



S A N D I E G O

VOL. 53 | NO. 9 | FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Reader

PARROTS, GODWITS AND BUSHTITS

Life birds and
the birder life

Bike lane boondoggle? ■ Groundwaters rising ■ Breakfast where Whoopi washed



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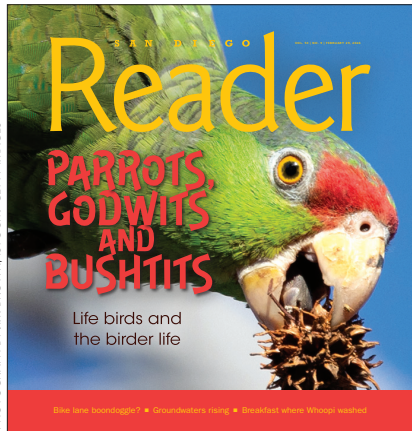


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San Diego is a birder destination — page 8



Big pancakes from a Big Kitchen — page 24



PHOTO CREDIT: K&M SPORTFISHING

San Quintin yellowtail are biting — page 28

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	29
Cannabis	32
Classifieds	25
Health and Beauty	13
Legal Solutions	7
Music	19
Rentals	25
Research Studies	9
Restaurants	24

NEWS & FEATURES

Neighborhood News

Bike lanes blocked in North Park, a crumbling cliffside home in Encinitas	2
--	---

Letters	4
---------------	---

Unreal Estate

A dizzying tour in Del Mar	5
----------------------------------	---

Golden Dreams

A word of warning about water	6
-------------------------------------	---

Parrots, godwits and bushtits

Life birds and the birder life, by Bill Manson	8
--	---

Puzzles	30
---------------	----

News of the Weird	33
-------------------------	----

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance, Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Fundraisers, Lectures, Movies, Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness, Theater	14
---	----

Outdoors

Sage is all the rage just now	16
-------------------------------------	----

Music

Blurt: Two decades of Hullabaloo	19
Immortal Beauty: The pleasures of piano obscurities	22
Live Five: San Diego acts you ought to check out	20
The Gonzo Report: Jake Peterson has now seen Ween	21

Restaurants

Tin Fork: A big heart at Big Kitchen	24
--	----

Fish Report

Early signs that this will be a good year	28
---	----

GOT
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ON THE ROAD

Disdain for the lane

Won't somebody think of the cyclists?

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent creating the 1700 miles of bikeways throughout San Diego County. But all that money hasn't been able to buy a clear path for bicycles, no matter how many signs and symbols get posted.

"The bike lanes are being used by skateboarders, scooter riders, motorized bikes, and joggers, and for offloading and stopping to pick up 'to-go' orders," noted Pat Sexton in a recent interview. "Much of North Park does not have alleys for trash pickup, so do the trash cans go in the bike or traffic lanes?"

"The bike lanes are being used by skateboarders, scooter riders, motorized bikes, and joggers, and for offloading and stopping to pick up 'to-go' orders."

Sexton, a retired North Parker and founder of [Save30thStreetParking.org](https://www.save30thstreetparking.org), has been monitoring the situation and advocating on behalf of affected businesses and residents to save her neighborhood's street parking. Some residents around North Park and nearby City Heights who lost street parking to bike lanes have said online that they have to park up to a mile away from their homes.

"Even Brinks is still using the bike lanes to do business with the Union Bank" on 30th and University, Sexton continued. "But their

drivers are not going to subject themselves to parking in the North Park Garage parking structure and then walking a satchel full of money/checks around the neighborhood." Sexton also sent me a photo of what appears

to be a hearse or a funeral bus taken in front of Saint Patrick's on 30th. "Not good to have to carry someone's casket around the corner and down the street," she added.

North Parker Bob LaRose says that on Valentine's Day, just south of St. Patrick's, a motorcycle rider "scared the crap out me when he came up behind me" on 30th Street. "And then [the motorcyclist] passed me on the right" — using the bike lane. Like many South Park and North Park residents who post on the NextDoor forums, LaRose sees

daily non-cyclist activities in neighborhood bikeways. He notices people parked in the bike lanes loading or unloading groceries, and he sees delivery service vehicles or USPS trucks parked in bike lanes "since there is no other place to stop. The most ironic is when people park in the bike lanes in front of the bike shop near the corner of 30th and Upas — to load and unload bikes!"

Other posts online describe bike thieves stripping and switching out bike parts within or close to bike lanes, in hopes that they can sell parts or even a complete bike to a passing cyclist. Some thieves are so brazen that they will ride a stolen bike in the bike lane while rolling another one alongside it.

LaRose posted video of his Valentine's Day scare on the NextDoor app. A South Park resident commented, "Where's a cop when you need one?" A North Park cyclist responded, "They never ticket the people parked illegally in the bike lanes. Why would they ticket people *riding* illegally in the bike lanes?"

On Reddit, a person who identified himself as an attorney wrote, "It is against the law to block bike lanes or park in bike lanes. See CA Vehicle Code 21211. I have successfully sued and won where bicyclists are injured due to blocked bike lanes; this goes for landscapers, regular members of public... Only certain utilities can block bike lanes, and then only when properly warning and tapering off traffic. Blocking bike lanes forces bicyclists into the path of vehicles, and it is extremely dangerous."

MIKE MADRIAGA



A biker in the bike lane — what's the problem?

ENCINITAS

Bluff called

Old rules won't apply to new cliffside construction

An attempt to rebuild a fire-ravaged home in Encinitas perched on a collapsed bluff edge has ended, though neighbors say that fallout from the 2019 blaze endures.

"The home is a huge eyesore, and every teenager from miles around knows about it and shows up on their electric bikes to park out front and go in," reads a letter to the city. Further, a report states that portions of the duplex at 1478 and 1480 Neptune Ave. extend beyond the bluff edge.

It isn't clear what caused the house's roof fire on December 23, 2019, but city reports say that it burned for hours. Soils saturated by recent rains, then by water from firefighters' hoses, caused a chunk of the bluff to collapse.

While the house was gutted, the foundation was left for a possible rebuild. "It's more like a big staple holding on," said planning commissioner Kevin Doyle at an October meeting, when the project first came to the city for a demolition permit. "We don't want to take it out and find out the bluff's going to collapse without that holding it in place."

The beachfront home near Jupiter Street has two units; one built in 1946, the other in 1966. Neighbors say that after the fire, the dilapidated building quickly became a public nuisance and safety hazard, with young kids crawling in and out at all hours. The notices they received that the property would be secured never came to anything. The gate was often left open, and even if a tall electric fence were to be put up, people would still be able to hop right over the brick "pony wall" on the north side, they said.

continued on page 3



North Parker Bob LaRose notices people parked in the bike lanes loading or unloading groceries.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

A new owner, Chad Robley of Mindgruve Ventures, took over in December 2022. Eight months later, neighbors got notice the home would finally be demolished. That permit, granted in October

Development Permit to rebuild, which he thought was unnecessary, according to his planning consultant Diane Langager. Robley believed the house could be rebuilt without a coastal development permit, because the old building was constructed before current coastal rules were put in place, and included a setback less than the 40-foot minimum now required from the bluff edge.

“We don’t want to take it out and find out the bluff’s going to collapse without that holding it in place.”



PHOTO CREDIT: CBS 8 NEWS

A staple keeping things stable, or a party spot so hot the roof is on fire?

2023, gave Robley 90 days — including any appeals, city reports said — to get the job done. That seemed sufficient: as one neighbor said at the meeting, “you just need a dump truck and a demo crew.”

But in December, the owner appealed the city’s requirement for a Coastal

The city disagreed, saying the new building would have to go by current Coastal Bluff Overlay Zone regulations due to the presence of a coastal bluff. The appeal was withdrawn last week, putting the long-delayed demolition one step closer.

SHEILA PELL

UNDER THE RADAR

Liberal richies The political committee called the San Diego Labor Coalition, Sponsored by Laborers’ International Union of North America Local 89 has received another major round of developer cash for its direct mail “Democratic Choice Voter Guide” touting the reelection bids of Democratic Mayor **Todd Gloria**, city council Democrats **Joe LaCava** and **Steve Whitburn**, along with city attorney hopeful and state Assembly Republican-turned-Democrat **Brian Maienschein**. On February 14, a total of \$100,000 was given by **Judy Larson** in the name of RCS Harmony Partners, LLC, according to a city disclosure filings. Larson is the longtime vice president of commercial operations and asset management for Real Capital Solutions, otherwise known as RCS.

“Based in Colorado, RCS owns a national portfolio of real estate and provides full service and in-house operational expertise,” says the firm’s website. “RCS has a long track record of acquiring underperforming or distressed assets and ultimately creating exceptional value in real estate.” Larson and her team “now oversee the entire real estate portfolio for RCS (valued at more than \$1.7 billion and comprising ~13 million square feet of office, industrial, retail, hotel and multi-family space),” the site continues.

The company’s chairman and founder is **Marcel Arsenault**. His wife **Cynda Collins Arsenault** belongs to Patriotic Millionaires, a liberal group advocating higher taxes on the rich. “Charity dispensed at the personal discretion of ultra-wealthy individuals is not only undemocratic, it is a drop in the bucket compared to the financial realities of running a global superpower like the United States of America,” says an October 2021 letter to the *Denver Post* co-signed by her.

“It is no substitute for a fiscally responsible tax policy that simply asks the ultra-wealthy to contribute in the same way that tens of millions of working-class Americans already do.” In addition, Arsenault and spouse have signed the Giving Pledge, vowing to ultimately give away 99% of their \$2 billion personal fortune.

“Both my husband and I come out of the ‘60s and the anti-war movement — the destruction of war, the senselessness of it, and how the budgets that go into it could be used for something else,” she told *Crain Currency* in a Feb 14, 2023 interview. “So that has been our set of values for many years. As he made his money, eventually it was like, ‘OK, now we

have enough to really do something.’ And we started our foundations.”

The couple’s current foundations include the Secure World Foundation and One Earth Future, according to *Crain*. “Our personal values are not to spend money but to live simply. I grew up an Air Force brat, and my husband comes from Canadian miners, a much poorer family. We have one house, which is fine, and we have two cars — they’re both electric, plug-in.” She added: “I am a member of Women

Moving Millions, who have more of that value of using their money for women and girls.”

Further, “We do not intend to pass money on to our son, which is a sore subject. But that’s our belief — that he can make his own way. We have a trust for him that provides medical payments, so as he needs medical care, he’s covered. But it’s limited to that.

We want him to earn his own way to be able to have his own sense of achievement.”

Environmental politics were not covered in the interview. RCS has faced longstanding controversy in San Diego County over its Harmony Grove Village South development plans. A lawsuit by the Sierra Club, the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council, the Endangered Habitats League and the Cleveland National Forest Foundation ultimately forced the county board of supervisors to yank permits for the site in December 2022.

“The general plan prescribes a third of (the proposed development) perhaps less than that, so they’re trying to triple the density in this little space than they’re entitled to,” complained Elfin Forest resident **J.P. Theberge** in a March 2, 2018 interview with TV station KNSD. “We’re in an area that burnt not only 2 to 3 years ago in the Cocos fire, the entire area burnt. We lost about 30 houses about 100, 200 yards from here. I want the Board of Supervisors to look at this plan and to look at what the evacuation risk really is.”



Steve Whitburn may be in it to win it, but he also appreciates Harmony.



Will Henry Foster III say Sempra Fi or Sempra, Fie?

Following the Sempra money

Utility giant Sempra Energy continues to spread political cash around San Diego in labyrinthine ways as it faces an initiative effort that would strip the city’s lucrative power monopoly from its subsidiary San Diego Gas & Electric. On January 11, Sempra gave \$5000 to the Downtown San Diego Partnership PAC. Less than a month later on February 7, per a disclosure report filed with the city on February 22, the Downtown

continued on page 4

Neal Obermeyer

MAYOR GLORIA HELPS WITH THE SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO FLOOD CLEANUP



LETTERS

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

Irregular haiku, inappropriate bio

Dear San Diego Reader, I often read your Events section, the Outdoors column, and I also occasionally read the Rhyme & Verse poetry of the week. This week in the (“Seventeen Haiku”, Poetry, February 15) I noticed that the featured poem was entitled “Seventeen haiku” by Andrew Hamlin. However, the three lines on each “haiku” varied from the traditional format. The author’s biographical summary also utilized vulgar language that was not appropriate for the general public, especially young readers under 18

years old. Please continue to seek interesting examples of poetry to share, but be aware that educators of honors children, and honors adults may find the limited vocabulary in the author’s biography a red flag for rougher language in his other works.

Sincerely/Sinceramente,
Daphne H. Galang

Mayor Mussolini?

“The goose that laid the golden egg” versus the “Little train that could.” Regarding “Big money city hall. (“Big Money City Hall”, Under the Radar, February 15) Not during my lifetime has there been a more corrupt, incompetent and unsavory character as Todd Gloria, representing San Diego as Mayor. It is written in antiquity that a man’s intelligence is of the mother and character of the father. Todd Gloria has neither. This little man reminds me of Benito Mussolini, another shyster of epic proportions of which my grandfather fled Italy to France 100 years ago. As

far as OUR campaign for San Diego Mayor goes, we believe those who vote for this carnival barker are no better than the jester themselves. The countless she-nanigans perpetrated by this monster Mayor are beyond unconscionable. How on earth can any human being with sanity support a man who has put the wrecking ball to our beloved city? Well, “The Million Mile Man” will defeat all the mayor’s men with peanuts because not even a billion dollars will save the little dictator. The voters will not be fooled again!

Dan Smiechowski
Bay Ho

Mom muses on dads

What a soppy piece, so disappointing. Total yuppie (or zuppie?) perspective that failed to resonate (“Dudes to Dads”, Cover Story, February 15). First, the absurd, make-believe “we’re pregnant” or “they’re pregnant” nonsense that some fool came up with, if I’m correct, back

in the early 2000s. Daddy isn’t pregnant, Mommy is! Silliness that was conceptualized a full generation ago persists despite its absurdity. The tone for what was to be an uninspiring piece of fluff. Second, using the word “progeny” to sound sophisticated or prolific fell flat, at least with me, as I learned that term in 7th grade. A male role model, ideally a good father during formative years, is all a young man really needs to become one himself. I suspect that this waste of an edition was little more than a sales pitch to lure male clients with too much time on their hands (and broad insurance coverage) into therapy that has become fashionable among the elites. (North County client pool.) Less affluent, hard working daddies seem to have little trouble “figuring it out” on their own. For those not blessed with a dutiful, loving father for whatever reason, traditional sources of role models still exist: grandfathers, teachers, pastors, etc. I’m just a mom myself, but my father, a man of faith, service (Korean War), and devotion to his family paved a path for my five brothers. Selecting the right wife to be the mother of your children is step one. Both my mother and my father found

their purpose in establishing a Christian household and leading by example, demanding responsibility, and raising us to think of others before ourselves. Suffice it to say we were loved but not coddled or worshipped. I love my children and attending to their many needs while working full-time never drove me to self pity, much less psychotherapy that would have taken valuable time out of my schedule and away from my focus, my kids, family, community, profession. Only the privileged can so indulge.

