

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 53 | NO. 6 | FEBRUARY 8, 2024

# Reader

## KOOKS & CHAOS



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Wal-Mart joins the retail retreat ■ Highland View below the water line



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

NATIONAL CITY

## Evacuation, eviction, emergency

### Who pays when tenants have to leave a ruined building?

Following the storm on January 22 that dropped more rain than National City sees in an average wet month, the city declared a state of emergency. "Some were calling it a

The attorney argued that the health and safety code states that the owner *isn't* liable for the benefits if the local enforcement agency declares a building unsafe due to a hazardous event, such as flooding. Rather, the city, at its discretion, "may decide to issue such relocation benefits to tenants directly."

However, the owner has agreed to work with the city and tenants to pay relocation costs, which they say will be over \$100,000. They have also been providing hotel rooms for tenants since January 22, which has cost approximately \$30,000. Real estate websites show the apartment was built in 1991 and last sold for \$12,150,000 in August 2022.

According to Risk Factor, a hazards assessment tool, National City is considered to have a minor risk of flooding over the next 30 years. The tool places 599 out of 7456 homes at risk.

After Governor Gavin Newsom pro-

"Many residents are facing evictions," said Rodriguez. "Some have rent increases coming up in February at a time when they've lost everything."

storm event that could not possibly re-occur in a thousand years," said city manager Ben Martinez. On Highland Avenue, water and mud surged into apartments, forcing tenants out of their homes and into hotels.

Two days later, city inspectors deemed the gated building at 31-131 North Highland Avenue uninhabitable, issuing the owner an order to vacate and repair or demolish it. What happened next is unclear. Tenants say they were evicted by the landlord. The owner points to the city. "There seems to be confusion that Highland View apartments are forcing people from the Building. This is not accurate," reads a letter to the city from the owner's attorney.

But clearly, the tenants couldn't stay. The city's notice to the owner claimed that the violations were so extensive that their immediate health and safety was "substantially endangered." Residents were to be immediately relocated — "and you are required to pay relocation benefits."

claimed a state of emergency in San Diego County due to the historic rainfall, Martinez said the city made the decision to declare a local emergency. A special city council meeting was called to ratify that decision, which would enable the city to apply for county, state, and federal funds to assist tenants and landlords.

Residents had only thirty seconds each to speak at the special meeting, but Mayor Ron Morrison said they could bring up any issues related to the rainstorms at the following Tuesday's council meeting, which would be focused entirely on the emergency. That meeting was slated to include Councilmember Jose Rodriguez's suggestion to discuss an eviction moratorium and the cessation of rent increases. "Many residents are facing evictions," said Rodriguez. "Some have rent increases coming up in February at a time when they've lost everything."

SHEILA PELL



Highland View in sunnier days, before the rains.



"Any people in the trunk to declare?"

TIJUANA

## Blind mule bound at border Date leads to detention for unwitting smuggler

On the night of November 17, San Diegan Esmeralda Rocha (not her real name) set out to cross the border back to her home from Tijuana, just as she did every weekend. But while she was in the Senti lane at San Ysidro's International Port of Entry, she was told to get out of her car by a U.S. border agent. When she did, she was handcuffed, taken into custody, and left to wait in a room until two agents showed up and read the alarmed woman her rights. The

Revolucion and 3rd Street parking lot. She explained to the agents that during the event, he was using his cell phone constantly, and that he even came up with a random story about needing to meet his cousin all of a sudden. Once they were back in the car, he insisted on going with her to Plaza Pueblo Amigo, the last exit right before the border, where he would hop out to meet his cousin. Minutes later, she was in the custody of the border patrol.

"I showed them the chat on my cellphone and his pictures," says Esmeralda. "They told me I would not be the last person that this happened to, and that they have an eye

"They told me I would not be the last person that this happened to, and that they have an eye on him already. But since he's in Mexico, there is nothing they can do."

agents showed her photos of the two people who were found hidden in her car's trunk, and told her she could face federal charges.

Esmeralda decided not to wait for a lawyer, but to answer all the agents' questions. She told them she had no idea about people in her trunk, but admitted that some unusual things had happened earlier that day during her visit to Tijuana. One of the people she had seen was a man she had met on Instagram, gotten to know by chatting on WhatsApp, and then met for a date. "That day," she recalls, "he actually asked me more than once if I took my car with me to Tijuana, and asked me where I parked. I told him I didn't want to drive any longer, so he told me he could drive my car and take us to a restaurant called El Muchacho Alegre in Zona Rio. He would pay for it all, and even put gas in the tank. So I gave him my keys. I guess that was a big mistake."

After dinner, Esmeralda had a performance she wanted to attend, so they went together and parked in the Avenida

on him already. But since he's in Mexico, there is nothing they can do. They told me I was used as a blind mule. Because I have a clean record and a good job, and family, it was obvious that it was not worth it for me to take the risk of losing what I have."

But while Esmeralda wasn't charged, she still had to pay \$1200 for the tow fee. Her car was searched for any tracking devices or drugs. She decided to sell the car, but because the vehicle plates were linked to the episode, she lost about \$2000. But the worst part of it is that the arrest is on her record, and she lost her Senti card. "I don't go to Tijuana now as often as before for sure; without my Senti I wait in line for about three hours. I used to cross in 20 minutes with it. Plus, every time I cross, they search my car. And the Customs agents told me if I report it to Tijuana's police or try to find the man, it could be dangerous for me, because sometimes, they are working together."

IVAN MOLINA



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

## THE RETAIL LANDSCAPE

### Two carts, not smart

**Walmart thieves caught, but store closing anyway**

According to the El Cajon Police Department, at about 6 pm on January 23, a woman entered the Walmart in the Parkway Plaza

The two drove around the mall, parked, and entered the Aldi grocery store at about 6:30 pm. “One woman filled a shopping cart with merchandise and left the store without paying,” reads the police report. “The female punched an employee who tried to stop the theft, causing minor injury.” The thief then exited the grocery store and “staged” the get-away vehicle closer to the 67 freeway onramp.

Officers “quickly arrived and detained the women, and found their vehicle loaded with stolen merchandise,” continues the



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Mall on Fletcher Parkway and packed her shopping cart with various products. Then she pushed the cart outside the big-box store without paying, and loaded the stolen merchandise into what witnesses said was a white Nissan Sentra driven by a female accomplice. By the time the police arrived, the two suspects — Lex Smith, 28, and Elaine Bouis-Medrano, 29 — were gone. But they hadn't gone too far.

police report. “The women were identified as being involved in both incidents, and were booked into Las Colinas Detention Facility on felony charges.”

“Good for them thieves!” exclaimed Mike Vasquez, who lives in La Mesa and frequents the Walmart in Grossmont Center. “Every time I go to Walmart, there's always a police unit outside. Honestly, I think the self-check-

continued on page 32

# UNDER THE RADAR

**Six-figure loophole?** Republican County Supervisor **Joel Anderson** is running for reelection this year. He's also campaigning for a seat on the Republican County Central Committee. Anderson is raising big money for the latter effort using a loophole in county campaign fundraising law, allowing him to take in \$341,928 last year for the Central Committee campaign from an assortment of special interests, per a January 27 disclosure filing. The filing reports that \$15,000 came from the Laborers Pacific Southwest Regional Organizing Coalition PAC of Sacramento on September 26. The So Cal District Council of Laborers PAC of Long Beach gave him same November 6. Two \$10,000 donors were the Associated Builders & Contractors PAC on July 10 and the Deputy Sheriffs Association of San Diego County PAC on September 26. **Laura Nelson** of Cass Construction kicked in \$4000 on July 24. But the biggest single contribution was made by real estate developer and rental property champion **Dan Feder** of F&F Properties, with a whopping \$25,000 on August 23. Each of those donations far exceeded the \$1000 cap on contributions to his county supervisor campaign committee. As the Registrar of Voters website notes, “Individual contribution limits apply for each election and to County Offices Only.”

Last May 13, Feder, an ardent foe of rent control, was limited to giving Anderson's supervisor re-election committee the legal maximum of \$2000, \$1000 each for the primary and general elections. “Rent control is a major threat, not just from the property owner's standpoint, but also for the state of California,” Feder has been quoted as saying in the online newsletter *rentalpropertybroker.com*. “Nothing works unless there are incentives. What they should be doing is figuring out how more can get built. The *San Diego Business Journal* had an article about the toughest places to build. Number two is New York. San Diego was number one. Think about that. New York easier than San Diego? We should be embarrassed.”

Meanwhile, San Diego Mayor **Todd Gloria**, widely regarded as an odds-on favorite for re-election this year, is also campaigning for a seat on the Democratic Central Committee. His political consultant in that effort, **Jennifer Tierney**'s Gemini Group of Williamsburg, Virginia, was owed \$2000 at the close of the most recent reporting period at the end of last year, per a January 25 disclosure. “When she isn't working in California,” says Gemini's website,

“Jen stays busy in Virginia, where she is chair of Historic Triangle Democrats, a four-locality local Democratic Committee and a member of the Virginia Democratic Party Central Committee for the 1st Congressional District. She is also vice chair for the Eastern Region of the Virginia Association of Democratic Chairs.” Gloria's fundraiser **Corey Polant** was paid \$1800 during the period. The mayor's central committee campaign ended the year with \$23,926.



Joel Anderson: Committee campaign accommodates cash

## Political journalism

With the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, owned by vulture investing outfit Alden Global Capital, already suffering from chronic downsizing, yet another local reporting operation also could be about to take a hit. Back in August, the non-profit *iNews-source* announced it was using money from the freshly established California Local News Fellowship program to hire **Philip Salata** as its environ-

ment and energy reporter. “Made possible through \$25 million in state funding and a new state law, the fellowship, run by UC Berkeley Journalism, will provide two-year reporting fellowships to 120 early career journalists over the next five years,” said *iNews-source*. “The fellows will be placed in newsrooms across California.” But now a new report by the *San Francisco Chronicle* says the program may soon fall victim to a looming state deficit, prompting another round of devastating newsroom layoffs. “Prior to publication, California Department of Finance spokesperson **H.D. Palmer** confirmed that the funding could be part of \$350 million in proposed cuts to ‘legislative requests’ that

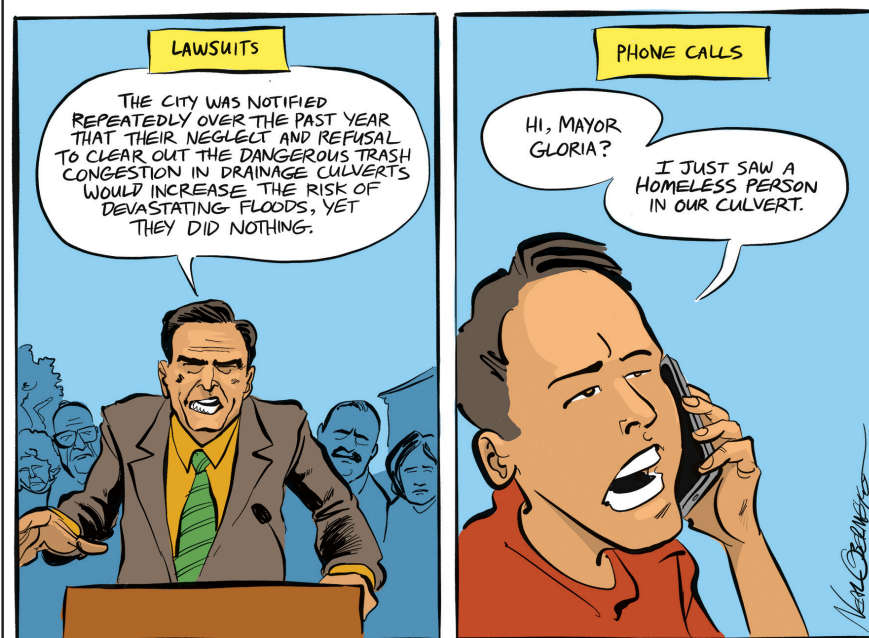
had not yet been specified by [Governor Gavin] Newsom,” says the January 23 account “After publication, Palmer contacted the *Chronicle* saying that he had checked with staff in the department who said the governor was not explicitly calling for the funding to be cut. Budget negotiations are ongoing, and the projected deficit — and, by extension, the proposed cuts — could shrink or grow between now and June

when the final budget is due.” In the meantime, reporters and other staffers at the *New York Daily News* became the latest Alden employees to walk out for a day. “About 40 members of the *Daily News* union walked a picket line in the rain around a Midtown Manhattan office building where the News maintains a co-working space that can fit only six people, according to union leaders,” reported Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* January 25. “A *Daily News* reporter

continued on page 32

## Neal Obermeyer

TWO STRATEGIES TO MOTIVATE THE CITY TO CLEAN OUT THE STORM DRAINS IN SOUTHCREST:





## LETTERS

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

### Hope for the future?

Holy crap, mere days after I wrote calling the Reader a right wing rag (for a stolen bike piece) you said "hold my beer" and published a sympathetic puff piece on Ashli Babbitt ("Questions Ashli Babbitt left behind", Cover Story, January 24). What were you thinking?!? I guess it's one way to gain attention, but dammit that's insane.

I WILL, however, give you

credit for publishing letters that called out that bullshit. Maybe you should re-read them and learn from your horrific mistake.

Anthony H  
Rancho Peñasquitos

### Babbitt bolstered

I was disgusted at the hateful letters from a handful of loathsome readers ("Sorry, not sorry for Ashli Babbitt," Letters, February 1) who expressed vile disregard for the life of an unarmed, diminutive, honorably discharged USAF veteran (who served during wartime, not safely at stateside) executed by an incompetent (at best), homicidal (at worst) Capitol police officer. He had already proven himself to be untrustworthy, and should have been relieved of his duties after the first of the two reckless incidences for which there should have been zero

tolerance. Leaving a firearm in a restroom accessible to the public?! Discharging your firearm in a fit of rage over a car thief? This was one loose cannon, to say the very least, what a liability!

Michael Byrd is a coward. Even his own colleagues at the scene were shocked by his actions, and stated that there was no clear evidence he reacted appropriately as any officer would have. It was a blatant lie that "members of Congress" were at risk; that is laughable, to say the least. This lovely young wife and daughter was a patriot and a "peaceful protester". She came to support President Trump. Unlike the BLM and Antifa, (and now Pro-Hamas rioters and true insurrectionists at the capitol recently, trying to breach) without even a handy can of soup in her backpack, much less a molotov cocktail or a weapon.

Michael Byrd is no hero, he is an absolute disgrace. How delusional he was to claim that he acted with great courage. Praising himself after killing a 110-lb. woman who he had no compelling reason whatsoever to believe was armed. He is pathetic.

This after I watched an entire nation mourn the death of a career felon who, at least on some level, resisted arrest and died in the process. He was buried in a gold coffin like a pagan god, a modern day King Tut, and his family compensated with millions.

Ashli Babbitt's murder is long overdue to be avenged and her family made whole. If the MAGA Republicans were anything like the Marxist thugs who march in the streets, obstructing major traffic routes, loot, burn, and attempt (some successfully in 2020) to assassinate police officers, there would have been hell to pay, so to speak, after this young patriots was slain by a poor excuse for an "officer." He should be switching places with Derek Chauvin, not receiving a promotion from this corrupt administration. The 'neighbors' who had the audacity to say she got what she deserved

have the same mindset of the Pro-Hamas vermin (yes, the nicest word I can come up with) who blame the massacre of innocent Israelis on Israel for existing. I stand behind veteran Ashli Babbitt's survivors in their pursuit of justice.

Laurie K  
Otay Ranch

### Don't buy the Big Lie

It would seem reasonable that you anti-police, anti-gun, saviors of democracy could contain your delusional opinions about Jan. 6 and what insurrection didn't happen on that day ("Sorry, not sorry for Ashli Babbitt," Letters, February 1). Obviously we were not there to witness the event, yet the released footage speaks for itself. I guess those BLM riots were peaceful protests and just folks exercising their rights to assemble. Attacking and destroying a federal courthouse, attempting to attack the White House and the rest of the estimated 20 billion dollars of damage they caused was justified right?

How ironic to name the coward that shot Ashli and liken him to a hero. He shot her first then called in "shots fired." where is the demand to de-fund the police? Since MSNB or the Jan. 6 committee would never interview the Capitol Police chief or other officers that were present, you that have truly bought the "Big Lie" are simply garden variety Trump haters.

I hope your children are conscripted to fight these endless wars your president is pushing for or at least have your precious electric bike stolen by an asylum seeker that needs it much more than you. Shame on you people.

AlOmney  
La Mesa

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

### Stomping Savoy and Heaping Uriah

**Concert Reviews, Oct. 26, 1972**  
Hey I was at that show.  
Uriah Heep rocked it!

-I.M. Old

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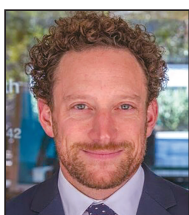
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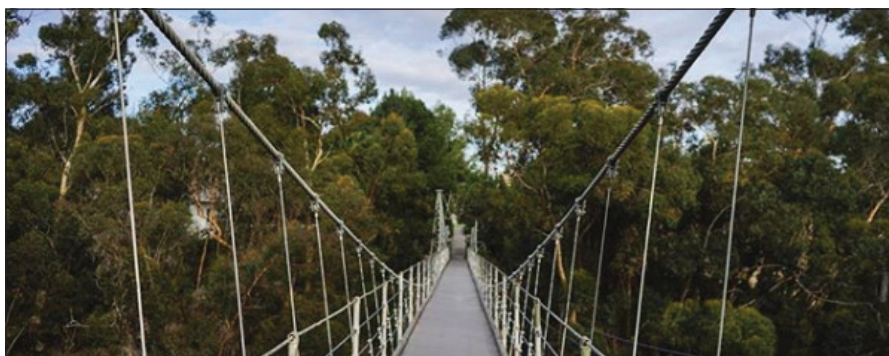
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Walter  
Mencken's

# SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

## Crossover Campaign

Adidas inks deal with fashionable fencehopper



Nonike: "When Mr. Rodriguez signed with us, he promised that if he was apprehended and deported for some reason, he would not give up until he had crossed the border again — and again, if need be. That's the kind of drive and determination to succeed that we salute here at Adidas. Truly, an inspiration to us all."

Two weeks ago, FOX border reporter Bill Melugin posted a video on X showing a group of immigrants slipping around the end of the border wall in Jacumba, California. The Biden Administration didn't seem to care much about the incursion, but one of those immigrants caught the attention of someone much more important: Adidas head of marketing Alan Nonike. "What can I say?"

explains Nonike, "the guy had such grace and composure as he slipped through that gap in the razor wire. So many of his compatriots were clumsy and timid by comparison. And of course, I noticed that he was wearing a pair of Adidas warm-up pants — perfect for the sort of cross-training activity in which he was partaking. Right then, I knew we had our next endorsement deal." Nonike

managed to find the immigrant, Ivan Rodriguez of Honduras, and signed him to a one-year, \$15 million contract. Pictured above is the initial ad in the company's upcoming "Keep Running" ad campaign, featuring Rodriguez in a still from Melugin's video. "Behold, sports fans," boasted Nonike in conclusion, "the new face of American athletic excellence."

