

Immediate Load Dental Implant

\$3800

Delayed Load Dental Implant

\$2200

We accept all major PPO insurance plans

Dr. S. T. Sawa

Call for Additional Services and Specials



Ask About **0%** Interest for 24 months

Multilingual

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION **(619) 346-7483**

407W. Madison Ave. • El Cajon, CA 92020 • drsawa@sbcglobal.net

www.immediatetoothreplacement.com

Vaccine Trials for children

Kids bring home all kinds of germs & illnesses. A vaccine trial may help protect them!



CALIFORNIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

4180 Ruffin Rd, Suite 255
San Diego, CA 92123

We have vaccine research studies for volunteers, 6 months and older. Participants can receive up to \$2,800 in compensation

Please call for more information

(619) **732-3299**

LETTERS

continued from page 1

sample world-class cities have none of those pesky binding agreements that often dictate ownership, development constraints, lease requirements and other negotiated legal clauses, so do those clauses and agreements SD currently has simply disappear for Dan and his fan? Great. Please have SD's city attorney explain in detail at the next city council meeting how those agreements are cancelled. Oh and make sure the associated costs, projected lawsuit timelines and all relevant (known and unknown) details are presented in Dan's roadmap of how to undo and then immediately enact world-class iron-clad no-cost-to-the-city agreements. Perhaps have him bring the exact model that Dan's sample city used from across the globe as they developed.

Since Dan and fan have cracked the code for world-class conversion no doubt they'll enthusiastically share it with La Jolla, LA, Sacramento, San Fran, Seattle, Pittsburg, Detroit, Miami etc. This sounds downright euphoric.

Great that Dan's fan states Dan is Politically Independent so no doubt will- even if not elected- identify and work tirelessly to root out that political corruption Dan's fan mentions. Is Dan's fan doing something about it already? Fantastic! Oh and is there some kind of secret to "including all political parties"? Is that something the voters of the sample world-class cities did to elect thus represent their world-class(ness)? Sounds like a SD voter task but maybe not needed if Dan's already on it.

Bart Lahtinen
San Diego

Puzzled over puzzle

December 28th issue has a problem with the crossword puzzle, the grid is not numbered correctly and the clues are the same as the December 14th issue. Just thought

I would let someone know. Since the crossword puzzles are my favorite part of the Reader. Thank you.

Malena
San Diego

Cross over crossword

It seems like your crossword puzzle clues are not the ones that go with the grid on the latest Reader, 28th of December. It's a mess...

All Crossed Up
San Diego

Mistakes were made

You butchered David Levinson Wilk's "final puzzle" crossword. You show LAST WEEK's clues, and a new grid.

Unable to Solve!
San Diego

Make it make cents

There wasn't a crossword puzzle category for the December 28 issue. It doesn't make any sense. Thx

LM
San Diego

Final Hurr-oops

The clues for the very last crossword puzzle of 2023 are from the puzzle of 2 weeks ago! Not a very fitting way to end David Levinson's two decades of crossword creations :(Could you please print on your website or in the next issue the correct set of clues? Thank you for your time and trouble!

James V. Cimarusti
Carlsbad

David Levinson Wilk's December 28 puzzle was accidentally paired with the clues from the December 14 puzzle. The Reader regrets the error, and is re-running Wilk's final puzzle, this time with the correct clues, in this week's issue.

Announcement

Volume 1 of the Reader was published our first year of existence, 1972. Since then there has been some confusion about the volume listed on the cover. To end that confusion, we are using the correct number - volume 53 - for 2024, starting this issue.

EDITOR

Jim Holman

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Matthew Lickona

SENIOR EDITOR

Matt Potter

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Chris Woo

CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Ahrens, Ian Anderson, Thomas K. Arnold, Ed Bedford, Stobhan Braun, Ryan Brothers, Matthew Flynn, Gabe Garcia, Leorah Gavidor, Moss Gropen, Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Thomas Larson, Ken Leighton, Ivan Molina, Mike Madriaga, Bill Manson, Sheila Pell, Jake Peterson, Dave Rice, Jay Allen Sanford, Spike Steffenhagen, Matthew Suárez, Monica Yarbrough

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Eduardo Bravo, Holly Micelli, Graeme Storey, Todd Westfall

MULTIMEDIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Cameron Pittman

DIGITAL AGENCY MANAGER

Daniela Penkova

DIGITAL CONTENT EXECUTIVE

Brian Hernandez

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Alicia Bell

DIRECTOR OF SALES

Stephen Hatch

DIGITAL MARKETING COORDINATOR

Amanda Tascher

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Mike Brown

ART DIRECTOR

Jessica Wentzel

ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER

Ruta Stecher

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Marina Bahena

All advertising in the Reader is subject to current rate card. The Reader reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. The entire contents of the San Diego Reader are copyright 2024, SDReader, Inc. All rights reserved.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

VMG Advertising - 888-278-9866

OFFICE

Reader, 2323 Broadway, suite 107
San Diego, CA 92102

619-235-8200

Paid Classifieds

OFFICE HOURS

By appointment only

GENERAL INFORMATION

619-235-3000



PHOTOGRAPH BY IRVIN GAVIDOR

The rare, endangered oaks form especially complex and twisted canopies.

Engelmann's emissary

They're the rarest oaks in the U.S., they're endangered, and 93 percent of them can be found right here in San Diego. In the 1840s, German doctor George Engelmann was studying plants along the U.S.-Mexico border when he noticed some distinctions in the oaks he saw growing in the foothills: they had stubbier, browner acorns than the more widely distributed coast live oak, and smooth-edged, grayish-tinted leaves, as opposed to the live oak's jagged green. Others later noted that

County had what is known as a "mast" year: each tree produced thousands of acorns. And before those acorns got squirreled away or had time to rot on the ground, retired Valley Center Middle School teacher Jim Crouch sprang into action. He distributed flyers in several neighborhoods near his Escondido home where the magnificent Engelmanns grow — places like Treeside Drive in Hidden Meadows — that basically asked, "Hey, I like your oaks, can I collect your acorns?" (After a few years of collecting and sprouting other types of oak acorns, he had



PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM CROUCH

Engelmann oak on Santa Ysabel cattle ranch.

the branches of these mid-elevation oaks formed more complex and twisted canopies, and eventually, botanists officially named it the Engelmann oak. Of course, indigenous inhabitants knew the tree before it was so named, in part because it was a prodigious sweet acorn producer. A storied grove of over 400 Engelmann oaks just north of Escondido — named *La Huerta* by the Spanish — was a summer acorn gathering place until the trees were cut down to make way for citrus in the late 1880s.

In 2023, the relatively few Engelmann oaks still scattered around the foothills of San Diego

a pretty good idea where to look.)

Once in possession of both buckets and permission from homeowners to enter private property, Crouch and a few volunteers hurried to collect thousands of Engelmann acorns from Escondido, Ramona, and a cattle ranch in Santa Ysabel. Some 300 came from the Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve, where Engelmann oaks overhang the parking lot. Now, Crouch is sprouting and distributing the precious seedlings and their healthy tap roots to folks who live at the right elevations and have enough room to plant them.

Engelmann oaks have a very limited range: they are found from northern Baja to southern Los Angeles County, and only at elevations from 1200'-4200'. The U.S. Forest Service has reported that significant stands survive at Camp Pendleton and on the Santa Rosa Plateau near Murrieta, and there's a historic

grove at the LA Botanical Garden. Daley Ranch has an Engelmann oak trail. Crouch said Engelmanns also survive on some reservations

in San Diego County, such as La Jolla Indian Reservation. And he's heard there's a big stand north of I-210 in LA County. (Small wonder: the tree is also known as the Pasadena oak.) But development has encroached on most of the tree's habitat — the low foothills and mesas where the trees thrive are ideal for homebuilding.

Another Engelmann distinction: it's impervious to the gold-spotted oak borer, which spreads a fungus that has killed scores of coast live oaks in San Diego County and beyond. Crouch uses that as a selling point when convincing homeowners and landkeepers to plant Engelmanns (though the polyphagous shot hole borer, which *does* affect Engelmanns, has recently been detected in San Diego). Crouch said he does this work "for his grandkids." Oaks are a keystone species: they support more life forms than any other North American tree genus.

When he started, he didn't know much about his predecessor Frances Ryan, the Oak Lady of Escondido, who was born in 1901 and lived next to a huge old Engelmann oak for most of her life. She called the tree *Quella*, and worked to preserve Engelmanns in San Diego County, perhaps because, as she told the *Reader's* Gordon Smith in 1986, it was her father who, before she was born, cut down the 400 trees at *La Huerta* to make way for his boss's new orchard.

Ryan planted Engelmann seedlings around her family home, which stood near *La Huerta's* old location, and throughout the hills of North County. In 1989, a wildfire claimed many of the old oaks on her property — after the Uni-

versity of California reneged on a promise to create an Engelmann oak preserve there. Happily, *Quella* survived the fire. Ryan died in 1990; today, Crouch's granddaughter plays soccer at the Escondido park named after her. "It has great old oaks," he said, "but sadly, no Engelmanns."

"Hey, I like your oaks, can I collect your acorns?"

Crouch gathered about 2500 Engelmann acorns last year. He estimated that about 50 percent will sprout in his backyard nurs-

ery: rows of narrow, conical tree pots, lovingly watered with rainwater he collects. And he's pretty sure they will all find homes. Volcan Mountain Preserve might take up to 1000, and through Facebook and other connections, he has developed a long list of home- and landowners willing to plant — in Julian, Escondido, Ramona, San Marcos, Vista, Descanso, Jamul, La Cresta, and other locations. A friend at Pala, who Crouch said "plants carefully" and enlists neighbors to water when he travels, asked for



PHOTOGRAPH BY IRVIN GAVIDOR

Jim Crouch, seen here with oak seedling pot, is doing the work for his grandkids.

100. Requirements for adoption: a large tract of land at 1200'-4200' and irrigation for two years while the sapling gets established. It's best to plant in January for lower elevations, and near the spring equinox for higher country. Engelmanns can survive drought, but it's not clear how climate change is affecting the species. As a hedge against cataclysm, The San Diego Zoo and Wildlife Alliance has cryogenically preserved DNA from the Engelmann seedlings Crouch sprouted. Those interested in planting may contact jbobyak2@gmail.com.

843 10TH AVENUE | SAN DIEGO, 92101

CURRENT OWNER: Hill Family | LISTING PRICE: \$3,750,000 | BEDS: 4 | BATHS: 5 | HOUSE SIZE: 6000 sq ft

UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

When we take *Unreal* downtown, we usually wind up looking at a penthouse suite with commanding views of the city and San Diego Bay beyond. There's a good reason for that: high-rise condos comprise most of the housing to be found in the city core. Aside from some historical Victorians hanging on around the fringes, most of downtown is either already built up or rotting away and waiting for a developer to rip down what's left.

Today, however, I've got something a little dif-



If you told me this was part of some swank new club rather than the yard of a residential low-rise, I'd be inclined to believe you.

ferent. Let me introduce you to the Jacaranda Lofts, described on Redfin as "a unique opportunity to own a sprawling

New York-style industrial loft in East Village." The building at 843 10th Avenue boasts four units in total — with a pair of

them, A and B, being offered for sale as a package deal. Tax records show zoning for the combined 6000-square-foot space as

commercial, with the listed use as retail shopping. But it's listed for sale as a residential property, and that's how we're going to treat it.

Our tour starts in the "exclusive outdoor haven featuring an outdoor kitchen, expansive decks, a refreshing shower, and a private jacuzzi." From the first shot we see, this looks like a lush patio with lounge seating, a large L-shaped bar surrounding the kitchen area, clean faux (probably) rock walls, a bunch of green-tinted retractable glass walls, and tons of exposed wood in the ceiling and on the upper level. If you told me this was part of some swank new club rather than the yard of a residential low-rise, I'd be inclined to believe you.

Our next shot is of the upstairs, where we see the "striking 22-foot-high bar-

reled ceilings" leading into an unfinished living area. Oh yes, I should mention that this is an estate sale; the seller never quite finished the build, so even though the buyer is going to have to lay out millions up front, there's still a lot of work to be done before move-in.

There are outdoor staircases leading up, down, and all over the place, including to a handful of raised platforms and catwalks. It's a maze-like arrangement that I assume serves to connect the two units, which means that you've got to go outside to get from one side of the home to another. We also see a pair of outdoor showers on an upstairs deck. They're not sheltered from view in any way, and so I assume the only reason to use them would be before or after a dip in the jacuzzi

continued on page 28

IN MEMORIAM



Amanda Stevens

December 31, 1989 — December 14, 2023

From her friends and co-workers at the Reader.

Low, Low Car Rental Rates

Buy Here, Pay Here.
Rent-to-Own.

Daily
from \$20

Weekly
from \$100

Monthly
from \$350



Rent for only
\$100/day



Harley-Davidson Road King®

SUVs • Navigators • Expeditions • Suburbans • RVs • Explorers
15-Passenger Vans • Minivans • Luxury Cars • Motorcycles
18 years & older | Cash deposits | 100 free miles/day
Open 24-7 | All major credit cards accepted

Car Rentals, Inc.

3006 Barnett Ave, San Diego, 92110
760-633-3552 | 619-233-8300

Auto Sales & Rentals | Airport | Encinitas | Oceanside

WHEREVER YOU GO, THERE WE ARE

The Reader
Mobile Edition

SDReader.com

Reader

FREE Legal GUIDE

619-780-2470 • SDReader.com/Legal

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At the prompt, enter the 4-digit extension of the category that interests you.



EMPLOYMENT LAW • Extension 5609

Sponsored by Cohelan Khoury & Singer
605 C St., Suite 200, San Diego • 619-595-3001 • ckslaw.com

- 1 Wage & Hour Violations
- 2 Unpaid Commissions
- 3 Expense Reimbursements
- 4 Wrongful Termination
- 5 Misclassification
- 6 Improper Deductions
- 7 Discrimination and Harassment



WILLS, TRUSTS, & ESTATE PLANNING

Extension 5623

Sponsored by the Law Office of David Sean Dufek • 619-222-5886
3737 Moraga Ave. Suite B-113, San Diego • www.dufeklaw.com

- 1 Do I need a Will?
- 2 Do I need a Trust?
- 3 What is the difference between a Will and a Trust?
- 4 What is Probate?
- 5 What do you do when a parent or loved one passes away?
- 6 I already have a Will and/or a Trust. Do I need to update these documents?



SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

Extension 5610

Sponsored by The Law Offices of Cory A. DeLellis • 619-567-0595
3949 Clairemont Dr. Ste. 10, San Diego • corydelellislaw.com

- 1 Overview of Social Security
- 2 Filing a Claim
- 3 Survivorship Benefits
- 4 Representation at Hearing Level
- 5 Disability Benefits
- 6 Social Security Disability Appeal



PERSONAL INJURY • Extension 5601

Sponsored by Bender Kurlander Hernandez & Campbell
501 West Broadway Suite 1500, San Diego • 619-842-3232

- 1 Do You Need an Attorney?
- 2 Vehicle Accidents
- 3 Medical Care
- 4 Wrongful Death Claims
- 5 Dog Bites
- 6 What is My Case Worth?



WORKERS' COMPENSATION • Extension 5605

Sponsored by The Law Offices of Matthew E. Russell
2445 Fifth Avenue, Suite 350, San Diego 92101
619-544-1506

- 1 Your Work-Related Injury
- 2 Workers' Comp Benefits
- 3 Third-party Accidents
- 4 Unsafe Working Conditions
- 5 Wrongful Discharge
- 6 Harbor & Longshoreman's Act

Any person who makes or causes to be made any knowingly false claim obtaining workers' compensation benefits or payments is guilty of a felony.

The attorneys and law firms who provide this information are solely responsible for its content. This information does not address all legal situations, nor is it intended to replace legal counsel.



♥51.8k others like this.

Follow us on
Instagram

 @sandiegoreader

Reader

Have an event? We want it!

Food festivals, sporting events
(including surfing, kayaking,
and sailing), book signings,
art gallery openings, expos,
and classes — all are welcome.

sdreader.com/events/submit

Reader

Touring Tijuana while saving on surgery

TRAVEL FOR YOUR HEALTH



The message arrived via my Tijuana Adventure Instagram on a Friday afternoon: “Any chance of a tour tomorrow?” A bit short notice, but I was free and quoted the fellow my price, which proved acceptable.

“I’m in Tijuana at Oasis of Hope Hospital. Start at 11 am?”

I asked him what his interests were and where he was visiting from.

“I’m from New Zealand,” he replied. “I’ve never been overseas, apart from Australia. I’ve only been in USA and Mexico for two days. I would love to get to see the border up close. Chill out, walk a street market, buy some souvenirs for my kids, and have a couple of beers.”

Some might think 11 am a little early for beers, but I try to give the customer what he wants, and so I agreed. In my decade of doing

tours in Tijuana, I had toured people from all over the world, but never a Kiwi. The next day, I arrived at Oasis of Hope fifteen minutes late and met up with my client, Ben Perry. A former rugby player, Ben stood tall and burly. He could barely fit in my car. I could barely understand his accent.

Showing him the border up close was an easy task. The border wall extending into the ocean in Playas de Tijuana is just a few blocks from

Oasis of Hope. As Ben jumped in the passenger seat, I apologized for the condition of my car (old and dirty). I parked behind the Plaza de Toros Monumental and we walked to the border wall. Ben took a smiling stand at the boundary marker that officially divides the countries, one foot in Mexico and another in America.

Breakfast was also easy: Tacos Aaron, which makes some of my favorite breakfast *tacos varios* in Tijuana, was just around the corner from Oasis of Hope. I showed Ben the menu at the taco truck and explained what *tacos varios* are. Ben simply instructed me to get what I liked. I got us two tacos each: one birria, the other chile relleno topped with *huevos en salsa*. It was his first food in 14 hours, and he said it was the best thing in the world.

After breakfast, I drove him around the city, showing him the sights and narrating Tijuana stories. I drove him by the Xolos soccer stadium, through one of Tijuana's richest neighborhoods, and past Hipodromo Caliente. As we passed it, I related some of the eccen-

tric myths surrounding Jorge Hank Rhon, owner of the largest casinos in Mexico. I commented on Tijuana's exponential growth as we drove past some new developments. Around 1 pm, we settled in Telefónica Gastro Park for lunch and beers.

By this point, I had gotten used to Ben's accent, and as we sipped our beers, I asked what brought him to Tijuana. "The trip is mainly for my wife's gastric sleeve," he said. It turned out she wasn't the first Kiwi to make the trek: three of her friends had done it before her and recommended the journey.

Plenty of Americans travel to Mexico for affordable healthcare, and Tijuana is a top choice. As soon as you cross the border, there are dozens of pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals. Kiwis doing the journey is less common, but not unheard of. Despite New Zealand's universal healthcare, it can be difficult to get approval for publicly funded cosmetic surgery. Most such surgeries are performed in the private sector, and can cost up to NZ\$20,000 or more (around \$12,350 in USD).