Laurie K

East Chula Vista Otay Ranch

Madriaga: the man in the mirror

If Mike Madriaga is getting honked at and flipped off at least once a week (as he claims) it’s not because of the kind of car that he’s driving. It’s because of the way he’s driving it (“Prius Pique”, Neighborhood News, February 22). People in general don’t hate Priuses (prii?) but they do get irritated by people driving in an inconsiderate manner. Perhaps he should look in his mirror instead of making a ridiculous claim about people hating hybrids.

Giles Blair
Carlsbad

Under the radar

continued from page 3

San Diego PAC transferred \$35,000 to a committee calling itself Protect Neighborhood Services Now, run by the San Diego Municipal Employees Association. That was the same day that the municipal employees PAC began bankrolling a direct mail campaign for its favored city council candidates, including **Henry Foster III**, along with council incumbents Sean Elovera, Stephen Whitburn, and mayor Todd Gloria.

Meanwhile, Sempra’s campaign funding figured prominently in a February 20 debate between California United States Senate candidates, with Irvine’s **Katie Porter** singling out rival fellow House Democrat **Adam**

Schiff of Burbank for taking campaign cash from a host of oil and gas industry sources, including Sempra, per a *Los Angeles Times* account of the clash. “Schiff argued that Porter had ‘not been fully clear about her own record,’ saying she had accepted political contributions from people who work in the oil industry, on Wall Street and for pharmaceutical companies,” the *Times* reported “The problem with the ‘purity tests’ that Porter was trying to establish, Schiff said, is that ‘invariably, the people who establish them don’t meet them.’”

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Hello, friends. Welcome to another installment of *Hey Look At This Rich Guy's House (Biweekly)*! As a programming note, I do have a few leads on stories that might involve some quirky smaller builds and other sorts of interesting abodes, but alas, none of those are ready to go just yet. So this week, we're headed up to Del Mar, a town that we haven't visited in nearly six months, despite its being within the second-priciest ZIP code in San Diego (and 51st most expensive nationwide).



Lots and lots of refrigeration. Very cool.

"Peaceful Tranquility surrounds this contemporary architectural masterpiece encompassing a magical nearly two totally private acres, which is just a short 1.5 miles to the Pacific Ocean," opens the Zillow pitch for 4314 Vista De La Tierra, a seven-bedroom, eight-bath compound with nearly 9000 square feet of living area under roof. Let the ogling begin.

Our tour begins at the "resort-style saltwater pool which features fire



If Pixar's *Elemental* taught us anything, it's that fire and water do mix.

and a stone waterfall." Yes, there's fire in the pool, provided by a gas-powered fire bowl pushed a few feet into the water from one side. There's also a hot tub at the other end

surrounded by the entry steps. If it were up to me, I probably would have placed the fireplace closer to the spa. *Come curl up by the fire and get warm!* We'll follow that pool pic with an aerial shot showing the main house, as well as two detached guest houses that seem to flank the pool — plus a "lighted tennis court complete with a viewing pavilion."

"For the most discriminating clients, the entire compound is meticulously appointed and exudes

world class elegance with unsurpassed craftsmanship throughout!" the listing boasts (or continues to boast). I'm not sure; from the street shot that follows, the place looks like your run-of-the-mill McMan-sion from the mid-2000s, although I do like the little round room out front that I'd call a turret if it weren't shorter than the rest of the building. All that said, the covered entryway that follows is pleasant, even if it is styled more like a resort than a residence, what with its commercial-style dual glass door entry giving way to a foyer and curved staircase inside.

Now we're in a living room. Take a look at the tiered ceiling with an indent painted to look like a cloudy blue sky — nice! If I had any artistic skill or faith in my ability to get the lighting right, I might try to do a fake skylight like this for myself. Then the photo spread shoves us right back outside into the yard, where a stone path through a painstakingly-manicured lawn takes us to a seating area in front of another firepit. We

don't stay long, though, because now we're passing through the dining area we saw at the back of the living room shot, on our way to a kitchen that features "numerous English Sycamore lacquer cabinets, Wolf ovens, 2 Sub-Zero full size refrigerator & freezer, plus 4 Sub-Zero refrigerator drawers, Sub-Zero Wine cooler, and 2 Miele dishwashers and espresso maker." I don't know how much food and beverage you regularly need to refrigerate if you're this rich, but if I actually filled all that storage space, I think even my teenager and her friends would have trouble eating through everything before the expiration dates passed.

Next we get a bedroom with sitting area, and another one of those round ceiling recessions — sadly, there's no mural inside this one. We then file past a fireplace into a bathroom, where a pair of

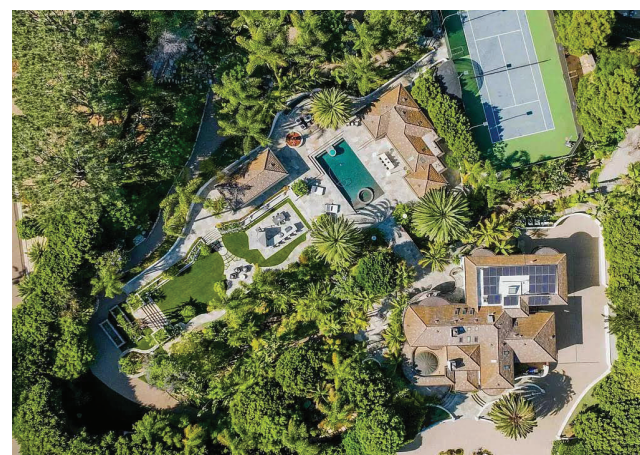
green vessel sinks add a pop of color to the vanity; beyond, we see a room with floor-to ceiling textured tile, multiple shower heads, and a bathtub off to one side. The space in there alone is bigger than most residential bathrooms, which makes me wonder why they couldn't have put the toilet anywhere other than in the middle of the open space between the vanity and shower.

We jump back outside to the pool deck before peeking into an office with a mysterious pink orb in the ceiling and black granite surfaces that very much harken to the home's 2004 build date. Then it's time to pass through the entryway and head back out to the pool, except now we're looking up at the *back* of the house. *Then* we see the same outdoor fireplace we saw earlier, and take yet another glance at the path between the pool and house. At this point I'm getting a little con-

the listing says lead into it. Another set of pool deck photos follows before we head into what I believe is one of (possibly both of?) the guest houses, at least one of which has a room set up as a nursery. We take a quick look at the lighted tennis court and an outdoor kitchen area, and then bounce back and forth between guest house shots and even more pool views before abruptly being shown the door, so to speak, via one last aerial.

"Never leave the compound while enjoying the walking paths through the tropical oasis that you will call home," the listing advises. I'm sure I'd be plenty comfy here, but eventually, I'll probably want to go to the beach or something. We are in Del Mar, after all.

Public records list a DGG Trust as the current owner of the Vista De La Tierra estate, it last sold in 2017 for just under \$4.2 million. Following



Two acres of peaceful tranquility in Del Mar.

fused as to where exactly we're going, or why. Have I been drinking? Has the listing manager?

Now we get another living room...or perhaps this is the "family/theatre complete with Crestron wireless system," as it appears we're passing through "rain glass" doors that

attempts to re-sell with an asking price as high as \$10.9 million dating back to last July, it's currently available at the reduced price of \$9,750,000. If you're the lucky buyer, perhaps you can help me put these listing photos in order so that I understand the layout.■



K. STREET, FROM THE LEVEE.

INUNDATION OF THE STATE CAPITOL, City of Sacramento, 1862.

Published by AROSENFELD, San Francisco.

The thing about history is that it tends to repeat.

The Water Man speaks

Rain tends to be welcomed in San Diego. *It's a desert! There's a drought! The reservoirs are low! Soon we'll be rationing!* But then recent storms in San Diego flooded both homes and businesses. *Not like this!* And it wasn't just because of the record rain day. We've had record rain days before, without nearly as much flooding. In fact, we've had *recent* record rains that haven't caused as much damage — a number of them. Before the hurricane last year, the previous rainfall of 2022-2023 shattered records. (My rain gauge outside my La Mesa home measured over 40 inches of rain, far exceeding what was reported.) And some may recall that on a Friday in 2019, four inches of rain fell in a single day. In short, San Diego has experienced several years of above-average rain. And that's a big part of the problem.

There is a lot of talk about “atmospheric rivers” and “accelerating man-made climate change.” *The sky is falling! And it's all our fault!* Well, maybe. But the truth is, we've been here before. A crusty old professor on YouTube named Leon Hunsaker has posted a video called “The Legendary Floods of 1861 & 1862.” That flood, also known as The Great Flood of California, occurred after several years of above-average rain, such that the ground was saturated when a massive storm dumped over 10 feet of rain. Big Bear mining communities found themselves under three feet of snow. Some people were

trapped for months. When spring came, a heat wave melted the enormous snowpack, and floods raged for weeks. Thousands died. Entire communities were washed away. The floods destroyed 25% of the inhabited real estate in California, and forced the moving of the state Capitol to higher ground.



Sign of the times in San Diego.

The January storm brought more severe localized flooding than previous storms because the soil, much of it poorly draining clay, was already saturated. Not only could it not absorb more rain; the hydrostatic pressure from the water table pushed the groundwater up. Last spring, some areas of Clairemont

made the news because the homes were literally flooding with groundwater. Water was pushing its way up into footings and crawl-spaces, up through slabs, and into walls. And the groundwater problem is only made worse by things like poorly maintained infrastructure and bad engineering: blown-out sump pumps, backed-up gutters, clogged drains on public and private land. I work with water, and I hear things. One Encinitas homeowner I heard about hit the rare triple: a blocked storm drain on the street, water being diverted from the gutter by a trash can, and a garage set below

to the creation of aging curiosities like the California aqueduct, which brings water to Southern California, but also allows millions of gallons to simply evaporate along the way. California was parceled out by land speculators who stuck oranges to the spines of a Joshua tree, took a photo, and told suckers back east that it was a fruit orchard. Then it was populated by people who thought they could have English manor lawns if they just ran their sprinklers long enough. Today, we see huge apartment complexes springing up all over the huge floodplain that is Mission Valley.

San Diego has experienced several years of above-average rain. And that's a big part of the problem.

street level. Water roared through her home with enough force to rearrange the furniture.

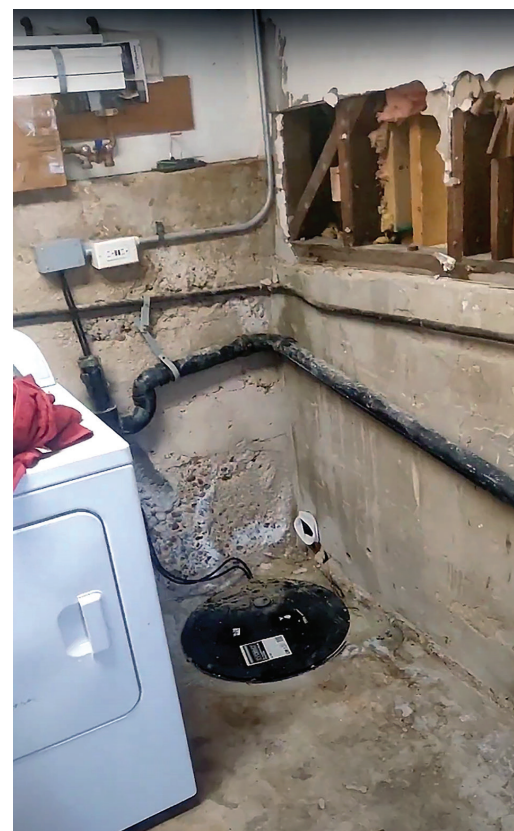
Sometimes, flooding means sopping carpets. Sometimes, it means ruinous mold. Sad about the former and terrified of the latter, homeowners call leak detection companies, only to find there is no leak in their pipes. Fire and flood companies come in, and usually, they remove the flooring and bottom two feet of drywall, set up fans and dehumidifiers, and tell people to look into improving their drainage. Homeowners call plumbers; they call landscapers. Sometimes, their solutions make matters worse, redirecting and concentrating the water flow.

As I said, I work with water. I see the result of having whole cities — La Mesa and Encinitas, for example — that have lousy plans for drainage, because the homes were built on what used to be farmland. It is not uncommon for homeowners in these areas to find out that they are in a flood zone, or that the large storm drains on their properties are older than they city in which they live. When those drains fail, people may be able to file a claim with their insurance company. But otherwise, they are on their own.

If we see anything even close to what happened in 1862 in the next year or two, the headlines will decry a man-made climate disaster. But they'll miss the man-made disaster brought on by failures in civil planning and engineering. Marc Reisner's *Cadillac Desert* describes how Los Angeles was sold and built before any proper water plan was made, which led

Buy now! After all, 1862 was a long time ago!

Even if we all agree that people have an effect on climate and that pollution is terrible, the reality is that weather patterns over the last several years mirror the weather patterns leading up to the Great Flood of California. It should not be *verboten* to talk about weather-based calamities as natural and cyclical — and to plan accordingly. It looks me like our current flood and reconstruction problems are a canary in a coal mine — or maybe a sparrow in a storm drain. Imagine Mission Valley under 10 feet of water. ■



Retrofitted sump-pump system installation for home where water came up through the slab.

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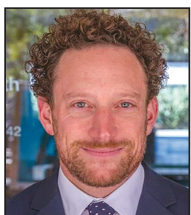
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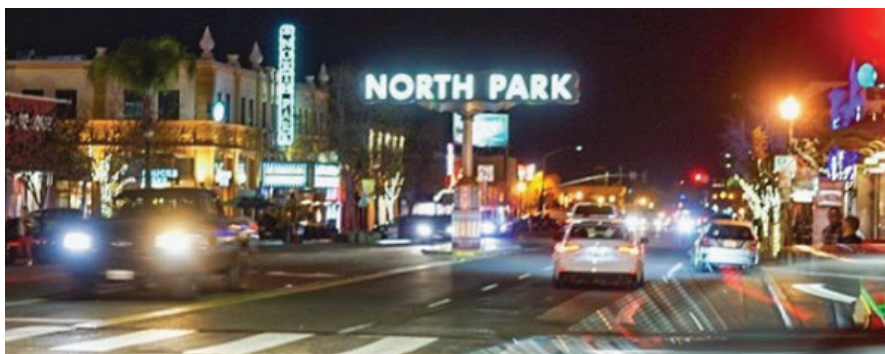
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PARROTS, GODWITS AND BUSHTITS



“Anywhere between 800 and 1000 parrots usually come around this area to roost for the night,” says Emily Routman.

Life birds and the birder life

“**GET THERE BY DUSK,**” says my friend Larry, “and prepare yourself for a whole lotta noise.”

So here I am in downtown El Cajon, two hours and a trolley ride later, at around 5 pm on a January evening. I start to see what he means — or rather, *hear* what he means. The cacophony rings out from three blocks away. By the time I get up to Lexington and Highland Avenue, the calls and laughs and bird-shouts fill the trees and the air around them. Parrots. The sky fills and empties as hundreds of them flash from branch to branch, calling out to their fellows. There’s something joyous about their raucousness. They’re yelling at each

other. “Here! We’re sleeping here tonight! Tell the gang!” Nature, unabashed. I’ve landed in an urban jungle. It’s like a school assembly before the bell.

“Never seen anything like it,” says this lone gent who’s come out to see what the all the racket’s about. He wanders away, dazed. Now a woman appears; her eyes are shining as she looks up into the trees, just as the noise level starts to drop. “Do you hear how much quieter it’s getting?” she asks. “It’s almost bedtime.”