## Houses of Worship

Massage Parlor allowed to re-open after re-branding as church

Last week, the San Diego Police Department shut down the Ocean Spa massage parlor in Kearny Mesa, after an extensive investigation revealed that it was the site of frequent exchanges of money for sexual favors. Police reported that some of the illegal acts that were going on inside were so loud that they disrupted services at a church that occupied the building's next-door unit. But while that juxtaposition proved outrageous enough to get the police to take punitive action, it also sowed the seeds for Ocean Spa's comeback as The Ocean Spa Temple, a church modeled after the ancient Temples of Aphrodite, wherein men sought to commune with the divine through acts of sexual intercourse with women who worked in the temple as facilitators. The men would then leave donations to the

temple, donations which, as Ocean Spa Temple owner Suzi Scarab notes, "are entirely tax deductible, since they are



One of the massage rooms, er, spaces of sacred communion, at the new Ocean Spa, complete with poster showing temple prostitute and client in ancient Greece.

charitable gifts to a church. But other than that, we really haven't changed much. We've always specialized in taking men to paradise. The city's action here just makes it official. I should note how grateful I am to our religious-minded neighbors; without them, I doubt the idea would have occurred to me!"

## Into the Multi-Worse

New billboard on 94 West takes aim at diversity

"Sometimes, you have to follow where a project leads you," says Message Maker Chief Creative Officer Sam Bluesky. "When the people at Belonging Begins with Us came to us, they said they wanted to use the racially diverse cast of the hit film *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* to send kids a message about the value of diversity. Their simple, powerful idea was, 'We are stronger together.' Beautiful. We were happy to accept, and got right to work on design. But after a couple of days, our Head of Continuity Don Downer came to us with a troublesome observation: the whole point of the film *Across the Spider-Verse* is that



Just asking questions!

these Spider-Men from different timelines aren't stronger together. They have to stay far apart — segregated into their own particular timelines, if you will — or else they risk destroying the very fabric of reality. What's more, the epic chase scene in which a thousand different Spider-Men — and Women! — try to catch one special Spider-Man named Miles Morales, and fail spectacularly at it, also seems to indicate that

we aren't stronger together, not when 'we' can all be eluded by a single exceptional person. That got us thinking: *how valuable is diversity, really?* I mean, we'd like it to be true, but looking around the office at Message Maker, I see a lot of people who look pretty similar, and we're doing great. In the end, we had to change the billboard from a popmyst aspiration to a painful inquiry. But we think that's a good thing."

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# This is surfing. There are rules.



“The surfing community is pretty open and inclusive now and it’s heading in the right direction,” says Jana Beresford, noting there are still “lingering stereotypes.”

## KOOKS & CHAOS

In 1965, the writer Tom Wolfe visited a beach in La Jolla, looking to shine a light on The Youth of Today. He found his subject in a bunch of Windansea locals, many of them surfers, who liked to hang out near the sewage pump house and cast aspersions on The Olds. And he immortalized them in his 1968 essay *The Pump House Gang*, spinning a story which, whatever its embellishments, also gave the world a glimpse of

California surf culture as it was coming of age in the mid-’60s: a sport, but also a lifestyle, a cultural phenomenon. The community Wolfe portrayed was suspicious of authority and disdainful of outsiders — including the author himself, adults, tourists and anyone from east of I-5. The account provided a gritty counterpoint to the sunny, sanitized world of films like 1965’s *Beach Blanket Bingo* and the cheerful

harmonies of the Beach Boys’ “Surfin’ USA.”

Wolfe is gone now, and so is the closed community he portrayed. Today, surfing in San Diego is for teenage girls and their mothers, middle-age guys, prosperous golfers, and the IT guy and the friends he surfs with after work. It’s open to soft-toppers, boogie-boarders, foil boarders, kneeboarders, longboarders, and short-board surfers. It’s open to *everyone*, which, depending



on who you talk to, either marks the end of what was great about surfing to begin with or the beginning of a more inclusive and democratic era. As the 47-year-old longtime surf journalist and critic Charles “Chas” Smith puts it, “The doors are wide open. Anyone can go basically anywhere.”

Today, all you have to do is check out a professional surfing contest to see how surfing marketers have pulled a nifty 180 on the gang at the pump house. The edginess and cool indifference and even the bikini contests are gone. The World Surf League’s brand seems to be all about sustainability and paying homage to indigenous cultures, while the International Surf League’s message is that the simple act of riding a wave can bridge divides and heal the world. Nice sentiments, just vastly different from how Smith and other surfers who came of age in the ‘80s and ‘90s felt and were perceived: as members of an exclusive club of mostly guys, engaged in an activity that most people would never understand or experience themselves. There used be an ad that ran in *Surfer*



Back in the day: Bill Fitzmaurice in the middle, leaning against the pump.

*Magazine*: “Only a Surfer Knows the Feeling.” Today, the promise is that everyone can know the feeling, as long as they spend a hundred bucks at Costco on a soft-top surfboard.

Smith isn’t thrilled with the changes he’s seen, and the co-creator of the satirical, sometimes serious *Beach Grit* blog and co-host of *The Grit* podcast isn’t shy about saying so. For starters, he’d like the newer crop of surfers to not feel so damn comfortable from the get-go; a little trepidation at the outset isn’t such a bad thing. “Going to a surf shop as a kid, I would always feel intimidated,”

he says. “You’d go inside and right away get vibed by the shop owner and the kids working the checkout desk, who looked right out of central casting.” Smith views the experience as an important rite of passage, just like getting thrown over the falls for the first time. Today, he says, “Surf shops are rarer and rarer. You can go into a surf shop and they’re just happy to have your business.”

It’s worse on the water, where there’s less shaming of “kooks” — new, clueless surfers who don’t realize they’re clueless. They enter the water like they own the place. “All of the kook-jumping

you once had to do to feel like, ‘Okay, I got this,’ has disappeared,” Smith says. The sport has been sullied by an “anything goes” attitude in the water, where order and hierarchy have been replaced by chaos, anarchy, and selfishness. “If you just start something you shouldn’t be expected to know all the rules right away,” Smith concedes. What baffles him is the kooks’ indifference; they don’t seem to care about learning. Recently, he was out surfing “and the water was choked with kooks like it is now all the time.” For a long moment, he just watched them flailing around on

their soft-tops, not taking it seriously. It was almost an epiphany for Smith: “Surfing was just an activity for them,” he explains, right up there with playing racquetball or hitting the gym or playing golf. Nothing against having fun and keeping in shape, but the passion and commitment to surfing — to *being a surfer* — seemed to be missing.

If saying all this means coming across as a surfing elitist or purist, that’s okay with him, because as he sees it, he’s looking out for the larger surfing community. For Smith, the rise in blissfully unaware kooks is making surfing less enjoyable and less safe for the surfers who have paid their dues. “I don’t know if it was a magic time or if it can ever be recreated, but I feel surfing needs it again. Surfing’s not for everyone. It’s for a select few.”

But Jana Beresford, a 20-year-old SDSU student, isn’t buying Smith’s old-school ideas. “The surfing community is pretty open and inclusive now and it’s heading in the right direction,” she says, noting there are still “lingering stereotypes.” Her father Jack Beresford, a kneeboarder and

standup surfer who’s been a Blacks local for over 40 years, is also accepting: “There’s certainly more people surfing and many have different abilities, and that’s not a bad thing. There’s enough waves for everyone.” Well, maybe. Whatever your opinion on kook-shaming, the fact is that they aren’t making any more coast, and a more open surf culture means more people in the water. Overcrowding is a real concern, and everyone I interviewed for this story attributed it, at least in part, to the Covid cohort — or what Smith terms “the late adopters.” (More cheekily, this particular brand of newbie is sometimes called a VAL — Vulnerable Adult Learner).

Bill Fitzmaurice, 69, who recently ended a five-year stint as president of the Windansea Surf Club, puts it this way: “During Covid, I think a lot of people, when they were kind of ordered to stay home and not go to work, said, ‘You know what? I’m doing nothing. I’ve always wanted to try surfing.’” This new wave of surfers, one that included many middle-aged men, flocked to Windansea in

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droves — many of them unaware of the spot's prestige, mythology, and unwritten code of conduct.

Rising pro Titus Santucci was recently selected as a member of the prestigious 2023-24 USA Surfing Junior National Team, along with 11 other surfers from across the country. Even as a nine-year-old "grom," or young surfer, Santucci understood the importance of etiquette, and of using good judgment. When the Encinitas surfer, now 18, started out, "There were breaks that I would surf and feel comfortable at, and there were breaks I wouldn't dare go near because I thought I wasn't good enough to surf there." Even if he had tried, he says, "The locals wouldn't have let me catch waves."

Smith says another part of the current trouble comes from the newbies' grabby attitude. "Like, I'm



**Bill Fitzmaurice, who recently ended a five-year stint as president of the Windansea Surf Club, says, "During Covid, I think a lot of people, when they were kind of ordered to stay home and not go to work, said, 'You know what? I'm doing nothing. I've always wanted to try surfing.'"**

out here, I'm gonna get every wave I can get. What kind of world is this? If you took your one or two waves and did it properly, there's enough to go around," he says. Smith concedes that surfing "is an essentially selfish pur-

suit." But the difference now is that at most spots, surfing is unregulated by "a grumpy local," an enforcer who can keep rogue surfers in line.

As Fitzmaurice puts it, "You know, if you don't know what you're doing,

and you're paddling for waves that you shouldn't be paddling into, somebody politely is going to come up to you and say, 'Listen, you know, congrats, you're trying to surf. That's great. You know, I wish you weren't, because

it makes the water more crowded. But since you are, let me suggest you find a different place to surf. You've got to be a solid surfer to be out here. You're gonna get hurt, or you're gonna hurt somebody else."

Example: Smith enjoys surfing with his wife Circe and their daughter but worries about the kooks who can't control their boards. He describes a scenario where his daughter will be "on the inside, catching a little bowl. And there'll be people on big boards dropping in on her. They're not doing it necessarily on purpose. They're just so unaware that they don't see her coming down the line."

Jack Beresford, who's the director of public relations and communications for the San Diego Community College District, and also an 8-time kneeboard champion and a founder

of Kneeboard Surfing USA, isn't anybody's grumpy enforcer. "You know, it's funny, I hear a lot of grumbling about crowds," he says, "but it's *always* been crowded. I mean, at least since the '80s. It's like anywhere else. You have busy days and light days." Even at a relatively remote spot like Blacks, "when it's on and people know it's on, it's a busy place." And people know when it's on, thanks to "the technology and information that people have at their disposal. I mean, we've got cameras, we've got surf forecasting. People know days in advance when it's going to be on. There's no real surprises anymore."

And if everybody knows when it's on, you can end up with a lot of bodies in the water — some would say too many bodies. In 1980, the Surf Punks released "My Wave." It was



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Even as a “grom,” or young surfer, rising pro Titus Santucci understood the importance of etiquette, and of using good judgment. When the Encinitas surfer, now 18, started surfing, “There were breaks that I would surf and feel comfortable at, and there were breaks I wouldn’t dare go near because I thought I wasn’t good enough to surf there.”

a parody, sort of: *This is my wave baby/Don’t cut me off/Dropping down left/Eat the rocks/Gonna break your face/Go back to the Valley/And don’t come back.* Most spots today, even Windansea, Swamis, and Sunset Cliffs, are nothing like that caricature. And yet, part of that unwritten code is that a given surfer on a given wave at a given time *does* own it, such that other surfers should stay off said wave and not interfere with their right of way. Bill Fitzmaurice

is used to hearing the refrain, “It’s not your ocean, it’s everyone’s.” Well, yes and no. “Legally, yes,” he says, “you have the right to be out in the water. The waves belong to everybody. This is the United States of America and you have the right to paddle out anywhere you want to. But do you have the right to paddle into a wave that somebody’s already on?” No, not really.

Jack Beresford thinks that most often, wave-dropping is just a mistake on the part of the clueless.

“It does happen that people are in the wrong place at the wrong time, but more frequently, they’re gonna bend over backwards to apologize.” But at a certain point, says Chas Smith, who views the Covid cohort of surfers as some of the most selfish he’s seen, the cluelessness is cultivated. “Dropping in on someone else’s wave is the entitlement of ‘I don’t care and nobody’s gonna say anything about it, because nobody does anymore.’” And when someone finally does say



Surf journalist and critic Charles “Chas” Smith says, “Surfing’s not for everyone. It’s for a select few.”

something, they’re usually pretty upset. “Yelling matches definitely happen” at Encinitas’ Seaside Reef and D Street, says Titus Santucci — even if they are pretty rare. And it’s always because a newbie put a surfer in harm’s way.

“I don’t see arguments, conflicts, fights, things like that” at Blacks, says Beresford. “I can’t remember the last time I saw a fight in the water. It has definitely changed since the ‘70s and ‘80s. I think it was a different attitude, a different vibe, back then,” he says. “Thankfully, I think it’s much better now.” (Technology may deserve part of the credit here. As Fitzmaurice puts it, “It’s not worth it to start a fight. You can snap a picture or take a video. You’ve got lifeguards watching. I mean, you can’t even raise your voice without somebody starting to film or video it.”)

But that’s Blacks, one of the most challenging spots in San Diego, if not Southern California. Not exactly a newbie magnet. In August 2022, a highly publicized incident at Windansea put Surf Punks-style localism back in the headlines. As reported by CBS 8, “A surfer got into an ar-

gument with other surfers in the water, punches were thrown, and the one surfer claimed to be held underwater for 30 seconds.” According to Fitzmaurice, who knows the kids who were involved and the lifeguards on the scene (“they saw the whole incident”), this story “got so blown out of proportion” and is *not* a case study on the dangers of extreme localism. Rather, it should serve as a warning about poor etiquette in general, and specifically, what not to do when you paddle out at Windansea.

Fitzmaurice’s version is that “some kid from North County” came to Windansea and wanted to make it clear he was The Man, even though he was “just a decent surfer.” He paddled out “right to the lineup and started taking off on waves, cutting a couple kids off, and started yelling at the locals,” who Fitzmaurice describes as being between 14 and 18 years old. When one of the local kids paddled up to the cocky newcomer and said, “You just cut me off,” the troublemaker “started spitting and splashing water at him.” Then a yelling match ensued. What *didn’t* happen? According to Fitzmaurice, there

was no fight: no one ever touched the kid and no one held him under water. He says the kid essentially lied to the cops and to the media.

So maybe that grumpy enforcer isn’t such a bad thing after all? “Localism is 100 percent a good thing,” says Santucci. “When a spot becomes overcrowded and has nobody to enforce surfing etiquette within the lineup, it gets out of control.” Smith seconds the young pro. “I’ve always been on the record of being a fan of localism. I think that you need to have order in the water. I know it’s not cool to have gatekeepers, but I think surfing needs gatekeepers. It’s no fun for anybody when everybody’s dropping in on a wave.”

Swamis in Encinitas, says Santucci, is the perfect example. “When the wave is good, it gets very overcrowded and there is often no one in the lineup to call people out when they do dangerous things.” He says that anytime the waves are good at Swamis, he sees a bunch of party fouds that could have landed someone in the hospital — for example, surfers bailing on their boards in heavy traffic. “I try to keep

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a positive atmosphere in the lineup, but there are definitely times when an enforcer needs to step in to keep a surfer in check. Whether they are being dangerous in the lineup or not being respectful, it's nice to have someone at a spot that will remind them that they are ruining other people's sessions."

Enforcers are not random goons. A true enforcer is a trusted local who has the respect of the other locals — and the authority, unofficial though it may be, to deal with rude surfers who transgress the unwritten but inviolable rules of the wave. When Bill Fitzmaurice moved with his family to La Jolla in the early '70s, a friend picked him up at the airport and took him straight to La Jolla Shores for a candid conversation. "Bill, if you're going to survive here, you got to know a couple of things,"

his friend told him. "You'd better think of La Jolla like it's an insane asylum, and the walls fell down and nobody left. And if you can get your brain wrapped around that, you just might survive here."

The inmates who didn't leave were a group of hardcore local surfers who didn't want anything to do with Tom Wolfe. They made a lot of trouble and had a lot of fun, going so far as to create, as an inside joke, the infamous Mac Meda Destruction Company. They were also the gatekeepers at Windansea. "You had to be at least a really solid surfer to paddle out," explains Fitzmaurice, who spent 12 years on the board of the Windansea Surf Club. "A guy we called 'Brud' had to give you permission to paddle out." Brud kept things safe and sane.

Brud is gone now, but as Fitzmaurice noted,

there are still those who will take up his part. "Say there's a scenario where somebody is just being very disrespectful, a jerk, cutting people off, disrespecting the locals — then he shouldn't be out in the water," he says. "A couple guys might paddle over to him and say, 'Hey, dude, you know, maybe split, go to the Shores, don't surf,'" he says. And they might up the ante if the troublemaker doesn't comply. "I strongly suggest you listen. This is not a beginner wave. You're gonna hurt yourself or you're gonna hurt one of us, and we really prefer you get out of the water. Come back a year or two from now when you're a lot better." If that doesn't work, there's a few people Fitzmaurice knows that would paddle up and say, "Listen, this has gone past the point where we're asking you nicely. Get out. All right?



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Or maybe you might get dragged out of the water.”

Fitzmaurice doesn't want to overstate things or engage in hyperbole. He says for the most part, surfers can come to Windansea, even for the first time, and have a good session and not get hassled — as long as they're decent surfers who conduct themselves respectfully. It's true that, on a visit to the notorious Lunada Bay in Palos Verdes, Fitzmaurice was preparing to paddle out when “I got hit in the head with a rock.” But a lawsuit currently making its way through the courts is expected to return Lunada Bay to the people. This isn't Hollywood, which is currently producing a Nicolas Cage revenge pic

about an outsider who gets pushed too far by the locals.

In the real world. If you get barked at by a grumpy local, Beresford advises that “you learn from the experience. It's not the end of the world. Hopefully they do it in a constructive way.” That's what happened to him. When he was a grom, he was surfing Scripps and paddling back out after taking a wave. As he tried to get to the shoulder and over the wave before it broke on him, he saw a guy take off, heading his way. “He pulls me aside afterwards and he's like, ‘Dude, you got to take your lumps, man, you got to take your lumps.’ And maybe it was a little hard to hear at the time, but he was right, and



Jack Beresford's daughter Jana surfs with her sister and friends, but there's nothing like the surfing ritual she shares with her dad. “There's a fun little routine we've gotten into, besides the actual surfing,” she tells me.

I learned that lesson right then — you know, when you're in that position, you paddle for the whitewater, you take your lumps. I al-

ways remember that.”

And he remembers the more experienced surfer's blunt but unhostile manner. “There's a way to deal with less experienced surfers in a friendly, helpful way that encourages them. Because we're all out there for the same reason.”

So, where to begin? The vast majority of new surfers — and many seasoned ones, too — prefer a beach break like La Jolla Shores, Scripps, or Pacific Beach. There's usually less localism at these spots — and at beach breaks in general — and less experienced surfers can usually find a

section that's less crowded. Take the Shores, for example. “It's a kook fest down there,” says Jack's daughter, Jana. “So, you got to know that going into it. Normally, the only guys out there that get on my nerves are the middle school boys or the middle-aged men who think they run the place” — wannabe kings of the two-footers.

If you really want to avoid the crowds and practice your craft, there's a wave pool in Palm Springs and another one expected to open in Oceanside in 2026. But wave pools lack what

Jana Beresford describes as “the kind of healing and restorative energy that any surfer craves, whether you're competing or just hanging with the seals and dolphins.”

Or with your fellow surfers Says Jack, “I think the real story is how there's a family out there, people who see each other and get to know each other over the years. Depending on the time of day that you surf, you'll see the same guys every day or every couple of days.”