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Ben and his wife traveled from Christchurch to Tijuana for her to get surgery from Dr. Mario Camelo.

Ben and his wife had traveled from Christchurch to Tijuana for her to get surgery from Dr. Mario Camelo. Dr. Mario's website offers an all-inclusive package for \$4499 which includes ground transportation from San Diego airport to Tijuana's hospital (patient and one guest), a three-night hospital stay, the necessary tests, and gastric sleeve surgery. His site boasts that he has done more than 4000 bariatric surgeries, and it offers success stories and more. (Dr. Mario also has a TikTok account with more than 18,000 followers, on which he shares results and gives medical and diet information.) Flights

from New Zealand to Los Angeles average around \$1000. Including travel expenses, Kiwis save around half by traveling halfway around the globe for surgery.

Ben let me know that "not having a clue at all about Tijuana, I was a bit nervous, because the media is filled with crime stories." Though it's true that Tijuana is one of the most dangerous cities in the world, given over 2000 murders every year, I detoured the conversation to mass shootings in the United States. And *that* turned the conversation to the first mass shooting in New Zealand, which happened in his hometown of Christchurch. By way of reassurance, I told him the chances of a Kiwi getting in trouble in either country was close to nil.

Still, there *are* risks when traveling for an invasive procedure. Both

the mainstream media and online forums are full of horror stories about fraudulent surgeons performing botched surgeries. According to Dr. Hermes Ávila Pelayo, there are only 60 certified plastic surgeons in Tijuana, while there are over 600 non-certified doctors that do procedures in Baja. (The doctor also estimates that over 250 bariatric sleeve surgeries and over 500 cosmetic surgeries happen every day in Tijuana.)

"We didn't do a lot of sightseeing till we got to San Diego," said Ben. "Pretty much went for dinner and a shop at the mall. It wasn't until Tijuana that I could do what I wanted, with my wife in surgery and recovery. After traveling for 24 hours over the last two days, I needed to eat some local tacos and sip some beers."

While Ben's wife was re-

covering from her surgery done on the previous day, Ben and I had a day in Tijuana to do as we pleased. We ate octopus tacos and tuna tostadas in Telefónica and drank a couple of Lirica's beers. The tour continued through downtown Tijuana. Ben, a craft beer aficionado, told me about his favorite spots in New Zealand, like Garage Project. I took him to Mamut Brewery, Norte Beer Co, and Cervecería Insurgente. We ended the evening in Dandy Del Sur, where we drank Tecates and had 400 Conejos mezcal (it was Ben's first time drinking the spirit). At 6 pm, I hailed a taxi, instructed the driver where to drop off the Kiwi, and said my goodbyes.

Once Ben was back at the hospital with his wife, he messaged me: "Thank you so much. Just showing the wife everything."

— Matthew Suarez

Vaccine Trials for All Ages



We have vaccine research studies for volunteers of all ages, including Flu, RSV, Pneumonia, Covid-19, Monkey Pox & more. Call for information & priority status. Participants can receive up to \$2,800 in compensation.

Call (619) 658-5418

California Research Foundation

Many people with **obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)** are unable to manage their condition with CPAP.

The purpose of the **SynAIRgy** research study is to see if an oral investigational drug is a safe and effective option for people with OSA.

You may be able to join the SynAIRgy study if you:

- Are 18 years of age or older
- Have symptoms of OSA
- Are unable or unwilling to receive PAP treatment

Additional criteria will apply. All study-related visits, exams/tests, and drugs will be provided to you at no cost. You may also be reimbursed for study-related time and travel. Health insurance is not required to participate in this study.



Call or visit our website to learn more!

619-826-8884

www.ExaltResearch.com

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 4

SHELTER ISLAND WALK AND TALK

Join Sandra, Sally, and friends for a casual walk from the Bali Hai Restaurant to the Friendship Bell and back. The walk is about 2.5 miles round trip, 60-70 minutes including pit stop, and all on flat sidewalks. Breathe the ocean air and enjoy the bay and city views. Spot ships and sea lions and meet new friends. Take the #28 bus and walk three blocks to the Bali Hai. Gather by the lamp post and hand rails and stretch for a few minutes before setting out. If you're late, drive down the island and join the group along the way! Optional eats afterward.

WHEN: Thursdays, 10 am to 11:15 am

WHERE: Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, sandiegocounty.gov.

Miles Davis, and Dave Brubeck. Pat La Barbera played with Buddy Rich, and Joe did lengthy stints with Woody Herman and Chuck Mangione.

WHEN: Friday, January 5, 7 pm to 9 pm

WHERE: Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, museumofmakingmusic.org/events/band-of-brothers

Saturday | 6

CREATING A MINDFUL 2024: NEW YEAR'S RETREAT



Join the UC San Diego Center for Mindfulness community for a day-long retreat to set the stage for the coming year. Take part in a half-day of silent mindfulness practices, with periodic instruction by Noriko Morita Harth and Cheryl Shah, followed by a half-day workshop led by Director Dr. Cassandra Vieten to help chart the course for a mindful year.

WHEN: Saturday, January 6, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

WHERE: UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. cih.ucsd.edu

Friday | 5

BAND OF BROTHERS PLAY JAZZ



Brothers Tony and Pete Levin and Pat and Joe La Barbera have joined forces to get back to their jazz roots. Tony Levin founded Stick Men and played bass for Peter Dinklage and King Crimson, while his brother Pete was a keyboardist for stars like Paul Simon,



THURSDAY, JANUARY 4: SHELTER ISLAND WALK AND TALK

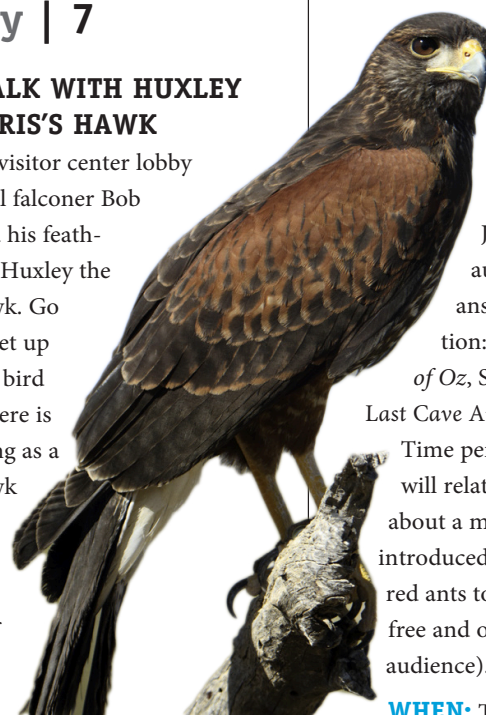
Sunday | 7

HAWK TALK WITH HUXLEY THE HARRIS'S HAWK

Stop by the visitor center lobby to meet local falconer Bob Gordon and his feathered friend, Huxley the Harris's hawk. Go ahead and get up close to this bird of prey. "There is no such thing as a Harris's hawk that is 'too tame,'" says Gordon. "The best of them are as friendly as any dog, and will actively seek out the company of the falconer."

WHEN: Sunday, January 7, 9 am to noon

WHERE: Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail, San Carlos. mtrp.org.



HARRIS'S HAWK

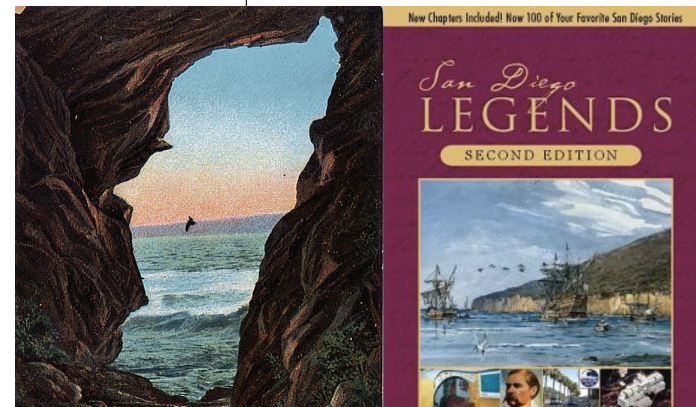
Tuesday | 9

AUTHOR JACK INNIS PRESENTS: SAN DIEGO LEGENDS

Join *San Diego Legends* author Jack Innis to answer the burning question: What do the Wizard of Oz, Sunny Jim, and the Last Cave Artist have in common? Time permitting, the author will relate a Kumeyaay legend about a man who inadvertently introduced fleas, mosquitos, and red ants to the area. This event is free and open to the public (adult audience).

WHEN: Tuesday, January 9, 1 pm

WHERE: Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley. sandiego.gov



JACK INNIS: SAN DIEGO LEGENDS

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 sreader.com/events/submit.*

ANIMAL FRIENDS

OB Playground Dog Adoption Meet pups from PAWS4Thought Animal Rescue. Stop by to meet adoptable Chihuahua mixes like Thumper and Laramie, and, if you're hungry, grab the January Taco of the Month — the Green Machine. Saturday, January 6, 11am; **free**. City Tacos, 4896 Voltaire Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

ART

Emerging Free Opening Reception The water-based media exhibition runs December 31 through January 27 with over 95 ready-to-hang original paintings. Friday, January 5, 5pm; **free**. San Diego Watercolor Society, 2825 Dewey Road #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

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

BOOK SIGNINGS

San Diego Legends: Author Jack Innis Join San Diego Legends author Jack Innis to answer the burning question: What do the Wizard of Oz, Sunny Jim, and the Last Cave Artist have in common? Time permitting, the author will also relate a Kumeyaay legend about a man who inadvertently introduced fleas, mosquitos and red ants to the area. Audience: Adults, Seniors Tuesday, January 9, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

80s Theme Adult Ballet Wear your favorite '80s attire and learn the art of ballet to some rad jams, beginning to intermediate levels welcome. Wednesdays, 10am; through Wednesday, December 18, \$11-\$15. 18 and up. Dancehouse Point Loma, 2180 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

After-School Kids Textile Art Class In this 4-week after-school hands-on art class, your child will explore a variety of fiber art techniques. Lessons may include weaving on a frame loom, hand sewing, basket making, embroidery, dyed, painted or printed fabric using plants, dyes or paint, and more. Register in advance. Instructor Lauren Becker Downey and staff. Tuesday, January 9, 4pm; \$134-\$152. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Beginning Country Line Dance for Adults Instructor Krizia is a Chula Vista native trained in ballet, tap, jazz, Irish, hip-hop, and country line dancing. Tuesdays, 7pm; through Wednesday, December 18, \$11-\$15. 18 and up. Dancehouse Point Loma, 2180 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Body Dynamics This class provides students with an understanding of the Breath-Mind-Body dynamic and its relationship to health and wellness during the aging process. Students learn breathing techniques for self-care, mental resilience, and physical relaxation as they age. Please wear flat supportive shoes and loose, comfortable clothing. Friday, January 5, 12:30pm; Monday, January 8, 12:30pm; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Creating a Mindful 2024: New Year's Retreat Daylong retreat to set the stage for the coming year in the UC San Diego Design and Innovation Building. Saturday, January 6, 8:30am; \$39-\$99. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Cribbage Join us for a fun and friendly game of Cribbage. Bring your own board if you have one. All levels are welcome. Instructions will be provided. Fridays, 10am; through Friday, June 28, **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Learn to Weave For Kids and Teens Learn how to weave with an expert textile artist and develop your art and math skills. This class is targeted to homeschooling youth ages 10+. No prior experience is required, and all materials will be provided. Registration is required. Recommended for children ages 10+ Tuesday, January 9, 11:30pm; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Make Your Own Ramen Cooking Class Sunday, January 7, 5pm; **free**-\$59. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

Meditation for All: Release. Unwind. Destress. Join Heartfulness Volunteer and Trainer, Vaidhi Puntambekar on a meditation session that focuses on the heart and the mind. Heartfulness is a path that allows us to experience our Self. When practiced regularly, meditation helps us tune into our heart and develop the ability to remain calm and balanced at all times. *Ages 15 and up. Saturday, January 6, 2pm; **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Meditation for a Happy Life Learn and practice meditation, improve harmony at home and at work, and build your wisdom and inner peace. This secular and modern approach to traditional Buddhist teachings is led by Ashley Davis, co-founder of The Center for Harmonious Living. Monday, January 8, 5:30pm; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Mosaic Glass On Glass Class In this beginning level, 2-part workshop, learn how to cut stained glass and combine it with basic direct mosaic techniques to produce fabulous light gathering objects of art. Register in advance. Wednesday, January 10, 2pm; \$133-\$151. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

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)

Ukulele Class Learn to play the ukulele or improve your skills at the Poway Library. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one from the library. All skill levels welcome. Wednesday, January 10, 5pm; **free**. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

COMEDY

Adam Carolla Show Live Podcast Early and late shows Sunday, January 7, 6:30pm and 9pm; 21 and up. Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

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

Dustin Ybarra AS SEEN ON: Kevin (Probably) Saves the World, Fox's "Gotham", NBC's "The Player", Showtime's "Californication", ABC's "The Goldbergs", Chelsea Lately & Comedy Central's "Stand-Up Revolution"! Thursday, January 4, 8pm; Friday, January 5, 8pm; Saturday, January 6, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$10. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Friday Night Flix Two live "movies" will be improvised before your eyes. Suggestions taken from the audience and prizes given away. Friday, January 5, 8:30pm; \$7-\$15. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

Gaslamp Comedy Open Mic & Happy Hour No cover. No drink minimum. \$5 Happy hour. Sign-up between 7:30-7:50 for stage time. Tuesday, January 9, 7:30pm; **free**. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

John Hastings 2 item min purchase per person (food and/or drink) Friday, January 5, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, January 6, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; \$5-\$40. 18 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Laugh A Latte Free clean stand-up comedy show with Rand, Simon, Carol, Abby, Dr. Mo, McKay and headliner Bob Hansen, known for his album *The Best Bob I Can Be*. Saturday, January 6, 3pm; **free**. Brew Coffee Spot, 6101 Lake Murray Boulevard. (LA MESA)

FOR KIDS

Art Smarts Class for Homeschoolers Monthly art class for homeschoolers ages 6 and up. Engage in various artforms including drawing and painting. Registration is required. For children under the age of 8, a responsible adult must remain inside the library

for the duration of the program. Friday, January 5, 11:30am; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

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. Thursday, January 4, 9am; Friday, January 5, 9am; Seaside Arts Center, 11130 East Ocean Air Drive Suite C-105. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

PAW Patrol Live! This brand-new production is an interactive live stage show, where members of the audience get to be heroes unleashed, helping the pups navigate the globe to make it back to Adventure Bay in the nick of time. Friday, January 5, 6pm; Saturday, January 6, 10am and 2pm; Sunday, January 7, 11am and 3pm; \$28-\$160. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Toddler & Preschool Storytime Recommended for ages 2-5, this storytime program includes books, songs, games, and early literacy fun. Location: Community Room Thursday, January 4, 10:30am; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

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. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, January 6, 9:30am, Sunday, January 7, 9:30am and Wednesday, January 10, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Hawk Talk with Huxley the Harris Hawk Stop by the Visitor Center Lobby to meet local falconer, Bob Gordon, and his feathered friend, “Huxley” the Harris’ hawk. Get up close and personal with this majestic bird of prey. Stop in and learn what makes Huxley so special. Sunday, January 7, 9am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Wildlife Tracking Walk Join experienced MTRP Tracking Team members for an adventure in wildlife tracking on the Oak Grove Loop Trail. Can you identify a raccoon track from a coyote track? Learn the art of discovering and identifying tracks and other signs left behind by the park’s seldom-seen wildlife. These easy walks are suitable for the whole family. Walks start from the front of the Visitor Center on the first Saturday of every month at 8:30am. Walks are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Don’t forget to wear long pants for kneeling on the ground. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, January 6, 8:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPORTS & FITNESS

San Diego Gulls Home Game The San Diego Gulls will host 14 different Western Conference opponents at Pechanga Arena as

OUTDOORS

San Diego’s coldest days coming, acacias blooming, latest sunrise

Recent Chilly Days And Nights only confirm that San Diego’s lowest temperatures (according to more than a century of weather records) tend to occur during the month of January. January’s mean temperature at Lindbergh Field is about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. (July’s mean is a balmy 70 degrees.) To experience much colder temperatures, journey to the Cuyamaca Mountains; -1 and -4 degree readings were once recorded there — the two lowest temperatures ever recorded within the county.



ACACIA DECURRENS PROPOGATE AND GROW RAPIDLY AFTER A BRUSHFIRE.

CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ BREVA



A SNOWY ROAD IN THE CUYAMACA MOUNTAINS.

Acacias, festooned with myriads of fluffy yellow blossoms, are brightening streetsides, freeway embankments, and backyard gardens throughout the San Diego area this month. Although many acacias are native to subtropical regions, nearly all we see today in San Diego were introduced from Australia. Anza-Borrego’s native acacia (*A. greggii*) is the notoriously thorny “catclaw,” known by early desert pioneers as “tearblanket” and “wait-a-minute bush.”

The Latest Sunrise Of The Year (on standard, not daylight time) occurs Saturday, January 10, near 6:52 am for most of metropolitan San Diego. Slowly at first, then more rapidly in the weeks to come, sunrise will arrive earlier with each passing day. By March, the sun will be rising an hour earlier than it does now. The earlier sunrises are mostly a consequence of the sun’s apparent movement from the southern sky toward the northern sky from December to June. You can keep track of that movement by noting where the sun rises (or sets) over a period of many weeks from a fixed vantage point, such as your home.

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.

part of their 2023-24 schedule. Friday, January 5, 7pm; Saturday, January 6, 6pm; Wednesday, January 10, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

San Diego Sockers The 16-time champion San Diego Sockers will host a rival at Pechanga Arena. Sunday, January 7, 5:05pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

The Crucible by Arthur Miller A classic portrait of one man’s struggle toward grace is set in the scorching context of the 17th-century Salem witch trials. The Crucible renders human struggles both internal and external: a community galvanized by fear and suspicion, a wife betrayed by lust, an orphan girl blind with passion and obsessed with revenge, ruthless prosecutors, deluded holy men, and covetous neighbors. Directed by Melissa Malloy. Produced by Pamela Stompoly. Featuring John Carroll, Camellia Cedilla, Linda Benning, Raymond Evans, Lina Hannegan, Dani Usman, Ruth Russell, Tom Kilroy, Amy Dell, Matt Sayre, Katia Sky, Bryn Williams, Darlene Cleary, Jerry Young, Rielle Jarrett, Floyd Strayer, Yvonne Nguyen. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 2PM SUNDAYS.

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. SEASIDE ARTS CENTER, 11130 EAST OCEAN AIR DRIVE SUITE C-105, CARMEL MOUNTAIN. 9AM THURSDAY & FRIDAY.