As the sky fades to black, the parrot calls begin to sound more like mumbled complaints. A few late movers flutter from tree to tree. “I

wanted to wait here until it’s bedtime,” says the woman. “You’ll hear. It becomes completely silent. They always do the same thing. They gather at sunset, have a noisy party, and then at dusk they go to their roosts and sleep, just like that. All at the same time. Just like...*this*. Isn’t it remarkable?”

By now, she’s whispering, but I have no trouble hearing her. That’s how quiet it is. The whole flock is suddenly, everywhere, down to a burble, like kids talking in bed. The woman’s name is Emily Routman. She’s a retired zoologist. She volunteers at SoCalParrot.org in Jamul, off Campo Road. “Anywhere between

800 and 1000 parrots usually come around this area to roost for the night,” she says. “They like to sleep somewhere within a two-mile radius of the courthouse.”

“Listen,” Emily whispers. “They’re almost asleep. And when they fly in, you see they’re in pairs, because they mate for life. They only do this roosting in the non-breeding season. Starting in late February, they’ll disperse ten, fifteen miles from here. They’re looking for places to nest and raise babies. Only when breeding season is over — from spring to fall — do they convene somewhere like here again. There are other areas, but parrots love to roost in these tall pines. Oh. Hear how quiet they have gone? Time?”

I check my watch. 5:22 pm.

“So five twenty-two’s

bedtime! It’s always round dusk.”

Emily gets her out cell. “Alexis: What time is dusk tonight?”

“Dusk is at 5:28,” says Alexis.

“They’ll be asleep five minutes from now,” whispers Emily. “And folks will never know they are surrounded by 1000 Amazonia parrots.”

Except... is that a rat leaping into one of the pine trees? Whatever it is, suddenly, 1000 birds shriek and explode out of the foliage, creating a big dark circle in the sky. The response seems awfully, well, human, even if these parrots are part of San Diego’s spectacular wild bird scene. The county is home to 435 different species, and 260 more species migrate through here on the Pacific Flyway, heading anywhere from Alaska to Patagonia and back.



Janis holds info on trans-global flier, the Hudsonian Godwit.

And on the ground, scanning for them every day, you can find a surprising number of bird fanatics like Janis Cadwallader and her husband, Larry Edwards. “I’m just an SOB,” says Larry. “In our house, that means ‘Spouse Of a

Birder.’ When it comes to birding, Janis is the expert.” Edwards is a journalist and author, but he has been pleased to join his wife’s efforts to compile the biggest list she can of spotted birds in her lifetime. (That’s as in birds spotted, not nec-

essarily spotted birds.)

There are 11,188 bird species inhabiting the world as of 2023, with the tropical nation of Colombia (which is half a million square miles big) boasting the greatest variety: 1884 species. Compare that to the U.S.

(eight times Colombia’s size, at 4 million square miles), with just 860 species. The largest single bird population on earth is (surprise!) domestic chickens. There are an estimated 20 billion of them worldwide. The most numerous single species of wild bird is the practically unheard-of Red-Billed Quelea, native to sub-Saharan Africa. There are an astonishing 1.5 billion of them. They’re known as the “feathered locust” because of the way they descend on crops in Africa by the thousands and eat them clean. Like the sparrow, they long ago evolved beaks able to crunch the often tougher-shelled seeds that early farmers developed, like sorghum, wheat, barley, millet and rice. In the U.S., the most common wild bird is the American Robin, with a

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PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL MANSON

Larry Edwards and Janis Cadwallader at San Diego River Mouth at low tide.

population of about 370 million, more than one per human member of the population.

"If we look and listen, there's this incredible other life going on all around us," says Janis. "And even if we don't look for them, the birds find us. The other day, Larry and I had 100 crows attacking a Great-Horned Owl in our own little bird sanctuary. The owl didn't move. He was cool. It was wild."

"I was in the backyard when a Cooper's Hawk picked off a Lesser Goldfinch," says Larry. "The

hawk closed like a jet. It was late morning. He cruised in on a long fast glide, about ten feet away from me. He grabbed the bird, there was a flurry of feathers, and he flew off. He took all of two seconds."

"Cooper's Hawks are quite common in San Diego County," Janis adds, "and they regularly feed on other birds. I even saw one the other day swallow a lizard. I noticed the bird first, and then the lizard. It was about halfway down his gullet. Including the tail, it was probably 10 inches long.

Another time, we had a Red-tailed Hawk sitting on the hillside looking a little confused — just going back and forth, back and forth, and then at one point he headed out, and he had a rat in his talons. His movement had been suffocating the rat."

"A Great Horned Owl joined us for dinner one night," says Larry. "And it had a pigeon. We were eating on the patio, and noticed this shape on the hill. It was getting pretty dark. But we realized it was this Great Horned Owl. It had picked off a pigeon, probably a

Mourning Dove. He was on the ground, ripping out the meat, 20 feet away. Great Horned Owls are also common in San Diego. I think every canyon has one. People don't see them often because they sleep during the day and hunt at night. We're more likely to hear the owls than see them. They really do go 'Whoo whoo whoo!' Whereas the Barn Owl screeches. We've heard the barn owls in our back yard, but really haven't had much luck seeing them."

It's not for lack of trying. Janis and Larry have made their yard as attractive as possible to all sorts of avians. "We have collected more than 50 birds in our Yard List of identifiable birds that have visited us," says Janis. "Probably closer to 60. But I have friends in Point Loma who've seen over 100 different birds in their yard." Her own Yard List includes the Scaly-Breasted Munia, which is originally from Southern Asia, introduced to North America as a caged bird. "Cinnamon color. They've got a kind of scaly breast, and the bill is blueish gray. The first time I saw them, I was looking out my window at where our drip is. Larry rigged up a little hose that goes along the eave, and it's got a nozzle on it, and he turned it so it just drips about every five seconds, and it drops into a bird bath. Birds like the sound of the droplet hitting the water. They'll come in, and they'll even form a waiting line in the protective shrub by the bird bath. Unfortunately, the squirrels come in too. And hawks. They come for the water. And they come for the birds."

"But on any good day, we might see 10–15 spe-



PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY M. EDWARDS

Janis says she got the birding fever half a century back. "A Northern Flicker — a type of woodpecker — was the spark: I was 23."

cies," says Larry.

"We get warblers, tanagers, orioles," says Janis. "We get Wrentits, we get Bushtits, we get thrushes, Hermit Thrush, Scrub Jays, thrashers, mockingbirds, MacGillivray's Warblers... What we don't get are waterfowl. We've never had a duck. Not enough water in the yard, even when it rains. Though I have a friend who has an in-ground swimming pool. He gets ducks. The most unusual bird to stop by the drip was probably the Northern Parula. It's an East Coast bird. Rare in San Diego County. He was on vacation. Probably got blown here."

"A lot of these birds go to Central or South America during our winter," Larry says. "So when they're coming up through Central America, they can get off course, if there's a storm, or if they just get lost. No one really knows for sure what happens."

Of course, the Yard List is just for starters. They have both have traveled the world, searching. Ja-

nis has more than 4500 birds that she has identified so far. There are plenty of birders who have seen more, but it is still a respectable number, gathered from all seven continents.

A sunny, cold midday: Janis is standing with Larry on the banks of the San Diego River estuary, looking out over tidal mudflats. They came here at low tide. Herons, egrets, and gulls form clumps on the low-tide mud. Larry is straining his eye to peer through a large Swarovski telescope. Janis matches him, hauling up a substantial pair of Swarovski binoculars to scan the inches-deep water. "Ooh!" says Larry. "Janis, come look!" He unbends from his Swarovski. "I think this might be a Eurasian Wigeon."

"Sure it's not an American Wigeon?" asks Janis.

They pick up a book they had flung to the ground when they were setting up: *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of West-*

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ern North America. “No. Eurasian? That means it’s come here from...”

“Or got blown here.”

“Probably. Blown off course from Siberia. This is not common.”

“Hey, hey,” Larry tells me. “I may be just an SOB, but I also got her a ‘Life Bird’ one day. This could be another.”

“He’s a great spotter,” says Janis, before clarifying: “A ‘Life Bird’ is the first time in your life that you see a particular bird. Thanks to Larry, I did get a Yellow-Billed Magpie that day.”

“We were on the 101, coming south,” says Larry. “And we pulled in to a rest stop, and there was this bird there. I said, ‘Janis. There’s an interesting bird here. Come look.’ And it was the Yellow-billed Magpie.”

“It was in with black-birds — junk birds that would hang out at rest stops, hoping to get crumbs people dropped,” Janis says. “But the Yellow-billed Magpie is uncommon, because it has a small range, in Central California. The Black-billed Magpie is much more common.”

“It was the yellow bill that struck me,” Larry

says, “because I knew magpies, from living in Washington. My uncle had a cattle ranch, and it always had magpies. So it was something I’d seen since I was a little kid.”

“Can we call you professional birdwatchers?” I ask.

“We are not birdwatchers,” Janis replies, still staring through her binoculars. “We are birders. There is a difference. We are not professionals, but we are serious.”

Larry corrects her. “*She* is the serious birder and travels the globe. I am just the SOB.”

This whole crazy habit of just trying to see and identify birds was started in the 19th century by people like John James Audubon, partly to protect birds from the growing trade in feathers for the fashion industry. In his day, people collected bird sightings by shooting them. Janis says she got the birding fever half a century back. “A Northern Flicker — a type of woodpecker — was the spark: I was 23. My first teaching job was at an outdoor education program on Palomar Moun-

tain. Sixth graders came for a week. And there were just wonderful birds there. Acorn Woodpeckers that were red, white and black, Steller’s Jays that were blue, Mountain Bluebirds, Chickadees that sang like, *‘Three blind mice, three blind mice...’* They were tuneful enough that I could tell the kids, ‘Listen! Listen to the Chickadee. “Three blind mice.”’ They’d sing and then I’d go, *‘Di di do.’* And [the birds would] answer me back. And I’d go, *‘do-Di Di-doo.’* And the birds would answer back

with a little double note. They can imitate.”

Janis knew enough of the birds by sight to help identify them with the kids. “But one day, I was taking a shortcut to the girls’ cabin, and there was a huge boulder with

Native American grinding holes (*morteros*). The boulder probably had about 40 *mortero* holes in it. And there was this bird sitting there, because sometimes they had water and seeds accumulating in them. And I looked

at him, and he looked at me, and I am thinking, ‘What are you?’”

She says the bird had an orange swoosh and a big bill. “He had polka dots on his breast, and when he flew, the rump was white, the wings were red, and I was like, ‘What are you?’”

“Our meeting was similar,” jokes Larry. “The white rump was...” Lots of laughs.

“Well, you know there are birds called ‘Wheat-ear,’ says Janis. “And that was Old English for ‘White Arse.’ And the only Wheatear you would see in North America would be in Alaska, if you were lucky enough to see one. I saw one in Nome.”

Birding tied in nicely with her unquenchable thirst for travel. “Does birding trip you into action?” I ask.

“Absolutely,” says Ja-



Larry and Janis’s birding telescope boasts membership stickers for the American Birding Association.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL MANSON

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nis. “I mostly do it on my own because Larry, the SOB, doesn’t like to travel.” One of the places she has gone to multiple times is Alaska. “I really like Alaska. You get an incredible array of migrating birds. Like Tundra Swans: you see hundreds of them at a time. And Sandhill Cranes that make the 2000-3000-mile flight south to winter in southern New Mexico.” Janis says you can see thousands of cranes in a group there, gorging on barley stubble and wetland invertebrates. She says they mate for life, and every spring, they renew their bond at at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge by going through courtship rituals: dancing, bowing, chortling, and, marvelously, throwing tufts of grass in the air. Then they return in late March to colder climes like Nome, Alaska, for nesting season.

“I’ve been to Nome, and then out to St. Lawrence Island. From there, you really *can* see Russia. We stayed in a Siberian *Yup’ik* village. No cars, no hotels, no restaurants, no alcohol. We stayed in a dorm constructed origi-



PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY M. EDWARDS

“There was a Hudsonian Godwit that dropped in one day” at the San Diego estuary. “It is a famous bird...On this day, though, the spectacle was not so much the bird. The spectacle was all the birdwatchers who came to see it.”

nally when they built a new school. They optimistically called it ‘The Lodge.’ You got two beds and a shelf. And we would rent ATVs from local people.”

“The island is a Native American reservation, basically,” says Larry. “Part of the economy revolves around birders. They come in in the spring and the fall, and look for birds that they can then claim as having seen in North America, although the birds actually come in from Asia. It’s a popular spot for serious birders.”

“Of course, you have to

take your own food out there,” Janis continues. “First, you fly from Anchorage to Nome, where the Iditarod ends, in a 737, which is like a regular 737, except the front half is cargo only. Then you fly in a small, 19-passenger plane.” Up there, Janis was looking for everything from puffins to the Arctic Warbler, the Gray-tailed Tattler, kittywakes, loons, eiders, ptarmigans, and auklets, all in breeding plumage. And, by way of contrast, she has done Brazil (she’s just back from there), as well as Gabon in Africa, where she survived a riot

during the presidential election, and even Bakersfield, witness to its own rewilded parrot invasion.

Birding isn’t just spotting; it’s also observing and learning. The stunning murmurings of Starlings, for instance — thousands of them taking to the sky in a swirling aerial ballet. On that Brazil trip? Janis was most enraptured by the Long-trained Nightjar, whose males grow tails over two feet long in their effort to impress females. Here comes the learning: birds in the Nightjar genus are also

known as “goatsuckers.” Pliny the Elder — not just a beer but a Roman commander, naturalist, and kinda inventor of the encyclopedia — wrote of them: “*Caprimulgiformes* enter the shepherds’ stalls, and fly to the goats’ udders, in order to suck their milk, which injures the udder and makes it perish, and the goats they have milked in this way gradually go blind.” It’s a myth, but it’s a powerful, long-lasting one.

Larry says proudly that Janis has seen the largest birds in the world: the 10-foot high Common Ostrich, plus giants like the severely threatened California Condor, with its wingspan of up to an amazing ten feet. Also the smallest: Cuba’s .067-ounce Bee Hummingbird, Earth’s tiniest living bird (and therefore also, yes, the smallest living dinosaur in the world). “We saw the Bee Hummingbird in the far-western part of Cuba, Guanahacabibes National Park. This was in 2012, after President Obama kind of loosened up [the possibilities for] Americans to go to Cuba. And we were licensed as a citizens’ science group.

One of our guides was from the Natural History Museum of Cuba, and he knew where some Bee Hummingbirds hung out. Its name in Spanish is *zunzuncito*, after the humming sound it makes flying. All the males have striking colors. It was something like 2-½ inches long.”

But it’s not their smallitude that most amazes the couple. “There are hummingbirds that fly — nonstop — across the Gulf of Mexico. And there are warblers that fly from Cancun to Texas,” says Larry. “They probably lose more than half their body weight on that trip. They try to time it so they have a tailwind, but sometimes they run up against a storm front, and they run out of steam. They just drop into the ocean and drown. Or if they manage to reach land, these birds drop, literally exhausted. Among birders, it’s called a ‘fallout.’ Janis has been in one fallout, at High Island in Texas, close to Galveston.”