For her part, daughter Jana surfs with her sister and friends, but says there's nothing like the surfing ritual she shares with her dad. “There's a fun little routine we've gotten into, besides the actual surfing,” she tells me. “We have our pre-surf tunes and post-surf tunes, and enough water in the jug to rinse off after a long session. And there's normally some kind of snack to chase the salty taste on the ride home. It's honestly some of the purest moments of stoke, and it's so cool that we can share those moments together. He catches a lot of the waves that I want, but it's okay, cuz he's my dad.”

— Adam Behar



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The Hails formed at the University of Florida, working on their blend of rock, alt-folk, and R&B for around seven years before releasing their debut



THE HAILS

album in 2023. They're on their first road trip as headliners for their *What's Your Motive* tour. On the bill is alt-surf-jazz rock group Foxtide, fronted by Elijah Gibbins-Croft and backed by a shifting lineup of players.

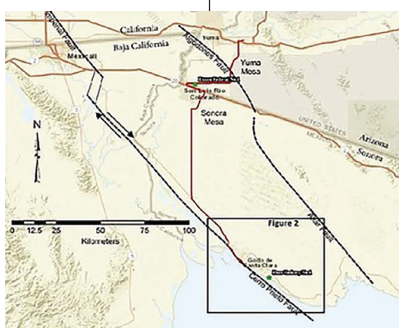
**WHEN:** Thursday, February 8, 7:30 pm

**WHERE:** House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. [houseofblues.com/sandiego](http://houseofblues.com/sandiego)

### Friday | 9

#### THE EL GOLFO PROJECT

*The El Golfo Project: Thirty Years of Collecting and Research* is being presented by the Anza-Borrego Desert Paleontology Society. Guest speaker Fred Croxen will explain



part of the resource inventory for the Upper Gulf of California and Colorado River Delta Biosphere Reserve. Located about 150 miles southeast of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the El Golfo beds have been the source of nearly 14,000 fossils.

**WHEN:** Friday, February 9, 10 am to 12 pm

**WHERE:** Borrego Springs Library, 2580 Country Club Road, Borrego Springs. [anzaborregopaleo.org](http://anzaborregopaleo.org)

### Saturday | 10

#### PRESENTATION ON THE MYSTERIOUS FOOTBALL FISH

Take in a presentation by Ben Frable, Collection Manager of the Marine Vertebrate Collection at Scripps Institution, and hear the story of how he discovered several rare football fish that washed up on San Diego beaches in 2021 and 2023. This free event is for both adults and kids age 15 and older.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 10, 10 am to 11 am

**WHERE:** Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane, Carlsbad. [batiquitoslagoon.org](http://batiquitoslagoon.org)

#### ESCONDIDO CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

Stroll in and out of over 20 designated restaurants, shops, and spa tasting locations while sampling chocolate paired with local wines and craft beers. Hop on the Old Town Trolley to get around.

Enjoy event-day specials at many downtown businesses and restaurants. Plus: Chocolate truffle making classes, raffle prizes, and Valentine treats. Bonus: free photos



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10: PRESENTATION ON THE MYSTERIOUS FOOTBALL FISH

and long-stemmed roses for festival passport holders.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 10, 12 pm to 5 pm

**WHERE:** Maple Street Plaza, on



Maple Street between Grand Avenue and Valley Parkway, Escondido. [downtownescondido.com/esco-choc-fest](http://downtownescondido.com/esco-choc-fest)

### Tuesday | 13

#### GASLAMP MARDI GRAS

Celebrate pre-Superbowl, Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon), Fat

Tuesday, and Valentine's Day by making your way among twenty nightclubs and bars along 5th Avenue. Free entries, welcome shots, drink and dining deals, DJs, face painting, and entertainment.

**WHEN:** Friday, Saturday, and Tuesday, February 9, 10, and 13, 6 pm

**WHERE:** Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Avenue, between Broadway and Harbor Drive, Downtown. [gaslampmardigras.com](http://gaslampmardigras.com)





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

## ART

**Artists' Reception** Enjoy handcrafted "heartworks" by the members of the San Dieguito Art Guild, Josh Levin and Penny Michelle Walmsley. Josh Levin produces textural, three-dimensional mixed media mosaics. Penny Michelle Walmsley is known for her whimsical sterling silver jewelry designs. Saturday, February 10, 2pm; **free**. Off Track Gallery, 937 S. Coast Hwy. 101, suite C-103. (ENCINITAS)

**Beginner's Nature Photography Workshop** The lessons will be led by local photographer and naturalist Hector Valtierra and will be limited to the first 10 people to sign up with Nancy Fernandez via email [Nancy\\_Fernandez@fws.gov](mailto:Nancy_Fernandez@fws.gov). Saturday, February 10, 8:30am; **free**. Tijuana River Estuary, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

**Kara Greenwell: Seen But Not Heard** Kara Greenwell tells the tales women are taught to hide. Her gestural, mixed media works juxtapose vivid personal narrative with provocative feminist themes.

Saturday, February 10, 3pm; **free**. FIVEart Studio & Gallery, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd Barracks 16, Suite 206. (LIBERTY STATION)

## BEER

**Gaslamp Mardi Gras** Five combined Celebrations including Pre-Superbowl, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year of the Dragon, Fat Tuesday and Valentine's Day, taking place among 20 nightclubs and bars along the 5th Avenue. Friday, February 9, 6pm; Saturday, February 10, 6pm; Tuesday, February 13, 6pm; \$29-\$100. 21 and up. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**Kate Quinn & Janie Chang: The Phoenix Crown** Warwick's, in partnership with Coronado Public Library, will host Kate Quinn and Janie Chang for a special launch event as they discuss and sign their new book, *The Phoenix Crown*. Free seating is subject to available space on a first-come, first-served basis. Tuesday, February 13, 7pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

**Monsters on the Loose Book Signing** Meet author and historian Richard L. Carrico as he discusses

his new book *Monsters on the Loose*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing following the lecture. **Free**, but registration requested. Thursday, February 8, 6:30pm; Friday, February 9, 6:30pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Susan Elizabeth Phillips: Simply the Best** Warwick's will host Susan Elizabeth Phillips as she discusses and signs her new book, *Simply the Best: A Chicago Stars Novel*. Free seating is subject to available space on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure seating, reserve one book per person. Monday, February 12, 7:30pm; **free**-\$29. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Weekends with Locals: Jacqueline Lemieux-Bokor** As part of our ongoing Weekends with Locals Program we will be hosting Jacqueline Lemieux-Bokor, author of *Remember Me As Sunshine*. Sunday, February 11, 1pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**2024 Winter Conference** The program schedule is available online for viewing and downloading. Friday, February 9, 10am; **free**. Rosicrucian Fellowship, 2222 Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

## Rhyme & Verse

*Three poems for January*  
by R.S. Thomas

### January

The fox drags its wounded belly  
Over the snow, the crimson seeds  
Of blood burst with a mild explosion,  
Soft as excrement, bold as roses.

Over the snow that feels no pity,  
Whose white hands can give no healing,  
The fox drags its wounded belly.

### Song at the Year's Turning

Shelley dreamed it. Now the dream decays.  
The props crumble; the familiar ways  
Are stale with tears trodden underfoot.  
The heart's flower withers at the root.  
Bury it then, in history's sterile dust.  
The slow years shall tame your tawny lust.

Love deceived him; what is there to say  
The mind brought you by a better way  
To this despair? Lost in the world's wood  
You cannot stanch the bright menstrual blood.  
The earth sickens; under naked boughs  
The frost comes to barb your broken vows.

Is there blessing? Light's peculiar grace  
In cold splendour robes this tortured place  
For strange marriage. Voices in the wind  
Weave a garland where a mortal sinned.  
Winter rots you; who is there to blame?  
The new grass shall purge you in its flame.

## Epiphany

Three kings? Not even one  
any more. Royalty  
has gone to ground, its journeyings  
over. Who now will bring

gifts and to what place? In  
the manger there are only the toys  
and the tinsel. The child  
has become a man. Far

off from his cross in the wrong  
season he sits at table  
with us with on his head  
the fool's cap of our paper money.



R.S. Thomas (1913-2000) was a Welsh poet and Anglican priest whose poems celebrated Welsh nationalism, decried modern technology as a temptation for man to reject his spiritual nature, and condemned the anglicization of Wales and Welsh culture. Many of his later poems were more overtly metaphysical, exploring the nature and challenges of belief in God and man's relationship with the divine. In 1996, he was nominated for but did not win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Among his admirers was the Nobel Laureate of the previous year, the Irish poet Seamus Heaney, who read some of Thomas's poems at a memorial event at Westminster Abbey after Thomas's death.

Find more poetry online at [SDreader.com/poetry](http://SDreader.com/poetry)

**Basic Zentangle** The Zentangle Method, created by Maria Thomas and Rick Roberts, is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Please register in advance @ [bravoschoolofart.squarespace.com/artclasses](mailto:bravoschoolofart.squarespace.com/artclasses). Saturday, February 10, 10am; \$126-\$144. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

**San Diego Suzuki All Stars** The San Diego Suzuki School of Music strives for musical excellence and a lifetime love of learning. Learning music is exciting and joyful within the Suzuki community, and students develop an ongoing desire to learn. Saturday, February 10, 3pm; **free**. Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

**Vegan Cooking 101: Valentine Tapas** Discover new culinary skills and broaden your appreciation of the benefits of plant-based cuisine through culinary demos, food sampling, and community discussions exploring the growing interest in all things vegan. Sunday, February 11, 2pm; **free**. Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

## COMEDY

**Craig Shoemaker** 2 item min purchase per person (food and/or drink) Friday, February 9, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; \$5-\$40. 18 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**Cupid's Comedy Spectacular** An evening of comedy, hosted by Tim X Lee and headlined by Chris Martin. Wednesday, February 14, 7pm; \$30-\$45. Sunshine Brooks Theatre, 217 N. Coast Highway. (OCEANSIDE)

**Emma Willmann** Emma Willmann was a part of the inaugural season of Netflix's *The Lineup*, and has made memorable appearances in CW's *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, Judd Apatow's *Crashing* and *The Good Fight* on Paramount +. Friday, February 9, 7pm and 9:30pm;

Saturday, February 10, 7pm and 9:30pm; \$25-\$35. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

**Free Comedy Night** Headliner Simon Gideon, featuring: Austin Train Char Josh Murgel Ben Keltner and Host Alex Petit. Friday, February 9, 6:30pm; **free**. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

**Ian Fidance** AS SEEN ON: Bein' Ian with Jordan, Comedy Central, Inside Jokes on Prime & more! Thursday, February 8, 8pm; Friday, February 9, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, February 10, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$10. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Pundemonium** Three-part event and comedy show based on the format used by pun contests in cities nationwide. Saturday, February 10, 10pm; **free**. Finest City Improv, 3746 Sixth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

**Telenovela Improv** Join improv team, LIRRR for an hour of over-the-top dramatic passion paired with laughs. Performed in ingles (in English) Friday, February 9, 8:30pm; \$7-\$15. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Todd Barry** Half Joking Tour Thursday, February 8, 7:30pm; \$28. 21 and up. Music Box, 1337 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

**Vanderpump Valentine's with Billie Lee** Seen on Bravo's *Vanderpump Rules* & more. Special giveaway: One winner gets dinner and drinks with the Tom's & Billie at Schwartz and Sandys Lounge in LA. Wednesday, February 14, 8pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

# MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

### WIN TICKETS

Enter to win 4 tickets to Circus Vargas - Jubilé.  
Deadline to Enter: Monday, Feb 12 at 1pm

### WIN GIFT CARDS

Enter to win gift cards for San Diego Restaurant Week.  
Deadline to Enter: Wednesday, Feb 28 at 1pm

### WIN TICKETS

Enter to win a pair of VIP tickets to ShamROCK in the Gaslamp.  
Deadline to Enter: Thursday, Mar 7 at 1pm

Enter to win at [sandiegoreader.com/contests](http://sandiegoreader.com/contests)



## DANCE

**BYU Folk Dance Ensemble** - Wednesday, February 14, 7pm; \$26-\$30. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Our Work/Our Dignity** : Performance Practice for Community Organizing with Andreína aka Nina Maldonado. Arts Building In Room 111 Thursday, February 8, 6:30pm; **free**-\$5. CSU San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

## VALENTINE'S DAY DINING

**A French Affair** Executive Chef Trisha Vasquez showcases her passion for French cuisine. The multi-course tasting menu, starting with a welcome cocktail, sets the stage for an enchanting night with live music, the St Valentine Menu, and an optional wine pairing. Wednesday, February 14, 5pm; \$31-\$50. Wormwood, 4677 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Bubbles and Lobster** Bubbles and Lobster special featuring grilled Maine lobster, ricotta agnolotti with miso vodka sauce and fried sage paired with two glasses of Veuve Clicquot champagne. The shareable special is for two. Wednesday, February 14, 5pm; **free**-\$110. 21 and up. Lionfish, 435 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Cupids Catch** Eight piece nigiri platter featuring bluefin tuna with Hokkaido scallop, lemon, shiso and truffle oil; salmon with honey mustard miso, smoked salt and pickles; chu-toro with nikiri, wasabi and negi; and a surf and turf set featuring beef tataki, king crab, truffle butter and chives. Wednesday, February 14, 11am; **free**-\$60. Temaki Bar, 575 S. Coast Hwy 101. (ENCINITAS)

**Mezcal-infused Romance** 4-course dinner experience led by Executive Chef Adrian Villarreal. Dive into a curated selection of mezcal delights. Wednesday, February 14, 5pm; Tahona, 2414 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

**Sweethearts Dinner Cruise** Indulge in the amenities of our comfortable, modern yachts, decorated for Valentine's Day. Enjoy fresh air, incredible views, professional service and a delicious meal from a gourmet kitchen onboard the ship. Wednesday, February 14, 7pm; **free**-\$104. Flagship Cruises & Events, 990 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Valentine's Culinary & Cocktail Celebration** Reserve a cozy table for 2 or gather with a group of loved ones at Bronze Bird to celebrate Valentine's Day enjoying lovely libations and sassy takes on So-Cal

# OUTDOORS

## Aussie native happy here, great week for tidepooling, New Moon

If You've Seen Large Swatches of Yellow around town lately, it could be *acacia longifolia*. The South Eastern Australian native is a fast-growing, bushy, evergreen shrub that can grow to over twenty feet tall and almost as wide. Because it's frost- and drought-resistant as well as salt-tolerant, it does very well in San Diego. It is a colorful, fragrant winter bloomer, so it can be a colorful addition to your yard. But it is also an invasive species, so it should be kept in backyards



A SNOWY EGRET HUNTS IN THE TIDAL POOLS AT BLACK'S BEACH



ACACIA LONGIFOLIA BLOOMS FROM WINTER TO EARLY SPRING

and spaces far from native land to keep it from spreading.

**Very Low Tides** on a string of days this week coincide with optimum times of day for tidepooling. On Thursday, February 8, the tide falls to a low of -1.84 feet at 2:50 pm. On Friday, February 9, the tide drops to -1.9 feet (nearly as low as it ever gets) at 3:26 pm. Again, on Saturday, February 10, the tide falls to -1.7 feet at 4:01 pm. Sunday afternoon's low tide of -1.25 feet occurs at 4:36 pm. Plenty of rocky stretches of coastline for tidepool gazing are available throughout the county, including Cabrillo National Monument, north Pacific Beach, and La Jolla.

**The New Moon** peaks on February 9 at 2:59 pm. The New Moon is sometimes seen as a period of rebirth... maybe it's time to consider planting some seeds in anticipation of the gardening season ahead. Check out a Planting Calendar to see if it's time to get those seedlings started.

comfort cuisine with a hint of traditional Valentine's flair. Reservations are encouraged. Wednesday, February 14, 5pm; \$75. Bronze Bird Food Wine & Spirits, 910 Broadway Circle. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

## FOR KIDS

**Bluey's Big Play** Bluey's Big Play is a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy award-winning children's television series, with an original story by Bluey creator Joe Brumm, and new music by Bluey composer, Joff Bush. Friday, February 9, 6pm; Saturday, February 10, 1pm and 6pm; Sunday, February 11, 1pm and 6pm; \$29-\$231. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Botany for Kids Native Plant Garden Tour** Back in the 70s, it was a vacant lot that was almost developed into real estate properties; but the Garden Club and local communities came together to protest its development and create an open green space for everyone to enjoy. It is currently open to the public, and Coastal Sage Gardening & Botany for Kids are trying to increase awareness and knowledge of this wonderful garden. Friday, February 9, 10am; \$10-\$20. Point Loma Native Plant Garden, 4444 Greene Street. (POINT LOMA)

**Circus Vargas** Something amazing is in the works! Another epic adventure under the big top for

2024! More laughs, more thrills, and more priceless memories at Circus Vargas! Get your tickets NOW! Thursday, February 8, 7pm; Friday, February 9, 7:30pm; Saturday, February 10, 1pm, 4pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, February 11, 12:30pm, 4:30pm and 7pm; Monday, February 12, 6:30pm; North County Mall, 272 E. Via Rancho Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

**Hullabaloo** Children's music duo. Thursday, February 8, 10am; **free**. Del Mar Highlands Shopping Center, 12905 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

**Hullabaloo** Children's music duo Friday, February 9, 10am; Allied Gardens-Benjamin Library, 5188 Zion Avenue. (ALLIED GARDENS)

**Hullabaloo** Children's music duo Monday, February 12, 10am; North Park Library, 3795 31st Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Hullabaloo** - Wednesday, February 14, 11am; Kensington-Normal Heights Library, 4121 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON)

## FUNDRAISERS

**The Hungry Dog Dash** The Point Loma High School Cross Country team and PLHS Pointer Association Cross Country Boosters are bringing back the Hungry Dog Dash. All proceeds from the event go to the PLHS PA-XC Boosters to support the PLHS Cross Country team. Sunday, February 11, 8am; \$25-\$50.

Liberty Station NTC Park, 2455 Cushing Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

## LECTURES

**Dr. Bostjan Bugarcic Lecture** "Nature as a Subject: Researching The Territory In-between Borders." SME 149, Structural & Materials Engineering, UC San Diego. Thursday, February 8, 1:30pm; **free**. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Free Harbor Seal Lecture & Walk** Join the Sierra Club Seal Society for a free short lecture about the seals and sea lions of La Jolla. Then walk down to the Children's Pool with a docent who

will point out pregnant seals, seals nursing their newborn pups, and seals teaching their pups to swim. Saturdays, 2pm and 2pm; through Saturday, February 24, **free**. Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

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

**Jazz Religion, 2nd Line & Black New Orleans** This lecture by Prof.

Richard Turner, University of Iowa, showcases the music and religions of Black New Orleans. UCSD Social Science Building, Room 101 Thursday, February 8, 3:30pm; **free**. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

## NATURE

**Friends of Blue Sky Canyon 30th Anniversary Celebration** The celebration includes kids crafts, nature tables, docent led hikes, critter talk, a silent auction, and raffle. There will also be story boards showing the history of Blue Sky along with special presentations recognizing honorary members.