Intimate Apparel Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist Lynn Nottage has stitched together a powerful tale with an array of characters whose intertwining relationships are told with humor, heartbreak and resiliency. Set in 1905 New York City, the production tells the story of a lonely but talented black seamstress, Esther, living in a Manhattan boardinghouse. Despite her current circumstances, Esther dreams of a more fulfilling life. Directed by Jasmine Bracey, the play takes us through Esther’s world where she creates exquisite lingerie for diverse clientele, from wealthy white patrons to prostitutes. Her life takes a dramatic turn when she begins correspondence with a suitor, George, working on the Panama Canal. The cast features Madeleine Barker, Teri Brown, Jonathan Fisher Jr, Donald Paul, Nedra Snipes and Arizsia Staton. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM WEDNESDAYS.

The Wiz Producers Kristin Caskey, Mike Isaacson, Brian Anthony Moreland, and Ambassador Theatre Group present an all-new production of the groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical *The Wiz*, adapted from *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum. The Broadway revival of *The Wiz* returns “home” to stages across America in an all-new Pre-Broadway tour, the first one in 40 years. The tour begins in *The Wiz*’s original home city of Baltimore, where the show

made its world premiere 50 years ago. This groundbreaking twist on *The Wizard of Oz* changed the face of Broadway—from its iconic score packed with soul, gospel, rock, and finger-snapping 70s funk to its stirring tale of Dorothy’s journey to find her place in a contemporary world. Audiences get to enjoy the epic grooves of such beloved, timeless hits as “Ease on Down the Rd.,” which became the show’s break-out single, and the bona fide classic “Home” in this spectacular revival. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. +16195701100. 7PM TUESDAY, JAN. 9 & WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10.

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

NOW OPEN



LITTLE ITALY MERCATO
SATURDAYS 8 am to 2 pm
WEDNESDAYS 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Shop safe at open-air farmers’ markets
Fresh Fruit • Vegetables • Meat • Fish • Eggs
Flowers • Yogurt • Baked Goods and more!
Limited entry for safe shopping

OPEN YEAR-ROUND, RAIN OR SHINE

Information and safety protocols:
sandiegomarkets.com

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 aching loveliness and care. But here, it's the '70s. The American innocence of *DPS*'s '50s has been seen to by the war in Vietnam, which has claimed the life of Curtis, the ambitious son of school cook Mary Lamb. And there

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

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 won-

derfully 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)

Use Promo Code
FLREADER
for \$3 Off
General
Admission

FALLEN LEAVES

A Film by Aki Kaurismäki

OPENS
JANUARY 5, 2024

1100 Market St, 2nd fl, San Diego, CA
92101 digitalgym.org | (619) 230-1938

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SUICIDE SQUAD AND FURY

JASON STATHAM

THE BEEKEEPER

EXPOSE THE CORRUPTION. PROTECT THE HIVE.

IN Dolby Cinema, PREMIUM LARGE FORMATS AND IMAX

MIRAMAX R ONLY IN THEATERS JANUARY 12

AMAZON MGM STUDIOS **Reader**

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS TO A SCREENING OF THE BEEKEEPER

TO ENTER, VISIT **SDREADER.COM**
AND CLICK "CONTESTS."

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS MONDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 1PM

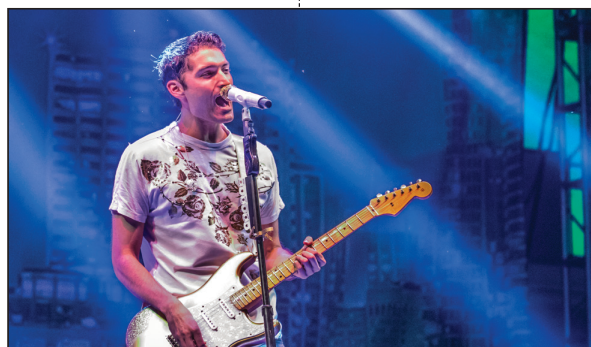
Rated R for strong violence throughout, pervasive language, some sexual references and drug use.
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Seating is first-come, first-served and cannot be guaranteed. Theater is overbooked to ensure a full house.

ONLY IN THEATERS JANUARY 12

f @beekeepermov | #TheBeekeeper

blurt the inside track

The long road to Insta fame Matthew Phillips has his grandmother to thank for starting him on his musical journey. “She had a piano at her house,” he recalls. “I would go and play when I was a young kid — four, five and six — and she picked up really quick that I was picking out melodies at that age. So she



From Gramma to the ‘Gram: Matthew Phillips

told my parents, “You need to get him in lessons, he has it. He has the gift. He has that talent. Put him in lessons so he can actually do something with it.” By the time he discovered guitar in late junior high, Phillips had years of piano lessons behind him. “Within a week, I was just like, ‘This is it. This is my voice. I can really make something more unique than a piano, which seems very static.’ You can bend notes and do things with the notes on a guitar that you can’t do on a piano. That really drew me in, and it became my voice, because, at that time, I didn’t sing.”

Phillips picked up his new instrument at such a rapid clip that by his junior and senior years in high school, he was spending his summer breaks working as a hired-gun guitarist, playing primarily with gospel acts and rap artists and occasionally rock bands. “I would just fill in where I was needed,” he says. “As someone who could play the blues and was familiar with Clapton and Prince, I kind of filled a lot of holes that I guess a lot of other guitar players wouldn’t fit into.” The tours were usually west coast runs, which meant

playing gigs in Arizona and up the coast of California. “It was never really too far, but it wasn’t local. They were actually tours. I learned a lot in that phase. I learned that if you want to be successful in the music industry, it’s better to have a brand and to be the person who is in charge, instead of having a band with four people. Then, you have

four different opinions.” Even so, Phillips chose to take a stab at the band life during his college years, with a group called The Elevation. “We tried and tried and tried. We got some shows and some traction, but it’s essentially being married to four dudes,” he says with a laugh. Eventually, he said to himself, “I’m bringing in all the tickets. I’m doing all the promo. I’m doing everything, and the



Performing under his own name: Matthew Phillips and band

other guys are just showing up to play. What am I *doing*?” And that’s when he decided to try the solo artist thing.

Since the late 2010s, Phillips has been playing gigs under his own name. He’s backed by a drummer (Adam Graham), a bassist (Reese Morin), and numerous backing tracks which have been programmed

in Ableton and inserted into the mix to give the gigs extra oomph. “Taylor Swift, Metallica, and Beyonce are all doing, somewhat, track rigs. I’m very happy with our presentation, because it’s how I wrote the music, and it enables me to perform the music how I wrote it without having to pay 20 people to be on stage — because I just can’t afford that. We’re all in-ears and everything is synced. It feels like such an incredible show.”

The live sets are generally 35 to 55 minutes long, which is a bit surprising, since Phillips currently has only two songs on Spotify. It turns out he’s sitting on a large backlog of unreleased material, dating back to the Elevation days. Some of that music had been slated for release back in 2020, but those plans, like so many others, were derailed by Covid. (His first single, “So In Love,” was actually recorded that year, but was not released until 2023.) His current plan is to release five singles, which will then be part of a larger ten-song album. “We call it The Waterfall Effect,” he says.

The most recent single, “Till It’s Over,” is an anthem about being able to break out of a toxic relationship. The full video for the song (shot at downtown’s House of Blues) currently has 15,000 views on YouTube, but it’s the shorter clips on Instagram that seem to be garnering the most eyeballs. “I really kind of found my groove on Instagram. That’s where I picked up a lot of sponsorships,” including

Fender, GHS Strings, and Taylor Guitars. “People were, like, ‘He really knows Instagram. He knows how to network there. He knows how to get reach and get in front of people.’”

— Dryw Keltz

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Alejandra's Fine Mexican Food & Cantina:
Thursday, 6pm — Andrew Pena.

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
Saturday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.

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

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Joe Wood's Change Today and Dark Alley Dogs.

Friday, 8:30pm — The PettyBreakers.
Saturday, 8pm — Don Carlos.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Back to the Garden.

Brick by Brick:
Sunday, 7:30pm — Terror, Dead Heat, Momentum. \$26-\$30.

Cannonball:
Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.
Tuesday, 5pm — Puro Feeling.

Casbah:
Thursday, 7:30pm — El Ten Eleven and Optiganally Yours.
Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm — Starcrawler.

Sunday, 7:30pm — Kid Congo & The Pink Monkey Birds.
Monday, 7:30pm — Bowie Birthday Bash.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Sutton James and Finest City Band.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
Thursday, 6pm — Dead Heads Night. Free.

Saturday, 7pm — Anthony Cullins. Free.
Monday, 6:30pm — Bluegrass Monday. Free.

Tuesday, 7pm — SD Jazz Collective. Free.

Duke's La Jolla:
Friday, 3pm — Farrah Camu.
Sunday, 4pm — Keni Yarbro.
Tuesday, 4pm — Orion Song.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
Friday, 6pm — Blaise Guld.
Saturday, 6pm — Helena Holleran.

Tuesday, 6pm — David Shyde.
Wednesday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.

House of Blues:
Friday, 9pm — Taylor's Version. \$15-\$22.

Friday, 7:30pm — Wifisfuneral. \$27.
Saturday, 7:30pm — The Charlatans UK. \$39-\$177.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Sunday, 6pm — Allison Adams Tucker Album Release. \$30-\$40.

L'Auberge Del Mar:
Thursday, 5pm — Tolan Shaw.
Friday, 7pm — Helena Holleran.
Saturday, 7pm — Johnny Martin.
Wednesday, 5pm — Whitney Shay. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, 5:30pm — Christian Taylor.
Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, 11am — Orion Song.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Who's Bad. \$41-\$171.

Mission Bay Resort:
Friday, 5pm — Johnny Martin.
Saturday, 5pm — Blaise Guld.
Sunday, 5pm — Helena Holleran.

Morgan Run Resort and Club:
Friday, 5pm — Jonny Tarr.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Saturday, 9pm — Tube Amp'd.

Museum of Making Music:
Friday, 7pm — Band of Brothers. \$35-\$40.

Music Box:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Zen Zag and Strange Crew. \$12.
Friday, 7:30pm — Princess Goes.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Emo Night Tour.
Wednesday, 8pm — Con Brio and Joe Marson.

Navajo Live:
Friday, 8:30pm — Retro-X, Plenum, Maverick. Free.
Sunday, 7pm — Exotic Fruit Tour Album Release Party. \$5.

Nick & G's:
Friday, 6pm — Matt Heinecke.

Observatory North Park:
Friday, 8pm — Kawaii Rave.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Pon Mas Reggaeton.

Pure Project Vista:
Saturday, 7pm — Saturday Sessions: Lambert Fooks Trio. Free.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Israel's Arcade. \$12.
Friday, 7:30pm — Smoking Popes and Bad Cop/Bad Cop. \$24.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Fresh Veggies Micro Brass and PlexusPlay. \$19.
Monday, 7:30pm — Auz Fontaine. Free.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Poor, Fractal, Non-Existent Night. \$10.

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:
Friday, 7:30pm — Gregory Page. \$15-\$18.

Tidal:
Saturday, 5pm — Olivia Rohde.

Union Kitchen & Tap:
Friday, 7pm — Tolan Shaw.

Verbatim Books:
Monday, 7:30pm — Foghorn Stringband & Clinton Davis. \$40.

Waterbar:
Thursday, 4pm — Ryan Hiller.

Winstons Beach Club:
Thursday, 9pm — That 1 Guy with Giant Hearts. \$10.

SODA BAR RECORDS

Thu. 1/4 @ Soda
ISRAEL'S ARCADE
THE FAZES • THE AMS
LYING THROUGH OUR TEETH

Fri. 1/5 @ Soda
SMOKING POPES
BAD COP/BAD COP
THE DREADED LARAMIE

Sat. 1/6 @ Soda
FRESH VEGGIES MICRO BRASS
PLEXUSPLAY

Mon. 1/8 @ Soda
AUZ FONTAINE
VITTO & THE TREES
GONE • SCUFFS

Wed. 1/10 @ Soda
POOR
FRACTAL • NON-EXISTENT NIGHT

Thu. 1/11 @ Soda
BADLANDS
HARDCASTLE • JETTEE

Fri. 1/12 @ Observatory
SLAUGHTER BEACH, DOG
SUN JUNE

Fri. 1/12 @ Soda
SEMI-CHARMED
KINDA NIGHT
A 90'S PARTY

Sun. 1/14 @ Soda
MAX LOOK & THE TOMORROW BAND
EMMA NOREN • DADDY

Mon. 1/15 @ Soda
AUZ FONTAINE
DP THE UNKNOWN
WORDSPLOYED • VERDE

SODABAR.MUSIC.COM

3615 EL CAJON BLVD. 92104

TAANG! RECORDS

POSTERS
HOODED SWEATSHIRTS SALE
VINYL LP'S
45'S CD'S CASSETTES
8 TRACKS
DVD'S VHS LDS
HUNDREDS OF
ROCK T-SHIRT'S
TURNTABLES
BOOMBOXES
WALKMAN'S
HOODED SWEATS
WE BUY RECORDS!
HIGHEST PRICES
PAID
AS WELL
AS GUITARS!!!

JOB OPENING/ WE ARE NOW
HIRING
TAANGMUSIC@GMAIL.COM
3834 5TH AVE.
LOCATED IN THE HEART
OF HILL CREST
WE DO SPECIAL ORDERS
WE HAVE A
LARGE SELECTION OF
HOODS/CAPS
858-880-8754

TAANG.COM

til-two CLUB

4746 El Cajon Blvd.
619-255-1481
facebook.com/tiltwoclubsandiego

Fri, January 5
POISED IN THE DARKNESS
SPEAKEAZIE
Blue Worship • Special Art Show

Sat, January 6
BATTLE OF THE BANDS PT. 1
Door 13 • The Royal Witches
The Gruesome Details • Discount Cadavers

Mon, January 8
OPEN VINYL DJ NIGHT

Wed, January 10
DJS FAUX VELVET
Miss Lady D • Mars
Art By Camilla Robina
Adele Stratton • Kendra Kitten

Thurs, January 11
GOODBYE RANGER
Kelp Beds • Blanky (KS) • Refuza

Fri, January 12
AMERIKAN BEAR
The Reckless • Martyrs for Mayhem
Kelp

Sat, January 13
BLOOD HANDSOME
Cruel Kiss • Twin Ion • Engine
Mercury Girl w/ DJ Heather Hardcore

Sun, January 14
TARYN DONATH TRIO
FT LAURA CHAVEZ

Thurs, January 18
SLAPPING HANDS
Ric Scales

www.TilTwoClub.com

LIVE *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music

EL TEN ELEVEN at the Casbah

JANUARY 4



The Casbah celebrates its 35th year with several showcase concerts this month, including El Ten Eleven, a mostly instrumental duo featuring two former members of Softlightes. The band plays post-rock, combining guitar/bass doubleneck or fretless bass with heavy looping and electronics. The Little Italy bill includes Optiganally Yours, fronted by Pea Hicks, who plays a kind of home organ made by the Optigan Corporation, a subsidiary of Mattel toys, in the early '70s.

STARCRAWLER at the Casbah

JANUARY 5 & 6



The Casbah's 35-year celebration continues with a two-night stand from L.A. five-piece Starcrawler. Frontwoman Arrow De Wilde is known for her explosive stage presence, which helped earn the band opening slots for Foo Fighters, Beck, and My Chemical Romance. The January 5 bill includes Pleasure Pill, while Sands will open on January 6.

PACIFIC RECORDS FEST at Music Box

JANUARY 7



Local label Pacific Records has been quietly building a local-centric stable of recording artists, covering several genres. The Pacific Records Fest is a multimedia event with live performances, video interludes, and MCs showcasing the label roster. Performers include Shane Hall, Skyler Lutes, Manual Scan (with guest Laurie Beebe Lewis), The Moonjacks, Kela Sako, Sandollar, Seawall Prophet, Slack Key Ohana, The Spice Pistols, Jonny Tarr, and The Tourmaliners.

AUZ FONTAINE at Soda Bar

JANUARY 8



Auz Fontaine features producer Vic Fontaine and vocalist Captain Auzmo. The Soda Bar will host the band for a month-long City Heights residency, with the January 8 show also featuring Vitto & the Trees, Gone, and Scuffs. January 16 will include DP the Unknown, while January 22 features Kate Delos Santos and Lorna Dune.

BACK TO THE GARDEN at the Belly Up

JANUARY 10



Back to the Garden recreates the music of the Laurel Canyon folk rock era, featuring songs by the Byrds, the Doors, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, Joni Mitchell, the Mamas and the Papas, Carole King, the Eagles, and more, including music from concert films such as *Woodstock* and *The Last Waltz*. The bill includes Calman Hart (of Berkley Hart) and Chelsea Williams.

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: NORMAL HEIGHTS JAY ALLEN SANFORD



OVERHEARD? EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM - IF WE USE YOUR TIP, YOU GET THE ARTWORK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JAYALLEN.SANFORD

Thanks for the votes for
Best Piercing Studio!



enigma.

professional piercing studios

3041 Adams Ave. 1972 Garnet Ave.
San Diego, CA • 619-516-4343 San Diego, CA • 858-274-9950



PROUD MEMBER
VERIFY AT SAFEPIERCING.ORG

enigmapiercing.co

FULL CONTACT



ROCK-N-ROLL

BUY / SELL

CASH PAID

RECORDS +
VINTAGE / MODERN
BAND TSHIRTS +
MEMORABILIA ...

PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO SELL

TRADE / CONSIGN (619) 414-7352
2834 NORTH PARK WAY
SAN DIEGO CA 92104
[HTTPS://FULLCONTACTROCKNROLL.COM](https://fullcontactrocknroll.com)

SUN. JAN. 7

TERROR
Dead Heat,
Momentum

BRICK BY BRICK

FRI. FEB. 23

CRYPTA
Contortion

THU. JAN. 18

FEAR FACTORY
Orbit Culture,
Thrown Into Exile,
Fraxures

WED. JAN. 24

ESCUELA GRIND
Take Offense,
Bonginator, Slow Pulse

SAT. FEB. 24

HULDER
Devil Master, Worm,
Necrofier

SAT. JAN. 20

DAYS N DAZE
Sister Wife Sex Strike

SUN. JAN. 28

JARED JAMES NICHOLS
The Bites

SUN. FEB. 25

VADER
Origin,
Inhuman Condition

SUN. JAN. 21

GOROD
Wormhole,
Hath, Theosis

MON. FEB. 19

CALIGULA'S HORSE
Earthside

FRI. MAR. 8

WACKEN METAL BATTLE ROUND 1
Blackcast,
The Provoked, Brutalion,
Defy the Tyrants,
Gravity Grave, Old Gods

TUE. JAN. 23

FATSO JETSON & SCORPION CHILD
Motokill

THU. FEB. 22

KOFFIN KATS
Hans Gruber and
the Die Hards

SAT. MAR. 9

WACKEN METAL BATTLE ROUND 2
California Villain, Cascade
Effect, Faerie Queene,
Maskeratt, Woods Witch,
Cranial Detriment

FOR TICKETS & INFO VISIT WWW.BRICKBYBRICK.COM
1130 BUENOS AVE. SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

THE GONZO REPORT

Undeniable rizz

GoldFishMan dances his way into Music Box

2023 warped by in the blink of a tiger's eye, and now everybody's sharing their annual Spotify wrapped sheet via social media. I didn't share mine, but I will let you know that my number three song this year was from a collaboration between Australian jammer Xavier Rudd and the electronic DJ duo Goldfish. Their song "We Deserve to Dream" pumped through my radio speakers over a hundred times, and it'll likely keep pumping well into 2024. When, after a moment's pause, the song's chorus hits, the saxophone blows hard, and the drum beat spans like a pounding lust-filled heart, it makes me feel...some kind of way. When you put a song like that on, during any occasion, that occasion starts to feel like a party in Ibiza. Speaking of parties, Goldfish just put on one of the best of last year: December 2 at Music Box.