“The birds are so tired they don’t even run away. They just sit there,” says Janis. “When I got there, they were everywhere,

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The Hudsonian Godwit sometimes flies 8100 miles in 11 days, nonstop, the length of both Americas.

dripping from the trees. I didn't see them actively dropping from the sky. They probably came in the night before. They tend to fly at night — it's safer, with fewer other birds and less wind. Mostly warblers, some hummingbirds. Just beautiful in their spring colors. But scattered over the land, half dead."

Birding, says Larry, is a great way of "getting outdoors and getting away from people." He suffers from PTSD after a horrifying family trauma that involved the death of both his parents on a yacht in the Pacific off Tahiti. (He published a prize-winning book about it, *Dare I Call It Murder?*) "I live with that experience every day," he says. "And yes, birding helps me deal with it." But that's not to say that it's any guarantee of serenity or solitude. When a rare bird makes an appearance, the birders can show up in force. "There was a Hudsonian Godwit that dropped in one day" at the San Diego estuary. "It is a famous bird" — in part because it sometimes flies 8100 miles in 11 days, nonstop, the length of both Amer-

icas. "That's what fantastic birds they are. On this day, though, the spectacle was not so much the bird. The spectacle was all the birdwatchers who came to see it."

JANIS: Probably 200 of them.

LARRY: The word gets out instantly on something like that, with the internet.

JANIS: People drove in from LA, San Bernardino, Riverside.

LARRY: They came from all over Southern California to get here. So I took a picture of the birders. And they came equipped with huge cameras way bigger than mine, and scopes, and I figured, at a minimum, there was a quarter of a million dollars' worth of gear there. Probably closer to half a million dollars' worth. Binoculars, cameras, 600 millimeter lenses, spotting scopes...one individual could have \$15,000-\$20,000 worth of gear. But you can understand it. Some of these birds are so rare. That Hudsonian Godwit? There may not be another one [coming here] within any of our lifetimes."

Birding is also a great way of getting into crazy

competitions. A while back, Larry discovered the idea of The Big Year. "So 2018 was my Big Year. I learned about eBird" — an online data site where birders record their sightings — "and I learned about this insane, unspoken competition between normally rational individuals. It's a simple but powerful challenge: to see how many different birds you can spot in a year. I got caught up in that challenge. I wanted to be in the top 100 in the county. Just the county, not the entire country, which some people do. It was even made into a movie. I thought, 'How hard could that be?' Actually, it's pretty hard. Harder than I thought. There are hundreds, probably thousands of us, who do this." Urged on by Janis and her fellow birders, he ended up at number six.

San Diego, says Janis, "is a big birder destination. And it gets a boost every year with our San Diego Bird Festival at the end of February." One reason for its status: it's on the central axis of the Pacific Flyway. Literally millions of birds fly over the city every night during the spring

(northbound) and fall (southbound) migration months. Two hundred and fifty species migrate to Alaska alone in summer, seeking plentiful food, endless daylight, and vast open spaces for nesting.

Back in El Cajon, the panicked parrots are starting to funnel west, searching out another roost for the night. "Perhaps we talked too loud," says Emily. She says the birds are Amazonia parrots, but they're from Mexico. There are two species: Lilac-crowned and Red-crowned. She says the Red-crowned are from the gulf coast of Mexico. There are only maybe 3000 left in the wild, due to habitat destruction. It's happening really fast. The Lilac-crowned are from the Sea of Cortez, on the Pacific side. They are endangered, but not critically. Perhaps 8000 are still in existence.

"The irony," Emily says, "is that here in San Diego, they are doing fantastically well since they were introduced and become feral. So this may be the saving of them." And happily, that won't



PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY M. EDWARDS

"The other day, Larry and I had 100 crows attacking a Great-Horned Owl in our own little bird sanctuary. The owl didn't move. He was cool. It was wild."

mean the doom of some other bird. "A lot of times, when a species shows up in an area and competes with a local population of birds for food, it's not a good thing. But these parrots don't eat any native plants. All they eat are the [fruit of] the introduced plants, like the palm trees' palm nuts, eucalyptus gumnuts, and all the fruit and nuts from the fruit trees that people have planted. And these are not important food sources for native birds."

Emily says parrots have been coming to Southern California for at least 50

years. "Already, they're part of El Cajon's natural scene. This could be the future." She looks up into the roiling funnel of parrot-dom as the rowdy birds start to shriek off west towards new accommodations. "Goodbye, guys! I hope you'll come back tomorrow. El Cajon needs you!"

Next morning, I have a question for Janis. Larry answers the phone. "Better make this quick, dude. I'm taking Janis to the airport. She's going to Peru. Headwaters of the Amazon. Aiming for 50 more Life Birds."

— Bill Manson

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Thursday | 29

SEASIDE EQUESTRIAN TOUR

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pany that welcomes people who are riding in the grand prix, competing for the first time, or just supporting from ringside. Exhibitors can expect sport, prize money classes, and affordable showing options. Classes include Cross Rails and Grand Prix. Class fees waived for competitors riding off-track thoroughbreds and young horses. There will be a VIP area, entertainment, and opportunities for charitable works. The Seaside Social Club will offer the best view of the arena, plus dining.

WHEN: Thursday, February 29 through Sunday, March 24, 8 am to 5 pm

WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. delmarfairgrounds.com

Friday | 1

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

Enjoy stories from the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival. Also: view action sports, stand on the highest peaks, and ski the steepest slopes in remote landscapes. Films on March 1 include: *NO Way* (paragliding/humor), *Driving Sweep* (boat), *JoJo*, *A Toad Musical* (environmental/humor), and *Subterranean* (adventure).

WHEN: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 1 through 3, 7 pm to 10 pm

WHERE: San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park. greatadventureproductions.com

THE GREAT JUNK HUNT

Discover farmhouse, handmade, industrial, up-cycled, and re-purposed goods from over 130 vendors set up in 70,000 square feet of space. There will be cocktails, live music, and many aisles to peruse.

WHEN: Friday through Sunday,



February 23 through 25, 8 am to 5 pm

WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. delmarfairgrounds.com



FRIDAY, MARCH 1: BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

Saturday | 2

CRSSD FESTIVAL



Check out San Diego's big electronic dance music festival, taking place over

two days at Downtown's Waterfront Park. Day one lineup: Tale Of Us, Black Coffee, GusGus, Jan Blomqvist, Joe Kay, b2b, Jared Jackson, Kruder & Dorfmeister, Little Dragon, Red Axes, Roosevelt, SANGO, SBTRKT, and WhoMadeWho. Day two lineup: Armand Van Helden, Astra Club, Dixon, Loco Dice, b2b, Nic

Fanciulli, Mochakk, Archie Hamilton, Beltran, East End Dubs, Enzo Siragusa, Ky William, Luuk Van Dijk, Maz, Sammy Virji, Sofia Kourtesis, and Toman.

WHEN: Saturday, March 2, 12 pm

WHERE: Waterfront Park, 1600 Pacific Highway, Downtown. crssdfest.com

Tuesday | 5

ART & DESIGN WORKSHOP: FLORAL ARRANGING

This workshop held in Timken Museum's central gallery will be led by San Diego floral designer Gilberto Freihoff. Learn about color palettes, textures, design principles and other tricks of the trade to create your own floral composition.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 5, 10 am to 11:45 am

WHERE: Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado, Balboa Park. timkenmuseum.org



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

ART

Allison Beaudry: Clearcoat Vista based artist Allison Beaudry draws parallels between the sleek curves and seductive finish of classic cars and the male gaze of the female body. Intensive research into classic car color schemes and design aesthetic found in vintage Playboy magazines. Show runs from March 2 - April 28. Saturday, March 2, 5pm; **free**. House of Borrego Springs West Gallery, 624 Palm Canyon Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Daniel Hicks Exhibition: Process/Material Daniel Hicks (b. 1974, New York) currently works & resides in San Diego, CA. Self-taught, multidisciplinary artist and designer Daniel Hicks considers the breadth of his work to be a "protracted exercise in pure formalism as well as an ever-evolving engagement with the design process itself." Friday, March 1, 4pm; **free**. Thumbprint Gallery, 920 Kline Street #104. (LA JOLLA)

Imagined Reality Opening Reception The water-based media exhibition runs February 25 - March 30. Friday, March 1, 5pm; **free**. San Diego Watercolor Society, 2825 Dewey Road #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Kruglak Art Gallery: Everything Dissolves Kline Swonger is a cross-disciplinary artist whose research and sculptural work revolves around perception and psychology of space. Thursday, February 29, 11am; Friday, March 1, 11am; **free**. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Lauren Lee McCarthy: Bodily Autonomy Opening Reception For the past fifteen years, Lauren Lee McCarthy has worked in performance, video, installation, software, artificial intelligence, and other media to address how an algorithmically determined world impacts human relationships and social life. The show brings together two major works — Surrogate and Saliva—to examine bio-surveillance. Saturday, March 2, 2pm; **free**. Mandeville Art Gallery, 9390 Mandeville Lane. (LA JOLLA)

San Diego Scenes Artist Reception Celebrate 15 years of San Diego paintings with new works and favorite painting locations by San Diego landscape painter Kevin Inman. Reception March 2, on display February 27-March 11. Saturday, March 2, 2pm; **free**. Gallery 21 in Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Weekends with Locals: Michelle Serafini Weekends with Locals will be hosting Michelle Serafini, author of *Getaway Home: Your stories and adventures from your home away from home*, *A Guided Journal*. Sunday, March 3, 1pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Art Smarts Art Class for Homeschoolers Monthly art class for homeschoolers ages 6 and up. Engage in various artforms including drawing and painting. Registration is required. Friday, March 1, 11:30am; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

7Candles & Craft Workshop Create your own floral-inspired drinks and a pressed floral art candle in this unique outdoor experience on Bar Traza Terrace. Bar Traza menu will be available to purchase during this experience. Wednesday, March 6, 2pm; **free**. 21 and up. Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

Clinical Somatic Exercise Discover easy movements to release and reset the tension baseline in

your body that is causing you pain and limiting your quality of life. Tuesday, March 5, 6pm; **free**. 18 and up. Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli, 4765 Voltaire Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

Dance Workshop Trifecta Zydeco & East Coast Swing & Line Dancing Workshop Sunday, March 3, 3pm; \$9-\$11. Dance Headquarters, 5035 Shawline Street. (CLAIREMONT)

Discovering the Prose Poem In this two-day workshop explore the potential of the Prose Poem form as a meaningful addition to the writer's toolbox. Saturday, March 2, 12pm; \$72-\$84. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (ONLINE)

Hand Rolled Sushi Class Learn how to create your own fresh sushi rolls. Saturday, March 2, 1pm; \$59. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

House Plant Kokedama Workshop All materials will be ready at site of event. Variety of house plants to choose from. Instructed by Kokedama artist, Kanako. Saturday, March 2, 3pm; \$38-\$45. 18 and up. City Farmers Nursery, 3110 Euclid Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Miso Making Workshop In this hands-on workshop, you will learn all about miso, a fermented bean paste that originated in Japan many centuries ago. Saturday, March 2, 11am; \$74-\$79. Maya Moon Collective, 3349 Adams Ave. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Mosaic Picture Frame Using buttons, beads, letters, broken ceramic or glass tiles, embellish a simple wooden picture frame to display your treasured photos. No previous experience required. Ages 7 - Adult. Please register in advance @ bravoschoolofart.squarespace.com. Sunday, March 3, 10am; \$40-\$46. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Movement to Music: Belly Dance Basics Six-week workshop designed for all levels. Participants will learn the art of isolations, fluid movements, and expressive choreography that define the beauty of belly dancing. Each week, delve deeper into the cultural roots and historical significance of this captivating dance form. Tuesday, March 5, 7pm; \$120. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

SDCTI Mini Course: Steamed Milk Designed for coffee enthusiasts, baristas, and anyone keen to master the art of milk steaming and frothing. Thursday, February 29, 9am; \$150. 18 and up. San Diego Coffee Training Institute, 1616 National Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance This class emphasizes improving breath, mind, and body co-ordination/function to prevent falls while increasing safety in activities of daily living. Wear flat supportive shoes and loose comfortable clothing. Monday, March 4, 11:30am; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

COMEDY

Armando Anto Armando Anto was born and raised in France. He began studying classical violin at the French National Conservatory at the age of 5. After earning his BA in Finance, he turned his virtuoso talent into a business, embarking on a world tour of violin concerts. For the last 10 years, Armando has been perfecting his unique style of comedy, utilizing his decades of classical violin mastery, his guitar skills, and even breakdance in his act. Thursday, February 29, 8pm; \$20-\$200. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Carlos Ballarta Carlos Ballarta was raised in Chicoloapan, a borough in the Mexican, Metropolitan area, and studied acting. His artistic career started as a voice actor, and the first time he went on an Open mic was in 2012. He then started to wear glasses due to his fear of looking audiences in the eye, and this has become his signature look. Friday, March 1, 8pm; \$40-\$385. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Comedy Heights Presents Justin Foster with Sean Porter, Laura Manasewich, Ray Lau and host Al Gavi. Friday, March 1 & 2, 8pm; \$5. Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

David Spade David Spade became a household favorite during his tenure as a cast member



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on NBC's "Saturday Night Live." For his memorable role as Dennis Finch, the wise-cracking, power-hungry assistant on "Just Shoot Me", Spade received nominations for a 1999 Emmy Award, Golden Globe, and American Comedy Award. Saturday, March 2, 8pm; \$41-\$61. 18 and up. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Friday Night Flick Two live "movies" will be improvised before your eyes. Suggestions taken from the audience and prizes given away. Friday, March 1, 8:30pm; \$7-\$15. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

Kevin Nealon As seen on NBC's SNL, Showtime's Weeds, ABC, Comedy Central & more! Thursday, February 29, 8pm; Friday, March 1, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, March 2, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Pete Correale - Saturday, March 2, 7:30pm; \$48-\$59. Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

DANCE

The Thorn The Thorn tells the epic story of God's love for the world and the spiritual battle for all humanity. Often described as cirque meets the passion of Jesus, The Thorn combines dance, martial arts, aerial acrobatics, and emotionally powerful performances, witnessed live by 1M+ people for over 25 years. Friday, March 1, 7pm; Saturday, March 2, 1pm and 7pm; \$39-\$175. 13 and up. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Andy Mann Experience the wonder of our underwater world through riveting stories by Emmy Award-nominated director, Nat Geo photographer, and accomplished musician Andy Mann. Thursday, February 29, 7:30pm; \$23-\$48. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

OUTDOORS

Sage scents foothills, rain greens trees, ocean temps on the upturn

The Pleasantly Pungent Odor of Sage is filling the air wherever native vegetation grows on the county's coastal and lower-foothill slopes. Most common are the black sage, with its tight clusters of small, white flowers; the grayish-leaved white sage; purple-blossomed, sweet-smelling Cleveland sage; and California sagebrush, characterized by soft, needle-like leaves.



SYCAMORES (ON THE LEFT) ALONG THE 163.



COASTAL SAGE SCRUB IN BLOOM.

The Mix Of Rain And Sunshine characteristic of the last few weeks has triggered the emergence of bright green leaves on sycamore, liquidambar, and other decorative deciduous trees around San Diego. Cruise down 163 through Balboa Park to appreciate the vernal splendor of the sycamores growing in the landscaped center divider. Or walk across the El Prado bridge and look down upon the same.

Ocean Water Temperatures, of late in the high 50s Fahrenheit, are finally on the upswing this month as the daylight hours lengthen and the sun arcs higher overhead in the sky each day. It will take about five months of spring and summer sunshine before the ocean's enormous mass and large heat capacity fully respond to the input of solar energy. A maximum water temperature in the low to mid-70s is expected by August or September.