# 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](http://sandiegomarkets.com)





This event is free and registration is not required. Saturday, February 10, 1:30pm; **free**. Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, 16275 Espola Road. (POWAY)

**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. These interpretive nature walks are offered to enhance your appreciation of the unique beauty of San Diego's natural environment. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, February 10, 9:30am, Sunday, February 11, 9:30am; Wednesday, February 14, 9:30am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Kumeyaay Lake Guided Nature Walk** Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk. Walks are free and open to the public, with no camping or reservations required. Learn about the lush riparian habitat of the Kumeyaay Lake shoreline, home to many birds, animals, and unique plants. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, February 10, 8am; **free.** Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

**MTRP Discovery Table: Lizards**  
Stop by the Discovery Table in the lobby of the Visitor Center to learn from MTRP Trail Guides several fun facts about some common lizards found in the park. Saturday, February 10, 10am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Presentation on the Mysterious Football Fish** Presentation by Ben Frible, Collection Manager of the Marine Vertebrate Collection at Scripps Institution. Hear his fascinating story of how he discovered several rare football fish that washed up on San Diego Beaches in 2021 and 2023. Saturday, February 10, 10am; **free**. 18 and up. Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

## NEW YEAR'S

**Lunar New Year** Family Fun Days Events for Lunar New Year at Hsi Fang Temple. Sunday, February 11, 2pm; San Diego Buddhist Association, 4536 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Kirtan & Chanting For Peace**  
By Spirit Soul and friends - Patita Pavana. Saturday, February 10, 6pm; **free**. First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, Hillcrest, 298 West Arbor Street. (HILLCREST)

**Makers Market** Shop 25 local makers and artists offering hand-made goods such as jewelry, knit goods, home decor, woodworking, prints, soap, paintings, candles, and more. Saturday, February 10, 12pm; **free.** Societe Brewing Company,

8262 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.  
(KEARNY MESA)

**San Diego Lunar New Year Festival** The free family-friendly celebration features lanterns, folk and traditional performances, arts and cultural exhibitions, lion dances and firecrackers. Friday, February 9, 12pm; Saturday, February 10, 12pm; Sunday, February 11, 11am; Officer Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park, 3700 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

**Temecula Sunset Market**  
The Temecula Sunset Market is a celebration of local community, culture, art, food, live music, and handcrafted treasures. Wednesday, February 14, 5pm; **free**. Town Square Park, 41902 Main Street. (TEMECULA)

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**Clinical Somatic Exercise** Pain relief that almost no one has heard of. Please bring your own yoga mat. Tuesday, February 13, 1:30pm; **free.** 18 and up. Carmel Valley Library, 3919 Townsgate Drive. (CARMEL VALLEY)

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

**The Kook Run** The Kook Run is a SoCal Super Bowl Sunday tradition, where thousands kick off the morning with a 5K/10K fun run and costumed race along the Pacific Coast, presented by BUBS Naturals. Sunday, February 11, 7am; \$50-\$75. Encinitas Sign, 480 South Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

## 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.*

**The Age of Innocence**  
This Globe-commissioned world premiere, based on Edith Wharton's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, is set in 1870s Gilded Age New York City, where high society clashes with love. When the glamorous Countess Ellen Olenska sweeps into town, she upends the lives of everyone around her, especially the dashing lawyer Newland Archer. This new adaptation for the stage comes from Karen Zacarias (*Destiny of Desire*, *Native Gardens*).  
OLD GLOBE - DONALD & DARLENE  
SHILEY STAGE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY,  
BALBOA PARK. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM  
FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM  
& 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS &

WEDNESDAYS.

**Bluey's Big Play**  
When Dad feels like a little bit of Sunday afternoon time out, Bluey and Bingo have other plans! Join them as they pull out all of the games and cleverness at their disposal to get Dad off that bean bag. Bluey's Big Play is a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy® award-winning children's television series, with an original story by Bluey creator Joe Brumm, and new music by Bluey composer, Joff Bush. Join the Heelers in their first live theatre show made just for you, featuring brilliantly created puppets, this is Bluey as you've never seen it before, brought to real life. Bluey's Big Play is presented by BBC Studios and Andrew Kay in association with Windmill Theatre Co.

BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO.  
+16195701100. 6PM FRIDAY, 1PM & 6PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

**Chapatti**

Romance is a distant memory for two lonely animal-lovers living in Dublin. When forlorn Dan and his dog Chapatti cross paths with the amiable Betty and her nineteen cats, an unexpected spark begins a warm and gentle story about two people re-discovering the importance of human companionship. Chapatti is a story that demonstrates that love and romance can happen again even after many years. By Christian O'Reilly Directed by Christopher Williams (director of SRT's 2022 comedy, *The Outsider*)

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS.

**Clyde's**  
Clyde's by Lynn Nottage Directed by  
Delicia Turner Sonnenberg: A truck  
stop sandwich shop offers its formerly  
incarcerated kitchen staff a shot at  
redemption. Even as the shop's callous  
owner tries to keep them under her  
thumb, the staff members are given  
purpose and permission to dream by  
their shared quest to create the perfect  
sandwich. Produced in partnership  
with Center for Employment Oppor-  
tunities (CEO) San Diego.  
MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON  
BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-  
7620. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRI-  
DAYS, 8AM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

**Dirty Laundry**  
Hear titillating stories, letters, diary entries, and correspondences from the who's who of Literature read aloud by professional actors. Take a peek behind the curtain to see what you might catch a glimpse of. Produced by Write Out Loud.  
OLD TOWN THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST.,  
OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7PM MONDAY.

**English**  
Winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize, the Obie Award, and the Lucille Lortel Award. In a classroom near Tehran, four adult students prepare for an English proficiency exam. They each have a reason for being there: a chance at opportunity, access, or a new calling. But as they bond over this new way to express themselves, they also grapple with the lives they must leave behind.

OLD GLOBE - SHERYL & HARVEY WHITE  
THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA  
PARK, 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS,  
8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS,  
2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS &  
WEDNESDAYS.

### Fun Home

Storytelling takes center stage to explore the importance of queer

narratives, gender identity, and self-discovery. *Fun Home* follows a woman, Alison, as she delves into her past and seeks to come to terms with the life and legacy of her father (who is exactly the same as her and still so different). This Tony-award-winning musical invites us as the audience to come to a fuller understanding of the journey of coming out and stepping into yourself. In a harmonious blend of humor and poignancy, the play serves as a testament to the power of diverse voices and the universal quest for authenticity. Music by Jeanine Tesori, book and lyrics by Lisa Kron. Based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel, directed by Kym Pappas.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787  
B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-  
3245, 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM  
& 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY &  
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14.

**The Jungle Book**  
A retelling of the original work by Kipling, join Mowgli as they learn the way of the jungle and life. A story for the whole family, but be warned this is not the Disney story.  
INNOVATION FAMILY COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5454 RUFFIN RD., CLAIRE-  
MONT. 7PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY.

**Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill**

Great art may be born of personal pain, but most of the time, it needs to be aesthetically transmogrified — stepped back from and reworked just enough to make it resonate with the audience. Most of the time. But every now and then, someone sings their way out of the whorehouse into the history books without changing much of anything. Billie Holiday may have had a smallish voice and a smallish range, but she squeezed a huge amount of feeling out of both, and she was a hell of a lyricist to boot. She may have written “God Bless the

Child" with Arthur Herzog, Jr., but it was her experience: an argument with her mother about money. And so: "Mama may have, papa may have, but God bless the child that's got his own. Then that's got shall get, them that's not shall lose, so the bible said and it still is news." It surely helped (her art, anyway) that love done her wrong, that her "first love/worst love" Jimmy Monroe was not only an addict, but an addict who wanted a companion on the journey down. All this is to help explain why Lanie Robertson's play, which lets Karole Foreman spill out Holiday's story in between the songs of a late-career set in Philadelphia, works better than some other jukebox musicals. It all feels so close to the bone, even when she's singing other people's material — even when it's something as seemingly lighthearted as "What a Little Moonlight Can Do." She sings it early on, and it's delightful and optimistic, like "the new Billie" herself. But after a night of drinking, reminiscing, and eventually dancing with her old devil,

and she starts her way back to it, and it becomes tragic. What a little moonlight can do to you, indeed.

CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS STREET, OLD TOWN, 619-337-1525, CALL FOR SHOWTIMES

**Outside Mullingar**

John Patrick Shanley's rural Irish rom-com sneaks up on you, firstly by being more com than rom — no, scratch that, firstly by being more dramedy than — no, scratch that, firstly by being a proper bit of Irish black comedy. You'll have to forgive the

**Redwood**

Broadway icon Idina Menzel makes her La Jolla Playhouse debut in the world premiere of *Redwood*, a theatrical event about one woman's journey into the precious and precarious world of the redwoods. Idina plays Jesse, a successful businesswoman, mother and wife. She seems to have it all, but inside, her heart is broken. Finding herself at a turning point, Jesse leaves everyone and everything behind, gets in her car and drives... and drives. Thousands of miles later, she hits the

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ancient forests of Northern California, where a chance meeting and a leap of faith change her life forever. In the presence of the magnificent, towering redwoods, Jesse finds strange and powerful connections, an unexpected sense of community, and a chance at healing. Acclaimed writer and director Tina Landau (*Beauty*) brings this immersive and cinematic new work to life with lush visuals and a soaring score from Kate Diaz. Opens February 13.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM TUESDAYS.

## 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](http://SDReader.com/movies).

**American Fiction** — Director Cord Jefferson's adaptation of writer Percival Everett's novel *Erasure* is not so much a comedy as it is an elaborate joke on the viewer. The marketing, which must be considered here, makes the film look like a savage satire of the publishing industry: the story of a frustrated upper-middle-class Black writer who cranks out a pseudonymous thug life novel as a gag, only to see the industry ignore the joke and embrace it in earnest. Oh ho ho! The poor boobies can't even bring themselves to object when he

insists on titling it *Fuck* — and who could blame them? Do you want to be the white person who tells the Black person that he's not allowed to keep it real? How delicious. But in truth, all that is a subplot, and a carelessly handled one at that; the real story is something much more conventional, much more delicate, and much more emotionally engaging: a mid-life crisis movie about a man dealing with the potent legacy of his dead father, the sad reality of his fading mother, and the affecting complexity of his sibling relationships. All set about as far from the hood as you could imagine — the love interest lives just across from his family's beach house. It's a sign of star Jeffrey Wright's presence and talent that he's able to keep the viewer from noticing the bait-and-switch until the ending, which is likely to feel like a bad Player rip-off to fans of the satire, an emotional middle-finger to fans of the family drama, and maybe, just maybe, a clever tell to those in on the joke. *What did you come here looking for, people?* (2023) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**Freud's Last Session** — A note at the end informs us that near the end of his life — and near the onset of World War II — pioneering psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud was visited by a young Oxford don in his London home. Well, home away from home: he still pines for his beloved Austria, but it's not so good there for Jews at the moment — even, perhaps especially, famous Jews, and especially especially Jews who are famous for rejecting religion and other traditional bases for morality. But back to the matter at hand: what Matthew Brown's adaptation of Mark St. Germain's play (which is based on Armand Nicholi's



**Outside Mullingar: Everyone just wants to be loved!**

book *The Question of God*) supposes is that the young don was none other than C.S. Lewis, a fairly recent convert to Christianity who lampooned Freud in his update on John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Narnia is still a long way off, but the book's allegorical character hints at Lewis' sympathy toward myth, which puts him on common ground with Freud, while its Christian perspective sets him in testy opposition to the cancer-ridden, morphine-sipping, emotionally tyrannical atheist. And yet, despite his frailty and failings, Freud largely gets the better of their various sparring

matches, mostly because he seems like more of a person, and has stories to go along with his ideas. (His embittered "Great plan, God," after recounting the death of his wife and child elicits only silence from Lewis, which seems right.) Brown does what he can to keep things from feeling like a filmed play, but he can't do much, and what he does do — flashbacks, dream sequences, a war scene, and a trip to an air raid shelter — isn't always helpful. Anthony Hopkins enjoys himself as the old man, while Matthew Goode seems a bit tentative for a zealous convert. (2024) — M.L.

★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**Mean Girls** — If the original *Mean Girls* was a gentled version of *Heathers* — and yeah, that's probably unfair, since films should be allowed to stand or fall on their own merits, but for viewers of a certain age, the similarities were simply too salient to ignore, what with the plucky outsider sidling up to but ultimately taking down the trio of gorgeous Gorgons who run things around this here high school — then *Mean Girls* 2024 is a similarly gentled version of the 2004 original. High school can be a des-

perate time; no one here feels desperate. The girls just aren't as mean. The social hierarchies just aren't as brutal. The betrayals and losses just aren't as devastating — and it's not just because we may have seen them before. It *may* be because the world has gotten meaner in the meantime. Social media has made the notion of a secret "Burn Book" full of nasty comments about one's adolescent peers positively quaint; today, you could just make an anon account and broadcast your bile to all and sundry — to the point where maybe you'd get back to the suicidal darkness of *Heathers*! But no, the book is still here, still somehow wreaking havoc even as it has lost the power to accuse someone of, gasp, homosexuality. Here, outcast Janis is out and proud; her animus toward the popular Plastics has to do with a failure of allyship — which is rather less potent as motivations go. In place of the poison, this version has songs, which is probably what you're here for, since they provide the "new twist" promised on the poster. Some of them are great fun and actually help move the story along — the wildly energetic "Revenge Party" is a positive delight. Others work like anthemic music videos — Regina George's spooky/sinister "Someone Gets Hurt," Janis's postmistress "I'd Rather Be Me." But a number of them "Meet the Plastics," "What's Wrong With Me?" etc. — do little more than raise subtext to text, and the performances aren't always rendered with enough feeling to make them feel worthwhile. Never thought I'd be able to say that about a teen musical. (How's that for mean?) — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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# the inside track blurt

**Alienated local** Ever wondered how to leave your body? According to Matt Rhea, frontman for Manganista, all it takes is a dark room, a comfortable bed, and the liberal sampling of a popular nasal decongestant. Years ago, relates Rhea, “I was taking Benadryl nightly to help with

angel dubbed Angeline joining him in his midnight frolics. He wrote lyrics, the band added music, and hey presto, they had their new A-side. On the flipside, “Human Being” consists mostly of Rhea’s rejection of humans, or anything he can understand as humans. He happened



Manganista: exploring the absurdity of being human.

insomnia, and every time I would stop taking it for a while, I would get these out-of-body experiences for about a week or so before falling asleep. They felt like something between being awake and a dream state, but probably leaned more towards the being awake side.”

Rhea was aware of what was happening, but felt “this extreme state of relaxation. You start to feel a buzzing sensation throughout your body and it feels like you can’t move. It takes a real concerted effort to break out of it and move your limbs again. But if you give in to the feeling and let it do its thing, you start to feel like you’re rising out of your body, towards the ceiling and even beyond. It was similar to one of those lucid dreams where you suddenly realize you’re dreaming but you’re still able to continue the dream state. You want to try as much crazy shit as you can before you wake up.”

That experience factors into Manganista’s new single, “Angeline” (b/w “Human Being”). Rhea threw in a little poetic license, imagining an

to be watching coverage of the Ukraine war when the inspiration-as-alienation hit, but he admits, “I constantly feel more like an observer of humans than a participant. It’s like I’m living in the longest episode of *Seinfeld* in the history of the world. I’ve felt that disconnection from other events in the news before, but more often, it’s the little mundane things that make up our day that get me noticing the absurdity of being human. Ideas for songs are weird. Sometimes it just hits you out of nowhere, and you’re like, ‘Why didn’t I think to write a song about this before?’”

A San Diego native in a band made up entirely of lifelong locals, Rhea grew up mostly in La Mesa but clocked time with his grandparents in City Heights. “Different parts of town seem to have a certain feeling based on familiarity. Kind of like learning a new skill. In the beginning, it’s awkward and feels foreign, but eventually, it becomes a part of you. My grandfather owned the 7 Seas Locker Club downtown on Broadway. The city seemed so intimidating and exotic

in comparison to La Mesa. Now, it’s just where I go see Padres games.”

The band name? “We used to be called Scaramanga, named after Christopher Lee’s character in *The Man With The Golden Gun*. For some reason, we thought we needed to change our name when Dusty [Norberg, drummer] joined the band, and our bass player at the time came up with Manganista. It’s a combination of the ‘manga’ part of ‘Scaramanga’ and ‘Sandinista’ from the Clash album. I kind of liked it, because it was a made-up word and didn’t mean anything. No baggage.”

Selected highlights from past gigs include “playing the Pride festival in Balboa Park with A Flock of Seagulls. The singer looked at our six-foot marimba and said, ‘You know, they make keyboards that do that.’ Getting asked to play ‘Rock the Casbah’ at a Clash tribute show at the Casbah put together by Adam Gimbel. Some drunk lady at Pete’s Place yelling out during our set, ‘What’s the deal with this cruise ship music?’ A show with Deal’s *Gone Bad* at UCSD where the PA and lights were supposed to be powered by people pedaling stationary bicycles. It didn’t work.”

The band plans to re-work the two new songs into ska, reggae, and dub versions, but has already posted videos for the original versions. Rhea directs, smushing together online clips in the public domain, but also including flashes of *Frankenstein*, *Duck Soup*, and a dude with werewolf fangs who is definitely not Michael Jackson, prancing around in Michael Jackson’s red leather jacket. “The *Thriller* ripoff is a spoof from *Donga*, an ‘80s Indian film,” confesses Rhea. “YouTube it. You won’t be disappointed.” The band’s upcoming outings include March 3 at Humble Heart in OB.

— Andrew Hamlin

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

## THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

#### Allied Gardens-Benjamin Library:

Friday, 10am — Hullabaloo.

#### Barefoot Bar and Grill:

Saturday, 6pm — Blaise Guld.

#### Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Say She She. \$22-\$39.  
Friday, 8pm — Jackie Greene. \$25.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — The English Beat.  
Monday, 7:30pm — Yo La Tengo.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — A Dolly Parton Valentine. \$20.

#### Bonita Museum and Cultural Center:

Saturday, 6:30pm — Valentines Karaoke Dance Party. Free.

#### Books & Records:

Friday, 7pm — Mercedes Moore. Free.  
Saturday, 7pm — Amanda Portela. Free.

#### Brew Coffee Spot:

Saturday, 3pm — Garza Sextet. Free.

#### Brick by Brick:

Saturday, 8pm — Demoncey, Lucemortis, Imperialist. \$20-\$25.

#### California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Dirty Dozen Brass Band and Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Cha’s. \$30-\$80.

#### Cannonball:

Thursday, 5pm — Aquile.  
Tuesday, 5pm — Andrew Peña.

#### Carruth Cellars Liberty Station:

Friday, 5pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

#### Casbah:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Slothrust. \$22.  
Friday, 7:30pm — The Rural Alberta Advantage and Mariel Buckley. \$22.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Juice. \$20.  
Monday, 7:30pm — Provoker and Demon Compass.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — The Sols, Los Saints, Michael Montano. \$8.  
Wednesday, 7pm — Please Ask for Paul and Stucky Leigh. \$10.

#### Cheers:

Saturday, 12pm — 8 East Band. Free.

#### Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Blue Note 85th Anniversary Celebration Tour. \$46-\$83.

#### Deano’s Pub:

Saturday, 7pm — Santana Soul. Free.

#### Del Mar Highlands Shopping Center:

Thursday, 10am — Hullabaloo. Free.

#### Duck Foot Brewing Company:

Saturday, 7pm — Mystery Train. Free.  
Monday, 6:30pm — Bluegrass Jam. Free.  
Tuesday, 7pm — SD Jazz Collective. Free.

#### Duke’s La Jolla:

Friday, 3pm — Anthony Kauka Stanley.  
Sunday, 4pm — Keni Yarbrow.  
Tuesday, 4pm — Orion Song.

#### Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Friday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.  
Saturday, 6pm — Farrah Camu.

#### Farmer & the Seahorse:

Sunday, 11am — David Shyde.

#### Golden Island:

Friday, 6pm — Kaylee Daugherty. Free.

#### Harrah’s Resort Southern California:

Friday, 8pm — Air Supply.