During my Uber adventure to Little Italy, I tried to make friendly conversation with

my timid Afghani driver, Ahmad. There's an obligation I feel to make some kind of attempt to engage, even if it's just learning where somebody is from. I recommended that he get a licorice dispenser and put it where the dome light was — an idea lifted from the movie *Wayne's World*. When he dropped me off, I sensed his relief, but I threw him a five-star review anyway.

In a sincere attempt to tame the tequila that was already coursing through my veins, I looked for a place where I might fill my hungry guts with food. Lines were snaking out the doors of nearly every nearby restaurant. I ended up settling for an Americano and panini at Tazza D'Oro. Pizza and a beer would have been more ideal, but I wanted to get out of the human clog on India Street as soon as my legs would allow.

In line at the Music Box, I heard the couple standing behind me chatting in an accent that I couldn't quite put my finger on. Eventually, I turned around and asked about it. "South Africa," said the bearded Saffa. They were apparently friends of David Poole and Dominic Peters of Goldfish. "A lot of cool shit comes from there," I offered. We started listing



Every band needs a mascot, even if it's a goggle-eyed Goldfish.

famous South African figures. "We've Nelson Mandela, Goldfish, Dave Matthews, and Elon Musk — unfortunately," said Saffa. "Not all of it is good stuff. The crime is terrible there. I moved to San Diego in 1998." The friendly fellow went on to tell me that Atlanta and San Diego are the U.S. cities South Africans flock to most often. San Diego makes that very short list because of its similar climate and chill beach culture.

Once inside the venue, I felt a gravitational pull to the bar almost immediately. From the beer list, I ordered a Japanese lager called Gonzo Mania — kind of had to, no? — then made my way to the third level of the venue

and watched the house begin to fill up.

Given all the transplants from South Africa to San Diego, it was no surprise that Goldfish quickly sold out the show. It's hard to put the electronic DJ duo in a box (unless it's the Music Box). Their music is a cocktail of house beats, an unhinged saxophone giving it a jazz vibe, and an electric stand-up bass, blended with pop sounds. House and electronic were never high on my list of preferred music genres, but these guys stayed heavy in my rotation. Through them, I'm starting to understand the allure of it all. The rizz is undeniable. This conviction was evident as seemingly lotic show-goers packed three layers of venue.

Earlier in the day, Goldfish put out an announcement that there would still be a chance to be a part of the sold out show if you had missed out on snagging a ticket. Their proposal: "If you can dance, hit us on the DM!" A man named Kareem Cheez answered the call, and became a legend for a night. Dressed in a poppin' orange goldfish costume, he was now GoldFishMan. It was rumored that GoldFishMan was horrified by the fact that everyone in San Diego eats fish tacos. But this didn't stop him from braving the hungry crowd, hopping on the stage and showcasing his dancing abilities. The panini I'd eaten earlier hardly did anything for me, and fish tacos sounded like a solid option. But I would never eat a man dressed in a fish costume, no matter how hungry I get. It's unsavory, and I prefer chicken. ■

Find The Gonzo Report online at sandiegoreader.com/gonzo

Saturday, 4pm — Black Opium Band. Free.
Saturday, 9pm — Fish & the Seaweeds. \$10.
Sunday, 4pm — Surf Farmer and Super Buffet. Free.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Alejandra's Fine Mexican Food & Cantina:

January 13 — Blaise Guld
January 25 — Farrah Camu

American Legion Post 416:

January 27 — 8 East Band

BLK Box Gallery:

January 13 — Temple of Roots Reggae Dance

Balboa Theatre:

January 27 — Benise
January 28 — The Life & Music of George Michael

Barefoot Bar and Grill:

January 12 — Blaise Guld
January 19 — Orion Song
January 27 — Freddie Walton

Bellamy's Restaurant:

January 11, January 18, January 25 — Jake Taylor Smith

Belly Up Tavern:

January 11 — Daring Greatly and Anthony Cullins
January 12 — The Devastators & Friends
January 13 — Tommy Castro & The Painkillers

January 15 — Fiesta Del Sol Battle of the Bands

January 17 — Veni Sun and Wide Eyed Kids

January 18 — Cayucas & Matt Costa

January 19 — The Aggrolites

January 20 — Led Zepagain

January 21 — Marc Cohn

January 22 — Ana Popovic

January 23 — Victor Wooten & the Wooten Brothers

January 25 — Moontricks

January 26 — ALO and Sway Wild

January 28 — Cowboy Mouth

January 31 — The Third Mind Ft. Dave Alvin

Brick by Brick:

January 18 — Fear Factory and Orbit Culture

January 20 — Days N Daze and Sister Wife Sex Strike

January 21 — Gorod, Wormhole, Hath

January 23 — Fatso Jetson & Scorpion Child

January 24 — Escuela Grind and Take Offense

January 28 — Jared James Nichols and The Bites

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

January 19 — The Cab Calloway Orchestra

January 26 — Steam Powered Giraffe

Cannonball:

January 11 — Ben Benavente
January 16 — Jonny Tarr

January 18 — Ben Benavente
January 25 — Jemille Viallet

January 30 — Andrew Peñate

Carlsbad Brewing Company:

January 14 — Cowboy Jack

Carruth Cellars Urban Winery:

January 13 — West of 5

The Casbah:

January 11 — Neil Hamburger and Major Entertainer

January 12, January 13 — The Dragons and Uncle Joe's Big Ol' Driver

January 14 — The Beat Farmers and Cadillac Hearse

January 16 — Dessa

January 17 — Buck Meek

January 18 — Jjuujjuu and Hooveriii

January 20, January 21 — aMiniature and No Knife

January 22 — Y La Bamba

January 23, January 24 — Pinback

January 25 — Rocket From the Crypt and Owl Be Damned

January 26 — Three Mile Pilot and Sytsem Officer

January 28 — The Bronx and Negative Blast

January 29 — The Bronx

January 30, January 31 — Earthless

Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:

January 21 — Tony Siqi Yun
January 25 — Lucas & Arthur Jussen

January 26 — Payare Conducts Mozart

Crafted Culture:

January 26 — Johnny Martin

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

January 16 — Blues & Jazz Organ Jam

January 18 — Dead Heads Night

January 20 — Coral Bells

January 23 — SD Jazz Collective

January 28 — Bluegrass Jam

Duke's La Jolla:

January 12 — Russell Paihinui

January 14 — Keni Yarbro

January 16 — Kai Kalama

January 21 — Keni Yarbro

January 23 — Kai Kalama

January 26 — Orion Song

January 28 — Keni Yarbro

January 30 — Kai Kalama

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

January 11 — Rachel Jay

January 12 — Christian Taylor

January 13 — Tyler F. Simmons

January 18 — Jackie Foster

January 20 — Farrah Camu

January 23 — Helena Holleran

January 24 — Puro Feeling

January 26 — Jarred Matthew

January 27 — David Shyde

January 31 — Christian Taylor

Farmer & the Seahorse:

January 11 — David Shyde

January 18 — Freddie Walton

January 19 — Blaise Guld

January 20 — Alex Elisabeth

January 21 — Sean McCole
January 26 — Jason Graham

Harrah's Resort Southern California:

January 14 — The Temptations

and The Four Tops

January 28 — Aaron Lewis

The Holding Company:

January 14 — Talib Kweli

January 19 — Mickey Avalon

House of Blues:

January 12 — Gimme Gimme

Disco

January 13 — Cumbiatron

January 13 — Broadway Rave

January 16 — Never Ending Fall

January 18 — Arden Jones

January 18 — DJ Shadow

January 19 — Glen Matlock

January 19 — Little Jesus

January 20 — Gasolina

Reggaeton Party

January 20 — Daniel Donato

January 25 — Wolves of

Glendale

January 27 — Emo Night

Brooklyn

January 29 — PLVTINUM

Humble Heart:

January 17 — Friend of a Friend

JAI at the Conrad:

January 14, January 14 — Sean

Mason Quartet

January 16 — Art of Elan: Death

& the Maiden

January 19, January 19 —

Tatiana Eva-Marie

January 28, January 28 —

Lakecia Benjamin

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:

January 13, January 14 — SD

Symphony Jacobs Masterworks:

Liseicki Plays Mozart

January 19, January 20, January

21 — SD Symphony Jacobs

Masterworks: Hadelich Plays

Sibelius

January 26, January 27 — SD

Symphony Jacobs Masterworks:

Payare Leads Mozart & Bruckner

L'Auberge Del Mar:

January 11 — Marelle

January 12 — David Shyde

January 13, January 17 — Jemille

Violet

January 18 — Marelle

January 19 — Jarred Matthew

January 21 — Farrah Camu

January 25 — David Shyde

January 26 — Jesse Johnson

January 27 — Jarred Matthew

January 28 — Kai Kalama

January 31 — Jemille Viallet

La Valencia Hotel:

January 11 — Brian Pierini

January 12 — Keni Yarbro

January 13 — Tyler F. Simmons

January 13 — Rachel Jay

January 14 — Whitney Shay

January 18 — David Shyde

January 19 — Keni Yarbro

January 20 — Jackie Foster

January 20 — Johnny Martin

January 21 — Kai Kalama

January 25 — Helena Holleran

January 26 — Keni Yarbro

January 27 — Shea Givens

Madison:
January 16, January 23, January 30 — Jazz Night

The Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

January 19 — Prince Again: Tribute to Prince

Mingei International Museum:

January 12 — Drummers Without Borders: Uniting Cultures

Mission Bay Resort:

January 11 — Keni Yarbrow
January 12 — Rachel Jay
January 13 — Olivia Rohde
January 15 — Orion Song
January 16 — Brian Pierini
January 17 — Christian Taylor
January 18 — Keni Yarbrow
January 20 — Kai Kalama
January 21 — Jarred Matthew
January 22 — Jehua Evans
January 23 — Puro Feeling
January 24 — Marelle
January 25 — Keni Yarbrow
January 26 — Michael LeClerc
January 29 — Farrah Camu

Mission Trails Regional Park:

January 14 — Native American Flute Circle

Moonshine Beach:

January 11 — Kekoa and Dub Squad
January 17 — Trey Lewis

Morgan Run Resort and Club:

January 26 — David Shyde

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

January 11 — Two Lane Highway
January 12 — Mojo Brew
January 13 — 80s Nation
January 17 — Mariachi Wednesday with Rafael Renteria
January 18 — Hickory Wind Band
January 19 — Travel Agents
January 24 — Mariachi Wednesday with Rafael Renteria
January 25 — Brenda McGonagle
January 26 — Yarp Yacht Rock
January 27 — Halo Effect
January 31 — Mariachi Wednesday with Rafael Renteria

Museum of Making Music:

January 23 — James Hill & Peter Luongo Ukulele Experience

Music Box:

January 11 — Brett Ellis Band and Door 13
January 12 — Sum 41 and Rosecoloredworld
January 12 — The TS Dance Party
January 13 — Poncho Sanchez
January 14 — Jamie Shadowlight Fundraiser
January 17 — Shrinkray and Joe Marson
January 19 — Queen Nation
January 20 — Ozomatli
January 21 — Amber Liu
January 24 — Slick Rick
January 25 — Ericdoa and Bixby
January 26, January 27 — La Santa Cecilia
January 29 — Phora
January 31 — Reverend Shawn Amos and Joe Marson

Nate's Garden Grill:

January 20 — Tinkersmith

Navajo Live:

January 14 — Someday Bloom Album Release

Nick & G's:

January 12 — Johnny Martin
January 19 — Matt Heinecke
January 20 — David Shyde

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

A look back on 2023's best classical concerts

Last year was an interesting one for classical music in San Diego. We saw a resurgence of the San Diego Opera. We saw delays in the renovations of The Jacobs Music Center at Copley Symphony Hall. It's time now to review the best concert of the years that yours truly attended.

The San Diego Symphony gave two unbelievable concerts at The California Center for the Arts Escondido. They also gave great concerts at The Rady Shell, but hearing the orchestra indoors was special in this post-Covid era. The indoor

setting emphasized the sonic success that the orchestra is currently enjoying. Those concerts featured Johannes Brahms's *Symphony No. 1*, conducted by San Diego Symphony Music Director Rafael Payare, and Jean Sibelius's *Symphony No. 2*, conducted by 22-year-old guest conductor Tarmo Peltokoski. Peltokoski has since signed an exclusive contract with classical heavyweight Deutsche Grammophon.

San Diego Opera got back to glorious basics with their production of *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini. The cast

was composed of mature, seasoned singers. The production was free of any post-modern gimmicks, and the music-making between the pit and the stage was ideal. I'm hoping for more of the same in the 2024 productions of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

In October, the San Diego Opera presented another of 2023's top concerts, with a dynamic night of singing featuring Latonia Moore and J'Nai Bridges. The concert demonstrated the power and beauty of a trained human voice and all the technical and emotional qualities it can convey.

The San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival turned in two gems during their June 2023 Festival. The first was a chamber music version of Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* which was performed



Good show, San Diego, good show. (Created with Adobe Firefly AI)

at The Conrad in downtown La Jolla. This version of Mahler's massive opus consisted of one player per part, creating a far different texture to the music. I found myself enjoying it more than the original. With so few players, each part had to be meticulously tuned, and the all-star collection of principal players was up to the task.

If there was just one concert in 2023 that I wish everyone could have experienced, it would be Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, the concluding concert of the 2023 Mainly Mozart Festival. The concert

was held at the Epstein Family Amphitheater on the campus of UC San Diego. Before the concert, Mainly Mozart Music Director Michael Francis shared a heartfelt vision of what Beethoven's music can mean. If there is a Billy Graham of pre-concert comments, it is Francis.

The audience and players were moved by his words, and the performance took off from there, with some orchestra members wiping away tears at the conclusion. It is a rare and special moment when an orchestra shows its emotions.

Classical Music this week

Le Salon De Musiques
PROGRAM: Introduced by musicologist Dr. Kristi Brown-Montesano - R. SCHUMANN: "DICHTERLIEBE" SONGS FOR BARITONE & PIANO
OP 48 - C. FRUHLING: PIANO QUINTET IN F SHARP MINOR OP 30 "US PREMIERE" - R. SCHUMANN: PIANO QUINTET IN E FLAT

MAJOR OP 44 Performed by: MATTHEW WORTH, BARITONE, KYLE GILNER, VIOLIN, STRAUSS SHI, VIOLIN, CARSON RICK, VIOLA, JULIETTE HERLIN, CELLO, & FRANCOIS CHOUGHAN, PIANO. Sunday, January 7, 4pm; \$45-\$95. La Jolla Woman's Club, 7791 Draper Avenue.

January 26 — David Rosales
January 27 — Farrah Camu

Observatory North Park:

January 12 — Slaughter Beach and Dog
January 18 — moe.
January 19 — Mayer Hawthorne

Panama 66:

January 11, January 25 — Uptown Rhythm Makers

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

January 26 — Cody Johnson

Poway Library:

January 31 — Ukulele Jam Session

The Quartyard:

January 27 — Twin Tribes and Urban Heat

Rancho Bernardo Library:

January 13 — A Celebration of Sound

Rustic Root:

January 16 — Aquile
January 23 — David Shyde

Soda Bar:

January 11 — Badlands, Hardcastle, Jettee
January 12 — Semi-Charmed Kinda Night: A 90's Party
January 14 — Max Look & The Tomorrow Band
January 15 — Auz Fontaine
January 16 — Hot Flash Heat Wave
January 17 — Shaynie Rhoads and Brutalion
January 18 — Marlon Funaki
January 19 — Peach Cooler and King Julian
January 20 — Pleasure Pill and Uni Boys
January 22 — Auz Fontaine
January 23 — Tre Burt
January 24 — Native Sun

January 25 — Christopher
January 26 — The Lagoons
January 28 — Greg Koch
January 29 — Auz Fontaine
January 31 — Tanlines

Soma:

January 24 — Isaiah Rashad
January 27 — Explosions In The Sky

The Sound:

January 25 — Poolside
January 26 — Dark Star Orchestra
January 30 — Herb Alpert & Lani Hall

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas:

January 19 — Hutchins Consort: Bach and Rock

UC San Diego Park & Market:

January 19 — 2024 Intersections

Waterbar:

January 11 — Jemille Violet
January 25 — Ben Benavente

Winstons Beach Club:

January 12 — Tropic Vibrations and The Conveyors

January 13 — Oceans and Oasis

January 14 — Stone Horse
January 19 — Wall of Sound
January 20 — Blu Egyptian and The Diz
January 27 — South Bay Roots Night

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

\$2 Sale ON ALL

8,000 RECORDS
3,000 DVDS, 10,000 CDS
AND THOUSANDS OF
PIECES OF CLOTHING
IN STOCK!

NORTH PIKS

CASH FOR RECORDS, CDS, DVDS, AND CLOTHING

Donations Welcome

3939 Iowa Street #2 • San Diego 92104
858-382-7396 • Thur-Sun 8am - 6pm

Drinks All Around

BY AMANDA
TASCHER

ASHLEY SOTO

Pacific Coast Spirits
404 South Coast Highway
760-453-7150
pccoastspirits.com



The smell of barbecue permeates Pacific Coast Spirits, setting the tone for the Good Morning, Cowboy cocktail I'm about to sample. Lead bartender Ashley Soto recommends smoked brisket to go with the drink, "because you're getting that smokey flavor. It's one of our most popular drinks," she

adds. "I always get everybody to try it and then they're so surprised at how great it tastes. They're like, 'Wait, this is straight whiskey? It's so smooth!'"

Well, almost straight. A rocks glass comes garnished with two skewered toasted marshmallows. Soto describes the drink as having "a nice balance between smokey but a little sweet. You get that smokiness from the marshmallow, that brings out the campfire taste, but you also get a refreshing coffee taste that's not overpowering. And then you do have a little vanilla taste to it, which I think is brought out by our whiskey. Add a little orange bitters into it, and you have a complete cocktail."