FOOD & DRINK

Farm Pizza Popup Farm pizza popup using ingredients from a local farm. Saturday, March 2, 5pm; free. Coffee & Tea Collective, 2911 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

Leap Year Happy Hour with Chef Richard Blais Enjoy bits, bobs and paired bevies. The event will feature five thematic food stations including Brunch, Tea, Pastry, Lunch, and Dinner. Thursday, February 29, 4pm; \$50. California English, 9276 Scranton Road. (MIRA MESA)

Tennessee Whiskey Deal for Chris Stapleton After Chris Stapleton at Petco Park, enjoy truffle fried chicken and waffles featuring Korean hot chicken, mochi waffles,

truffle butter, house hot sauce and smoked maple. With proof of concert ticket, guests may also enjoy a Tennessee Whiskey, a complimentary shot of Maker's Mark. Saturday, March 2, 5pm; free-\$50. 21 and up. Lionfish, 435 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

FOR KIDS

Disney's Finding Nemo The musical is based on the plot of the film *Finding Nemo*. It revolves around Marlin, a widowed clownfish who is desperate to find his son Nemo, who was snatched away by a diver in the ocean. Saturday, March 2, 8pm; Sunday, March 3, 2:30pm; \$20-\$27. David and Dorothea Gar-

field Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Puffs For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there, too. Set against a backdrop of spells, potions and magical creatures, Puffs is a comedic and inspiring tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. Recommended ages 11 and up. Fridays, 7pm; Saturdays, 2pm; Sundays, 2pm; through Sunday, March 17, \$18-\$20. Casa del Prado Theatre, 1600 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Road Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr. Rebellion is nigh in Matilda Jr., a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the

power of imagination! This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson. Thursday, February 29, 7pm; Friday, March 1, 7pm; Saturday, March 2, 7pm; \$10-\$20. School of Creative and Performing Arts, 2425 Dusk Drive. (PARADISE HILLS)

LECTURES

Nature Driven Design: How to Survive Plastics Dr. Pinar Yoldas discusses her award-winning nature-based design, including her creation, "Hollow Ocean," which was selected for the 2021 Venice Biennale. Arts Building In

Room 111 Wednesday, March 6, 12pm; free-\$5. CSU San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gem Faire in Del Mar Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Buy direct from the importers & wholesalers. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Friday, March 1, 12pm; Saturday, March 2, 10am; Sunday, March 3, 10am; free-\$7. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

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SPORTS & FITNESS

San Diego Gulls Home Game

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

San Diego Seals The defending National Lacrosse League West Conference Champion San Diego Seals will host a rival. Saturday, March 2, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

San Diego Sockers The 16-time champion San Diego Sockers will host a rival at Pechanga Arena. Friday, March 1, 7:35pm; Sunday, March 3, 5:05pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

THEATER LISTINGS

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

The Age of Innocence

New York, 1876, a city of wild ambition and ever concentrating wealth, ruled over by a smart set of cultural elites who adhere to strict codes of thought and behavior, who drape the custom of the day with the robes of morality, and who zealously guard their power and privilege against vulgar outsiders. *Plus ca change, plus ca meme chose*, etc. — which is probably why our brilliant lady Narrator (brilliant because she gets to deliver novelist Edith Wharton's words and also because she delivers them with such aplomb, using them to both frame and drive the action) is wearing a modern pants suit while everyone else is swathed in period costume. Monochromatic period costume, to boot, so as not to interfere with the constantly changing wall of color that serves as backdrop/mood ring for the spare and decidedly modern stage — except of course for our Scarlet Woman, the divorce-minded Countess Ellen Olenska, who has fled Europe and arrived back home in the Land of the Free (ha ha). But despite her title, she comes from vulgar stock, which has left her unaware and unconcerned with all that custom, and therefore dangerous to the social order. Sure enough, young Newland Archer (what a name!), who has just gotten engaged to his sweetheart May, can't help but thrill to the sheer possibility she represents. But while mores may change — the day may come when no one will blink at marrying one of Beaufort's bastards — morals do not, and that's why the drama is not dated. Men may be weak despite the strength of their emotions. Women may be wise despite the simplicity of their ideas.



Redwood: What keeps you standing tall?

(Archer may have the name, but it's May who wields the bow like the goddess Diana.) And love may demand sacrifice even as it promises fulfillment. Wharton's genius lies in the interweaving of what passes and what endures, and playwright Karen Zacarias conveys that genius with both brevity and wit. 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.

Blood Moon

Compulsion Dance & Theater presents the premiere of a new thriller written & directed by Michael Mizerny. After an ex-cop discovers the identity of his brother's killer, he lures him to an abandoned house to exact revenge. When the killer gets the upper hand, it leads to a brutal and deadly confrontation. Features performances by Cody Dupree and Jonny Taylor with lighting by Joshua Olmstead. Seating is limited; advance purchase is highly recommended. This production contains adult subject matter including profanity, sexual dialogue, violence and some gore. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 8PM FRIDAY.

Clyde's

Playwrights tend to show up in clusters around the San Diego theater scene. My first review was for Lauren Yee's *Cambodian Rock Band* at La Jolla Playhouse in 2019. Yee's *Great Leap Forward* showed up at Cygnet less than a year later. Keiko Green got *Exotic Deadly* at The Old Globe and *Sharon* at Cygnet. A.R. Gurney's had a remarkable run of late, starting with *Lamp-lighters' The Cocktail Hour* in early 2022, followed by *The Dining Room* at PowPAC, then *Love Letters* at La Jolla Playhouse, and then *The Cocktail Hour* again for Trinity Theater's canny first production in their new home inside Mission Valley Center. (Canny because at one point, the playwright protagonist unleashes an impassioned lament that theater seems to be all he can do, despite its precarious status in the current entertainment landscape.) John Patrick Shanley got *Italian-American Reconciliation* at Scripps, *Doubt* at New Village Arts, and now *Outside Mullingar* at Lamb's Players. Now it seems to be Lynn Nottage's turn, starting with *Intimate Apparel* at North Coast Rep, moving on to *Clyde's* at Moxie, and then going big for *MJ: The Musical* at the Civic Center. Sometimes, the clustering is beneficial: you get a sense of the playwright's voice and vision

across a range of dramatic settings. Other times, it's more instructive: you get to see development — or its opposite. *Intimate Apparel* and *Clyde's* work similar territory and themes: working-class blacks and the spiritual significance of their work. *Intimate Apparel* had lingerie fashioned by a woman starved for love; *Clyde's* has sandwiches made by ex-cons, chief among them Montrellous, a kitchen Buddha who layers in more meaning than even the sturdiest sandwich can gracefully bear. Under him are sassy sister Letitia, fiery Latino Rafael, and angry newbie Jason. Over them all: Clyde, a tough gal who needs to please her crooked investors more than she needs to succeed as a legit business, and way more than she needs to nurture her fellow former jailbirds. The characters talk to each other — oh, do they talk, sometimes when there are sandwiches to be made! — but too often, it feels like they're talking *past* each other, and to the audience. Everybody's got a story, but they come at the expense of the story at hand. And while the regular pauses for descriptions of fantasy sandwiches are delightful, they don't feel real — these are desperate souls working a last-chance greasy spoon, not artists in exile. The ending is equally baffling: why throw a tantrum when you could

just serve relish on the side? MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8AM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Fiddler on the Roof

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and install them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, the universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion. SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE, 4650 MERCURY ST., CLAIREMONT. +18585605740. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress

During an ostentatious wedding reception at a Tennessee estate, five reluctant identically clad bridesmaid hide put in an upstairs bedroom, each with her own reason to avoid the proceedings below. As the afternoon wears on, these five very different women joyously discover a common bond in the wickedly funny, irreverent, and touching celebration of the women's spirit. By Alan Ball, some adult themes. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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, FUN HOME serves as a testament to the power of diverse voices and the universal quest for authenticity. Join us for a theatrical experience that celebrates the richness of queer stories and resonates with the profound significance of embracing one's true self. 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.

How I Learned to Drive

A tale of survival as seen through the lens of a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man. By Paula Vogel, directed by Anthony Methvin. Cast: Megan Carmitchel, Francis Gercke, William Huffaker, Karson St. John, and Emilee Zuniga. TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS.

The Lightning Thief, the Percy Jackson Musical

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as cool as it sounds. He has powers he can't control, a destiny he doesn't want, and monsters on his trail. When Zeus's lightning bolt is stolen and Percy becomes the prime suspect, he and his friends set out on a quest to find the bolt, clear Percy's name, and prevent an all-out war between the gods. Adapted from the best-selling book by Rick Riordan.

THEATRE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, 7960 UNIVERSITY AVENUE SUITE 240, LA MESA. 7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

MJ the Musical

The multi Tony Award*-winning musical is centered around the making of the 1992 Dangerous World Tour. Created by Tony Award*-winning Director/Choreographer Christopher Wheeldon and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage, *MJ* offers a rare look at the creative mind and collaborative spirit that catapulted Michael Jackson into legendary status.

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N The West Coast premiere of *N* is a thought provoking comedy by award winning playwright David Alex that changes what you think about being a liberal or a conservative. Funny, poignant, and insightful, *N* is a wake-up call for the over-woke and under-woke.

POINT LOMA PLAYHOUSE, 3035 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-800-5497. 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS.

Puffs

For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there, too. Set against a backdrop of spells, potions and magical creatures, *Puffs* is a comedic and inspiring tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. Filled with uproarious humor

and poignant storytelling, audiences will be delighted at the heartfelt journey of these lovable misfits as they navigate challenges, forge unlikely friendships and discover the true meaning of loyalty and self-worth. ASL-Interpreted performance on Saturday, March 16 at 2pm. All ages welcome, however due to some mature humor, recommended ages 11 and up.

CASA DEL PRADO THEATRE, 1600 VIL-LAGE PL., BALBOA PARK. 7PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS.

Redwood

La Jolla Playhouse's star continues to rise, or maybe it's that the stars keep shining on La Jolla Playhouse. Having brought in film and stage star Matthew Broderick for *Babbitt*, they now turn to his musical counterpart, film and stage star Idina Menzel, for a musical about a woman who is literally up a tree. Wracked by grief following the death of her son, Jesse flees her New York job, apartment, and wife Mel, and keeps fleeing until she reaches a patch of private redwood forest overseen by aging hippie Finn and justice-minded Becca. There, she learns a bit about redwoods — they're tough in a fire, and while their roots are shallow, they stay standing by intertwining them with the roots of their fellow giants — and charms her way onto a platform high up in the canopy. Once there, well — it is California. The Playhouse has done right by Ms Menzel, in part by surrounding her with voices that can hold their own against hers; Nkeki Obi-Melekwe's "Becca's Song" comes close to stealing the show, and Zachary Noah Piser makes the very most of his 11 o'clock number. Also by going about as far as they can go with projection; calling the digital forest a backdrop doesn't do justice to its immersive

power. The songs, however, are less consistently good; the cheek-by-jowl juxtaposition of the Boomeresque anthem "A Little Bit Wild" and the poignant lament "Back Then" may have you feeling like you're watching two different shows. And while the concept and resolution work fine, there are moments where the drama falters and the emotion becomes awkward, almost as if the actors aren't sure they can embrace what they're portraying. Oh — and there's a tree. A great big breathtaking tree. You can't ever see all of it at once, but that's part of its glory.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VIL-LAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, & TUESDAYS.

Tartuffe

A charismatic charlatan insinuates himself into the lives of a wealthy family, setting off a chain reaction of disruption and pandemonium. This production, translated into English verse by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Richard Wilbur, is directed by Richard Baird.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM WEDNESDAY, MAR. 6.

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 unrereviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at 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)

Drive-Away Dolls — A sexed-up (if not exactly sexy), sassy, and ultimately slight crime comedy/road movie from Ethan Coen, who co-wrote the script with his wife Tricia Cooke. The setting is 1999, when gay marriage was still a matter of where you lived — worth noting when your protagonists are lesbians living in Philly and headed to Tallahassee — but the style is pure '70s, what with the psychedelic flashbacks, the funky drop-down screen wipes, the Dutch angles, and the generally grotty aesthetic. Some might be tempted to call it raunchy, what with all the dildos, sex scenes, and dirty talk (power tools are mentioned, but not displayed). But it's too frank and even sweet for that — Marian (Geraldine Viswanathan) may be virginal in comparison to her travel buddy Jamie (Margaret Qualley), but buttoned-up is not the same as uptight. Everyone here seems remarkably, even enviously comfortable with their sexuality, either as itch in want of scratching or as sincere expression of affection — well, except for one of the two unlucky knuckleheads who get sent after our dolls after they drive away in a car that for some reason already contains some very sensitive merchandise relating to a powerful political figure. The story doesn't hold up under scrutiny — don't overthink it, *man* — so what you're left with is the gentle exploration (send-up?) of lesbian culture; the trademark Coen blend of violence, cupidity, and stupidity; and nostalgia for the grindhouse. (2024) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)



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the inside track blurt

Childhood friends make kid rock

I've heard of band members who were best buds in college, in high school, and even in grade school. But Steve Denyes — half of the hard-working kids' band Hullabaloo —

concept of "Twenty Show in Twenty Days," Denyes seems matter-of-fact. "I love a challenge, and I love to do slightly ridiculous things. This was a nice combination of both." The duo started at the Birch Aquarium and finished the

in the history modern music. On the other hand, you can rent the studio at night to record your karaoke version of 'Hound Dog' or make a legitimate album, like U2 did with *Rattle and Hum*."

The historic spot features some, though not all, of the ambiance those rock 'n' roll recording legends knew. "Most of the original equipment is gone, but [Sun Records producer Sam] Phillips donated back a few items, including a microphone used to record Elvis. The original upright piano, played by Jerry Lee Lewis and others, is also back in the studio now. There's an indentation in the floor where the peg of the acoustic bass always went. On the bass keys of the piano, there's a burn mark where Jerry Lee Lewis put his cigar out."

Adapting to old recording techniques wasn't all smooth sailing, though. "The first few songs, we tried to do it without headphones, the way they used to do it at Sun. But being modern and slightly spoiled musicians, we just couldn't get used to recording that way. We circled back and set up headphones. Unfortunately, the engineer wasn't used to that, and we had all kinds of latency, when there's a delay between what you play and when you hear what you've played. We recorded the whole first night with one ear of the headphones on and the other ear off, so we could try to play in time. By the second night, we got the technical issues sorted out, and it was a lot more fun."

As for upcoming plans, Denyes laughs. "I have no idea! That's one of the things I love most about Hullabaloo. It's given us a great vehicle to dream up some crazy ideas and chase them down. After these twenty shows in February, we'll get right back to dreaming."

— Andrew Hamlin

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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



Hullabaloo: still smiling after 20 shows in 20 days to celebrate 20 years.

met his musical partner Brendan Kremer in the hazy crazy days of *kindergarten*. "We were friends from the start," recalls Denyes, who just helmed the band through "Twenty Shows in Twenty Days" to benefit the local charity Feeding San Diego. "There was that one incident at recess in third grade, but we've managed to move past it. I maintain that it was, in fact, a touchdown. Brendan is resolute. We were just rehashing it last week. We've agreed to disagree."