#### Holding Company:

Thursday, 7pm — Unpaid Tabs Concert Series. \$10-\$20.  
Friday, 7:30pm — The Untouchables. \$15.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Geezer and Finding Emo. Free.  
Sunday, 4:30pm — Rehab. \$19-\$25.

#### House of Blues:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Lil Skies. \$45-\$155.  
Thursday, 7:30pm — The Hails and Foxtide. \$59.  
Friday, 7:30pm — Lukas Graham. \$30-\$75.  
Saturday, 9pm — Spooky Rave: My Bloody Valentine. \$24-\$48.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Joey Valence & Brae. \$128.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Mipso. \$20.

#### Kensington-Normal Heights Library:

Wednesday, 11am — Hullabaloo.

#### L’Auberge Del Mar:

Saturday, 7pm — Marelle.  
Sunday, 11am — Matt Heinecke.  
Wednesday, 5pm — Keni Yarbrow.

#### La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 5:30pm — David Shyde.  
Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.  
Saturday, 11am — Rachel Jay.

#### Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Friday, 7:30pm — The Guess Who. \$55-\$265.

#### Mingei International Museum:

Friday, 7:30pm — Martha Gonzalez & Tylana Enomoto. \$40-\$55.

#### Mission Bay Resort:

Thursday, 5pm — Keni Yarbrow.  
Saturday, 5pm — Johnny Martin.  
Monday, 5pm — Orion Song.  
Tuesday, 5pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.



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**ODESSA KANE** at the Holding Company

FEB 8



Born in Tijuana and raised in Paradise Hills, half-Filipino, half-Mexican Frankie Quiñones, aka Odessa Kane, first earned local notice with Gonjasufi and Orko Eloheim in Masters of the Universe. The Unpaid Tabs Concert Series headliner Demrick, formerly known as Young De, has collaborated with Xzibit, Kurupt, Snoop Dogg, Too \$hort, B-Real, and Cypress Hill. Hosted by Beto Perez and MC Supernatural, the bill includes Kahlee, Bakes, and Nemy.

**ALBERT LEE** at Museum of Making Music

FEB 9



Known for his fingerstyle and hybrid picking technique, Albert Lee worked with everyone from Steve Morse and Eric Clapton to Joe Cocker, the Everly Brothers, and Emmylou Harris, to say nothing of his acclaimed solo career. With over 50 years in the business, he is one of the most respected guitarists in the country-rock music scene.

**GEEZER** at the Holding Company

FEB 10



Geezer is basically a Weezer tribute dressed in senior citizen gear that puts on such an entertaining act that they were invited onstage with Weezer at Cox Arena in 2008. They were nominated as Best Tribute Band at the San Diego Music Awards in 2010 and 2011, and one of their members has gone on to moonlight as the lead singer for Smash Mouth. The bill includes Finding Emo.

**LISA SANDERS** at UC San Diego Park & Market

FEB 13



Jazz singer Lisa Sanders came up via open-mic performances at Java Joe's and the Metaphor Café before being signed in 1998 by MCA Records. The Intersections Concert Series presents Sanders with her band Brown Sugar, featuring players who've opened for Bonnie Raitt, Lucinda Williams, BB King, Dixie Chicks, Sarah McLachlan and more. Local jazz pianist and saxophonist Kamau Kenyatta will host and conduct a Q&A with Sanders after her performance.

**LOS SAINTS** at the Casbah

FEB 13



Founded in Chula Vista circa 2019, indie/alt trio Los Saints features all first-generation Mexican-Americans, including frontman Angel Mariscal. Their five-song EP *Welcome To Confusion* was recorded by Keith Cooper of Dear Boy. The Sols and Michael Montano will fill out the Little Italy bill.

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Earthside

THU. FEB. 22

**KOFFIN KATS**  
Hans Gruber and  
the Die Hards

FRI. FEB. 23

**CRYPTA**  
Contortion

SAT. FEB. 24

**HULDER**  
Devil Master, Worm,  
Necrofier

SUN. FEB. 25

**VADER**  
Origin,  
Inhuman Condition,  
Mythraeum

FRI. MAR. 1

**THE OCEAN**  
The World Is A Beautiful  
Place & I Am No Longer  
Afraid To Die, Shy, Low

FRI. MAR. 8

**WACKEN METAL BATTLE**  
Blackcast,  
The Provoked, Brutalio,  
Defy The Tyrants,  
Gravity Grave, Old Gods

SAT. MAR. 9

**WACKEN METAL BATTLE**  
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Cascade Effect,  
Faerie Qveene,  
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TUE. MAR. 12

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# THE GONZO REPORT

## Good vibrations with Jeff

### Saying goodbye to a local at Brick by Brick

“The last time I was in here, I went completely berserk on this dude who told my grandson to be quiet,” Jeff told me as we dined on some Mexican cuisine at Ponce’s on Adams Avenue. “I thought they were going to kick me out, but they [Ponce’s staff] ended up apologizing to me. I didn’t have to pay for a damn thing that night.” It was Jeff’s last week as a San Diego resident after a nearly 60-year run. Born and raised. The former drummer/Black’s Beach frequenter/Frito-Lay chipman had become yet another casualty, and was soon to be en route to a more affordable life in Arizona. Since it was his last week in the city, he took to getting out and about every chance he could. So when I offered up my extra ticket to the Escuela Grind/Take Offense show at Brick by

Brick on a wet Wednesday night, he jumped at the chance.

Once my Cali burrito had been demolished, I dipped from Ponce’s and peeled to Brick by Brick. Jeff took his own ride and said he would meet me there. At the venue, I was wanded at the door and asked if I had any knives, guns, or any other weapons. I contemplated cracking a joke about my arms being weapons of some sort, but refrained. It did feel like there was something dangerous in my gut after killing that massive burrito, however. Could that count as a weapon? Maybe later, after digestion. But even though a nuclear bomb was brewing within, I was granted access.

Once inside, I walked past multiple couples draped in black leather and spelunking the depths of each other’s throats with their tongues. I found my way to the front. The joint’s smell was fittingly sour. A band from Boston called Bonginator smothered the stage with Dimebag Darrell-type screaming guitars. Then the big long-blond-haired frontman yelled out the name of their next song: “420-Pound Poop,” and began grunting heavily while chanting “Uh uh uh poop poop poop” over a dark, drop-tuned riff. Not quite the “brown note,” but close.

After the Bonginator mess was cleaned up, Take Offense kept the energy acidulated. The Chula Vista group was kicking off the beginning of multiple city tour. No better place to



A king of shreds and thrashes: Greg Cerwonka of Take Offense

start a tour than at home with a big push from the hometown fans. As I held my own in the front, I could feel the wind — and an occasional kick to the back of the leg — from the pit behind me. Lead guitarist Greg Cerwonka shredded nasty guitar solos, mirroring the ‘80s thrash metal for which I have a deep and abiding love.

I looked at my phone and saw that Jeff was trying to get ahold of me. He was stuck at the door, waiting for his ticket. Once inside, he

bolted for the bar. We watched the remainder of the TO set at a safe distance from the kicking. Stellas were only five bucks, so that’s what was lubricating my throat. In classic Jeff fashion, he opted for the red wine.

“I think my friend Matt is here,” Jeff said. “He’s got one leg. Lost it from hopping a train. It’s pretty cool.” A short search party for Matt fizzled quickly after Take Offense’s set finished. Then it was Escuela Grind time. Frontwoman Katerina Economou’s vocals were deep, growling, and powerful. I was not expecting that kind of force to come from Economou’s petite frame. The crowd seemed blown away by the East Coast act. We looked on as the sound guy started dancing and getting in the thrill of the music. I felt what I thought were insects crawling up my leg, only to realize it was the vibrations from the ear-splitting EG set.

When the show found its ending and the venue settled, Jeff and I stood at the bar, watching the bands break down and pack up their equipment. It wouldn’t be long before Jeff would be packing up himself. As a transplant, it’s a gut-punch for me to lose local guys like Jeff. The ones who have deep knowledge of the city’s underground pockets, who can tell you where to find a good massage, where the best hole-in-the-wall restaurants are, what beach to go to, when to catch the best waves. Then, as we gathered ourselves to leave, Jeff grinned and asked, “You wanna go to Cheetahs?” ■

Find The Gonzo Report online at [sandiegoreader.com/gonzo](http://sandiegoreader.com/gonzo)

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

**Mr. Peabody’s Bar & Grill:**  
Saturday, 9pm — Ptek Experience.

**Museum of Making Music:**  
Friday, 7pm — Albert Lee. \$45-\$50.

**Music Box:**  
Friday, 7:30pm — JP Saxe. \$29-\$119.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Tom Sandoval & The Most Extras. \$29-\$99.  
Monday, 7:30pm — Nando Reis. \$55.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Brooks Nielsen.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Amor Prohibido: Tribute to Selena.

**Music Company:**  
Wednesday, 7pm — TMC Valentine’s Unplugged.

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

**North Park Library:**  
Monday, 10am — Hullabaloo.

**Observatory North Park:**  
Friday, 7:30pm — 2000s Night. \$24-\$31.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — BabyTron. \$38-\$209.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Twin Temple. \$31.

**Panama 66:**  
Thursday, 6pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

**Pechanga Arena San Diego:**  
Friday, 7pm — TobyMac and Cory Asbury. \$19-\$89.

**Quartyard:**  
Saturday, 3pm — Beppe Loda. \$12-\$35.

**San Diego Civic Theatre:**  
Tuesday & Wednesday, 7pm — Chicago. \$65-\$110.

**Soda Bar:**  
Thursday, 7:30pm — David Wax Museum and Please Ask for Paul. \$21.  
Friday, 9pm — Cumbiaton San Diego. \$12.  
Monday, 7:30pm — Pure Bathing Culture and Meernaa. \$22.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Low Hum. \$19.

**Soma:**  
Saturday, 7pm — The Devil Wears Prada and Fit For a King. \$29.

**Sound:**  
Saturday, 8pm — Baile De San Valentin. \$70-\$125.

**Sunshine Brooks Theatre:**  
Friday, 7pm — A Night of Neil, Tribute to Neil Diamond. \$20-\$25.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Something Wonderful: Stevie Wonder tribute.

**Topside Terrace Kitchen & Bar:**  
Friday, 6pm — DJ Dominik Wintner. Free.  
Sunday, 11am — Jenny & The Tramps. Free.

Wednesday, 6pm — Cobby Brzeski. Free.

**UC San Diego Park & Market:**  
Tuesday, 7pm — Lisa Sanders & Brown Sugar: Sincerity in Song. \$25-\$35.

**Waterbar:**  
Thursday, 5pm — Marcela Mendez.

**Winstons Beach Club:**  
Thursday, 8:30pm — Tenth Mountain Division and Tecolote Canyon. \$10.  
Friday, 9pm — Sam Grisman Project.  
Saturday, 4pm — High Tide Society. \$8.  
Tuesday, 8pm — Music of The Meters: New Orleans Mardi Gras. \$20.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**1t Street Bar:**  
February 20 — Open Mic Night  
February 22 — Jessie Lark and Sara Jade & The Jade Theory

**All Saints’ Episcopal Church Hillcrest:**  
February 18 — A Celebration of New Year and Spring

**Amalfi Marina Bar:**  
February 16 — Blame Betty

**Aquarius Bar & Grille:**  
February 16 — Santana Soul

**Balboa Theatre:**  
February 16 — Bee Gees Gold: The Tribute  
February 18 — Yuri: Euforia Tour

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:**  
February 17 — Andrew Peña

**Bellamy’s Restaurant:**  
February 15, February 22 — Jake Taylor Smith

**Belly Up Tavern:**  
February 15 — Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra  
February 16 — Kitchen Dwellers  
February 17 — Steve Poltz 15th Annual 50th Birthday Bash  
February 18 — Foghat  
February 20 — Petey  
February 22 — Orianthi  
February 23 — Pine Mountain Logs  
February 24 — Ty Segall

**Black Cat Bar:**  
February 23 — Hi-Five Ghost and Alvino & the Dwells

**Books & Records:**  
February 16 — Gypsy Sally  
February 17 — Sue Palmer  
February 23 — The Garners  
February 24 — Kaylee Daugherty

**Brick by Brick:**  
February 15 — Fugitive and Diztort  
February 19 — Caligula, Æs Horse and Earthside  
February 22 — Koffin Kats and Hans Gruber & the Die Hards  
February 23 — Crypta and Contortion  
February 24 — Decibel Tour

**CSU San Marcos:**  
February 17 — Tian Ying

**California Center for the Arts, Escondido:**  
February 17, February 18 — Jason Mraz Foundation Presents Kaleidoscope

**Cannonball:**  
February 15 — Mike Myrdal  
February 22 — Jemille Vialet

**The Casbah:**  
February 15 — The Slashes and Rosa Rossa  
February 16 — Emo Nite  
February 17 — Little Hurricane  
February 18 — Heartbreakers Ball  
February 19 — Steve, Poser Corpse, Dirty Laundry  
February 20 — Grady Spencer & the Work  
February 21 — Jeremie Albino  
February 22 — Headphone and Coastal Wolves  
February 23 — Husbands  
February 24 — Big Business

**Christ United Presbyterian Church:**  
February 24 — SACRA/PROFANA: The Hope of Loving

**College-Rolando Library:**  
February 23 — Hullabaloo

**Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:**  
February 24 — San Diego Ballet: The Many Loves of Don Juan

**Duck Foot Brewing Company:**  
February 15 — Dead Heads

Night  
February 17 — The Gravities  
February 20 — Blues & Jazz Organ Jam  
February 23 — Bring Your Own Vinyl Night

**Duke’s La Jolla:**  
February 16 — Russell Paihinui  
February 18 — Keni Yarbro  
February 23 — Anthony Kauka Stanley

**Elijah’s Restaurant & Delicatessen:**  
February 24 — Garza Quartet

**Encinitas Library:**  
February 17 — Hullabaloo

**Epstein Family Amphitheater:**  
February 22 — The Greatest Love of All

**Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:**  
February 16 — Jesse Johnson  
February 24 — David Shyde

**F6ix Niteclub:**  
February 16 — DB.Boutabag

**Golden Island:**  
February 16 — Amanda Portela  
February 23 — Irving Flores Latin Jazz Quartet

**Greenfield Middle School:**  
February 24 — Staump Music School Winter Concert

**Harrah’s Resort Southern California:**  
February 16 — Pedro Fernández  
February 17 — Colter Wall




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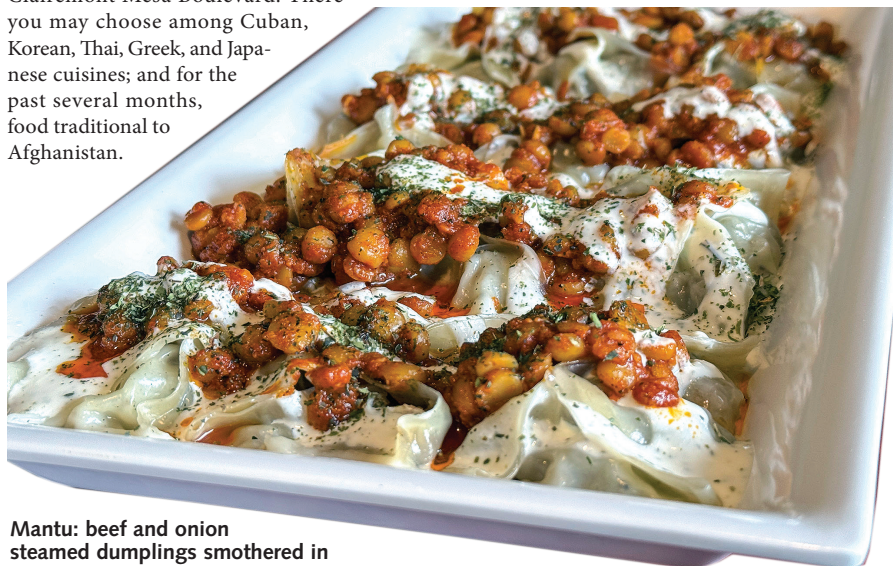


# Afghani explorations

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

## Going traditional at Afghani Food International Market & Restaurant

*Afghani Food International Market & Restaurant, 5440 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego.* I have learned that when it's too much of a challenge to find parking on Convoy, if you drift west across the 805, you can find a smaller, yet no less diverse cluster of restaurants along Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. There you may choose among Cuban, Korean, Thai, Greek, and Japanese cuisines; and for the past several months, food traditional to Afghanistan.



**Mantu:** beef and onion steamed dumplings smothered in sour cream, mint, and lentils

Afghani Food International Market & Restaurant opened this fall, and though its name sounds handed down from the central office of a global conglomerate, it's a local, family-owned business that leans a little more toward restaurant than market.

That said, I would suggest exploring the retail foods packed into coolers that span the entire left wall of the spacious dining room, if only for insights into the sort of products Afghan expats might wish to find in a grocery store. There are loads of nuts (I spotted walnuts, pistachios, almonds, and black pine nuts); a choice of dried apricots including *chapamamak* (which are twisted and dried on the tree; and packs of oleaster, a wild relative of the olive).

Most fascinating are the traditionally Afghan ingredients, including lumps of the unrefined sugar *gur*, and dehydrated yogurt balls called *quroot*. But most tempting would be the array of sweets: ranging from about \$8 to \$10 a package, these include both ginger and sesame candies, sugar-frosted almonds called *naqul*, and almond cookies called *kolcha badami*. These are a sort of shortbread cookie, typically flavored with cardamom, and nice for dipping in coffee or tea.

Of course, there's more to be gleaned about Afghan cuisine by sitting down to a meal. For example, you probably recall without having to brush up on your geography that Afghanistan sits roughly between India and the Middle East. So, the menu features the likes of *tikka kebab*, *naan* flatbread, and basmati rice, while also offering

gyros, chicken shawarma, and falafel.

That's not to say these come off the same as you'll find in corresponding restaurants. The *tikka* here (\$19 lamb, \$18 beef, or \$17 chicken) is far mellower than any Indian version I've tried, for example. And then there's Afghanistan's national dish, *quabli palaow* (\$19). It's a lamb shank and rice dish quite similar to the Iraqi national dish, *quzi*. Both dishes feature lamb, rice, and raisins, but where *quabli* differs most is in featuring plenty of a common ingredient actually thought to have originated in the vicinity of Afghanistan: carrot.

Caramelized, shredded carrots conspire with black and golden raisins to sweeten the lamb-and-rice-dish — it might have proven *too* sweet for me had it not been served with a pair of spicy sauces. Whether red or green, these sauces complete the *quabli* the way salsas complete tacos. I might have avoided making a direct Afghan/Mexican comparison, except two of the restaurants more popular appetizers are billed as "Afghani quesadillas". Actually, these are Afghan favorites made with flatbread rather than tortilla. They're called *kachalo* (\$15) and *bolani* (\$16), the first stuffed with mashed potatoes, the second with a chive-like Afghan leek called *gandana*.

Still, I've saved my favorite for last: a shareable platter of *mantu* dumplings (\$18 for twelve). The delicate, steamed dumplings are filled with a stew of minced beef and onions, which make them similar to any number of dumplings served around the world. Less common would be how they're served: beneath a drizzle of sour cream and a dusting of dried mint, then finished with lentils that have been stewed in olive oil and tomatoes.

Let this dish be the starting point to exploring Afghani Food International Market & Restaurant. You may always fall back on pizza or burgers (both also on the menu!), but especially if you started out looking for something interesting to eat on Convoy, you'll embrace the opportunity to try something new.