The recipe centers around another spirit distilled on-site. "First Light is a great company, so we wanted to make something with their coffee whiskey." The story goes that First Light was founded by two cousins who spent their time surfing and camping together, and wanted to make a whiskey that would go down easy during early morning adventures. "It's a great stepping stone to getting into whiskey... and then also for

people who are used to a certain whiskey, but want to branch out — they're not disappointed."

The coffee whiskey is cut with PCS's high malt rye, a versatile spirit that Soto calls light and refreshing. "It's got a little bit of cinnamon and chocolate notes, but more than anything, you get a nice crisp oaky flavor from the barrels. And it pairs really well with the coffee flavor, too."

It took a few variations to strike the right balance. "We tried it with a chocolate liqueur in the beginning, and it was great, but it took away from the actual beauty of First Light. And we tried to make a Manhattan out of it with vermouth, and that one did not work either. It was terrible, actually," she grimaces. "So then, we decided just to add in our high malt rye, and it worked. You can taste everything, and it's not overpowering. I think that was a beautiful pairing."

Roasted marshmallows added a familiar touch. "It's a good sipping cocktail, one that can bring back memories for a lot of people... campfires, or going camping. The outdoorsy smell really reminds you of that."

PACIFIC COAST SPIRITS' GOOD MORNING, COWBOY



- 1.5 oz Pacific Coast Spirits White Rye
- 1 oz First Light Coffee Whiskey
- A few dashes of orange bitters
- 2 toasted marshmallows

Mix ingredients in a shaker tin and pour into glass over a large ice cube. Garnish the glass with toasted marshmallows and enjoy!

HAPPY HOUR

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

BANKERS HILL

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

BAY PARK

Off Shore Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: All beer \$1 off, \$4 house wine, \$4.25 well drinks. Saturday, 9pm-close: All beer \$1 off, \$4 house wine, \$4.25 well drinks.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

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

CARLSBAD

Boar Cross'n: Tuesday, 7pm to close: \$5 beer & a shot Wednesday, Open-close: \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3 well drinks Sunday, Open-7pm: \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3 well drinks

CHULA VISTA

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

CITY HEIGHTS

The Tower Bar: Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drafts and wells

CLAIREMONT

Vinya: vino + vinyasa: Daily, 4-6pm: \$6 pints, \$8 house wines, \$10 food items

CORONADO

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

DEL MAR

The Goat: Daily, 7-9 pm \$3 beer, \$2 tacos, \$3 off all menu items.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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

Werewolf American Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: Crappie Hour: Guests roll the dice and if they roll a "5" and a "3" they get 35% off their entire bill. Lowest number first. A guest can roll up to 66% off their entire bill.

EAST VILLAGE

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

ENCINITAS

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

ESCONDIDO

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

Vintana Wine + Dine: Daily, 3-5pm: \$8 martinis and appetizers.

HILLCREST

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

MIRAMAR

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

MISSION HILLS

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

MISSION VALLEY

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

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Sycamore Den: Daily, 5-6pm: \$1 off draft beer, \$1 off wine, \$2 off specialty cocktails

NORTH PARK

Crushed: Monday-Tuesday, Friday-Sunday, 4-7pm: \$2 off beers and bites Wednesday, 4-7pm: \$2 off beers and bites, all day Wine Wednesday - bottle of wine sold for the price of a glass Thursday, 4-7pm: \$2 off beers and bites, all day Game & Wing Deal - \$12 beer and wings combo

OCEAN BEACH

The Holding Company: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: Half off draft beer, half off most whiskeys & tequila, \$2 pint beer of the day, \$4 well drinks, \$10 pitchers of beer, \$15 off all towers

OLD TOWN

Old Town Mexican Café: Tuesday, Half off well drinks and selected appetizers all day.

PACIFIC BEACH

Bub's Dive Bar: Monday, Thursday-Friday, 3-5pm: \$5 select drafts and wells. \$1 wings, half off Red Baskets. Tuesday, .

POINT LOMA

Catalina Lounge: Monday-Friday, 3pm-7pm: \$1 off beer & wine, \$5 Espolon blanco, \$5 Highest bourbon, \$5 Skrewball. All day \$7 Estrella lager & Mellow corn whiskey combo. Saturday-Sunday, All day \$7 Estrella lager & Mellow corn whiskey combo.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego: Friday, All day: Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. After 4pm: Prime rib \$24.

SAN CARLOS

Navajo Live: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-7 pm: \$3 well drinks, \$3 domestic beer, \$1 off all other alcoholic beverages

SAN MARCOS

Churchill's Pub and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells. Sunday, All day: \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells.

SOLANA BEACH

Carruth Cellars: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$3 off glasses, \$5 off bottles of wine.

\$5 Wells, \$4 Domestic
Extensive Craft Beer Selection
Happy Hour All Day Everyday



The Lancers
COCKTAILS



4671 Park Blvd., San Diego, 92116 • 10 am - 2 am

The enduring omelet

“Third generation family! Can’t beat it.”

Man, it seems everybody’s going to Lemon Grove these days (See Ian Anderson’s recent El Pollo Grill review from 12/21/23). Me, I’m here with my true love Diane and my friend Tim. What we’re searching for is nothing less than The Biggest Omelet In The West. Why Tim? We first met in National City, in the tented Covid-era street space of FHOP — Family House of Pancakes, the now-60-year-old competition for IHOP. (IHOP started in 1958, FHOP in 1964.)



And the thing we discovered was the size of FHOP’s omelets. Tim swore that FHOP put at least 6-8 eggs into each one. And on top of that, they delivered! But soon after we found it, FHOP lost the rights to its location. Only now, two and a half years later, have we found it again — here in its new Lemon Grove location.

Tim fears that something may have been lost in the move. “Mark my words,” he says as we walk up towards this low-slung, ‘60s-era building. “This FHOP’s omelets won’t be as big. They can’t be! Not after these last years. Covid? Inflation? Ukraine? Look at every eatery in town! Prices up, sizes down. They’ll be serving standard-sized two-egg omelets.” I sympathize with his concern, but still hold on to hope.

Seeing as how it’s a nice Wednesday mawnin’, we decide to set down at one of the half-dozen tables set up outside on the narrow balcony. We’re situated on the edge of Lemon Grove’s downtown, looking out over that beautiful St. John of the Cross church with its blue-domed tower. A glamorously made-up waitress named Marilyn hands out these *yuge* menus: pages and pages, and, like the whole place, all fresh and new.

As he reads through it, Tim starts rethinking his two-egg prophecy. “Thing I’ve always liked about these FHOP people,” he says, “is they’re not mean with their food. The place I used to work at, they got so penny-pinching they’d freeze their bacon, then slice it paper-thin. You can do that when it’s frozen. You could see the light shine through!”

Marilyn comes back out. “Do you need more time?” she asks. You betcha. First thing to recognize: this place might be in a new location, but it is definitely old-school. We’re talking cholesterol city. On the other hand, hopefully, we’re also talking the comforting presence of *per-lenty* on your plate, with tons left over for seconds back home tomorrow. And the range of choice is *la-arge*. First temptation: “A stack of pineapple and coconut battered pancakes, topped with sautéed pineapple and toasted coconut.” Yum. Costs \$14.50 for four. Plus, they have a bunch of sandwiches, along with Mexican breakfast dishes, scrambles, Eggs Benedicts...the list goes on.

Finally, after pages of pancakes, waffles, and crepes (all in a price range of \$10-20), the

omelet section gets a little fanfare all its own: “World-Famous Omelettes.”

“There it is!” Tim stabs his finger at the menu. “Same one I have always gotten: the California.” He’s looking at the first choice on the list: “California Omelette, with bacon, cheese, avocado and tomato, \$18.25.” That’s about the average price. Still, if you think of it as two meals (half at home tomorrow), it doesn’t feel so bad. So long as the quantity’s there.

“Trust me, we still use 6-8 eggs per omelet,” Marilyn says.

“Yeah, but are your chickens still laying the same-size eggs as your National City chickens?” asks Tim, before adding, “Kidding.” But he ain’t kidding about the spuds. He finds out they use russet potatoes. “Russet? They’re no good for me. I’m diabetic now. If you guys would only use red-skinned potatoes, we diabetics could eat them.” He sighs. “So meantime, I’ll have fruit.”

They have a long omelet list, but the Spanish Omelette, with ham, cheese, bell peppers (\$17.50); the Italian Sausage Omelette (\$17.50); and the Fiesta Omelette — which Marilyn says is the biggest — stick out. Hmm. *Fiesta, biggest.* What it lacks in bacon, it makes up in shredded beef. Heck, size matters. I go for that, even though it’s \$19.95 (with a side of homestyle potatoes and a couple of pancakes). Diane goes for the California.

“Okay,” says Tim, looking down at his California when it arrives. “Just as big. Gotta hand it to them. Third generation family! Can’t beat it.” As for mine, it is truly ginormous, oozing sour cream around oodles of shredded beef, cheese, avo, tomatoes and onion. I ain’t going hungry. Still, I regret not having the California, because of that healthy dose of thick, wicked bacon. (I get a taste from the lovely Diane, and yes, that bacon add is priceless.) But all in all, with the potatoes, and sparked up by plenty of onions, mine is still a heckuva deal.

Diane, who is of the Nuts and Twigs persuasion, nods that it tastes good, but says something about “empty food making us fat.” Still, she chomps on. Meanwhile, I’m reading about where da heck “omelet” comes from? Turns out the name shares an origin with words like “laminated,” meaning “thinned out,” from the days when flat omelets were the rage. They say they first came from Persia, where cooks would make savory dishes based on beaten eggs. Since the 1500s, *Kuku Sabzi* has been a kind of Persian quiche which, they say, was the father of the omelet.

Huh. Now, I’m reading the menu blurb. It’s talking about Jim and Madeline Spezzano, who started this place in 1964. “Dad died in 1967,” writes their son. “Mom died in 2003, but her and our father’s belief that CONSISTENCY and a GOOD PRODUCT GENEROUSLY



Fiesta omelet, \$19.95, with shredded beef, potatoes, pancakes. No bacon, still worth it.

GIVEN lives on today.” Have to say “Hear Hear!” to that. I pack my uneaten half, feeling like a fat happy Buddha. “We’re coming back, dudes,” I say to Tim and Diane. “Because,

hey: still six to eight eggs! Ain’t everything’s changed in this town.”

“I’ll remember this,” Tim says, “as the place where I ate my words.”

The Place: Family House of Pancakes, 8053 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-477-3197

Hours: 7am-2pm daily

Prices: Pineapple and coconut battered pancakes, \$14.50 for four; apple waffle, \$14.50; grandma’s buckwheat waffle, \$11.75; banana Nutella French toast, \$15.50; sausage and eggs, \$16.25; corned beef hash and eggs, \$16.50; mini breakfast (2 bacon or sausage, one egg, pancake or toast), \$11.50; California Omelette (bacon, cheese, avo), \$18.25; Spanish Omelette (ham, cheese), \$17.50; Fiesta Omelette (shredded beef, cheese, avo, sour cream), \$19.95

Buses: 856

Nearest Bus Stop: Broadway and Washington

Trolleys: Orange Line

Nearest Trolley Stop: Lemon Grove

WE’RE OPEN FOR INDOOR DINING, OUTDOOR DINING, AND TAKEOUT!

FINALIST
Reader
BEST
of 2023
Best Late
Night Menu

HUNGRY?

\$2 OFF

any entree \$10 and up when you show this ad. Dine-in only. Not valid on weekends or holidays. Valid for up to four entrees. Must present this coupon at the time of your order. Expires 01/18/24

\$2 OFF

any entree \$10 and up when you show this ad. Dine-in only. Not valid on weekends or holidays. Valid for up to four entrees. Must present this coupon at the time of your order. Expires 01/18/24



Traditional diner favorites, home-style classics, a true American Diner

Open 24/7
2900 El Cajon Blvd.
619-282-8423 • Rudfords.com



FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

Three easy steps:

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



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

PERSONALS

DEAR KEVIN, Since I missed last week's post I wanted to give you one more message - I look forward to our long and happy future together. You are so dear to me. I love you so much!

DEAR KEVIN, Thank you for helping me so much over this tragic holiday. I know you love me and are there for me during difficult times. I love you so much!

EWEEEEEE ewwwww, ewwwww, ewwwww! Sme people are like an echo and that's all.

GOING GOLD MINING I hate this city prison and the un-lived people in it.

HAPPY NEW YEAR my darling Frank! Yours always, Katherine

HOOTER Where are you?

I'M ALREADY UP TO MY EARS in California plastic. No souls better than the dad trip. Oh my!

LOOKING FOR PEN-PALS! Send into letter to Joshua Rosene - 451 Riverview Pkwy, Bldg. C, Santee, CA 992071

SCRATCH ALL THAT I've got it made and a lifetime supply. Why ruin it with fiction.

TWO CAN PLAY NICELY for ever real people. Just me and plastic Barbies.

YOU ALL GO BACK to your solitary games. It's not a gamble. I am, and the odds are in my favor.

I AM IN LOVE WITH HER This person unfairly gave me the last guy's jacket. It made me really upset that a sweet person could make that happen and not know it. I'm just trying to help this person to stop. I really am caring about her ok; not me. Her. That she'll forever hurt people if not bad things, etc. Nobody knows why I do.

KNOWING ME AND SEEING ME Requires a new spot clean innocent new. I am only me. Similar maybe but watch one moment further. Yup not that. Allow me

to be seem as new innocent and experience the difference. I didn't put those scars on you. I'm here knowing those because I care that you know the difference. If you treat somebody like they're guilty, they WILL become just like the guilty. But they'll fight it and love will be the reason.

OH YES! SHE IS ENTITLED FOR SURE She's been through things most couldn't believe, but it's time to be the warm mountain girl I knew before all that. It's there. At least somebody really cares.

REMEMBER WHAT HEART IS? Well I have it and it didn't come easy. The real deal

SUSPICION AND WARINESS ARE NOT GOOD THINGS to have for somebody you know is meaning good. It makes them very, very upset. That it isn't a bad thing; it's defending what the dumb can't and won't.

THANK YOU SAN DIEGO for all the milk and cookies. I'll be back next year

THE DAY IS OVER AND OH WHAT A BLAST I am now dining on roast beef and a glass of wine with scrooge from next door. It was so good. You shall hear from me no more. Until next year; Ho, ho, ho. The Grinch and Mary 24. P.S. Valentine's Day is fake!

RAYMOND EHRMENTRAUT You said you would be back. I have been here waiting! Holidays have come and gone. You seem to have forgotten all we have shared. How hard is it for you to come and see me? How hard is it to surprise me? Guess all hope is lost in our case. Goodbye.

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.

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 girls company. If you all

sSan Diego, stay away. Yeah, it's like that. I assume you feel alike by now.

FORKED TONGUE? I was pretty real. Oh tex yeh I hate ghosts, cal valium, etc. We fix stuff here. They ignore it to death. Yeh 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.

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 then your home boy; than any boy 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 HOT-DOGS 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

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 oncoming 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

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.

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

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.

STAND for something or fall for anything.

HOW DO YOU FAKE BEING SEEN by 500 people after being crucified? First Corinthians 15:3-6, Also Matthew 27:51-53

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.

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.

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

NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID De La Fuente Construction Inc. is seeking qualified and certified (MBE) & (WBE), subcontractors, and material and/or suppliers for the Southcrest Green Infrastructure Project K-24-1973-DBB-3 bid due date 1/30/2024 at 2PM. e-mail: estimating@dfci.com hojeda@dfci.com

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: ALMSERVICES@yahoo.com. Save

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.thedivinebubble.com. preregister (619) 542-9191 / thedivinebubble@gmail.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, trouble-shooting, diagnostics on the spot. Solve your problems, improve your design, improve your maintenance today - no guessing! Educated, trained and experienced, 6th generation native, 6th generation horticulturalist in San Diego County. No sales, no installation, no maintenance. Check me out at EdwortsHorticulture.com, then call (619) 402-8670.

ROOMMATES

CHULA VISTA ROOMMATE 62+ MALE Sr. Community, 1 bed, 1 bath, parking, kitchen, utilities included, wi-fi, TV room, no smoking or pets. \$985.00/MO (619) 420-0369 / abedwellbutler@gmail.com

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

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

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.

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

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

SPRING VALLEY \$500 Separate bedroom. Share utilities. Female preferred. Employed full-time required. Kitchen privileges. Laundry. No smoking. \$200 deposit. (619) 829-1504.

RENTALS

3 UNITS FOR RENT 3362 Bay-side walk. 2 bedroom/2 bath, 1 bedroom/1 bath. Call Andy (858) 229-5550

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

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 plate! Harbor Village. Trolley stop NASSCO. 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. allpointstate.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.allpointstate.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.allpointstate.com.

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

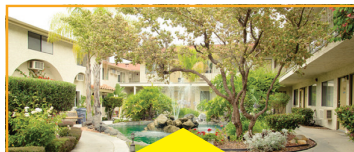
NEED A PLACE TO STAY SHORT TERM? Make your reservations now. Studio+1BA available. Call for Monthly, Weekly and daily specials, up to 15% OFF. \$25 off Daily rate. Includes: weekly cleaning service, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional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

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



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

\$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 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.

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.

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. 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

FOR SALE IN HIDDEN MEADOWS Natural light, high ceilings, spacious rooms and lots of upgrades that include solar panels, EV charging station, water filtration system, fresh paint, smart features. Call Simona at (619) 370-4257 to schedule a showing. DRE# 01951026 BHHS / Simona@GyldanGroup.com

LOT FOR SALE In the hills above Rosarito, Mexico subdivision called Mision Del Mar, \$25,000.00 dollars. Text for more info, (619) 281-0719

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

RARE 1960 LUDWIG GOLD DRUM SET Vintage 1960 Ludwig Gold Sparkle 5 Piece Drum Set. PA speakers and Yamaha Keyboard. \$1995.00 (619) 993-9392 / hasfunds@hotmail.com

REHEARSAL SPACE 24 hour access monthly lockouts. Air conditioned. Call Scott (760) 855-3551 (760) 855-3576 / exumrecording@gmail.com

VINTAGE 1965 DRUM SET, PA SPEAKERS AND YAMAHA KEYBOARD Vintage 1965 piece gold sparkle drum set. PA speakers and Yamaha keyboard \$1,000. Steve (619) 993-9392.

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.californianotecatchers.com

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

MUSICIANS WANTED AVAILABLE Composer seeks assistant/ copyist/ piano/ sightreading. Room / board/ stipend, composition lessons. Busco musico asistente 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.