Music came as naturally as friendship. "By junior high, we put together our first rock band. In high school, we played a few school dances and backyard parties. That led to a regular gig at the Del Mar Fair as a surf band called the Woodies. During our college years and after, I was a full-on folk music geek. I kicked around in the San Diego coffeehouse scene that produced Gregory Page, Steve Poltz, Jewel, Steve White, Jeff Berkley and others. Brendan went down the rock path, and continues to play these days with Rock Garden and Guilty Williams."

As for the slightly mad

series at San Diego Botanic Garden, which Denyes calls "another one of our favorite places. We did our first CD release party there 18 years ago."

What about the logistics of booking of twenty shows? "That's the really nice thing about having done this so long. We've got great relationships with all kinds of venues. I just reached out to a bunch of my favorites, and pretty much everyone was on board. This [San Diego] community has supported us for two decades and made this amazing life possible. We just wanted to give back. Feeding San Diego is working every day to end hunger in San Diego by diverting food that would otherwise go to waste to people who need it."

Hullabaloo celebrated its twentieth anniversary this year through that concert series. Also by releasing *Live from Sun Studio*, recorded in Memphis, Tennessee, in the space made famous by "Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and some guy named Elvis. Sun Studio is a really interesting operation. On the one hand, it's one of the most significant rooms

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THE GONZO REPORT

Can't stop Bus Stop

A jester's miracle at Ween's Sound show

It's true: Ween woke all the creatures that live on the land on a recent Saturday night in Del Mar. And among those creatures was a motile mollusk with a wandering black eye. A shiner. That creature was yours truly. During jiu-jitsu training, I had eaten a knee with my winker the day before the show. As a result, the skin around my left eye was a puffy canvas painted with deep purple and cirrhosis yellow. There was no hiding this ugly stamp of violence. The best — and only — thing to do was to wear it like a badge and answer the question, asked again and again: "Oh my god, what happened to your eye?" My answer, I had decided, was that my grandma had beaten the shit out of me for spending her dog food money to buy a ticket to this show.

Once at the Sound, I waited in line for my ticket at will call. In front of me, another dude was trying to get his own ticket situation figured out. The attendant didn't show much

sympathy for the poor bastard, who had seemingly been scammed. "You might want to get in contact with your credit card company," the attendant told the man while pushing him aside. "Next person in line, please."

It was the first of two shows Ween would be putting on over the weekend.

Both were completely sold out. No surprise, considering the multi-generational cult following the band enjoys. The parking lot was scattered with fans begging, pleading, hoping that someone might have an extra ticket. If I had, I would've given it to the guy who was scammed. *It looks like you need a ticket to the show, sir. I just so happen to have one. No need to pay me. You should enjoy what's probably one of your favorite bands of all time. It probably took a lot for you to come out by yourself tonight in hopes of finding like-minded souls. Don't worry about me. The law of karma will repay me in some other way. But only if I'm truly deserving. Enjoy the show!* I know the feeling of being scammed. It's a kind of violation. You feel like a moron, and it makes you want to stalk the scammers and rip their spines out. But I didn't have an extra ticket.

My single ticket in hand, I made my way



Bus Stop finds a way.



Ween brings out the creatures from all of the land.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAKE PETERSON

not help him.

Inside, the merch table was buzzing with Ween fanatics. Ween is one of those bands that's impossible to pigeon-hole. They've been steadily evolving since the mid-'80s, but one thing has remained a constant: they're fuckin' weird. Weird in the service of making some of the most beautiful sounds your head can receive. Listen to "The Mollusk" and try not to

think about being an underwater butterfly. It'll be fun, I swear. And if you're weird, rest assured, you and Ween will find each other (probably in your stoner older brother's beat-up Honda Civic), and immediately fall in love, *maaaan*. After the show, we awoken creatures stuck around until the security force created a human wall and pushed us out. Clad in red jackets, they walked slowly toward us, announcing that it was time to go. They had never seen freaks like us, I'm sure, and so they didn't know how Ween fans would react to their assertion of authority. Would they bite? Give a squealing titty-twister? A Wet Willy? Maybe, but not likely. They might be a little fidgety and dress funny, but they're soft as squid. They'll give you their last cigarette, and they won't ask you about your black eye. Bus Stop was right: everyone there was the greatest of all time. ■

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Balboa Theatre:
Thursday, 8pm — Jesús Adrián Romero. \$46-\$291.

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

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, 8pm — Judy Collins.
Friday & Saturday, 8pm — The White Buffalo.
Sunday, 7:30pm — G. Love & Special Sauce and Jakobs Castle. \$39-\$139.
Monday, 7:30pm — Loving and Fog Lake. \$20.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — BoDeans. \$30-\$53.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Walter Trout. \$28-\$49.

Brick by Brick:
Friday, 8pm — The Ocean, Shy, Low. \$20-\$25.

CSU San Marcos:
Monday, 7:30pm — Ed Kornhauser Quartet. Free.

Casbah:
Thursday, 8:30pm — Kontravoid. \$20.
Friday, 7:30pm — Trash Panda and Early Eyes. \$18-\$22.
Saturday, 7pm — Zack Oakley Record Release. \$10.
Sunday, 3pm — Owl Be Damned and Hexa.

Central Library:
Monday, 6pm — Swing Dance Under the Dome. Free.
Common Grounds Cafe:
Thursday, 5pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
Saturday, 7pm — The B Sections. Free.

Epstein Family Amphitheater:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Las Migas. \$33-\$38.

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Golden Island:
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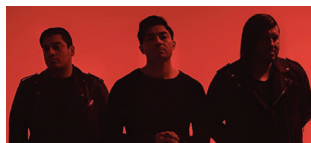
FEB 29



Ska-flavored alt rockers Sitting on Stacy won the 2018 Kaaboo Discovery competition, as well as opening for the Jonas Brothers in Chula Vista circa 2020. Their recently released third album includes contributions from Fat Mike of NOFX and Pierre Bouvier of Simple Plan. The Little Italy bill includes OB-based Band of Gringos and Saint Luna, an alternative psychedelic rock group founded by SDSU students during the pandemic shutdown.

MATTE BLVCK at Music Box

MARCH 1



Dark electro-pop rockers Matte Blvck features Daniel Corrales, whose previous duo PRGRM essentially ended with the death of co-founding singer Tza, aka Tonya Pugh, in summer 2017. Opening the show will be Los Angeles dark, progressive synth artist Snakes of Russia, elektronaut rockers So Much Blood, and occult goth band Liquid Grey.

ZACK OAKLEY at the Casbah

MARCH 2



Space rock guitarist Zack Oakley is a vet of paisley underground locals such as Volcano and Space Nature, and he's been known to drum for Pharee, who've shared the Tee Pee Records label with Oakley's best-known band, Joy. (Both Pharee and Joy made big splashes at the 2018 Roadburn Festival.) Oakley will debut a new album called *Kommune 1*. The psychedelic rock bill includes Wild Wild Wets, Fresh Veggies, and Micro Brass, with a Liquid Light Show by Operation: Mindblow.

HEXA at the Casbah

MARCH 3



Hexa headlines the Re:Kreate Benefit for K St. Kreative's Flood Recovery, which features raffles with prizes, as well as live music from the electronic pop project launched in 2015 by Carrie Gillespie Feller (Street of Little Girls, Ilya). Other bands appearing include Owl Be Damned, Crasher, No Knife, Holy Tears, Nanobel, and Mistress 77. Half of all funds raised will go to help K Street Kreative repair flood damage, while the other half will be used to assist tenants who were affected by flood damage.

JAKOBS CASTLE at the Belly Up Tavern

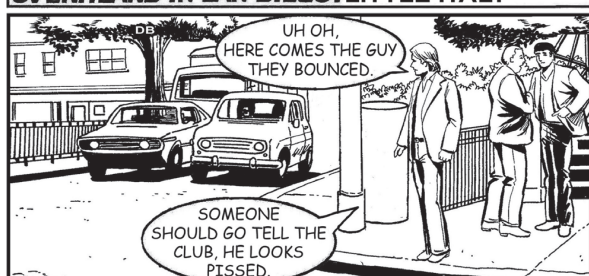
MARCH 3



Jakob Nowell's debut Jakobs Castle album *Enter: The Castle*, due April 12 via Epitaph Records, is so far preceded by a single for the track "2 Hours Ago." Nowell also announced that he's joining up with original Sublime members Bud Gaugh and Eric Wilson to serve as the new Sublime frontman in place of his late father, Bradley Nowell. The trio are scheduled to perform at Coachella and will announce additional select festival performances in 2024.

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08
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BAS

BLXCKIE, HOOSH, REUBEN VINCENT

08
MAR

ELEPHANT GYM

VOODOO ROOM

09
MAR

VEEZE

TALIBANDO

09
MAR

SLATER

VOODOO ROOM

12
MAR

REVEREND HORTON HEAT

JASON D WILLIAMS, DALE WATSON

13
MAR

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14
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WACKEN METAL BATTLE

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SUN. MAR. 10

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MON. MAR. 18

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Everyone Dies in Utah

TUE. MAR. 19

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THU. MAR. 28

ABHORIA

Woods Witch, Pire

FRI. MAR. 29

THE OBSESSED

Howling Giant, Gozu,
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IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Loudly trumpeting obscure piano pieces

I recently wrote about my favorite concertos, and I realize that there weren't any surprises in my selections. There wasn't, for instance, a claim that George Gershwin's *Piano Concerto in F* is amongst the greatest of concertos. I didn't claim that Erich Korngold's *Violin Concerto* was superior to Beethoven's or Brahms's.

However, over the past few weeks, I have been wallowing in a new and exquisite pool of piano concertos by composers about whom you may have never heard. It has been nothing short of a revelation to find composers such as Franz Xaver Scharwenka, Anton Urspruch, Sergei Borkiewicz, Moritz Moszkowski, and Giuseppe Martucci. With these com-

posers in mind, here are five concertos that I predict any fan of piano concertos will fall in love with, immediately.

Franz Xaver Scharwenka's *Piano Concerto No. 4* is a masterpiece. There is no way around it. The solo piano part is a monster that demands technical and expressive brilliance from the soloist. Does it sit at the very top of the heap with Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Brahms, and Mozart? Maybe not, but it is certainly at the level of Edward Grieg's or Robert Schumann's concertos. I would also say it can hang with Frederic Chopin and Franz Liszt's efforts in the idiom. Maybe it comes in below Sergei Prokofiev.

Anton Urspruch's *Piano*

Concerto Opus 9 is less technically brilliant than the Scharwenka. Rather, it is lyrical, more delightful than impressive. I do not give it masterpiece status, but it is a good listen if you're looking for something new.

Sergei Borkiewicz was a Ukrainian composer, and I'm surprised that all the Russian concertos in the standard repertoire weren't replaced by his during the frenzied opening months of the war. (Of course, when Borkiewicz was born, Ukraine was a part of Tsarist Russia, so there's that.) His orchestral approach is reminiscent (if not downright derivative) of Tchaikovsky, but that doesn't bother me one bit. His *Piano Concerto No. 1* is a remarkable piece of music. It is



Giuseppe Martucci, Moritz Moszkowski, and Sergei Borkiewicz

unapologetically romantic.

Moritz Moszkowski wrote two piano concertos. The second was discovered in 2011 and was published in 2013, 88 years after his death in 1925. Obviously, his *Piano Concerto No. 1* is the better-known of the pair, even if it is, technically, not that well known at all. I loved this piece of music immediately. As with all of these compositions, it is *easy to listen to*, almost as if Moszkowski was trying to entertain his audi-

ence. Imagine that.

Giuseppe Martucci was a non-operatic Italian composer. While he did write some pieces for voice and choir, he wrote no operas, even though he was born in 1865 and was a contemporary of both Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini. But you can hear his dedication to structure in the very opening measures of his *Piano Concerto No. 2*. As a bonus, I would recommend his *Piano Quintet*.

Classical Music this week

ATASC-SD Turkish Music Chorus 1st Anniversary Concert Turkish classical repertoire from the 17th–20th centuries as well as folk songs from different regions of Türkiye. The chorus will be accompanied by musicians playing traditional Turkish instruments. Cocktail hour 6:30pm. Concert starts at 7:30pm. Saturday, March 2, 6:30pm; \$15-\$25. Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane.

Greater San Diego Music Coterie: For Youth Classical music written for children and youth. Kabelevsky's Violin Concerto with soloist Florian Sulzmaier, Brahms' Lullaby and Sandman with soprano Anne-Marie Bulawka, Holst's Brook Green Suite and Ravel's Mother Goose Suite. Suggested \$20 donation at the door. Sunday, March 3, 3pm; **free**. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Road.

La Morra: Shaping the Invisible The San Diego Early Music Society presents the San Diego debut of Ensemble La Morra, with a guest appearance by lutenist Nigel North. The program will offer a selection of works from Italy of the time of Leonardo da Vinci. Saturday, March 2, 7:30pm; \$10-\$50. St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street.

Lawrence Brownlee A star of the Metropolitan Opera, Lawrence Brownlee is a leading figure in opera. Saturday, March 2, 7:30pm; \$56-\$95. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue.

Le Salon De Musiques E. GRIEG: STRING QUARTET No.1 IN G MINOR OP 27 - M. MOSZKOWSKI: SUITE FOR TWO VIOLINS & PIANO IN G MINOR OP 71 - E. GRIEG: PIANO CONCERTO IN A MINOR OP 16 (Arranged for piano & string quartet) Performed by: KYLE GILNER,

Violin, CHIAI TAJIMA, Violin, ALEX GRANGER, Viola, EVAN KAHN, Cello, SUNG CHANG, Pian. Sunday, March 3, 4pm; \$45-\$95. La Jolla Woman's Club, 7791 Draper Avenue.

Maria Ioudenitch Born in Russia, Ioudenitch immigrated with her family to the US at the age of two and grew up in Kansas City. In 2021, she received first prizes in the Ysaÿe International Music Competition, the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition, and the Joseph Joachim International Competition. Sunday, March 3, 3pm; \$33-\$58. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue.

SD Symphony Jacobs **Masterworks: Pictures at an Exhibition** Mussorgsky composed *Pictures at an Exhibition* in memory of a friend's posthumous exhibit. From the opening "Promenade" to the majestic

"Great Gate of Kiev," French conductor Ludovic Morlot leads the program. Friday, March 1, 8pm; Saturday, March 2, 8pm; Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street.

San Diego Symphony Music Connects: Coronado Norman Huynh, conductor. San Diego Symphony Orchestra. MOZART: Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492 BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55, Eroica (Mvt. 1 only) TCHAIKOVSKY: Suite No. 4 in G Major, Op. 61, Mozartiana Thursday, February 29, 7pm; **free**. Coronado High School, 650 D Avenue.

San Diego Symphony Music Connects: East County Norman Huynh, conductor. San Diego Symphony Orchestra. MOZART: Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492 BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55, Eroica (Mvt. 1 only)

TCHAIKOVSKY: Suite No. 4 in G Major, Op. 61, Mozartiana Saturday, March 2, 7pm; **free**. 21 and up. Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre, 5469 Casino Way.

San Diego Wind Ensemble: Bernstein Celebration The 45 piece San Diego Wind Ensemble presents Lenny! - A Bernstein Celebration / Experience, featuring the music of Leonard Bernstein and other American composers. Friday, March 1, 7pm; \$15-\$20. Calvary Lutheran Church, 424 Via De La Valle.