-Ian Anderson



Clockwise from the top: a platter of mantu dumplings, chicken seekh tikka, and quabli palaow

## FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

**Esccondido Chocolate Festival** Stroll in and out of nearly 20+ designated restaurants, shops and spa tasting locations while sampling chocolate paired with local fine wines & craft beers. Saturday, February 10, 12pm; \$40-\$60. 21 and up. Maple Street Plaza, On Maple Street between Grand Avenue and Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

**Gnocchi Night Italian Dinner** There will be a few songs thrown in the mix throughout the night by Italian tenor Rosario Monetti and chef Marcello Moccia from Naples cooks up an authentic gnocchi alla sorrentina. Wednesdays, 6pm; through Wednesday, April 17, \$20-\$25. Divo Diva Cafe, 3650 5th Ave #104. (HILLCREST)

**Hello Love Farm-to-Fork Pop Up Culinary Experience** This is a community dining experience where strangers become friends and everyone is welcome. Break bread together, drink wine, and listen to a vinyl DJ. Chefs will prepare a 5 course dinner and each course will be paired with a Chef selected wine. Wednesday, February 14, 5:30pm; \$125. 21 and up. Soap Factory, 2995 Commercial Street. (GRANT HILL)

**Mardi Gras Crawfish & Shrimp Boil** The meal kit comes prepared with all the ingredients to host a successful event, including succulent crawfish, extra-jumbo shrimp, Andouille sausage, fresh vegetables, and a Cajun garlic butter sauce and broth. Tuesday, February 13, 7am; \$10-\$30. Gelson's Market, 2707 Via De La Valle. (DEL MAR)

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## PERSONALS

**BE SAFE** The Driveway Society urges everyone to be safe on the wet roads and watch out for canoes and paddle boats on the roadways.

**CHRISTINA ROD RICO** I have relocated Christina Rod Rico. Please I want to inform all and say goodbye

**DEAREST FUN SIZE** I hope you took my advice and got your canoe re-fiberglassed. Love ya, Frank

**FORKED TONGUE** Hahaha! I never met a person so deceptively in my life and I was innocent and I never lied. No reason to and you think that! Projection. I have it made. I own 3 nice cars; BMW, Benz and GT. I have more hustles than anybody you know. Ask psycho. Mikey

**I'M NOT LAME** Idaho kinda put a wrench in the design though, but I'd have fixed that too. I was in that bush for 15 years. Sheesh! I was trying to do something. Excuse me no touchy abused wanted hidden agenda friend. I was kinda edgy. I did try though. It's hard when I felt so ugly and needed a ball joint. Which I got. You were beautiful though. Just didn't want to be seen with me so ya, it was awkward. But I am king again and if Maggie could like me you could too.

**LOOKING FOR GUYS OVER 70** Looking to meet new friends to go for coffee, walks, watch sports, movies, theatre, happy hour with, I live in Mission Valley but I can meet anywhere in San Diego proper. fregoso\_israel@hotmail.com

**MY GREMLIN LOVER** Doing life with you is a continuous feral adventure. Thanks for making me throat fart all the time. I hope this birthday is one of your happiest yet. I (love aggression) love you! Til the end of the world, baby...Til the end of the world! (916) 416-6808 / rae.mccafferty@yahoo.com

**THANK YOU VIRGIN MARY** V is for virtue and valentines.

**WANT SOME ZZZZZZZS?** Forked tongue. hahaha I told you I would do this. You forget I'm a WA boy and was king cook when I left.

**WARFORD THANK YOU** Thank you for always having a smile on your face, I always enjoy chatting with you.

**DEAR KEVIN,** You bring such joy to the world. I love you so much!

**BE YOURSELF** everyone else is taken

**CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN WHY** San Diego has the worst baggage claim of any major airport in the country?

**SILLY RABBIT,** it's not HA, it's supposed to be AH. At least you got the last word right, LEARN.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAM!** Mountain snow, Gorgeous, here we come. Love you.

**RAYMOND EHRMENTRAUT** Raymond hopingyou and Juanita enjoy valentines day together. You truly are a perfect couple. You ruined what could have

made us return to the way we used to be.

**DEAR KEVIN,** I hope you had a fun Birthday and felt all the love! I love you so much!

**MY GIRLS** Happy Birthday, PATTI, PRISCILLA, PAMELA & BECKY LYNN.I Love you all so much.....GMAN

**VINCE J** Vinny, we are all praying for you to get well and you get to go home. You got this buddy.... Love ya....GMAN

**PEN PAL WANTED** 30 year old male...looking for pen pals. Please send letters to Stephen Singh TDCJ #02451307. Lindsey Unit, PO Box 660400, Dallas, TX 75266-0400

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**76 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.

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mission beach storm drain and green infrastructure, K-24-2115-DBB-3, project.

## CLASSES / LESSONS

**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.

**WINTER SCHOOL** The Rosicrucian Fellowship is excited to invite you to its 2024 Winter Conference between Friday, Feb 9, and Monday, Feb 12, 2024, 2222 Mission Ave. (442) 288-6599 / trfcorporate@gmail.com

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**COLLEGE AREA, \$2100** 2BD+2BA apartment. Fireplace, balcony, new vinyl flooring. Gated. On-site laundry. Elevator. Centrally located, easy freeway access. No pets. Water and trash included. 4828 Art Street. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

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

**NORTH PARK, \$2650** 2BD+1BA in gated community off Adams. New wood-like floors, laundry on site, 2 parking spaces. No pets. Water and trash included. 4678 Ohio Street. Agent, (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:  
2024-9001244

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks Recorder/County Clerk County of San Diego:  
01/18/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
a. **Expire Dental – Jeff Gray DDS**

Located at: **8555 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa, CA 91942, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 8555 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa, CA 91942

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Jeff Gray DDS PC**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Corporation. The first day of business was 01/01/2022.**

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Jennifer Derser, President Corporation/LLC Name**  
**Jeff Gray DDS PC**  
02/08/24, 02/15/24, 02/22/24, 02/29/24

**NORTH PB, \$1690-\$2050** 1BD+1BA + den/office. 1 block to ocean. Utilities, Internet, cable included. Remodeled kitchen/ bath, dishwasher, garden/dual pane windows, ceiling fan, nice yard! Pets considered with deposit. \$300 possible rebate. 8xyDIAMOND@Craigslist.org. Call Lars: (760) 829-8878.

**POINT LOMA, \$2390** Upgraded 1 bedroom condo. Stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, mirrored closet doors, A/C, view, 1-car parking, lagoon pool, hot tub, tennis, volleyball courts, pool table, ping pong, fitness center, laundry. 3050 Rue D'Orleans, 92110. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

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

**OFFICE SPACE ON MORENA BLVD** Approximately 150 sq ft space available within a fitness studio on Morena Blvd. Centrally located for an office, massage therapy or chiropractic office. Shared restroom also available. Only trustworthy, reliable, and respectful individuals may apply! mollymyken@msn.com

**OFFICE SPACE ZONED M2** Office Space @ 900sf zoned M2 (760) 855-3551 / exumrecording@gmail.com

**LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT** Female looking for a nice room around \$900 with private

entry or bathroom. Can pay more in the Claremont area. I work as a nurse and a waitress. Can provide references. No riff Raff. Call (213) 561-7892

**OTAY MESA STUDIO** no pets or smoking, laundry, desirable neighborhood, transportation close, \$1350. (619) 808-1068.

**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 NASCCO. 2850 Main Street. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

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

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

## REAL ESTATE

**LONDON BRIDGE RESORT** • Ownership to a one bedroom odd year, deeded ownership. • All dues/fees are due to date. •

Legals@SanDiegoReader.com ■ 619-235-3000

# LEGAL NOTICES

We are a fully adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE-CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 37-20240003463-CJ-PT-CTL  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego**  
330 W. BROADWAY, San Diego 92101

Petition Of: **Pamela Carol Chalk**  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all Interested Persons: Petitioner: **Pamela Carol Chalk** filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. **Pamela Carol Chalk to Pamela Carol Andrews**

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least ten court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

### NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: **03/12/2024**

Time: **8:30 am**, Dept: **C-61**

The address of the court is the same as noted above.

A copy of this *Order to Show Cause* must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: **San Diego Reader**

**NO HEARING WILL OCCUR ON THE ABOVE DATE, SEE ATTACHMENT.**

Dated: **01/26/2024**

**Maureen F. Hallahan**

Judge of the Superior Court.

ATTACHMENT TO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME (JC FORM #NC-120). NO HEARING WILL OCCUR ON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE. The court will review the documents filed as of the date specified on the Order to Show Cause for Change of Name (JC Form #NC-120). If all requirements for a name change have been met as of the date specified, and no timely written objection has been received (required at least two court days before the date specified), the Petition for Change of Name (JC Form #NC-100) will be granted without a hearing. One copy of the Order Granting the Petition will be mailed to the petitioner. To change a name on a legal document, including a birth certificate, social security card, driver license, passport, and other identification, a certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be required. Contact the agency(ies) who issues the legal document that needs to be changed, to determine if a certified copy is required. A certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be obtained from the Civil Business Office for a fee. Petitioners who are seeking a change of name under the Safe at Home program may contact the assigned department for information on obtaining certified copies. If all the requirements have not been met as of the date specified, the court will mail the petitioner a written order with further directions. If a timely objection is filed, the court will set a hearing date and contact the parties by mail with further directions. A RESPONDENT OBJECTING TO THE NAME CHANGE MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION AT LEAST TWO COURT DAYS (excluding weekends and holidays) BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED. Do not come to court on the specified date. The court will notify the parties by mail of a future hearing date. Any Petition for the name change of a minor that is signed by only one parent must have this Attachment served along with the Petition and Order to Show Cause, on the other non-signing parent, and proof of service must be filed with the court.

Published: 02/01/24, 02/08/24, 02/15/24, 02/22/24



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# LEGAL NOTICES

We are a fully adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001246**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/18/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Espire Dental – La Jolla**

Located at: **7776 Ivanhoe  
Ave, Ste. 100, La Jolla, CA  
92037, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 7995 East  
Prentice Ave, Ste. 211, Centen-  
nial, CO 80111

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Winter Dentistry, Inc**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Corporation. The first day  
of business was 01/01/2022.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Jennifer Derse, President**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Winter Dentistry, Inc**  
02/08/24, 02/15/24,  
02/22/24, 02/29/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001245**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/18/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Espire Dental – Encinitas**

Located at: **501 North El  
Camino Real, Suite 200,  
Encinitas, CA 92024, San  
Diego County**

Mailing Address: 7995 East  
Prentice Ave, Ste. 211, Centen-  
nial, CO 80111

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Omer M. Anisso, DDS, Inc**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Corporation. The first day  
of business was 06/01/2023.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Jennifer Derse, President**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Omer M. Anisso, DDS, Inc**  
02/08/24, 02/15/24,  
02/22/24, 02/29/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001247**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/18/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Espire Dental – Mission  
Valley**

Located at: **8989 Rio San Di-  
ego Dr, Ste. 170, San Diego,  
CA 92108, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 7995 East  
Prentice Ave, Ste. 211, Centen-  
nial, CO 80111

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Scott A & Leslie S Strommer  
DDS Inc**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Corporation. The first day  
of business was 01/01/2022.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Jennifer Derse, President**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Scott A & Leslie S Strommer  
DDS Inc**  
02/08/24, 02/15/24,  
02/22/24, 02/29/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9002072**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/29/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Kengina.com**

Located at: **4483 Hermosa  
Way, San Diego, CA 92103,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 4483  
Hermosa Way, San Diego, CA  
92103

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Kengina.com Inc**  
This business is conducted by:  
**A Corporation. The first day  
of business was 01/01/1990.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Kenneth Joseph Tablang,  
President**  
Corporation/LLC Name:  
**Kengina.com Inc**  
02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24, 02/22/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001940**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/26/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Communion Mission Hills  
b. Communion**

Located at: **901 W Washing-  
ton St, San Diego, CA 92103,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 7850 High-  
way 111, La Quinta, CA 92253

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Jacqueline Renna-General  
Partner of Communion-  
Mission Hills LP**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Limited Partnership. The  
first day of business was N/A.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name: **Jacqueline  
Renna, General Partner**  
Corporation/LLC Name: **Com-  
munion Mission Hills LP**  
02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24, 02/22/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001939**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/26/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Paradis  
b. Paradis Mission Hills  
c. Paradis Cafe  
d. Paradis Restaurant**

Located at: **901 W Washing-  
ton St, San Diego, CA 92103,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 7850 High-  
way 111, La Quinta, CA 92253

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Jacqueline Renna-General  
Partner of Communion-  
Mission Hills LP**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Limited Partnership. The  
first day of business was N/A.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name: **Jacqueline  
Renna, General Partner**  
Corporation/LLC Name: **Com-  
munion Mission Hills LP**  
02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24, 02/22/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001719**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/24/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Lorna Leigh Pottery**

Located at: **12509 Sunglow  
Dr, El Cajon, CA 92021, San  
Diego County**

Mailing Address: 12509 Sun-  
glow Dr, El Cajon, CA 92021

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Lorna Leigh Berliner**

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was N/A.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Lorna Leigh Berliner**  
02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24, 02/22/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001044**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/16/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Specialized Golf Cart Parts**

Located at: **2524 Granada Cir,  
Spring Valley, CA 91977, San  
Diego County**

Mailing Address: 2524 Granada  
Cir, Spring Valley, CA 91977

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Marielena Mejia**

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was 01/14/2024.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Marielena Mejia**  
02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24, 02/22/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-900 1787**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/24/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. M Winehouse**

Located at: **750 W Fir St, Unit  
106, San Diego, CA 92101,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 750 W Fir St,  
Unit 106, San Diego, CA 92101

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Rumel Entertainment Group Inc**

State of Incorporation/Organ-  
ization: **California**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Limited Partnership. The  
first day of business was  
11/20/2014.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Ivan Martinez, Manager/  
Secretary**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Rumel Entertainment Group Inc**  
02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24, 02/22/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9001643**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/23/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Corner Kitchen Cafe**

Located at: **1165 6th Ave, San  
Diego, CA, 92101, San Diego  
County**

Mailing Address: 1165 6th Ave,  
San Diego, CA, 92101

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**a. Berlin Eats and Drinks LLC**

State of Incorporation/Organ-  
ization: **California**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Limited Liability Company.  
The first day of business  
was N/A.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Sami Atar, Manager**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Berlin Eats and Drinks LLC**  
02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24, 02/22/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9000290**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/05/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Dreamscape Ketamine  
and Wellness**

Located at: **2878 Camino del  
Rio S #404, San Diego, CA  
92108, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 2878 Camino  
del Rio S #404, San Diego, CA  
92108

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Dreamscape Ketamine and  
Wellness**

This business is conducted by:  
**a Corporation. The first day  
of business was 10/01/2023.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Lindsey Garrett, CEO**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Dreamscape Ketamine and  
Wellness**  
01/25/24, 02/01/24,  
02/08/24, 02/15/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9000993**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**01/16/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Cohelan Khoury & Singer  
A Partnership Of Profes-  
sional Law Corporations**

Located at: **605 C Street, Ste  
200, San Diego, CA 92101,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 605 C Street,  
Ste 200, San Diego, CA 92101

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**a. Isam C Khoury A Profes-  
sional Corporation**

**b. Michael D Singer A Profes-  
sional Law Corporation**

**c. Timothy D Cohelan A Profes-  
sional Law Corporation**

This business is conducted by:  
**A General Partnership. The  
first day of business was  
07/01/1981.**

I declare that all information in  
this statement is true and cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Isam Khoury, General  
Partner**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Isam C Khoury A Profes-  
sional Corporation**  
01/25/24, 02/01/24, 02/08/24,  
02/15/24



# Bluefin tuna thick off the coast of Baja – Runoff and stocked trout triggering catfish

**Dock Totals 1/28 – 2/3:** 325 anglers aboard 15 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 27 calico bass, 34 perch, 275 sand bass, 128 sculpin, 4 triggerfish, and 663 whitefish.

**Saltwater:** Typical winter fishing punctuated by yet another front passing through kept the numbers of anglers and trips to a minimum. Boats made it out five days last week, and the counts indicate very localized fishing with no rockfish trips into Mexican waters. No lobster trips made it out, either. The majority of fish caught were whitefish, sand bass, and sculpin. That said, reports just down the line indicate a strong spring ahead, considering they are finding yellowtail on the nearshore banks off San Quintin, and some long-range boats are seeing signs of bluefin as they move south. Typically, yellowtail are more active in January further south along the Vizcaino Peninsula. That they are biting well as far north as San Quintin is a good sign.

As for the bluefin, Tim Ekstrom of the *Royal Star* puts it into perspective: “We did see quite a bit of scattered bluefin while heading south, consistent with the past few years. Sharing info with the commercial fleet, they mentioned the incredible distribution of fish this winter that is currently spread from outside Ensenada all the way down past Cedros island. To say the least, this bodes well for the spring, summer, and fall to come.”

Personally, I got a taste of bluefin action without setting foot on a boat or holding a rod in my hand. Two large seiners were parked in the lee of the weather inside of Punta Mazo off San Quintin, and some friends went out and bought a dozen fish from them, ranging from 50 to 150 pounds. I reckon those guys on the seiners needed a little pocket money for their shore leave while sitting out the storm. Either way, they said the bluefin tuna were thick, and they were fast approaching their quota. The fish we bought were fresh and packed in crushed ice, and I managed to bum a chunk and enjoyed a dinner of seared medallions of bluefin. I expect that as conditions soften up and more boats out for winter maintenance come online, we will soon see bluefin in the counts for the full-day to 3-day fleet. The fish are there; boats just haven’t been able to get to them. Yet.

Folks targeting the surf and the bays between the blows have been finding hit and miss action on surf perch, halibut, and spotted bay bass. Those fishing the surf have been having the best success on small plastics on a Carolina rig, as sand crabs are still in their winter



Francisco Aguirre with his chunky 34.10-pound catfish caught at Lake Wohlford.

mode and tough to find. Tube baits and swim baits have been the productive go-to lures in the bays for the bass and halibut. All in all, and in spite of the strong systems pushing through, 2024 is looking very promising for both inshore and offshore fishing.

**Freshwater:** As we are smack in the middle of trout season in Southern California, that has been the major focus in our local lakes. Anglers are doing well on Powerbait and mini jigs, as is the usual, but with the extra rain and runoff, catfish have been more active as the influx of runoff stirs up the water enough to trigger their scent-driven feeding. Several nice cats have been caught from Santee Lakes and Wohlford in recent weeks, especially during the periods just after the strongest rain. This past week was no exception, with another standout caught at Wohlford at 34.10 pounds by Francisco Aguirre, using a chunk of mackerel. That is less than half the size of the 71.2-pound lake record cat caught on December 30, but still a hefty specimen that would thrill any angler.

Along with the rain runoff, trout plants can also stir up the action, as the

smaller trout in the mix are tasty morsels for larger bass and catfish...as well as from above by the white pelicans that winter in our lakes. Thankfully, brown pelicans tend to stick to saltwater. Brown pelicans are the only of the seven species of pelicans that “dive bomb” to feed, and often do so in large squadrons that can decimate a school of sardines in short order. As fresh-stocked trout tend to swim the shallows along the shorelines in schools, large numbers of dive-bombing pelicans would quickly consume the freshly-planted trout. I really enjoy watching brown pelicans at work, but I sure am happy they tend to stick to the ocean.

On the other hand, white pelicans tend to feed by herding the fish, with a handful of pelicans working together before plunging down and scoop up a meal. White pelicans are also more driven by the winter conditions in higher altitudes and migrate, as do birds of prey like the bald eagles we see in area lakes in the winter.