PETS



BENGAL KITTENS Beautiful purebred mini leopards. Excellent markings. Hypoallergenic. 1000 (619) 840-3798



AKC LHASA APSOS PUPS Hard to find non-shedding, Lhasa Apso AKC registered, \$2000. 12 weeks. Both parents on site, first litter, 4 females born Sept. 24. Playful, loving, no aggression. Guaranteed health. Discounted if 2 desired. Love & inside home req. (619) 667-0212 / staciejodi@aol.com

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. Luzkmmk@gmail.com or (760) 441-5425 text

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



MALTESE PUPPIES FOR SALE We have 2 female and 3 male maltese puppies. They come with papers, fully dewormed and vaccinated. text (609) 853-3667 / bradleywingsman@gmail.com



POMERANIAN PUPPIES Pomeranian puppies need new home. 2 females. They are vaccinated, registered and 100% healthy. Text (609) 853-3667 / bradleywingsman@gmail.com



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 Gorgeous White and Brown English Bulldogs as been trained to play with kids, and also the puppies are registered (619) 280-1449

SPORTS



STANDUP PADDLE BOARD HAND PUMP This ISLE HP2 high pressure dual action hand pump with color-coded psi gauge has 2 pumping options: fast-high capacity or easy-high pressure. A carrying bag for all your gears is also included. Clean & in good condition. \$35. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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 Pickle-Ball 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

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

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.

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE



1990 JAMBOREE 26' MH RUNS WELL Project RV needs exterior cosmetic work or hide on your ranch behind screen. Great for farm worker or anyone who needs roof over their head, if remodeled. Bathroom all works. Kitchen nonop. Needs carpet & rear bed. Oceanside. \$3250 OBO. (858) 247-1781

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.uuap@gmail.com

SET OF 4 TIRES SAILUN TER-RAMAX 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 racing team stripe on the front fenders. Reward. Call Jessie (619) 875-4918

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

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 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.

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.

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 Toyo-

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

Fishing great between weather systems in fresh and saltwater – Bluefin still out there, though tough to get to

Dock Totals 12/23 – 12/29:

960 anglers aboard 44 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 92 bonito, 104 calico bass, 5 halibut, 2 lingcod, 63 lobster (89 released), 76 perch, 24 rock crab, 3497 rockfish, 375 sand bass, 1 sanddab, 256 sculpin, 108 sheephead, 1 triggerfish, and 462 whitefish.

Saltwater: The final week of the year turned out pretty well for the short-run fleet, though most of the trips were half-day to full-day rockfish outings as folks loaded up before the season closure January 1 until April. A large swell rolled in, pushed by a system out of the north, from Saturday through New Year's Eve and pretty much shut down any boat, surf, pier or shore fishing outside the bays. That said, the short week from Christmas day to Friday was highlighted by great nearshore, surf, and bay fishing for folks taking advantage of days off or trying out their new Christmas gifts.

Sand bass are biting very well in their normal schooling winter mode. This time of year, sand bass tend to pile up on the meter and are usually found in 60 to 120 feet of water along the coast in the flats near structures from Oceanside to the border. The bay channels, especially San Diego Bay in the deeper stretches toward the mouth and Point Loma flats, can also be very productive for "grumpy" sand bass. Halibut action has been heating up as well, with many private boaters scoring on keepers inside the bays and along the coast. Haven't heard of any spawners sliding up into the surf zone so much as fish coming from the holes and channel edges inside the bays and the sand ruts between structures or off the flats outside in the same areas where the sand bass are being targeted.

The surf has been producing a lot of barred surf perch and occasional California corbina. As sand crabs become tougher to find, this is the time of year to turn to the C-rigged mini jigs or small tubes and other leadhead/plastic combos. Try the peaks and valleys of the tides on the big winter tide swings, as the fish have been feeding well at those phases. Look for rips during the falling and rising phases, as where there are rip currents, there will be deeper cuts and more bait stirred into the water, which attracts species feeding in the surf zone or just behind the breakers. Rip currents will often be where the last of the wave breaks, but are more defined



Some big bluefin tuna still biting out there, as long as conditions allow. This 275-pound brute was landed aboard the *Royal Polaris* during their return leg of a 15-day trip.



Trout, trout, and, well, more trout at San Diego area lakes. This fat rainbow was hauled out of Santee Lakes.

by looking like a slightly muddy river flowing away from the beach. These can be very easy to spot when the surf is pushing hard, especially on incoming tides. Or, ask a surfer; they tend to ride the rips out for an easier trip to the line-up and know well how to spot them.

A rarity for this past year in the counts is the lack of any bluefin tuna, though they are still out there, and the long-range fleet has been taking advantage of them on the return leg of their multi-day trips south toward the end of the Baja peninsula. There are some larger fish in the mix, as the *Royal Polaris* reported bluefin caught to 275-pounds, with the average being between 60 and 120 pounds. The fish are still being found from outside the Corner up to the San Clemente Island area and are biting well both in the daytime and at night. That's some great wintertime fishing within 100 to 150 miles of Point Loma, and as long as the conditions allow access, I'm sure the 1.5- to 3-day boats will take a shot at them in the coming weeks, though this first week of the year looks like it will be limited, with a couple of systems stirring thing up a bit.

Freshwater: Those systems affecting our near and offshore saltwater chances don't quite hamper the freshwater scene, at least between squalls. Even then, it is easier to gear up and access the shores of San Diego area lakes for stocked trout, winter bass, or even some left-over channel catfish from this past summer/fall plants. With each system being cooler through the week,

snow levels will be lower, and the dusted mountains always seem to make a nice backdrop for trout fishing, here where winter days are often balmy.

Santee Lakes have been kicking out lots of good-sized trout, both rainbows and lightening varieties for the anglers fishing from the banks of the series of small lakes. Though all lakes hold fish, watch their announcements, or ask at the General Store which lakes are being or most recently stocked, as they do not stock all at any given plant event. Their most recent plant was on December 29, with 1000 pounds of rainbows. The next plant will be in Lakes 2, 3, and 4 with a total of 3000-pounds of both rainbow and lightning trout on January 12 in preparation for their Trout Re-opener on the weekend of the 13th and 14th. On January 12, the lakes will be closed for fishing until the Re-opener.

Lake Jennings is also reporting good fishing following their recent stock on Christmas Day. Most effective lures have been mini-jigs and small tube baits. Powerbait in yellow or rainbow colors was also working well, and as always, a fly-lined nightcrawler might result in a shoreline-cruising stocker trout, a largemouth bass, or even a wintertime catfish. For the latter, winter catfishing will be even better when they reopen night fishing on January 13 for their New Moon fishing event that will run to 10pm.

The rest of the area lakes are reporting good action as well, so really, just pick a favorite, take some mini-jigs and/or Powerbait, and you'll probably do just fine. A bit of chicken liver or better yet, some cut mackerel, might add a nice channel cat or two to the catch.

Happy fishy 2024. They're out there, so go get 'em!

DANIEL POWELL

ta four runner also minivans \$400 a week 15 passenger vans \$500 a week. (619) 233-8300

HELP WANTED

MANAGER, QA ENGINEERING Aya Healthcare, Inc; San Diego, CA); Define, refine and develop QA processes. Identify opportunities and continuously improve QA process. Develop new QA processes in Confluence. Remote position. Telecommuting allowed. \$145,000 to \$155,000/yr. Resume to HR at: applicants@ayahealthcare.com. Ref: 2319

SR. PROJECT MANAGER - TECHNICAL (Req# IIC1431) Handle investigation & resolution of tech problems. Transform reqs into actionable info. Build consensus across proj teams while driving toward objective.

Telecommute permitted within area of intended employment. MS+2yrs \$115,000-\$145,000/yr Mail resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

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

CAREGIVERS NEEDED for disabled man. Morning & evening shifts available. Personal hygiene, range of motion, dressing, hooyer 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.

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

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

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

Customer Service req'd. Must be fluent in Chinese (Mandarin & Taiwanese). Salary: \$85,000-\$95,000/year. Email resume to: m.neverida@marriott.com.

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 look-

ing 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. Call (619) 501-1057 or on my 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.

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

JOBS WANTED

CLERICAL/ADMIN WORK WANTED Recently retired person looking for a clerical/admin position - part-time, full-time or gig. Fluent in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook. Transcription and technical writing experience as well. crkrjx@yahoo.com

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

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

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

PERSONAL ASST./ 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 house-keeping, provide companionship, and much more. Please call Carol at (858) 731-6996.

WANTED / TRADE

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. (832) 651-8302 / ashscoot@aol.com

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

LOOKING FOR OLD TUBE STEREO'S I am looking for that old Tube Stereo that your Grandfather 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

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

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

THREE WHEEL MOTORCYCLE TRIKE For \$400 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

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

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

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

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

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

WE BUY SILVER AND GOLD coins and bars. Call me (619) 279-7833.

CASH FOR COMIC BOOKS Want to put some money in your pocket? I pay cash for old comic books. 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, william-keith848@gmail.com.

GARAGE SALES

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

VINYL RECORDS CDS DVD FOR SALE Saturday and Sunday December 30 and 31 9am to 4... 3939 Iowa St. Suite 2 SD CA 92104.... Thousands of vinyl records DVDS CDS VHS Blu Ray Cassettes for sale.... 2\$ Dollars Each!

BLACK SOLID WOOD DINING CHAIR This good-looking chair is solid, sturdy & very well constructed. It has a sleek glossy finish, simplicity & rustic warmth to fit in a variety of home/office spaces. Some normal wear but is clean & in very good condition. \$45. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

NEW PEDOMETER DIGITAL DISPLAY This deluxe pedometer has a hinged protective cover, a spring-loaded attachment clip & an adjustable security strap. It shows steps taken, distance covered & calories burned. Battery is included. New in sealed plastic. \$20. Text for more in info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



SEWING MACHINE, PORTABLE Portable Sewing Machine with bobbins, special pattern wheels and foot controller. Used once, like new. \$100 (619) 201-0715

BARSKA SPOTTING SCOPE \$50. Good for bird watching and at the range. (619) 346-9389

DVD'S Have around 1,000 DVDs. Make offer for all. Call Tom at (619) 264-7148

UNIDEN BCD4366HP SCANNER Uniden BCD4366HP and Btech DMR 6X2. Send phone number and call sign to bg6@gmx.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

CAMERA BARGAINS Nikon F, Canon EOS, Argus AIGUS C3. \$25 each plus miscellaneous filters accessories and books from \$1-\$5. (760) 757-5445. Long live the reader

SMALL PICTURE FRAMES \$5/ each. holds 16. 8 each. Panel type black modern frames. (619) 601-3591

VARIOUS WOMEN'S CLOTHING Size L-XL. Hip Hop style. 20's to 30's various prices. Call (619) 601-3591



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



BK STANDING DESK /LAPTOP STAND This good-looking adjustable stand-up desk stand / podium / workstation (21"x 14.5") can be adjusted 31"-45" high with a tiltable (up to 45-∞) tabletop with lots of storage on 4 lockable rollers. Clean & in good condition. \$45. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

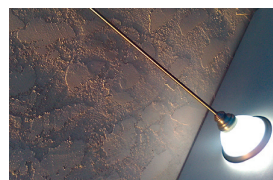


GRAY FABRIC OFFICE DESK CHAIR This high quality, good-looking Ikea Langfjall professional high back conference computer rolling chair has gently curved lines accentuated by sewn details on white star base with 5 legs and casters. Excellent condition. \$75. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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



BLUE 3-TIER PLASTIC SHOE RACK This sturdy shoe holder / storage organizer (37"x 14"x 27"H) is made with heavy duty plastic with rounded edges, built-in handle & steel reinforced cross-bars for strength and durability. Clean & in very good condition. \$35. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



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



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

DOUBLE CANDLESTICK TABLE LAMP This vintage classic table lamp is perfect for your console, sofa, end or side table. It comes with a cream oval linen shade, solid wood decorative base, rotary switch for both lights & light bulb. Very good condition. \$60. Text for more info/pics (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

AIR FRYER Almost new, perfect condition \$25 (858) 220-6338

OIL CHANGE \$29⁹⁵
Additional \$5 cartridge fee. Plus tax, haz waste, & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. Special only for 4cyl vehicle. 6-8cyl vehicle does not apply.
most cars

AC SERVICE \$49
Diagnostic \$95
Recharge from

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

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

RADIATOR \$45
or Transmission Services
*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
most cars 4 cyl.
Plus labor.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT
96 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

CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE

<p>FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE With any Service or Repair</p>	<p>SMOG CHECK SPECIAL ★ STAR Certified \$3175* +\$8.25 cert Smog Test or All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through January 31, 2024</p>	<p>★ 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.</p>
<p>EXHAUST SYSTEM REPAIR AVAILABLE</p>	<p>ENGINE STEAM CLEAN AVAILABLE Most Vehicles</p>	<p>30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from \$279⁹⁵ 4-cyl. Most vehicles. Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change • Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning • Check brakes, suspension</p>
<p>NEW CV AXLE from \$159⁹⁵ Parts & Labor</p>	<p>TIMING BELT SPECIAL \$50 off quoted price Recommended at 60k miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.</p>	
<p>San Diego Smog's new home is at Cliff Brown Automotive! Cliff Brown Automotive • 4491 Park Blvd, SD, CA 92116 • 619-297-4204 Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5:30 pm Coupons must be Presented Prior to Service • Senior Discounts Available • Offers Expire January 31, 2024</p>		

ROAM

Years ago, I stood on the side of Mount Whitney, its peaks packed with ice and snow, and felt the warm breath of the mid-morning sun thawing frozen beads of sweat from the loose curls that hung over my brow. Rivulets of sweat streamed into my eyes, the stinging salt blurring my vision as a large stone began to barrel down the slope toward me after having fallen from its perch on a pass high above.

My ears caught the noisy scuttle of hikers far above, hollering about the tumbling debris. Wiping my eyes, I looked ahead and saw my doom leaping down the path in long, graceful arcs; then looked back and saw my brother stumbling off the path a hundred paces below through knee-high snow to take shelter behind a boulder. Unfortunately, I had no such protection. It was as if the mountain had played the long game, patiently waiting for me to draw near, and then, like a cannon, it pointed itself at me and lit the fuse.

I had just enough time to jump out of the path of this firing squad. Clutching my ice ax, I readied myself to leap onto a bank of hard, ice-slick snow that was only beginning to thaw from the shivering night. I hoped the snow was not too firm, for a misstep meant sliding a thousand feet down the mountain and crashing into an outcrop of boulders that grinned like the teeth of a hungry giant. Caught in a fatal predicament, I coiled my legs to jump and thought, "Is this how it ends?"

As if in divine response, the stone whistled through the air, falling like a shooting star, then collided against the ground a couple dozen paces ahead of me, splitting into two equal halves that passed me by on either side. Although I had escaped an early grave, my soul had been marked from the encounter.

These thoughts played like home movies through my mind as I stood in line on Mt. Woodson, waiting to take a photo atop San Diego's renowned landmark and Instagram sensation,



A line of hikers posing with the chip.

Potato Chip Rock. Unlike the rock on Whitney, this one wasn't trying to kill me, at least not yet. In fact, there was nothing sinister about the rock at all. It resembled a giant Pringle hanging off the side of the mountain, and it held itself like a bored lion, waiting patiently for the zookeeper to deliver its next meal while tourists snapped pictures on the other side of its glass cage. After enduring a sluggish ten-minute wait, I realized I might be imposing my own mood onto the rock.

Watching the hikers posing on Potato Chip Rock, I couldn't help but feel that the experience of standing on a scenic mountain was lost on them. Surrounding us was a charming panorama with a view of the lapping sea to the west and the low-lying mountains to the east. Not that anyone seemed to care, for they were too busy gawking at their smartphone cameras. The vibe was sacrilegious, as if everyone had made a pilgrimage to a sacred temple, but instead of praying, they scratched "I was here" on the walls and went home. Worst of all, I found myself among them, standing in line to do the same! Oh the fury.

I looked around at my fellow hikers as we continued standing in line. While I hate to admit it, they were indeed fellow hikers. They sported Osprey backpacks with Patagonia shirts and chewed on the worn nipples of their CamelBak bladders to gulp water. Some wore hiking boots that were so mercilessly beaten from the trail that I knew their owners had climbed longer and tougher peaks than I had. But I felt no connection to these hikers.

As the line moved forward, my frustration expanded until I began to silently rage against a deeper quality coiled within human nature, for upon this peak loomed a sinister deceit. Surrounded by these hikers, all deceiving ourselves, we weren't escaping but succumbing to society's demands. The sheer absurdity of queuing on a mountain laid bare our collective surrender.

In my attempt to go hiking and flee my civilized cage, I had stumbled into another one atop the mountain and no one could see the bars but me. Every one of us was caught in this cage. Whether unveiling views, sculpting bodies, chas-

ing a higher truth in the wild, we were all prisoners of our seeking.

The joy of hiking isn't in the vistas, the physical grind, or in conquering mountains—only fools believe that, and I'm speaking from experience. No, seeing the bars of my cage I finally understood it's in avoiding your own damn self on the trail. Those Pacific Crest Trail thru-hikers who aim to "find themselves" miss the point—it's about losing, not finding. On the trail, you ditch your identity because there's nothing civilized to tag you. Bob Dylan got it, singing, "How does it feel, to be on your own, with no direction home, like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone?"

Walking solo, you are like a leaf adrift in a stream, having left behind the tree that raised you. Perhaps a dragonfly might alight on you, or maybe a small frog might hop by. You're free from your own snarls because there's nothing to cast your reflection—instead, you merge with nature. The hues of flowers, the song of birds, the babble of streams and the whisper of trees become your companions. Walk long enough, and you'll open up to the world, I swear. It's inevitable when your self thins out, stretching beyond what eyes, ears and hands can grasp.

At the peak of Mt. Woodson, I didn't stand there like a drifting leaf or a stone on the roll. The cold clasp of civilization forced me to stand there. The Potato Chip Rock was a lie we all swallowed. It wasn't iconic in and of itself. It merely let folks claim triumph, turning wanderers into performers as they posed like big-game hunters with their kill. This place offered a chance to, for a little while at least, abandon yourself to the elements, to truly be present. But no, we clung to our threadbare identities and smug civility like fairground riders clutching a finely carved horse on a carousel.

As each hiker stepped onto that sacred Pringle to embalm a moment in dead pixels, they stroked their ego by gripping the landscape until they had dominion over it. Yet their photo was more or less the same as every other taken atop the peak that day and every other, and they remained unaware of the fact that they were not moving freely, but going around and around in circles.

Brooding and lost in thought, there came a tap on my shoulder from behind. I turned to see a man dressed like me who said, "You're up, bud. Want me to take your photo?" And the rock, once left behind on Whitney, came rolling back to impale me.

—Ryan Brothers

POTATO CHIP ROCK FROM POWAY

Located in Poway, Potato Chip Rock (or Mt. Woodson) is a moderately strenuous hike. Given its length of around 7 miles and an elevation gain of around 2,050 feet, the hike will take most people 3 to 5 hours to complete. Dogs are allowed.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 28 miles

Hike length: 7 miles • **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous • **Season:** Year-round



Starting from Lake Poway.