Tarka String Quartet Plays Haydn, Shaw, Korngold Join the Tarka String Quartet for a dance-inspired program featuring a lively work by Haydn, a hauntingly beautiful piece by living composer Caroline Shaw, and a piece with Viennese flair by Hollywood legend Erich Korngold. Sunday, March 3, 3pm; **free**. St. Paul's Cathedral & Episcopal Church, 2728 Sixth Avenue.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Friday, 7:30pm — Matte Blvck and Snakes of Russia. \$22-\$60. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Keni Can Fly and Andrew Garden. \$12-\$15. Wednesday, 7:30pm — Lioneer and EM Cable. \$12.

My Yard Live: Friday, 6pm — Dueling Piano Night. **Free**.

Navajo Live: Friday, 8:30pm — Nathan Raney Band and Cold Craft. \$6-\$8. Sunday, 7:30pm — Acoustic Transmissions. \$6.

Observatory North Park: Thursday, 7pm — Arlo Parks. \$45-\$68. Friday, 7:30pm — John 5. \$25-\$45. Monday, 7:30pm — Paper Kites. Tuesday, 7:30pm — GROUPOVE. \$53-\$147.

Petco Park: Saturday, 7:30pm — Chris Stapleton and Turnpike Troubadours.

Pure Project Vista: Saturday, 7pm — Saturday Sessions: Shay Skylar. **Free**.

Quartyard: Saturday, 5pm — Noche de Cumbia: Los Shadows. \$15-\$20.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: Saturday, 7:30pm — Boys of Summer.

San Diego Civic Theatre: Sunday, 8pm — Edgardo Nuñez. \$49-\$150. Tuesday, 8pm, Wednesday, 7pm — MJ the Musical. \$59-\$129.

Soda Bar: Thursday, 7pm — The Rocket Summer. \$35. Friday, 7:30pm — The Undercover Dream Lovers. \$22. Saturday, 7pm — Kevin Devine and Mansions. \$24. Sunday, 7pm — The Macks and Cardboard Boxer. \$12. Monday, 7:30pm — Death Before Dishonor and Outta Pocket. \$24. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Mark Sultan. Wednesday, 7:30pm — Bear Ghost and Damn The Weather. \$19.

Soma: Friday — Mitis. \$30. Saturday, 6:30pm — Mom Cars and New Aesthetic. \$10.

Sound: Saturday, 7:30pm — The California Honeydrips. Sunday, 7:30pm — Lukas Nelson & POTR. \$35.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre: Thursday, 8pm — The Marshall Tucker Band & Jefferson Starship. \$79-\$109.

Tower Bar: Friday, 8pm — Deadwolf and Tiny.

UC San Diego Park & Market: Friday, 7pm — Quetzal & Martha Gonzalez. \$25-\$35.

Whistle Stop Bar: Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Atom Age.

Winstons Beach Club: Thursday, 8pm — The Thing. Friday, 9pm — Universe Peoples. \$12-\$15. Saturday, 9pm — Three Legged Dog. Tuesday, 8pm — Cool Company and Calimossa.

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Holding Company: Thursday, 7:30pm — KRS-One. \$25-\$30.

House of Blues: Thursday, 7pm — Joe Vann and Bloomsday. \$23. Friday, 7:30pm — Mahalia. \$38-\$151. Friday, 7:30pm — Natalie Jane. \$20-\$89. Saturday, 9pm — Gimme Gimme Disco. \$26-\$67. Saturday, 7:30pm — Teenage Dads. \$19. Sunday, 7:30pm — Griffin House. Tuesday, 7pm — Ramona and Twin Seas. \$27. Wednesday, 7:30pm — Powfu and Cody Lawless & Jomie. \$27.

Humble Heart: Saturday, 6pm — Kavana, Manganista, The Psychlops. \$8-\$10.

Jazz Lounge: Sunday, 6pm — The Brenda Gregg Trio. \$40-\$65.

L'Auberge Del Mar: Thursday, 5pm — Jemille Vialto. Friday, 7pm — Johnny Martin. Saturday, 7pm — Aquile. Sunday, 11am — Tyler F. Simmons.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill: Friday, 9pm — Drip Current. Saturday, 9pm — The Role Models.

Music Box: Thursday, 7:30pm — Sitting On Stacy and Saint Luna. \$22-\$27.

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Big Kitchen's big tent

Judy was a social worker. Said it was the best education she ever had.

Judy the Beauty on Duty throws her head back and laughs. “*Tres bien, tres bien!*” She says it with a deliberate accent, partly to annoy *perfectionistas*, because that’s what she’s been doing for the longest time: annoying the smug and the snobby.

But much more than that, this lady has been helping to turn South Park into the coolest neighborhood in town. Also, a neighborhood that is, well, *loving towards everybody*. She was a social worker back in the day, back in Detroit, specializing in gangs. Said it was the best education she ever had. And for the last 44 years, she has done much of her work through food. Here, in the Big Kitchen, she has become a magnet for people who care about civil rights, women’s rights, gay rights, after-school programs, drug rehab, homeless issues, HIV-positive people’s

plights... On and on, she has stuck with it, all through the years she has been running this cafe. Whoopi Goldberg used to wash dishes here.

Judy’s sister Marcia plays sax every Saturday with her group out on the patio. And everybody seems to be laughing along with Judy. “South Park has always been a pleasure,” she’s saying. “Problems? If children acted

out, needed attention, if gangs were an issue, I just hired them. It’s what I love about South Park. Businesses here care about people.”

She goes off to get a coffee for me. I’m not holding my breath. People will want to waylay her all the way to the kitchen. But Nolan the server comes up with a menu. When he came to apply for a job here a year ago, he didn’t take no for an answer. He’s down from Seattle, studying market-



The Place: Big Kitchen Cafe, 3003 Grape Street, South Park, 619-234-5789

Hours: 8am - 2pm daily (closed Tuesday, Wednesday)

Prices: One egg any style (with home fries or rice, with toast), \$9.50; Whoopi’s Breakfast (2 eggs any style, bacon, potatoes, toast, large orange juice), \$21; biscuits and sausage gravy, \$14; one big buttermilk pancake, \$11.50; Damian’s Breakfast Burrito (avocado, cheese, 2 scrambled eggs, potatoes, sour cream), \$21; cheese omelet, potatoes, \$13; Big Kitchen Chili, \$12.50. Chile cheese omelet (home fries or rice), \$18.50

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One big buttermilk pancake — plus berries — was more than enough for Diane.

ing. “This was the 38th place I applied for a job at,” he says. “Lucky 38!”

Diane joins me. It’s bittersweet. She has to leave for Christchurch, New Zealand tomorrow, to take care of post-earthquake repairs at her and her cousin’s place, a decade after the event. “So I want something very American,” she says. They have a thousand things on the menu — including rules. Things like “Do not deliver your baby in my cafe!” “Do realize, your mind, like a parachute, only works when open,” and “Do use the phrase ‘*Tres bien*’ often.” Oh, and the back page of the menu is filled by “A Declaration of Sentiments,” written by women in Seneca Falls in 1848, railing against male-made laws designed to force women to lead “a dependent and abject life.” We read it together. “Worth coming here just for this!” says Diane. “Because it is still hasn’t been fixed.”

She loves the atmosphere Judy has created. “There’s a generous, hippie feel,” she says. “You could sit here all day and just talk with everybody.” Oh yeah, and there’s food. It also feels old-fashioned, in a good way: like, all-traditional American breakfast and lunch. Diane almost goes for “Whoopi’s Breakfast”: two eggs any style, bacon, potatoes, toast, and a large orange juice.” Costs \$21. But then — maybe it’s the price — Diane sees biscuits and sausage gravy for \$14, and then “One big buttermilk pancake” for \$11.50. She goes for that, and she adds blueberries (\$4 extra). Me, it’s gotta be the cheese omelet for \$13, served with home fries (could have been rice) and toast. I get cheddar for the cheese. Diane’s pancake looks a bit naked, but it’s huge. And with syrup and the blueberries, it’s more than enough. Just like my omelet with the potatoes. I like that the place bakes its own muffins and does its own veggies. But my big moment at the Big Kitchen comes next day, after Diane has flown off and I’m feeling, well, big-time bereft as she heads 6873 miles out over the Pacific. Dang! I need comfort food! And this is when I notice a good deal on Big Bowl Specialties. Lotsa steaming soups in this department, plus black bean chili, black beans with brown rice and tortillas on the side, and “Big Kitchen Chili.” Costs \$12.50. Nolan says most people have it in a chile cheese omelet with home fries or rice, for \$18.50.

But no, I go for the Big Kitchen Chili alone, and am sure glad I did. It is super filling. And comes with a big muffin-scone affair to soak up the tailings, of which there are plenty. You’ve got the chili meat itself, then tomatoes, red chiles,



Customers dance outside — it’s kinda magic



Server from Seattle - Nolan applied to 37 places before landing job here



A young Whoopi Goldberg with Judy. She washed dishes here

green and red peppers, onions, on and on. And the thing about it is, you can tell this has been slowly bubbling on the stove-top for hours. The flavors have all gotten together and turned into a rich, hot, gooey, scrumbow bowl of goodness. The two home-made buns more than fill any empty corners. The Kona coffee makes a nice counterpoint. What’s also good is that I haven’t had this kind of dish for ages. With all the new foods around town, you forget what came before.

Course, I have noticed food prices on the upswing pretty-much everywhere. Here too. “I don’t like doing it,” says Judy when I ask her. “I was the last one [in the area]. But it’s a reality. Suppliers’ prices have gone up and up. I wanted to stay in business.”

She has done that, and how. All around the walls inside are pics of neighborhood gatherings and personalities. Marcia still plays jazz outside among the tables and trees. Right now, a father and his little girl are dancing all around. It’s kinda magic. I’m not surprised that, come to find out, someone’s actually written a musical about the place. Hope they have a song in it that goes “*Tres bien, tres bien.*” ■

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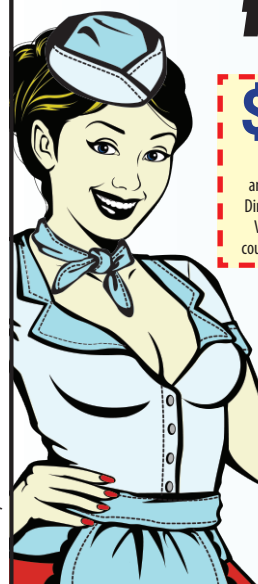
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PERSONALS

HEY JOKER I don't care, but if you have to pull a rabbit out of your hat; Do what you gotta do for me! HarleyQ

LUNCH ANYONE? So many places to try! This week's pick is Casa De Pico on Friday at noon. Friday Foodies look for Eric in the green shirt.

OK! YOU WIN. I was triggered and misty memories surfaced. Everything is for a reason, I guess. Onion breath! Anger delays everything. But positivity is key and love is Prince, o King! - M

PEPÉ LE PEW 15 yrs. in the bush and you don't know what smells are? Your sniffer is broken!

SINCE YOU GOT A CANOE you might as well take these paddles too!

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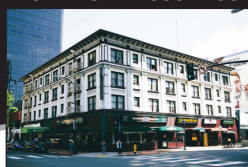
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RENTALS

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

OFFICE SPACE ZONED M2 Office Space Zoned M2 @ 950sf. Call Scott (760) 855-3551 / kneumrecording@gmail.com

3 BED 2 BATH 3000 A MONTH 3 bed 2 bath 2 car garage on a 1/4 acre vr boat storage great few fenced and electric gates 3000 a month 3000 security (619) 405-9453 / goreelksd@gmail.com

NORTH PARK SPECIAL 1 BDRM APT Avail Now. A quiet courtyard setting. Close to everything. 1bedroom - 1bath Upstairs Apartment. \$1795 600sq ft 4076 Ohio St. 92104 No Pets, No smoking. Good Credit. Call for details and an appointment for viewing. (619) 281-7784

BEAUTIFUL LARGE RV LOT Beautiful 3 space lot in Yuma Foothills for rent. \$500+Electric (Sewer, Water, Garbage included). Each space has 50AMP meter and patio. All spaces share laundry facility and share electricity for that facility. Reservations are accepted. (928) 246-3867 / takariblu@yahoo.com

1BED 1 BATH IN NORTH PARK Newly updated 1 bed 1 bath, brand new flooring/paint and is perfectly located in the middle of North Park and University Heights. Pets allowed. ceoa5774@gmail.com

CORONADO, \$2400 1BD+1BA sunny upstairs end unit. Stove/ refrigerator, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, shared courtyard with BBQ area. Move-in special! 716 F Street. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

DOWNTOWN \$1995 1BD+1BA. Welcome to your cozy bungalow-style duplex. Hardwood floors, gated parking for 2 cars. Move-in special! 1764 6th Ave. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

NORTH PARK, \$2250 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. Move-in special! 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. Move-in special! 4678 Ohio Street. Agent. (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, \$1950 1BD+1BA large apartment in small complex. Dining room area, wood-like flooring, fireplace, on-site laundry, parking. Easy freeway access. Beautiful inside and out. Great location! No pets. 4525 Idaho St. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

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

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.

DOWNTOWN \$590-\$900



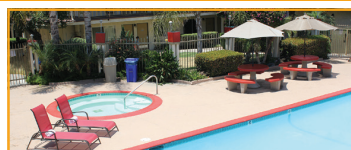
In the heart of San Diego Gaslamp Quarter!

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

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

Need a place to stay Short Term?

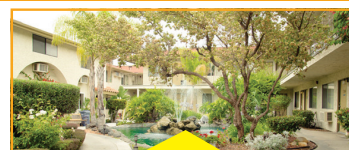
CALL NOW FOR THE BEST AVAILABLE RATES



Up to 15% Off Daily Rates Call Now!

California Suites Hotel
www.californiasuiteshotel.com

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



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

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

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



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

FURNISHED BEDROOM FOR RENT Furnished room in Imperial Beach, close to ocean; male only; use of laundry machines, kitchen, & barbeque; no smoking or overnight guests \$1,200/month; Donna, donnamak-ersie@att.net; (619) 424-6133

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

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

REAL ESTATE

NEW TINY HOME This brand new tiny home has an Awesome Two Room set up. You can set it up as a Home or a Home Office. It has a kitchen with sink and lots of cabinet storage. Large Bathroom with shower, includes a Mini split a/c and heater. 20x8x11 (619) 541-2863

MUSIC

D'ANGELICO GUITAR Great condition. White. Art Deco Design. Text Only for details and pics. new Gig Bag/Stand incl. \$225.00 (760) 317-6924

RECORDING STUDIO Pro tools HD and 24 track two inch analog. Neotek 40 input analog console. Amps, guitars, bass, 6'3 Baldwin Grand piano and much more. Studio musicians and production assistance available. This is my career for decades. Lots of experience. (760) 855-3551 / exumre-cording@gmail.com

MALE SINGERS NEEDED. PAYS! Kings of Rock are looking for male singers of all races ages 18+. This pays \$150 per performance! Email now for audition. Newbies are welcomed. auditions4u@yahoo.com

JOHN LENNON AND YOKO ONO 8 TRACK 2 Virgins 8 track tape; sealed \$60. Steve (619) 993-9392

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

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

PETS

ADOPT YOUR NEXT DOG OR CAT FROM BAJA DOG RESCUE! We are a volunteer-run, 100% No Kill animal rescue in Tijuana. We have so many loving pets who can't wait to complete your family! All have been treated by veterinarians and ready to come home. Your rescue donation enables us to save countless lives, thank you! bajadogrescue.org/



DACHSHUND PUPPIES Adorable Dachshund puppies for rehoming pm for more info via text/call at (213) 267-2042 / jacobkharl@gmail.com

GOURGEUS AKITA 3 GIRLS AND 2 B We are looking for a forever home for our puppies where they will be loved and caring as we love them parents. Puppies will receive vaccine up to date, wormer health checks and microchip before they will leave us. jessicagermanos8@gmail.com

SHIH TZU PUPPIES Beautiful shih tzu puppies for sale. Two males and two females. \$350. All brown is a female. Two males and one female are brindle colors (760) 470-9290 / campbelljacqueline1964@gmail.com

SPHYNX KITTENS FOR ADOPTION House Raised Stunning Sphynx Kittens For Sale. Purebred. Come With Papers. Vaccinated. Health Guaranteed. TICA Registered.please visit our website now hairlesscatforsale.weebly.com (334) 357-6330 / sphynxcatb@gmail.com

DON'T BREED OR BUY WHILE SHELTER PETS DIE! Please don't support selfish breeders bringing countless new animals into the world while others wait in cages or get put down! You may think you need a particular breed, but I promise you will love another. Shelter animals are wonderful, just give them a chance!