Along with bass and catfish from below, white pelicans, bald eagles, and even cormorants tend to take a few stocked trout every season, but with the consistent stocking schedules, there are still plenty of fish left for anglers. Upcoming plants include 1500 pounds February 8 at Lake Poway, 1000 pounds at Santee Lakes on February 9, 1500 pounds between February 11-17 at Lake Wohlford, and 1500 pounds at Lake Jennings on February 19. They’re out there, so go get ‘em!

DANIEL POWELL

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## MUSIC

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**VOTE FOR CECE!** Vote for CeCe in America's Favorite Pet contest. Check out Instagram @cece\_pastel. americasfavpet.com/2024/cece-0e4a



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**CANNONDALE BIKE** size small, lightweight, older, no dents or damage. For someone 5'3" or less \$185 Call (619) 456-0564

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**2011 TOYOTA SIENNA 2ND ROW RECLINING SEATS** 2 2nd row ottoman reclining seats for a 2011 Toyota sienna limited; gray leather. (760) 840-7198

**2012 ACURA TL FOR SALE** I am the second owner, clean title, 6 cylinder, technology package, sunroom, heated seats 2 new tires, new battery, windshield wipers, replaced filters, had oil change done in December 2023, drives very well, no issues, 163,070 miles, \$11,000. (858) 248-2971 / artuorimorales2@gmail.com

**1981 CHEVY C20 SCOTTS-DALE** Needs work, blown head gasket, other issues. \$1500. (858) 210-1634

**2002 FORD THUNDERBIRD** triple black, 83,000 miles, convertible with port hole T-top, stellar condition. Carfax \$15,400. (619) 991-1412

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**JAGUAR X-TYPE ALUMINUM WHEELS** Three Original 18" 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

**2005 BUICK LACROSSE CXL** Gold Metallic, leather seats, all power. Runs great. All papers. 98K original miles. cash price \$3,400 858-876-2150ne

**2013 HYUNDAI TRADE** runs good, will trade for small pick up running or not ruining \$1000. Please asap. I'll take a broken or barely broken car Or a cash deal. Please let me now. I won't be dissatisfied or disappointed if you have a broken car. 858-361-4787 (858) 361-4787 / goldflyn@yahoo.com

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**2006 HONDA ELEMENT \$3900** 229,000 miles. Blue. Automatic. Rattle in front end is from broken strut. Price is discounted \$1000. Body is in good shape for the age. Cold A/C. Seats have some tears with seat covers. Clean Title. Runs great. Call Dan with

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**1964 C10 CHEVY 350** 4spd munica, no rust, 4 tailgates. disk brakes, 3 gas tanks, orig. ac truck. Located in clairomont. \$20K, (207) 265-6640

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## HELP WANTED

**ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY** Samsung Semiconductor, Inc., a semiconductor design and development company, has an opening in San Diego, CA for Senior Engineer (E100): Lead junior engineers to maintain existing mmWave RF features and develop new mmWave RF features. Position requires up to 25% of domestic/ international travel. Telecommuting permitted. \$154,350 to \$167,560 is the annual salary range for this position & salary will depend on knowledge, skills, experience, education and training. For all positions listed, information regarding benefits/total reward package can be found at https://www.samsung.com/us/careers/benefits/. Please ref. job code and email resumes to hrmobility@ssi.samsung.com.

**SAS ANALYST/ PROGRAMMER II** (San Diego, CA) - Create new SAS progrms, troubleshoot & update progrms in support of tech solutns for reportg clincl data. Req MS in Stats, Biostats, or Comp Sci + skills & knowldg in SAS Base, Clinical trials, Statistical methodology/Data Analysis, Statistical Collaborations, Survival Analysis. Range: \$83k-\$88k. Send res w/code YIS004 to HR, Pharmapace, 10509 Vista Sorrento Pkwy, San Diego, CA 92121

**FULLSTACK DEVELOPERS** San Diego, CA: Dvlp sophisticated client-side apps for the web & mobile web by using HTML5, CSS3 & JavaScript framework such as Angular JS, React.js/ Redux, Backbone.js and Vue.js. Integrate data from various back-end Restful services & databases via API's by using AJAX, Promises, GraphQL and Observables. Some job duties can be performed from home. Travel/relocate to various unanticipated U.S. locs as reqd. Salary: \$96,000 - \$100,000/yr. Send res to: Sydata Inc. at paralegal@sydatainc.com

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY:** Prepare for & attend hearings, trials, depositions & client meetings. \$92,747/Yr. San Diego, CA Mail Resume: Antonyan Miranda LLP,

402 W Broadway, Ste 2100, San Diego, CA 92101

**LIGHTING ARTIST** Resp. for creating gameplay & in-game cinematic lighting based on direction from the Art Director. Req. Bach. in Animation & Visual Effects, Digital Arts, or rel. field. Jobsite: Carlsbad, CA. Wage range: \$102,252.80/yr to \$161,5000/yr. Send resume ref#22354 to K. Finnsson, Activision Publishing Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg. B, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

**PURCHASE MANAGER** Chase (USA) International, Inc. is a wholesale & retail store for clothing/accessories in San Ysidro, CA. Seeks a Purchase Manager to negotiate contracts & formulate policies with suppliers; locate vendors & interview them to determine product availability & terms of sales; confer with wholesale buyers on order specifications, inspect goods for quality control; & negotiate terms. Min. rgmt. is 2 years experience in the job offered. Mail resume to Chase (USA) International, Inc. at 388 West Calle Primera, San Ysidro, CA 92173. Ad paid for by Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Vista Farmers Market looking for Assistant Market Manager. Saturdays from 6-6:30 am 8 hours for \$20/hour. It is a physical job setting up and tearing down, etc. mark@vistafarmersmarket.com mark@vistafarmersmarket.com

**SD IHSS FEMALE CAREGIVER** Elderly man with minor mobility. restriction needs help with daily routine. Position REQUIRES enrollment. here: www.sdihsppa.com. 5 hrs Mon Wed Fri AM. Rancho Bernardo. Not for other unsolicited. Services or offers. (858) 360-0388 text

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

**AVAILABLE IHSS CAREGIVER WANTED** Mission Valley in home supportive services caregiver needed with car. I have two schedules for you to choose from: 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM or 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Three days per week Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Provider needs to have a vehicle and be willing to help a senior lady with her daily routine. Please leave a voice message by calling (619) 269-3434.

## JOBS WANTED

**SEAFOOD PROCESSOR/ DECKHAND.** Looking for a job in this field, either in San Diego or Alaska. 5 years experience in Alaska with Trident Seafood. Call or text (858) 424-0037. Mr. Gheir Flecher

**COOK OR DISHWASHER PREFERRED** Looking for Temp work for myself. Cook or Dishwasher work work. Temp agencies can call as well, no problem. Have references and experience.(858) 424-0037

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

## WANTED / TRADE

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

**CASH FOR OLD BROKEN WATCHES** any condition running or not (760) 331-4744

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**WANTED: CHECKER MARATHON** in good condition, please call or text Bobby. (207) 265-6640.

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

**CASH FOR COMIC BOOKS** Need Money? 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.

## GARAGE SALES

**VISTA MAKERS MARKET & BAR HOP** Shop 35 local makers, enjoy refreshing brews and local eats! No MLM or direct sales will be present. This event is FREE to attend! You only pay for the items you wish to purchase and the drinks you want to consume. fb.me/1IUHZnI09 popups@iheartindiemarkets.com

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# ROAM

I grip my steering wheel in disbelief as I arrive at the trailhead and stare at the row of parked cars along the side of the road. Nearly a decade ago, I hiked this peak with my father, and back then there was only one parked car: ours. Now there are legions. It's an incursion. The dirt strip along the side of the road holds nine cars and further along the road, the cars continue like the long body of a roosting dragon before disappearing out of view around a hairpin turn. Many of the cars have Cleveland National Forest day passes dangling from their rearview mirror — a parking requirement out here that I'm told is enforced with stinging fines — while a few cars have curious orange labels stuck to the driver's side window. Turns out it's a tow warning from a ranger who's been patrolling in the early morning. Many of the cars are parked illegally, and I wonder if the ranger gave up trying to warn them all or simply ran out of stickers.

I park my car a quarter-mile up the road, its back end dangling half-off the embankment. The earth is still full of water from the recent rains, and I wonder whether my car insurance covers landslides before starting down the road towards the trailhead while lathering on some expired sunscreen and tightening my manly fanny pack.

Like a long-forgotten niece or nephew, the little hike from nearly a decade ago seems to have grown up in my absence. In my vanity, I attribute this popularity to my column, but the silent fresh air mocks my ego, and the idea fades like an exposed strip of film. I wonder what would draw such a congregation to the mountain, but not having any real presence on social media or knowledge of its fleeting, fickle trends, I can't say whether Corte Madera has become an Instagram or TikTok sensation without my knowing.

Normally, my backcountry hikes are monkish meditations marked by a steady, unbroken silence, aside from the few "hiya's" and "how-



*An overlook with a view to the northeast.*

dy's" to occasional passersby. But today, I'm curious to see what desperate, foolish people will be out on this lonely road with me. I ponder all those on the path ahead—city folk with itchy souls setting New Year's resolutions to unmoor their souls, single mothers with young kids exposing them to fresh pine scents and decaying oak leaves, sweaty Marines on short leave from the sandy shores of Camp Pendleton. As I follow the undergrowth past a fork in the road with a freshly painted sign pointing toward Corte Madera, I begin to hear voices ahead of me on the trail, and I brim with anticipation.

Two waves of four people speaking Mandarin and wearing matching bucket hats pass by. *No more than two cars' worth of people*, I think to myself while waving and continuing along the trail, which now begins to wind upward. In the distance, I spot the low saddle between two mountains that I will climb, and coming off the side are small specks of colorful shirts. They are other hikers that I will eventually pass, more or less uneventfully, although the man who I catch peeing just off the trail is the exception. I greet him while he is midstream

and quietly laugh at the panic in his voice as he turns red with embarrassment.

It isn't until after a bit of climbing that I hear the low din of several voices crashing upon one another from behind a large boulder. Passing it, I see a massive group climbing up a slope, and because they have the right of way, I move off the trail to let them by.

They emerge from behind the trees, walking in a long, slow march. Some have a spirit of vitality, flashing smiles below the brim of caps gripped by polarized sunglasses, while others seem resigned to fate: heads down, eyes straining forward, guiding limbs up coarse, granite stones. They scrub the trail with their boots and duck under branches that cut into them like long, sharp knives. I am a specter to them, felt but unseen. My prying eyes haunt their movements, and I take inventory of a woman passing by. She has an undercut; her hair is slicked back and dangling over a white backpack that has brushed against the dirt and been stained. Her red gloves make her hands look like those of an organ harvester; the left one holds two trekking poles, onto which she shifts her weight to vault up an indented boulder.

"Hello," we say to one another, me looking at her, but her looking at the path ahead. Then she falls out of my life forever, and there's a man coming towards me. His bald head wrapped in a purple bandana with sunglasses to match. His grey goatee is crooked, and his maroon sweater shows thin bands of sweat.

"Hi," we say, then he's gone too. The next man comes up, a blue Patagonia shell wrapped around his waist. They go well with his beige khaki pants. I greet him and the dozens of others and then let them all go. I am like a fly fisherman, catching and releasing Saturday afternoon salutations that rub against me like rays of sunshine on a foggy day.

Seconds spin into minutes until I awaken as if from a deep stupor. I've lingered for so long that I struggle to pull myself free from the lattice of time into which I was woven while the owners of all the parked cars passed me by. Looking about, I see a few friendly hikers at the bottom of the slope who reward my patience by letting me down the path before they climb up it.

As I climb down, an older man with a scar twisting down his cheek seizes my shoulder and says, "Look, beyond that tree." His brow flares, and I turn away from his glittering eyes to see what he sees, though my eyes land

on nothing.

"Do you see the mark?" he asks. And I do. Poking up just above the canopy is the top of a petroglyph, but it disappears behind dancing leaves that bob joyously in the wind.

"Continue down the path, and after you've begun to climb for a spell, you'll see a boulder. Stand on it and look again. Goodbye!" Soon the man is halfway up the trail with his companions while I stand blinking at the hidden carving. Minutes later, I come to the boulder and see it in full. A symbol of the sun, perhaps drawn by ancient wanderers who lived here long ago, or maybe by bored kids in the more recent past with lots of time to kill and no MTV or smartphones to keep them gawking.

The trail meanders up and down, and I push through tall manzanitas that tear at my skin until I come to the mountain's crest and rise above it all. I see three rowdy women bounding toward me; they stop and turn off the trail to race up a rough, round boulder while hurling insults at one another in hoarse shouts. I creep past them, bracing as if they will wolf whistle at me. But they don't, and I pass by, ignored or unnoticed, following the trail as it dips down for its final bow before climbing back up to the peak. The peak has no sharp points to point to, but instead sits upon a large granite dome that looks like the sawn-off stump of a tree limb when seen from down below.

Alone on the dome, I look back and see the three women bouncing along the boulders behind me and hear them swearing at one another like sailors. Then I look southeast to Los Pinos Mountain. A rich brown trail cuts through the side of the green velvet mountain, and I espy the fire lookout tower that crowns its peak.

Removing my manly fanny pack, I pull out some nuts and dates and eat them, then peel a ripe orange that drips sticky citrus juice down my fingers. Later, I will rub my hands with dirt to dry them, but for now, I let the juice drip as I watch nearby birds flit and chat with one another, while high above a kettle of vultures soars into a thermal. Wet with sweat, I strip off my shirt and pants and stand in my briefs as the wind cools my body and the sun warms it. Then I switch into a warmer jacket and clean shorts while plugging my ears with headphones. The howl of the wind falls away to melodic tunes that I leap along to, racing down the mountain while abandoning memories that slip away, forgotten.

*-Ryan Brothers*

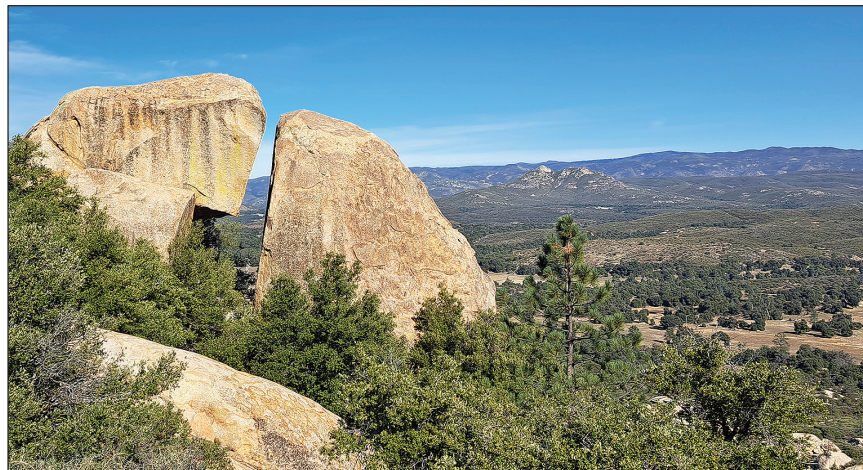
## CORTE MADERA MOUNTAIN

Located in Mountain Empire, Corte Madera is a moderately strenuous hike.

Given its length of around 7 miles and an elevation gain of around 1500 feet, the hike will take most people 2 to 4 hours to complete.

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** 51 miles

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



*A split boulder.*



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**MISC. FOR SALE** Shells of all kinds, 2 real pearls; over 200 shells. Porcelain dolls and collectible dolls 100 - 200 years old. (619) 231-1215

**SLOT MACHINES, JUKE BOX AND MORE** Two Las Vegas slot machines from Fleming Hotel \$500/each or best offer. An old Juke Box \$400 or best offer. 1969 Cougar - needs electronic work; good exterior condition \$9,000 or best offer. Old golf - cart need mechanical work \$400 or best offer. Beautiful Crystal; assorted Crystal all kinds name brands. Call (619) 381-2134



**CANON POWERSHOT A520 4.0MP LCD** Canon PowerShot A520 4.0MP LCD Digital Camera Bundle - Box, Manuals, SD Card, CANON STRAP, "TESTED" (760) 967-9118 / jerrymarylin2000@yahoo.com

**NEW ALUMINUM WALKING CANE** Black or Silver chrome walking cane with a comfortable foam offset handle & wrist strap. Rated for up to 300 lb. Push-button height adjustment (29"-38") and a locking ring for security. New with original tags & stickers, \$12. 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 original plastic sealed case. \$12. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**ANTIQUE PLAYBOY MAGAZINES** @300 Playboy Mags, 1957-2000's, Worth @ \$7000 but are being sold for \$3000., & @ 55 other known odd & end mags also starting in the 1950's. (619) 548-2120 Jeff Also Gold stamp collection, and paintings. / hizplace@hotmail.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. \$35. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**NEW BLACK FOLDING WALKING CANE** This cane has contoured T-handle, push-button adjustable height (32"-36") & locking collar for safety, 250 lbs. capacity. Easily fit into a bag or purse when folded. New, never used and in original plastic carryings bag. \$12. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



**RAZOR FOLDABLE KICK SCOOTER** 2 Razor scooters available with 13" adjustable handlebars (no grips), 32-33" max. handle height, 3.75" wheels & rear heel brakes. \$15 (20"x 3.75" deck) or \$12 (16"x 3.75" deck) or \$25 for both. Clean & in good condition. Text for more info/pictures (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



**SILVER TABLE LAMP LINEN SHADE** This beautiful 27.5" tall lamp has a pretty beige pleated (horizontal lines) linen drum shade (13" top, 15" bottom, 10.875" side), silver metal body (16.5" tall) & base (6.75" round). Like new & in excellent condition. \$45. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / 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. \$45. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**USD FOOTBALL BLANKET** Like New - 100% Cotton, 50 x 60 \$40. Sells for much more. Cash Only mapaul16@gmail.com

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**DESK OFFICE CHAIR** Black, with arms, on wheels. \$35 obo (619) 475-5305 / anaheimhouse@hotmail.com

**EPSON PRINTER** Precision Core Workforce WF-3640. Inkjet Printer. Features: Copier, Fax, Scanner, Printer. Wireless (619) 475-5305 / anaheimhouse@hotmail.com



**LANIER LD425 COPIER** Copy/Document Server, Facsimile, Printer, and Scanner Functions. \$125.00 obo (619) 475-5305 / anaheimhouse@hotmail.com

**NEW HEART RATE MONITOR / WATCH** Black LCD display unit shows heart rate, counts steps & calories burned, date & time with stopwatch & alarm. Stainless steel back water resistant up to 98 ft. Backlight display for easy night use. New in the original box. \$15. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



**NEW VAC STILL IN THE BOX!** DirtDevil EnduroMax. Was a gift but I have the same model, mine works great! \$40. cash, firm you pick up in Northpark. serious

buyers only. star@indigochakra-healing.com

**VINTAGE ELECTROLUX VACUUM CLEANER** with attachments and extra bags. \$100. mardiewho@yahoo.com

**100FT FISH TAPE** 100ft fish tape w/steel leader. \$40.00. 25ft fish tape \$25.00. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com



**700CC SINGLE SPEED WHEEL SET** Single speed wheel set with tires and tubes. 700cc. flip flop hub. Has rust on spokes but fully functional \$50 burleybikes@hotmail.com

**DYMO LABEL UNIT** dymo label unit w/cartridge. \$50.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

**HORSESHOES** \$10 set burleybikes@hotmail.com

**IDEAL CAT 5 CABLE TESTER** CAT 5 cable tester. \$50.00. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT** Bariatric Walker - \$25, Bariatric Walker with seat new - \$75, hospital bed mattress new - \$75. (760) 757-5445

**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

**UNIDEN AND BTECH RADIOS** Uniden BCD436HP and Btech DMR 6X2. Send name, phone number and call sign to bg6@gmx.com.

**150 GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINES** spanning the 1970s, many celebrity interviews and funny cartoons. Make offer. Call PJ (858) 232-1326

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<b>BRAKES</b> Front or rear *Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.	From <b>\$49</b> most cars
<b>30K 60K 90K</b> Scheduled Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	<b>\$65</b> most cars
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<b>TIMING BELT</b> Parts & Labor *Prices may vary depending on make and model.	<b>\$75</b> most cars 4 cyl.
<b>STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS</b> Plus labor.	<b>\$95</b> most cars 4 cyl.
<b>FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT</b> 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! <b>8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&amp;C</b> <b>858-533-8120</b>	

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.