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



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



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- / cadbcscd@gmail.com



LARGE POTTED PLANTS COLLECTION Unique variety of plants to transform your landscape or patio. Various sizes of Norfolk Island Pine, peach, guava, roses, herbs, bananas, collard green trees, ornamentals & much more. Oceanside \$3500. Deliver for extra charge. YouGoFarmGal@gmail.com



SOLID PINE KIDS HIGH CHAIR This Ikea Ingolf Jr. chair in antique stain & acrylic lacquer is perfect for your child 3 years & older. It gives the right seat height at the table with comfy support for the feet. Good condition with some normal wear. \$25. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

MOUSE BREEDER CAGE FOR SALE Hi, I have 1 medical grade stainless steel top and clear sides mouse breeder cage complete with water bottle. This cost over 200\$ brand new. Asking 60\$ firm. Please call if interested in buying. (619) 405-2389

SMART BODY SCALE Brand new, never opened \$12 (858) 220-6338

BK ALUMINUM CANE OFFSET HANDLE This walking cane with comfortable foam handle & wrist strap is rated for up to

300 lb. It has push-button height adjustment (29"-38") & a locking ring for security. New, never used with original labels. \$15. Text for more information and/or pictures (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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) 753-8473

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

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

CLAW TURNER, TONG, GRILL FORKS 15" claw turner tong has a turner on one side and a pronged fork on the other (\$8), 15" triangular tong w/ wood handles (\$5), 4 deluxe BBQ grill forks w/ wood handles & hanging straps (\$5 ea). All new condition. \$25 for all 6. 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, \$125. 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

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

AMERICAN FLYER TRAIN TRACKS \$100 or best offer. In okay condition. 1940's-1950's. Antique collection. 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

MASSAGE CHAIR Great condition. White. Great condition. Good for beginners. Has a few crackle spots between the seat and the headrest. Folds into chair and table as well. \$30 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

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

COOLER Cabelas Cooler 60 Cooler \$300 new. Selling for \$200. (619) 346-9389.

BLINDS Faux white wood, 1.5 inches slats, 57 inches wide x 56 inches down, good condition, \$20 or best offer. Call (858) 484-4483 in Rancho Penasquitos.

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

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

SEARS KENMORE SEWING MACHINE with pedal, top and bottom loading and sew table w 4 drawers. Extra needles and thread with handle case. \$125 (619) 586-7736 plus swivel chair!

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

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

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

KNEE WALKER Brand new, never used. (858) 220-6338

LAUNDRY HAMPER New. Must sell. Cylindrical (round) off-white cream color hamper is 21 inches high, 12 1/2 inches in diameter. It has a lid on it. Fits most bathrooms. For more info call (858) 693-3409, evenings.

NECK MASSAGER \$20, call (619) 601-3591.

SERVICES

HOME & BUSINESS CLEANING!! Ready for the new year? How does your home look? Your business? Over 16 years experience! Professional, courteous and friendly!! Please call gordon (619) 370-1602!! Looking forward to hearing from you!! Available for home sitting and pet sitting!! / gordonkwilson@hotmail.com

DIRTY BLINDS CLEANING & REPAIR We clean and repair all Blinds from Faux Woods, Real Woods, Verticals, Illuminates, Silhouettes, Rollers, And Metal Venetian Blinds. Same day service. We pick up in the morning and have them returned the same evening. (619) 693-2474 / BPLHdesigs@gmail.com

DOOR BELL & SECURITY CAMERA Sales, Repair, Install. Computer Repair: Windows & Mac. HONEST & with references. (619) 780-1114 / sdguy3939@gmail.com

HAUL AWAY CHRISTMAS TREE \$40. TEXT (619) 200-0696 with address.

YOUR PREMIER NOTARY SERVICES! Experience unparalleled reliability and professionalism with our expert notary services. At Eleven Dollar Notary, we understand the importance of accuracy and attention to detail in every document. Visit us or know more on elevendollarnotary.com (185) 885-9177 / dm.elevendollarnotary@gmail.com

REMODELING & DESIGN Kitchens, Baths, Room Adds, ADU. 3D design planning. Materials at cost, scope writing, contractor management. Furnishing & Decorating. Certified, creative, experienced professional. NCIDQ, ASID call or txt (619) 517-8095 Laura - Free first meeting. / laural@homyours.com

1 MONTH OF FREE BOOK-KEEPING Before the tax season rush, enjoy 1 month of free bookkeeping from Miply. Schedule a meeting: calendly.com/scheduleameetingwithmiply-bookkeeping-discovery-call. Visit us: www.miply.com/ (855) 732-0515 / bhenn@miply.com

DOOR BELL, SECURITY CAMERA Sales, Repair, Install. Computer Repair Windows & Mac. HONEST & with references. (619) 770-0011 / luislednick@gmail.com

HOME & BUSINESS CLEANING!! How does your home look? How about your business? For the new year! Over 15 years experience! Professional, friendly and courteous! Please call gordon (619) 370-1602!! Looking forward to hearing from you!! Available for home sitting and pet sitting!! / gordonkwilson@hotmail.com

WEDDINGS BY SUZETTE I am Certified Justice of the Peace who can Perform any weddings any where in San Diego. \$100.00 per wedding. (619) 634-0480 / redbonepalmer@yahoo.com

BAJA MOBILE MASSAGE for individuals, couples, and groups in Ensenada, Rosarito, Las Gaviotas, Valle de Guadalupe. Code SDREADER 25\$ off. Ensenada-Massage.com Quotes: (619) 678-0908

PERMANENT MAKEUP BY CRISTY Over 25 years experience! Eyebrows \$300. Eyeliner \$250. Lipliner \$300. Includes 1 touch-up 2 months after. Call for appointment: (760) 207-7033. This is the time to simplify your makeup!

MALE MASSAGE THERAPIST outcalls only. Tim Logan (858) 424-0037. \$60- 1 hour or \$80 for 90 mins.

ALL PERSONAL INJURY CASES Car, slip & fall, burn, head injury. 30 yrs. exp. Law Office of Neal Gibbons, 619-850-6325.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY DUI, possession, domestic violence, etc. Visa/MC. Free consult. Scott Salmu, Esq., 619-232-4LAW (4529).

DUI AND CRIMINAL DEFENSE Affordable rates. Visa/MC, flexible payment plans. Free consult. Attorney David Boertje, 619-229-1870.

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY Car accidents, dog bites, etc. Free con-sultation. Scott Salmu, Esq., 619-232-4LAW (4529).

FULL BODY MASSAGE from head to toe. Reasonable rates, call Tony (562) 587-4417.

MASSAGE SERVICES by Rick, reasonable rates, call (562) 846-9299.

SUNLIGHT LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE General yard cleanups. Water damage repair, lawn service, irrigation systems, sprinkler installation and repair, valve installation, tree services, grass installation, retaining walls, block walls, artificial turf installation, fencing, drains. Fully insured. (619) 379-3837.

ALL TYPE FLOORS epoxy, stone, wood, concrete, cleaning, polish, seal, wax and strip. (619) 850-3264

DRYWALL REPAIR and textures acoustic removal & paint John (619) 246-3587.

HORTICULTURE, landscape design, redesign, troubleshooting, diagnostics on the spot. Solve your problems, improve your design, improve your maintenance today - no guessing! Educated, trained and experi-

enced, 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.

ROB'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES Residential/Commercial/Industrial. 20+ years experience, C10 Lic# 966537. Guaranteed to beat any quote! 10% OFF for new clients. Call for free estimate, and save \$25 when you mention this Reader ad! (619) 632-7770. rdickens.rd@gmail.com. www.robselecricalservices.com.

US ELECTRIC CONTRACTING Fast, free estimates. Full service, residential and commercial, new construction, remodels, custom work, service and repair. No job too big or too small. 10% 1st time senior discount. CA lic#1009252. Insured. BBB Accredited. (858) 880-6080.

P.L. WOODEN MOBILE NOTARY Do you need Loan Signing, Preneed Home Going Planning, or Notary services for someone that is Hospitalized, in Senior care or maybe Incarcerated? If so, look no further. Call P.L. Wooden Mobile Notary for all of your Notary Needs At: (619) 867-4441

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVEST IN GREATNESS Amateur artist entrepreneur seeking opportunity to introduce a whimsy creation that is guaranteed to alter ones perception by shining light, love, and truth on "death" with the art of cremation, one urn at a time. Serious inquiries only. - Rahney rahney. haynes@gmail.com

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

<p>SMOG CHECK Most cars.Vans, trucks, & European cars \$10 extra. 2000 & up. \$26⁷⁵ + \$8.25 Cert.</p>	<p>BRAKES from Front or rear. Most cars. \$50 + Labor FREE Shuttle Service w/ repair</p>
<p>OIL CHANGE & FILTER Up to 5 qts., new filter, 10 point checkout. \$25 +\$1.00 Waste Fee.</p>	<p>TIMING BELT Starting price, Labor + Parts. \$195</p>
<p>COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS Most vehicles & light trucks. Service engine soon light, check engine light, hesitation, hard starting, running rough, poor gas mileage, dead battery... \$30</p>	<p>AXLE SPECIAL Includes Parts & Labor \$99</p>
<p>MUFFLER from \$95 + Labor</p>	<p>PREMIUM SHOCKS from Monroe or KYB + Labor \$150 per pair</p>
<p>PREMIUM STRUTS from Monroe or KYB + Labor \$250 per pair</p>	<p>STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR from \$150 + Labor</p>

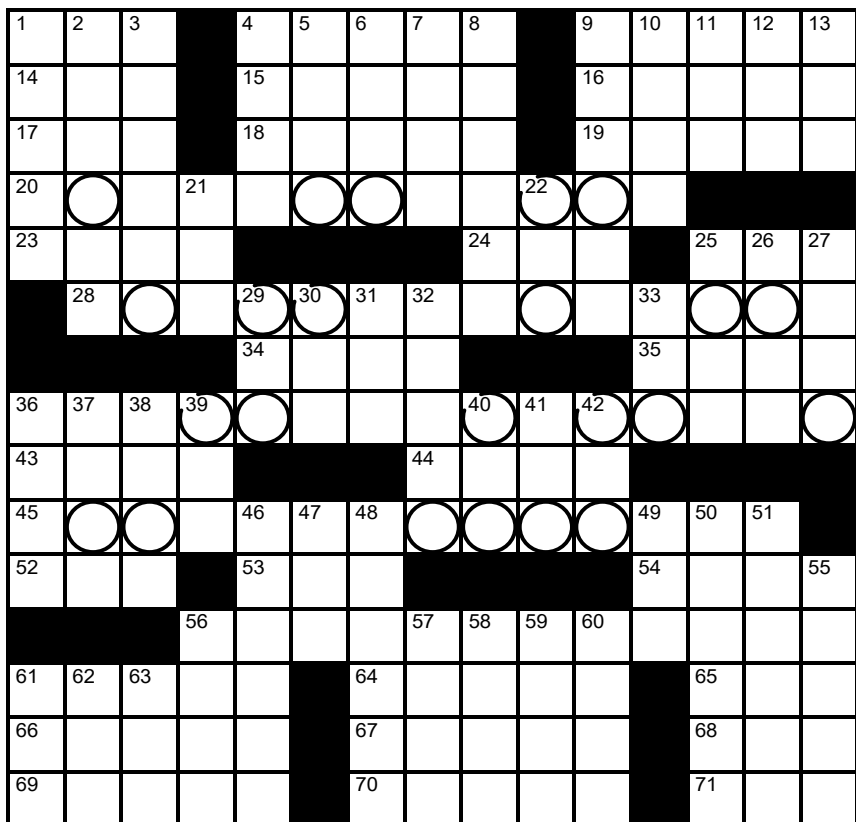
*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition
*Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing

Brandon Auto

6670 Miramar Rd. # C, San Diego, CA 92121-2559

858-452-9999

CROSSWORD



© 2023 DAVID LEVINSON WILK

Unfortunately, David's final puzzle was more puzzling than it should have been. Last week, we ran the correct puzzle for December 28, but ran the clues from December 14. We apologize for the error.

Here is David's final puzzle again, this time with the correct clues. Next week, we will begin featuring our new puzzle creator.

Across

- 1.** They outsold cassette tapes for the first time in '91
4. "Don't ____ this up!"
9. It might be bendy
14. "Dunno 'bout that ..."
15. ____ Heep (Charles Dickens character)
16. Diminish, as a coastline
17. Woman who "dances on the sand" in a 1983 Duran Duran hit
18. Camera brand that owns a "Surfboard Mount" patent
19. "I'm ready to be dazzled by your pitch"
20. LGBT landmark that became a U.S. National Monument on June 24, 2016

- 23.** One-named Art Deco notable
24. Where Shareef and Amirah O'Neal played college b-ball (just like their dad, Shaq)
25. Aptly, you can't spell "yearning" without it
28. The Supremes 1965 hit song
34. "Me either"
35. Genesis locale
36. Online reference source that defines Napoleon as "A short dead dude"
43. ____ a soul
44. "Not a prob!"
45. "You're amazing for helping me out!"
52. "No. That. Did. Not. Just.

- Happen."
53. Lubricate
54. Greek goddess of Earth
56. The medical term for them is striae gravidarum (or what can be seen in 20-, 28-, 36- and 45-Across)
61. Margaret Mitchell's Butler
64. Send along
65. Bro's sib
66. "And I love you like ____ loves ____" (2016 rap lyric)
67. Mar
68. Versatile truck, briefly
69. Monterey Bay Aquarium critter
70. Just a touch
71. One way to stand

Down

- 1.** "!@#%!" e.g.
2. Composer Shostakovich
3. Alternative to chunky
4. Record producer Knight who signed Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg
5. Toot your own horn
6. Kelly of morning TV
7. Warren who wrote in 1954 "We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place"
8. 100%
9. Clinched
10. 1982 sci-fi film with a 2010 sequel
11. Plane ticket info
12. Navy VIP
13. Tiny
21. French word on a wedding announcement

- 22.** School of thought
25. Wookieepedia lists his hair color as "white" and his skin color as "green"
26. Offshore wind, for one: Abbr.
27. Empire State Building, 20 W. 34th St., ____ 10001
29. Novelist Patchett
30. Reel's partner
31. Singer Grande, for short
32. "Get those squirrels, Fido!!"
33. Cornish game ____
36. Golden Rule word
37. Obama chief of staff Emanuel
38. Toot your own horn
39. "Atlas Shrugged" author Rand
40. Mai ____
41. Manhattan, e.g.: Abbr.

- 42.** Popeye's Olive
46. High school teacher of 1970s TV
47. Respectful address
48. iPhone notifications
49. Grocery chain with the slogan "Local = Fresh"
50. Coxswain's "Stop!"
51. Soviet leader Khrushchev
55. It's a plus
56. Eye affliction
57. Flooring wood
58. Ad agency award
59. Zimmer who won an Oscar for his "Dune" tunes
60. It ain't real
61. Classic Hollywood studio
62. Fashion item always found in mid-Manhattan?
63. MD who might perform nasal valve reconstruction

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 21 PUZZLE:



SUDOKU

MEDIUM:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:

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

Florida

— When the Brevard (Florida) Public Schools board met on May 9, the topic of dress codes came up, but it went way beyond hoodies and beachwear, *ClickOrlando* reported. Vice chair Megan Wright told board members that she has heard concerns about students dressing up as "furries" – people who anthropomorphize animals. District 5 Rep. Katye Campbell weighed in: "I'm not a big fan of the furry movement, but ... if 'ears' means a headband with pointed ears on them, it's a hair accessory. Tails are different, and students meowing and barking at other students – that's not cool. But that's not dress code." Chairman Matt Susin said his daughter is "tired of furries" at school and the subject comes up at least once a month at his dinner table. Leave it to District 3 Rep. Jennifer Jenkins to cut through the kitty litter: "This is not rocket science ... If you don't want tails on kids, just say you don't want tails." She said among middle school students, the new thing is barking and meowing at each other, unrelated to furry costumes: "It's weird, but they're doing it."

Unclear on the Concept

— Jerry Martin had what he thought was a winning idea for a retail shop: The Drug Store, where people could buy cocaine, heroin, meth and MDMA that had been tested for fentanyl. Vice reported that Martin's mobile shop, in Vancouver, Canada, was open less than 24 hours when he was arrested for drug traffick-

ing. The store, housed in a mobile trailer that Martin parked next to a police van, featured bright yellow boards with prices listed for all the drugs. Martin wore a stab-proof vest as he sold the items from behind a plexiglass window. According to him, his plan included getting arrested so that he could challenge "laws that prevent a safe supply and result in death by poisoning" in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Compelling Explanation

— In Dallas, grocery worker Coby Todd, 21, is sure that a "mischievous child ghost" pushed a shopping cart into his car as he was leaving work, Fox News reported on March 30. The day before, Todd had gone "ghost hunting" at a home in Frontier Village, Texas, and had sensed the presence of a "little boy" spirit, he said. He thinks the spirit followed him home and to work the next day. "Maybe he was trying to play with me," Todd said. He checked out the store's security footage to see who might have pushed the cart, and it does appear to suddenly turn and roll on its own toward Todd's car. The damage amounts to about \$25,000, and Todd said, "It upset me. It's not fake."

Precocious

— Justin and Nissa-Lynn Parson of McKinney, Texas, were all in when their son Cayden, 12, asked for a magnifying glass for Christmas. "We thought, 'Oh, he wants to magnify something'" to read, Nissa-Lynn told KDFW.

Instead, Cayden and his brother, Ashton, used the glass to light a newspaper on fire on the family's front porch, which soon spread to the yard, eventually destroying the lawn and some of the family's Christmas lights. "We ran inside and started screaming," Cayden said. The family doused the fire with "pitchers of water, blankets smothering it, sprinklers turned on, hose turned on," Nissa-Lynn recounted, adding that now Cayden "will definitely have yard work to do once spring comes."

Sour Grapes

— Japanese YouTuber Marina Fujiwara has harnessed the pain she feels when she sees couples basking in their love at the holidays and developed a sort of *schadenfreudian* device: a light that turns on whenever anyone breaks up on social media. *Oddity Central* reported on Dec. 27, 2019, that Fujiwara's device is connected to the internet through a "bridge" and is set to light up whenever a breakup status is posted on Twitter. "I want to celebrate Christmas," she said. "But when you see a couple in the world going on a Christmas date and doing something like that, I am attacked by a huge sense of loneliness." While her machine is not available commercially, Fujiwara says it's easy enough to set one up for yourself.

Oops!