**NEW BLOOD PRESSURE MONITOR** This pulse & blood pressure unit has a large digital read-out with talking features in English & Spanish. One button operation. It comes with universal cuff, user's manual, quick start guide & batteries. New & never used. \$25. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**AKORN KAMADO SMOKER & GRILL:** Model 6719, never used - new in sealed box, \$250., no haggle price, in Escondido, call (760) 746-7209

**BLUE RECLINING OFFICE CHAIR** This swivel rolling fabric computer desk chair is well constructed & very comfortable. It reclines up to about 30 degrees. A small tear on the back of the fabric backrest but otherwise it is clean & in good condition. \$35. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**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.

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**MASTER COMBINATION LOCKS** Need Locks? I have a large number of used combination locks that I am selling for \$1. each or 6 for \$5. I have combinations for all locks. bob bobfrom-craigslist@gmail.com

**NEW 32" PISTOL GRIP REACHER** This tool makes it easy to grasp lightweight objects up to 2.25" wide. Squeeze trigger closes the jaw tightly for secure grabbing. Pick up items overhead without reaching up (10 oz. limit) or bending down (5 lbs. limit). \$10. 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.



**VINTAGE RADIO - RECORDIO** This is a unique early radio and record player that could record at home on specialized records. It powers up. It was used by musicians to record demo records. It could also be used to record from the included radio. Thank you for looking. bob bobfromcraigslist@gmail.com

**SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SF12:** High pressure laminate forming machine, purchased new for \$5,000., very little use, 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

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<b>Low Prices On Body &amp; Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers &amp; Cat</b>		<b>SMOG CHECK</b> Most Cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & Convenient *Not a star station. From 2000 & up	<b>\$26.75</b>

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<b>BRAKES</b> from Front or rear Most Cars	<b>\$50</b> + Labor	<b>4 Wheel Alignment</b> Most 4-cyl., Cars	<b>\$75</b>
<b>HEAD GASKET</b> 4-cyl., & Most Cars & Machine Extra	<b>\$799</b>	<b>AC SERVICE</b> Most Cars	<b>\$95</b>
<b>FREE CHECK ENGINE LITE</b> '96 & up. Most Cars.			
<b>REPAINT BUMPER OR FENDER</b> from each. Most Cars	<b>\$295</b>	<b>30K SERVICE</b> 4 cyl., Most Cars	<b>\$195</b>
<b>TIMING BELT</b> 4-cyl., Most Cars	<b>\$195</b>	<b>AXLE SHAFT</b> 4-cyl., Most Cars Plus Labor	<b>\$99</b> each

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<b>EXHAUST SYSTEM REPAIR AVAILABLE</b>	<b>ENGINE STEAM CLEAN AVAILABLE</b> Most Vehicles	<b>30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL</b> from <b>\$279.95</b> 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
<b>NEW CV AXLE</b> from <b>\$159.95</b> Parts & Labor	<b>TIMING BELT SPECIAL</b> <b>\$50 off quoted price</b> Recommended at 60k miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.	

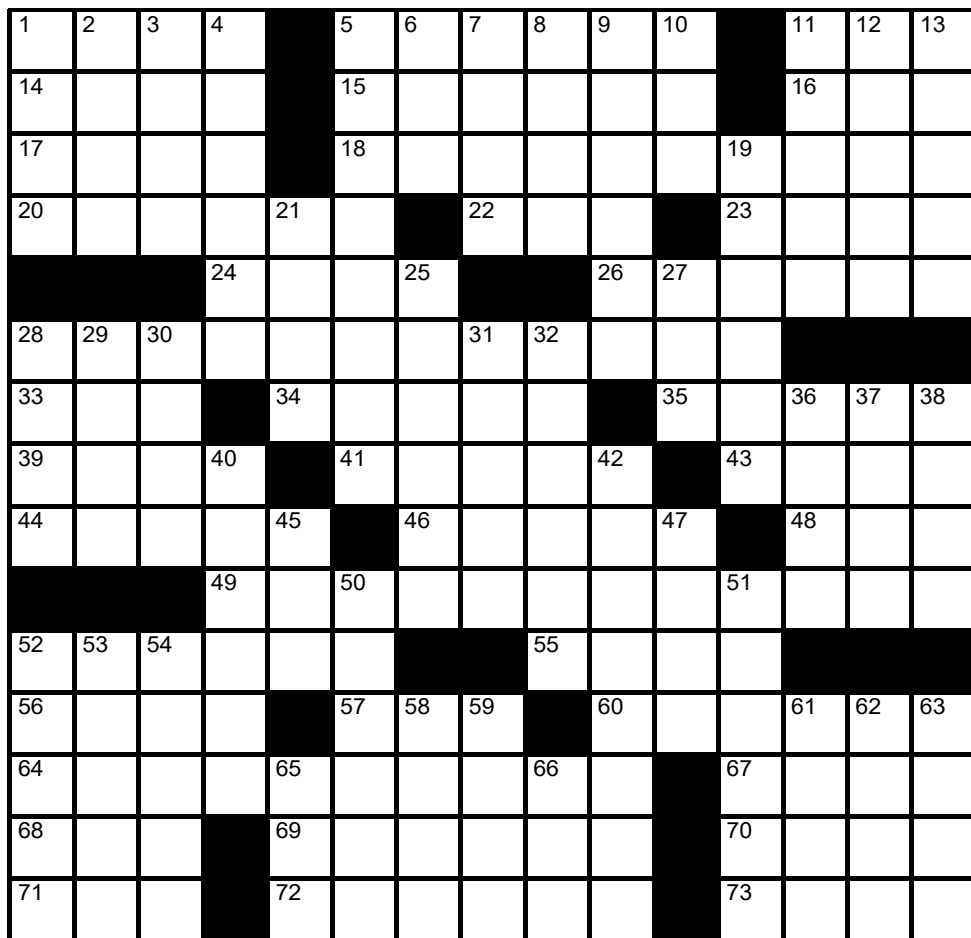
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# CROSSWORD



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## Across

1. Wall St. buys, for short  
5. Type of name or voyage  
11. Disney dwarf  
14. After-bath powder  
15. Live (as opposed to "test tube")  
16. "Tic-Tac-Dough" winning line  
17. The most charitable U.S. state four years in a row, per a WalletHub analysis  
18. "Mr. Buscemi, meet this Muppet rat" introduction?  
20. Respite from the nine-to-five  
22. Marino or Pedro preceder  
23. Fishing equipment

## Down

24. Flock-related  
26. Fencing weapons  
28. Municipality that's been cooked in a well-oiled pan?  
33. Grainy milk source  
34. Hauntingly strange  
35. Undomesticated  
39. College basketball's Runnin' Rebels  
41. Campground units  
43. Passage marker?  
44. Bath salt scent  
46. Brewpub option  
48. "Mazel \_\_\_\_!"  
49. The further biography of a family in a 1985 Anjelica Huston crime comedy?  
52. First words of a search for a

## Across

- tutorial, maybe  
55. Provide meals for  
56. "Dies \_\_\_\_" (Latin requiem)  
57. Atlanta-based cable network  
60. Light-sensing eye part  
64. Army led by the "30 Rock" character who's friends with Dot Com?  
67. West of "Batman"  
68. Battleship call  
69. Pleasure trip  
70. Sport for Ludvig ≈berg and Jordan Zunic  
71. Griddle sound  
72. "You're still wrong"  
73. Give a bad review to

## Down

1. Poker variety  
2. "See ya"  
3. Warriors star Thompson  
4. Current German chancellor Olaf  
5. Puts the Vs in the Bs, maybe  
6. Formic acid maker  
7. Singer Burl  
8. Operatic icon  
9. "Be that as it may ..."  
10. "... neither the time \_\_\_\_ the place"  
11. Construction vehicle  
12. Exuded slowly  
13. Puts in the fridge

## Down

19. Crease undoer  
21. Throw off  
25. Cherry red  
27. Initials for conservationists (and not wrestlers anymore)  
28. Basketball infraction  
29. Rajah's spouse  
30. "\_\_\_\_ be a cold day in hell ..."  
31. "Agreed"  
32. Anger  
36. Circular cracker  
37. All-encompassing phrase  
38. Name on jeans labels  
40. Exxon \_\_\_\_ (ship in 1989 headlines)  
42. Id's opposite, to Freud

45. 1955 merger with the AFL  
47. Lemon, for one  
50. Like bad sleeping spells  
51. Baggage tie-ons  
52. Big numbers for a meteorologist  
53. Fragrant root used in perfumes  
54. Sticks around  
58. Have-\_\_\_\_ (those in need)  
59. Alkaline \_\_\_\_ (punk band)  
61. Worshipped figurine  
62. "The Lion King" heroine  
63. Letters on a radio switch  
65. Ending with proto  
66. Anderson Cooper's network

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

# SUDOKU

## HARD:

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

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

## EVIL:

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



tools when not in use, \$975., call (760) 746-7209

**STRING TRIMMER-WEED EATER** 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.

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

**NEW SUMMER INFANT BABY BATHER** This deluxe baby bath (12"x 12"x 14") bath support provides a safe and secure sponge bath for your newborn baby. It has 3 reclining position for comfort and can be used in the sink or adult bath tub. New & never used. \$15. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**SOLID WOOD ARCHED TOP MIRROR** This beautiful mirror (37"x 48") has round top & bottom moldings and 10 silver decorative metal bars on top perfect for wall hanging or as a dresser mirror using the 2 provided wood strips. Clean in very good condition. \$45. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796- / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**BAIT CASTER & BOX** Diawa Magfor real w/ Ugly stick pole. \$50.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robville5@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) 880-9980 / 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

**1996 LOLA T96/70 RACE CAR** This 1996 Lola T96/70 currently for sale, The car features a composite monocoque, a Pi Research digital display and data system, a new Lifeline fire suppression system, and fresh Sabell harnesses. Asking \$18000 Mikearthur002@gmail.com

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**CAMERA BARGAINS** Nikon F 1959 first model, \$200. Original lens, excellent condition (760) 757-5445.

**CRUTCHES FOR TALL/ SHORT ADULT** Aluminum crutches with push-button height adjustment & wing-nut hand grip adjustment fit adults tall (5'10"-6'6") or short (5'2"-5'10") & up to 300 lbs. Crutch pads, hand grips & crutch tips all in very good condition. \$15. 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. \$15. Text for more in info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**LOW VOLTAGE VOICE & DATA STUFF** 100" and 25" Fish Tapes. Two Buckets of Pull String. 1,2 3 Pair Cross Connect Wire. Tool Bag W/ Tools. Butt Sets, T-25, T-75 Staple Guns. Cat 5 Cable Tester. Check It Out. Let's Make

a Deal. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robville5@gmail.com

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

**ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES** 2 Christmas Trees with stands: 4ft - \$15 & 6ft - \$20. Call Frank (619) 672-8332

**GAME OF THRONES DVD** The complete 5 seasons with bonus features. 6th Season through episodes 7-8. (619) 282-5105. Make offer.

**CASH PAID: FOR OLD STEREO GEAR.** Receivers, Amplifiers, Speakers, Turntables. Call Me (619) 279-7833

**CHILDREN CLOTHES/TRADITIONAL ARABIC CLOTHING** Numerous toddler sizes. Brand-new never worn. Various prices text for pictures. Stephanie (619) 466-8663.

**BARBIE DOLL COLLECTION** (808) 931-0524.

**CHRISTMAS TREE** 6 foot, brand-new, beautiful looking, contemporary tree. Includes rainbow colored lights. Cost new \$200, will sell for \$100. Be prepared for next year. Text for pictures (619) 466-8663.

**WASHER/DRYER STACK COMBO** Space saver unit GE electric 2:40 volt light cream 74 inches high 27 inches wide 28 inches and a quarter depth. Excellent new condition. Great for garage. Call check for pictures \$350. (619) 466-8663.

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## Under the radar

continued from page 3

confirmed to *The Post* that more than 94% of the union is participating in the walkout — roughly 50 workers. “The hedge fund has made changes to overtime policies without bargaining, and now refuse to pay unless the new policies are followed,” said a letter from the union announcing the walkout.”

**Maienschein mayhem** Ex-San Diego City Council Republican and currently termed-out Assembly Democrat **Brian Maienschein**, who is running for San Diego City Attorney this year, picked

up \$1500 from the American Property Casualty Insurance Association Cal PAC on December 30 for his ostensible 2030 race for state Attorney General, state filings show. With insurance rates soaring, ostensibly due to wildfires, insurers apparently need all the political clout they can get. “There’s no place to hide from these severe natural disasters,” David Sampson, president of the association told *The Washington Post* in September of last year. “They’re happening all over the country and so insurers are having to relook at their risk concentration.”

Noted the *Orange County Register* in September after a deal with the industry collapsed: “Negotiations for a legislative

solution considered whether to allow companies to use forward-looking catastrophe models, rather than past losses, to set insurance rates, as they are already allowed to do for earthquakes; whether to let them factor reinsurance into their prices; how to set assessments for the FAIR Plan; how to speed up regulatory review of rate increase requests; and whether to require insurers to operate in communities with the biggest threat of wildfires.”

— 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/.**

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 3

out stands are easy marks for the thieves.”

Many local Walmarts offer self-checkout stands. According to a *CSPdailynews* piece, the checkout technology company Grabango says that “self-checkout accounted for just under 30 percent of total transactions in 2022. Based on a market size of nearly \$1 trillion and a partial shrink rate of 3.5 percent, self-

checkout machines cost food retailers more than \$10 billion in lost profits annually.”

In 2023, Walmart closed 24 big-box stores around the U.S., citing both underperformance in sales and theft as the reasons, according to *dcourier.com*. “These stores lose tens of millions of dollars a year, and their annual losses nearly doubled in just the last five years,” explained a spokesperson from Walmart. And in 2024, the retailer announced two more closings here in San Diego County: the store at Imperial and 21st,

and the store at Parkway Plaza. “They were even stealing yesterday,” said Salvador Gudino during the store’s recent liquidation sale. “The neighborhood is getting worse every day here.”

Vance Smith, who lives in the Sherman Heights area, agreed. “Most of the thefts were from the homeless and the immigrants that hang out around the area. Seen it too many times. [They] just walk in and take what they want and walk out past security and sell what was stolen.”

MIKE MADRAGA



**No Longer Weird**

— It's that time of year again, and the Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center in South Jersey is stepping up in a feline sort of way. NBC4-TV reported on Jan. 26 that as part of a Valentine's Day promotion, in return for a \$50 donation, the shelter will name a feral cat after your ex, then spay or neuter it before releasing it back into the wild. Sporting the motto "Because some things shouldn't breed," the program is aimed at reducing the feral cat population and satisfying disgruntled former lovers, who are asked to supply only a first name or nickname. Love is in the air!

**It's Come to This**

— Looking for a cuddle in this season of love? Pop on over to Tokyo and the Mipig Cafe, where you can snuggle up with a petite porcine pal. The Associated Press reported that customers pay \$15 for 30 minutes with the micro pigs, who are clean and odor-free. "Each pig is unique. Each one has his or her own personality," said Shiho Kitagawa, an executive at Mipig. People enjoy the interaction so much that they often don't bother with getting a drink. But Sachiko Azuma, head of an animal cruelty organization, isn't a fan. "The animals have become tools for a money-making business," she said.

**Unconventional Weaponry**

— Celia Barrett, 35, entered a gas station in St. Petersburg, Florida, on Jan. 28 wearing no clothing and wielding a veg-

etable peeler, with which she threatened to kill staff members, Fox35-TV reported. She told police she had consumed six shots of liquor before waving the peeler at workers and knocking over a display of Red Bull drinks. Deputies responded to the scene, and Barrett was taken into custody, where she remains.

**Wrong Place, Wrong Time**

— David Richardson of Humpty Doo, Australia, was exonerated by Judge Therese Austin in late January after pleading guilty to exposing himself to a teenager worker in the drive-thru line at Hungry Jack's, the *Daily Mail* reported. The incident from last September took place a day after Richardson had consumed "Pit Bull Super," which combines Viagra with Cialis, and was suffering from an "extremely painful" result. "I wasn't trying to flash myself at anyone," Richardson said. "I just wanted to grab a feed and go home. (I) honestly didn't think the workers would see me." However, the towel he had placed over his lap didn't conceal his situation, and the female worker said she was "reduced to tears." Judge Austin told Richardson he should have gone to the hospital rather than to Hungry Jack's, but she agreed that there was no sexual intent and let him off the hook.

**Crime Report**

— Bertha Yalter, 71, allegedly became enraged on Jan. 28 after her husband of 52 years received a postcard from a woman he dated 60 years ago, WPLG-TV

reported. The couple from North Miami Beach, Florida, were at their home when Yalter attacked, trying to "smother him with a pillow, bit and physically battered him," police said. Remarkably, someone was taking video with a cellphone, which will be admitted into evidence. Yalter faces charges of attempted murder, aggravated battery and tampering with a victim and was held without bond.

**Bright Ideas**

— In Stevenage, England, police detained a man running with a small refrigerator strapped to his back, the BBC reported on Jan. 29. "One police officer wound down his window and said, 'You understand we've got to stop you. Is that a fridge on your back?'" the runner said. As it turns out, Daniel Fairbrother wasn't stealing the appliance but training for the London Marathon. Fairbrother told the officers he has named the fridge Tallulah after the bobsled in *Cool Runnings*. He hopes to raise 10,000 pounds for Diabetes UK in honor of his friend Sam, who has Type 1 diabetes. A police spokesperson said they "wish Daniel all the best with training for the marathon."

**It's a Mystery**

— Should you be near Edmonton, Canada, in the coming days, keep an eye peeled for a missing 12-foot-tall, 500-pound taxidermy polar bear. The BBC reported that the bear, standing on its back legs, was stolen from Lily Lake

Resort sometime during the extreme January cold. The resort usually has 24-hour patrols, but they were canceled that night because of the temperatures. Wanda Rowe, who works at the resort, said the thieves would have had to cut the cables that secured the bear and drag it out to a waiting vehicle. "It 100% had to be planned," she said.

**More Bright Ideas**

— HOP Shop convenience stores in northern Kentucky have discovered a way to draw customers into the bathrooms (or maybe just to distract from the conditions within), WDKY-TV reported. The stores have installed a button on the wall that says "Do Not Push This Button." When it's inevitably pushed, users experience a disco party: regular lights off, mirror balls with colored spotlights on, and accompanying disco music such as "I've Had the Time of My Life." Ann Gilbert, manager of human resources for Valor Oil, which owns HOP Shops, said they were trying to "figure out something that would make us a destination," and now six stores feature the disco bathrooms. Boogie down!

Send your weird news items to [WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com](mailto:WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com).



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