— Matt Hightower of Overland Park, Kansas, was home alone with his three kids in mid-December 2020 when he switched on the oven

in preparation for making dinner. Inside, unfortunately, were the family's three Elves on the Shelf, who had been put there the night before to "warm up" after a day of being held captive in the refrigerator by the "bad milk," KCTV reported. "Babe ... I cooked the elves," Hightower confessed to his wife, Chelsea, who was out Christmas shopping. "Thankfully," said Chelsea, after a frantic search around town, "Jingle, Belle and Magic have made a miraculous recovery and are back to their silly ways."

The Way the World Works

— Those large inflatable Christmas decorations may fill the hearts of children with holiday cheer, but one young ursid saw a sparring partner and went on the attack in Monrovia, California, on Dec. 8, 2021. Donna Hargett captured video of a bear cub wrestling with her neighbor's inflatable reindeer as the mama bear looked on, United Press International reported. "I looked up and there it was, jumping on the reindeer," Hargett said. "We see these two around all the time. They're trouble," she said. In fact, Hargett said they once broke into her home and left paw prints on the bed. No word on Rudolph's condition.

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

SMOG CHECK \$29⁷⁵

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



OIL CHANGE
up to 4 quarts & oil filter Most 4 cylinder cars, Trucks extra.
Synthetic blend extra
\$29⁹⁵ +tax
+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES
• Front or Rear Axle
• Parts & Labor
• Turn Rotors / Drums
• Premium Pads
• Most 4 cylinder Cars + tax
\$179
Free Inspection

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

30K/60K/90K/120K mile SERVICE SPECIAL
Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from
\$149
Plus tax & hazardous waste fee, 4 cylinder, most cars, regularly \$200 prices may vary depending on make & model.

AC SERVICE
\$49⁹⁵
Most cars, freon extra

TUNE-UP & OIL CHANGE
• Drain and replace up to 4 quarts of oil
• New oil filter
• New spark plugs
• Visual inspection
• 4-cyl. Most cars
\$95⁹⁵
+ \$5 hazardous materials fee
Prices may vary depending on make & model.

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT
Most cars
\$49⁹⁵

ALIGNMENT
4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.
\$59

TIMING BELT
Call for price.

GENERAL AUTO REPAIR
(619) 430-4369 • 1616 Precision Park Lane, San Diego, 92173
Just off the 905 freeway • Se habla español
Offers good with this ad. Must present prior to service. Expires 2-5-24
Ask us about snap! financing • Generalautorepairsd.com



BRING IN THIS COUPON TO SAVE

40% OFF

**ENTIRE
PURCHASE**

EXPIRES 01/10/24

CANNOT BE COMBINED W/OTHER OFFERS



4645 DE SOTO ST, SAN DIEGO, CA 92109

**SAN DIEGO'S
HIGHEST
EXPERIENCE**

C10-0000472-LIC



An abstract mural graces the side wall, brightening an otherwise dull pay-to-park lot.

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 6

tub downstairs. But that's just me.

We then head out to the street for a few exterior shots of the building: a garage sits in between two entryways, and an abstract mural graces the side wall, brightening an otherwise dull pay-to-park lot. Now back inside, we're looking at a huge hallway of a space, with a room off to the side that looks like it houses some commercial kitchen equipment and a bunch of construction supplies. I like the exposed brick wall, and could even be convinced that the exposed concrete is a fair choice if some artwork were added for color, but I don't like all of the exposed wiring. This is probably something for a new buyer to remedy as part of finish-

ing the remodel.

Moving through the space, I'm struck by the fact that while there's obviously some heavy construction ongoing, the home is still partially furnished. The patio is almost move-in ready, but scattered throughout the rest of the building are couches, a pool table, unhung artwork, even a Skee-Ball arcade game. Shouldn't this stuff be tucked away in storage, or at least covered with plastic sheeting? Anyone who's remodeled a house knows how dirty things can get, and I don't want an inch-thick layer of drywall and/or concrete dust permeating my fancy leather sofa. Maybe it's just there for staging.

We see an interesting spiral staircase that goes...somewhere, and in an otherwise unfinished bathroom, there's a massive shower with a rainfall showerhead that looks great — but also

looks like it shouldn't have been installed until someone put a better finish on the ceiling.

Near the end of the listing, we get a few artist's renderings of what the finished space should look like, eventually featuring "4 spacious bedrooms, 4.5 luxurious baths, a dedicated home gym, a game room, walk-in pantry, and a separate laundry room, plus two primary suites. The finished masterpiece will include high-end contemporary finishes, walk-in closets, and a custom chef's kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances." The plans are reportedly all in place, just waiting for a buyer to pick up where the prior owner — listed in public records as a Matthew Hill of Michigan — left off. "Jacaranda Lofts is more than a property, it's your canvas for a personal masterpiece," the listing concludes.

The lofts last sold in 2013 and 2014 for a combined \$3.5 million — that makes the current asking price of \$3,750,000 seem downright reasonable when you consider all the work that's been done. Then again, there's a lot of heavy lifting left to do. If you buy this place, I'd really like to see it again when it's finished. ■



One of several artist's renderings of what the finished space should look like.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

ous hiking I've done in my life is around this lake." And without a good trail system around the lake, people show up "that have no idea what they're walking into," he added. Young kids see fish on the other side of the lake and try to get around to where they are. He argued that the \$750,000 "could go a long way toward hiring crews" to cut trails all around the lake that would give access to "the whole fishing area, not just the little area that's down there when you walk to the bottom of the trail." On one side, he said, is a treacherous bluff where people often fall and get hurt. "You should cut a fairly good trail through that."

A bridge would help people get from one side to the other to fish, he said. But exactly where it should go was still in question. Some advocates said there was no point in putting it where it was already easy to fish, and

noted that their surveys had found the main thing anglers want are easy routes around the lake. Quintero said a bridge across the river could be submitted as an idea, but because they are "working on jurisdictional waters of the U.S.," there would have to be buy-in from both the Army Corp of Engineers and Regional Water Quality authorities.

Community proposals also included such amenities as a second parking lot on Japatul Road, a direct trail from the parking lot to the east end of the current

fishing program, possibly using SDG&E maintenance roads, and extending the shoreline west on both the north and south side of the lake. Also, water. Part of the trails are within the fishing program, one speaker noted. And Mary Hicks, chair of Friends of Loveland Reservoir, asked officials if the fish would be restocked. "You guys wiped out the fish," she noted. "And you should bring them back. Separate from the grant for trails."

Lake advocates, still worried the lake will be drained again in the future, asked for a commit-

ment to maintain the minimum water level for fishing. Quintero said fish restocking could be part of the proposals, but said he wasn't going to talk about "operational issues. I think they go beyond the ways to use this grant."

Lake advocate Russell Walsh said they were just trying to fix problems with erosion that were caused by the draining. That would return the "normal fishing program," he said.

Quintero responded by asking if Walsh was saying they should keep the water above



What's the point of safe trails if you just end up by a fish-free lake?

the bluffs.

"We don't want to build trails or work with the \$750,000 on things that are going to be below the water most of the time," Walsh replied.

Quintero answered that "delineating a trail above where the water is now makes sense."

There will be more workshops to weigh the proposals, including some in Alpine, before the plan is sent to the California Department of Water Resources.

SHEILA PELL

Under the radar

continued from page 3

his large, yellow house on India Street," reported KNSD TV in an October 21, 2018 account. "Once in a while, they call me the mayor or the Godfather," Pecoraro told the station, which reported that "the local Godfather has lived in his gilded, yellow house for 51 years. He inherited it from his father-in-law who was one of the original fishermen in the neighborhood.

Pecoraro stayed in the house, even after many of his neighbors left for the suburbs. He's been offered more than \$8 million for his home, but refuses to sell."

In July 2020, then-mayor Faulconer signed an executive order during the Covid 19 pandemic allowing Little Italy restaurants to expand their seating to city sidewalks. The move allowed "restaurants to install dining areas on sidewalks, patios, and even adjacent parking lots without having to apply for permits," per a July 7, 2020, KNSD report. "Those permits can cost up to \$1000 and take several months to be processed and approved, according to Faulconer." Noted KNSD's Pecoraro story: "Little Italy's Godfather said he loves all the restaurants in the area, even personally knowing at least half the owners in town."

— 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/.

GSG PL, INC. C10-0000298-LIC



HAPPY HOURS ARE HERE!

WAKE & BAKE EVERY DAY!
20% OFF! 7:00^{AM} - 8:00^{AM}

**EVERY WEDNESDAY...
15% OFF ALL WAX!**
(WITH MENTION OF THIS AD)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DISCOUNTS AND DISCOUNT DETAILS!

Golden State Greens
Cannabis you can trust

**FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS GET
25% OFF!**

**RETURN CUSTOMERS GET
35% OFF
ON YOUR SECOND VISIT
-WITH THIS COUPON-**

3452 Hancock Street | San Diego, CA 92110 | www.goldenstategreens.com | CALL FOR DELIVERY! 1-844-420-8387

4.9 **Google** Over 2,100 reviews
Reviews ★★★★★



Wednesday & Thursday

January 3rd - 4th

25% off Entire Store

.....
Friday 5th

BOGO 50% All products

.....
Saturday & Sunday

6th & 7th

25% off Entire Store

.....
First Time Customer 40%

.....
Every Day all Month

Can't make it in on the weekend? Present this coupon and get 30% off your next purchase.*

30%
OFF

Valid through 1/10/24

Want to SAVE MORE

Download our **STASHCASH** app to earn 5% back in points and exclusive discounts.

3703 Camino Del Rio S
San Diego, CA 92108
(858) 324-2420
WWW.THCS.D.COM



*COUPONS AND DISCOUNTS ARE NOT COMBINABLE WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTION, EXCEPT STASHCASH REWARDS. RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

California's Finest

EMBER

QUALITY CANNABIS RESERVE

By Phat Panda

Spin **THE WHEEL**

Wheel spin with any purchase for all first time customers!

Bring this coupon in to redeem.

Receive prizes valued up to \$50 for only \$1! This offer IS stackable with other discounts & deals. Valid while supplies last.

BRAND NEW! *Weekly Deals*

	BIG DEAL OF THE DAY	30% OFF
MON	BOGO For \$1 MIX MAVEN GENETICS STIIIZY	WYLD YADA YADA Care by design
TUE	BOGO For \$1 BLEMI	PAPA BARKLEY KINGPEN Good Tide
WED	BOGO For \$1 CALI LOTUS Humo Buddies	Smokies HONEYBUTTER PAX
THU	BOGO For \$1 TRADITIONAL lime WONDER BRETT	Keef Mary's CLSICS
FRI	BOGO For \$1 EMBER VALLEY 40% OFF CAM	zen CANNABIS abx absoluteXtracts ST DES
SAT	BOGO For \$1 STIIIZY Fuzzies	First Blue Ribbon LAX PAX froot WEST COAST TRAINING COMPANY
SUN	BOGO For \$1 PREROLLS 30% OFF FLOWER 72 SEVEN LEAVES	CLAYBOURNE GLASS HOUSE

LICENSE # C10-0000290-LIC 8300 CENTER DR. LA MESA, CA 91942

SIGN UP WITH EMAIL & PHONE # IS MANDATORY TO ACCESS THESE DEALS

WARNING: THIS PRODUCT HAS INTOXICATING EFFECTS & MAY BE HABIT-FORMING. MARIJUANA CAN IMPAIR CONCENTRATION, COORDINATION, & JUDGMENT. DO NOT OPERATE A VEHICLE OR MACHINERY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS DRUG. THERE MAY BE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSUMPTION OF THIS PRODUCT. FOR USE ONLY BY ADULTS 21 YEARS OR OLDER. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.



Lic. C9-0000021-Lic

THE GREAT MEDS DELIVERY

Serving All of San Diego

9am to 10pm - TEXT OR CALL

619-665-8184



Scan for Menu & More Items!

**40% OFF ALL West Cure Products or
30% OFF Entire Menu**

Spend \$99+
Get 14G
Sweet Kush
+ 1/2G
Disposable for
\$1



Spend \$299+
Get \$100
Goodies
bag for \$1

28G/\$49⁹⁹
Sweet Kush
18.50%
THC



28G/\$49⁹⁹
Zookies
17.51%
THC



28G/\$70
Lemon
Banana
Sherbet
20.42%
THC



28G/\$70
Marshmallow
OG
20.20%
THC



14G/\$60 or
28G/\$99
Pineapple
EXPRESS
23.96%
THC



14G/\$60 or
28G/\$99
Mars OG
24.13%
THC



14G/\$69⁹⁹
West Coast
Cure
Half Ounce
29% THC



28G/\$119⁹⁹
West
Coast Cure
Full Ounce
30% THC



14G/\$115 or
28G/\$199
Acapulco
Gold
33.21% THC



1/\$5 or
24/\$99
Ape Mini
Joint
40% THC



5/\$99
Ape
Sauce
Carts



6/\$99
West Coast
Cure Carts



6/\$99
West Coast
Cure
Badder,
Sugar or
Sauce



1/\$15⁹⁹
100mg
West Coast
Cure
Edibles



619-665-8184

Lic. C9-0000021-Lic.

***FREE Delivery w/Min. Order (\$60)**

CHECK OUR 5 STAR REVIEWS ON WEEDMAPS - CANNOT COMBINE DEALS - MENTION READER AD FOR DISCOUNTS



SDFLEET
DELIVERY

Powered by MGFT Group

30% OFF

ALL Orders FOR FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS

(619) 577-3390

SERVING ALL OF SAN DIEGO

Minimum \$50 Orders

Best Delivery Service in San Diego

Monday
All Half
Ounces
20%
OFF

California Fire
Cartridges



1 for **\$25** or
3 for **\$50**

Raw Garden
Cartridges



1 for **\$40** or
2 for **\$70**

West Coast Cure
Concentrates



1 for **\$25** or
5 for **\$99**

Punch
Concentrates



1 for **\$20** or
5 for **\$80**

One Gram Stiizy
Pods



4 for **\$150**

Friday
20%
OFF

The Entire
Store

Sparkiez



14pack PreRolls

\$35

Jeffrey's Joints



5 for **\$60**

Afghan Diesel



(Hybrid) 19.93%

\$65 oz

Master Kush



28 g for **\$65**

19.88% THC • Indica

Lemon Pie



28 g for **\$90**

22.84% THC • sativa

Sour Pebbles



28 g for **\$99**

22.93% THC • sativa

Gelonade



28 g for **\$99**

22.93% THC • hybrid

Space Dog



28 g for **\$120**

25.92% THC • Indica

Scan for Menu



MILITARY, DISABLED, STUDENTS, AND SENIOR CITIZENS 10% OFF

We Carry over 2000+ products in our menu

(619) 577-3390

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Must Mention Ad for Discounts. No Double Discounting.

Deals are already discounted

C9-0000601 LIC



BUZZ CANNABIS

50% OFF

FOR FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS

MUST MENTION 50% OFF AT PICK UP TO REDEEM OFFER

DISCOUNT APPLIED IN STORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.

BUZZCANNABIS.COM

WEEKLY DEALS =

MONDAY MADNESS

30% OFF

ENTIRE STORE!

ALL DAY, EVERY MONDAY

DAILY HAPPY HOUR

30% OFF

ENTIRE STORE!

7A-9A & 3P-5P

MISSION VALLEY 2605 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH SUITE 100, SAN DIEGO CA 92108

DISCOUNT APPLIED IN STORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.

Bad Teeth? Loose Dentures? We Can Help!



Premium Implant Package

from **\$89** per month
or **\$2,499**



Includes premium implant, full custom abutment
and zirconia crown
(Per tooth, subject to credit approval)

Hybrid All-On-4

from **\$399** per month
or from **\$13,999**



(Per arch, subject to credit approval)

**Eat
Apples
Again!**



We Finance for Credit Scores as Low as 520!

Implant offices of Dr Armin Hage DDS & Associates DR ARMIN HAGE

Is a Loma Linda University Graduate • Is a Diplomat at International Academy of Dental Implantology

Smile Designers San Diego (Sports Arena)
3365 Rosecrans St, San Diego, 92110
619-404-0061
SmileDesignerSanDiego.com

University Dental (College Area)
6324 University Ave, San Diego, 92115
619-319-9640
UniversityDentalSanDiego.com



* Treatment plans vary case by case, restrictions may apply. Call office for details. Offers cannot be combined. Offers for cash patients only. For insurance patients, insurance fees apply. Offers good through 2-5-24. **No-Needle system cannot be used on all cases. Use of conventional anaesthesia may still be required.
***Not all patients qualify for same day implants. Questions can not be answered over phone. Implant consult appointment is required. CT x-ray and bone graft not included.

Most Insurances Accepted • Same-Day & Early Evening Appointments Available • Free Second Opinion Consultation • Financing & Payment Plans Available
Kid Friendly • Full Ceramic Crowns • Laser Dentistry • Bridges • Root Canal • Bonding • Dentures & Advanced Prosthodontics • Military & Senior Discounts

MISSION VALLEY • SORRENTO VALLEY • SHOPC21PLUS.COM • (619) 906-5546



CANNABIS 21+TM
C10-0000323-LIC & C10-0000634-LIC
SAN DIEGO

MISSION VALLEY • SORRENTO VALLEY • SHOPC21PLUS.COM • (619) 906-5546



CANNABIS 21+TM
C10-0000323-LIC & C10-0000634-LIC
SAN DIEGO



20% OFF
CODE:STIIIZY20
EXP 2.15.24
*ONLY VALID WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY
ONE TIME USE ONLY, DISCOUNTS
NOT STACKABLE

\$10 OFF
WHEN YOU SPEND \$50
EXP 2.15.24
*ONE TIME USE ONLY,
DISCOUNTS NOT STACKABLE

\$20 OFF
WHEN YOU SPEND \$100
EXP 2.15.24
*ONE TIME USE ONLY,
DISCOUNTS NOT STACKABLE

**RING IN THE NEW
YEAR WITH SAVINGS!**

**RING IN THE NEW
YEAR WITH SAVINGS!**

20% OFF
CODE:STIIIZY20
EXP 2.15.24
*ONLY VALID WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY
ONE TIME USE ONLY, DISCOUNTS
NOT STACKABLE

\$10 OFF
WHEN YOU SPEND \$50
EXP 02.15.24
*ONE TIME USE ONLY,
DISCOUNTS NOT STACKABLE

\$20 OFF
WHEN YOU SPEND \$100
EXP 02.15.24
*ONE TIME USE ONLY,
DISCOUNTS NOT STACKABLE

**DELIVERY STRAIGHT
TO YOUR DOOR!**

25% OFF DELIVERY
CODE: RDDELIVERY25
EXP 01.25.24
ONE TIME USE ONLY SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY.
DEALS NOT STACKABLE



CANNABIS 21+TM
C10-0000323-LIC & C10-0000634-LIC
SAN DIEGO



**ORDER ONLINE AND
PICK UP OR GET IT STRAIGHT
TO YOUR DOOR TODAY!**

[SHOPC21PLUS.COM](https://shopc21plus.com)