LOOKING FOR SMALL PUPPY TO ADOPT I want to adopt or buy small dog or puppy; prefer a chihuahua. Text only (442) 238-7382

SPORTS



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

SPORTS ACCESSORIES Discover the beauty of nature with our range of outdoor gear at Check Mate Bay LLC! Whether you're hiking, camping, or simply enjoying a day in the park, we have everything you need to make your outdoor adventure unforgettable. From durable tents and (323) 388-4938 / checkmate-bay2@gmail.com

MEN'S SKI CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES Men's Descents one piece extra large \$145 one piece large \$95. Ski carrier, handles, locks, boot carriers and ski glasses \$1 each. (619) 218-4031

SPORTS CARDS: ALL MAJOR PLAYERS Selling my 40 year

collection. All major players: football, basketball, baseball, hockey and other miscellaneous sports stuff. Low prices. Ruth, Mat-thews, Mandel, Glen, McGuire, Nolan, Giffney, Brady, LaDamien, Allen, Bo, lebron, Jordan, Russell and Shaq. 2,000 cards. \$20 Call Joe (619) 562-1129.

BICYCLES

BEACH CRUISER Ready to ride, no issues. \$50 bike basket \$10 burleybikes@hotmail.com

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

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

THREE BIKES FOR SALE Two Mountain one Cruiser all new. Mongoose Hondo, Huffy New Port and Huffy Superia. \$150 for all three. Call Lester (805) 946-4594

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

BICYCLE FOR SALE one year old, runs like new, ridden about six times. Make offer. (562) 846-9299 and ask for Steven.

BICYCLE PARTS Impresa heavy duty, extra large, 4 pack bike hooks, never used, easy to use on all tires. \$15. Bell telescoping frame pump, used once, \$10 with guage and 2 solutions, 2 small bike hooks with grips. \$5Contact (619) 380-4861.

AUTOMOTIVE

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

87 TOYOTA PICK UP Regular bed, two door sedan, four speed, 22R engine, good tires, good breaks. Runs great. paperwork okay. Long term ownership. \$4,500. (619) 576-8196

RADIATOR CAR OR TRUCK All metal, All aluminum. Brand-new excellent condition.619-576-8196. \$150

GOODYEAR TIRE ON STEEL WHEEL: Goodyear Eagle LS, P275/55R/20 mounted on 5 lug steel wheel, bolt holes are 3-1/4" apart, bolt holes are 5-3/8" apart across center, the center hole is 3" diameter, approximately 60% tread left, bought as a spare for trailer, \$75., (760) 746-7209

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

1969 BUICK Call (619) 421-8047

79 MGB CARBURETOR INTAKE AND EXHAUST SYSTEM COMPLETE \$150 or trade or best offer. (805) 416-8905

WE BUY ALL TYPE OF CARS We buy all type of cars running or not. Call (619) 484-4032 - Get a quote - Get your cash. Same day pickup. Same day cash. No title, no tires, no keys, engine not working, check engine light on, running or not.

LUMBER RACK FOR SMALLER TRUCKS like Chevy Colorado Canyon a GMC Canyon Toyota; any small truck. It's a good rack. It's rust proof. I can be reached at (619) 933-6302

LOOKING FOR 1990 OR OLDER Ford cargo van, fgross0421@gmail.com.

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

HELP WANTED

FINANCIAL ADVISOR UBS Financial Services INC has the following positions in San Diego, CA: Financial Advisor to provide comprehensive wealth management for high net-worth international investors. Understand multiple foreign currencies and transactions to provide financial advice. Travel internationally as necessary to perform duties. (ref. code(s) 000823= \$125000 - \$130000). Qualified Applicants apply through SH-Pro-Recruitingcc@ubs.com. Please reference 000823. NO CALLS PLEASE. EOE/M/F/D/V. #LI-DNP.

SENIOR CLOUD SOFTWARE ENGINEER, Teradata Operations, Inc., San Diego, CA. Build cloud services that bring Teradata's analytic capabilities to the public cloud platforms. Salary of \$171,080 per year. 100% telecommuting permitted; candidate may reside anywhere in the U.S. TO APPLY: Please apply by email to STAFF.TDPM@Teradata.com (Job Number – 217887).

SOFTWARE ENGINEER – Carlsbad CA. Seeking BS in Comp. Sci or closely rlt'd field and 2 yr of software dvlpmnt exp. req'd. Position reports to HQ in Carlsbad, CA; may telecommute. \$180k/yr. Mail CV to Resort Pass, Inc. Attn: HR/Job #0213, 6965 El Camino Real #105-569, Carlsbad, CA 92008.

SENIOR STAFF CLOUD DEVOPS ENGINEER,

Teradata Operations, Inc., San Diego, CA. Provide architectural leadership for developing and building highly available systems and software in large distributed and hybrid cloud environments. \$171,080 per year. 100% telecommuting permitted; candidate may reside anywhere in the U.S. TO APPLY: Please apply by email to STAFF.TDPM@Teradata.com (Job Number – 217886).

SENIOR DEVOPS AUTOMATION ENGINEER Lytx, Inc. seeks a Senior DevOps Automation Engineer in San Diego, CA to automate infrastructure projects & processes in a hybrid cloud on-premise environ. Reqs. Master degree in Tech, Comp Sci, Comp Eng, Mech Eng, or rel fld & 4 yrs rel exp. Will accept Bach degree in Tech, Comp Sci, Comp Eng, Mech Eng, or rel fld & 6 yrs rel exp. \$175,000-\$220,000 / Yr. Remote emp. permitted. To apply, go to: lytx.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/Lytx/details/Senior-DevOps-Automation-Engineer_R-3074

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST III Noble Street Advisors, LLC in San Diego, CA seeks Business Intelligence Analyst III to dvlp sustainable business solution. No trlv; no telecom. Salary: \$101,920- \$120,000/year. Send CV: careers@noblestreet.net

SD IHSS FEMALE CAREGIVER Elderly man with minor mobility. restriction needs help with daily routine. Position requires enrollment: www.sdihsdpa.com. 5 hrs/day Mon Wed Fri. AM. \$20+ /HR. SD Rancho Bernardo. Ad is not for other. Services or offers. (858) 360-0388 Text only

HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED UCSD UCSD Inter-ventional Psychiatry Program is looking to recruit healthy volunteers to participate in a research study that examines biomarkers of depression using encephalography (EEG). You will receive compensation for your time. Call

to learn more. (858) 249-2625 / iptrials@health.ucsd.edu

ASAP- HOME SERVICE PROVIDER CAREGIVERS Must have a car. Caregivers needed for a 55 year old lady in Allied Gardens near San Diego. Two shifts available. Shift 1: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM (8 to 10 hours per day). Shift 2: Saturday and Sunday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM (8 to 10 hours per day). Tasks to include light cooking, house keeping, help with medications, going to weekly medical appointments and taking her on shopping trips weekly. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please call (619) 488-0822

TRUCK DRIVER Delivery Driver's Needed. Growing business looking for team player to drive 26' box truck on specific delivery routes. Will train. (760) 809-9447 / jntfreight@gmail.com

MECHANIC Experienced auto mechanic needed. Full time. Call Ismael, (619) 237-1043.

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.

PALM TREE TRIMMERS - DOWNTOWN Looking for

Legals@SanDiegoReader.com ■ 619-235-3000

LEGAL NOTICES

We are a fully adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2024-9004036

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
02/23/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Raising Anchors Christian Childcare

Located at: **2106 N ST, STE N, Sacramento, CA 95816**

Mailing Address: 2106 N ST,
STE N, Sacramento, CA 95816

Registered Owners Name(s):
Raising Anchors LLC

This business is conducted by:
A Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was 01/01/2024.

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/
Cassandra Sparks
02/29/2024, 03/07/2024,
03/14/2024, 03/21/2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2024-9003544

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
02/15/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Eichi

Located at: **212 Treasure Drive, San Marcos**

Mailing Address: 212 Treasure
Drive, San Marcos

Registered Owners Name(s):
Yuriko Hamada

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 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/
Yuriko Hamada
02/29/2024, 03/07/2024,
03/14/2024, 03/21/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY TOWER

Public Notice: Public Safety Towers, LLC proposes the construction of a 75-ft (80-ft overall with appurtenances) AGL stealth monopine communications tower facility to be located at 5810 Alleghany Street, in the City of San Diego, within San Diego County, CA (Parcel ID #5870103000). Public Safety Towers, LLC seeks comments from all interested persons on any potential significant impact the proposed action could have on the quality of the human environment pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1307, including potential impacts to historic or cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Please submit any written comments within 30 days of the publication of this notice regarding the potential effects that the proposed tower may have on **Historic Properties that are listed or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places** to: Tower Engineering Professionals, Inc. (Attn: Ryan Malek) 326 Tryon Road, Raleigh, NC 27603 Telephone: (919) 661-6351 Fax: (919) 661-6350
PUBLISHED 2/29/24;
SAN DIEGO READER

Legals@SanDiegoReader.com — 619-235-3000

LEGAL NOTICES

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**FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

File No.:
2024-9003387

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
02/14/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Canine Coast

Located at: **4776 Mount Royal
Ave, San Diego, CA 92117,
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 4776 Mount
Royal Ave, San Diego, CA
92117

Registered Owners Name(s):
Toby Jay Beers

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/
Toby Jay Beers
2/22/24, 2/29/24,
3/7/24, 3/14/24

**FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

File No.:
2024-9003140

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
02/09/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Pro Barber Supply

Located at: **2525 Southport
Way, Ste E, National City, CA
91950, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 2525 South-
port Way, Ste E, National City,
CA 91950

Registered Owners Name(s):
HLS YESI INC

This business is conducted by:
**A Corporation. The first day
of business was 02/01/2024.**

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/
Jin Ho Jung, President
Corporation/LLC Name
HLS YESI INC
2/22/24, 2/29/24,
3/7/24, 3/14/24

**FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

File No.:
2024-9002816

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
02/07/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Virbela

Located at: **10620 Treena
St, Ste 230, San Diego, CA
92131, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 2219 Rimland
Drive, Suite 301, Bellingham,
WA 98226

Registered Owners Name(s):
EXP World Technologies LLC

This business is conducted by:
**A Limited Liability Company.
The first day of business was
11/30/2018.**

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/
James Bramble, Secretary
Corporation/LLC Name
EXP World Technologies LLC
2/22/24, 2/29/24,
3/7/24, 3/14/24

**FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

File No.:
2023-9023930

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
11/29/2023

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. RSI Security

Located at: **10531 4S Com-
mons Drive, Ste 527, San
Diego, CA 92127, San Diego
County**

Mailing Address: 2600 E
Southlake Blvd Ste 312,
Southlake, TX 76092

Registered Owners Name(s):
RSI Systems Inc.

This business is conducted by:
**A Corporation. The first day
of business was 10/02/2018.**

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 Duffin, COO
Corporation/LLC Name
RSI Systems Inc.
2/22/24, 2/29/24,
3/7/24, 3/14/24

**FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

File No.:
2024-9003220

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
02/09/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Contours

Located at: **311 4th Ave, Unit
507, San Diego, CA 92101,
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 311 4th Ave,
Unit 507, San Diego, CA 92101

Registered Owners Name(s):
Brice M. Ciabatti

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/
Brice M. Ciabatti
2/22/24, 2/29/24,
3/7/24, 3/14/24

**FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

File No.:
2024-9002694

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
02/06/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
**a. Mr. Handyman Serving
Inland San Diego
b. Mr. Handyman Serving La
Mesa & E Central San Diego**

Located at: **4342 Vista Way, La
Mesa, CA 91941, San Diego
County**

Mailing Address: 4342 Vista
Way, La Mesa, CA 91941

Registered Owners Name(s):
MGK Enterprises, LLC

This business is conducted by:
**A Limited Liability Company.
The first day of business was
10/27/2017.**

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/
Kyle Lanz, Member
Corporation/LLC Name
MGK Enterprises, LLC
2/15/24, 2/22/24,
2/29/24, 3/7/24

**FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

File No.:
2024-9000305

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

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Poway Alteration Center

Located at: **12323 Poway
Road, Poway, CA 92054, San
Diego County**

Mailing Address: 12323 Poway
Road, Poway, CA 92054

Registered Owners Name(s):
Tin Quoc Le

This business is conducted by:
**An Individual. The first day
of business was 01/05/2024.**

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/
Tin Quoc Le
2/15/24, 2/22/24,
2/29/24, 3/7/24

**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. Espire 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 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
Jeff Gray DDS PC
02/08/24, 02/15/24,
02/22/24, 02/29/24

**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 Joeshp Tablang,
President**
Corporation/LLC Name:
Kengina.com Inc
02/01/24, 02/08/24,
02/15/24, 02/22/24

Huge amberjack caught near La Paz – Want good corbina and spotfin action away from the perch? Go south.

Dock Totals 2/18 – 2/24: 509 anglers aboard 24 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 7 bluefin tuna, 9 bonito, 24 calico bass, 27 lingcod, 45 lobster (153 released), 23 perch, 86 rock crab, 475 rockfish, 755 sand bass, 205 sculpin, 5 sheephead, 14 spider crab, 134 whitefish, and 26 yellowtail.

Saltwater: As I am writing the report for this past week, I should mention a report that is not “officially” in yet concerning my count dates, but I did add it, as the fish were caught on the 24th. The *Pacific Dawn*, running south into Mexican waters on their 1.5-day run with 16 anglers aboard, reported limits of rockfish and 7 bluefin tuna from 15 to 70 pounds. This is exciting news: the first sport-caught bluefin tuna of the 2024 season by a boat out of the San Diego full-day to 3-day fleet. The first report of bluefin in 2023 was on March 20 by the *Polaris Supreme* on a 3-day run.

It's true that some of the long-range trips to southern Baja have caught a couple, and are seeing lots of good signs on their way down, but for our short-range trips of up to three days, this is real news. Not only have yellowtail been biting very good early in the year off Colonet and San Quintin, but commercial fleets and spotters are seeing great signs of bluefin further offshore within 50 miles of the coast. This should bode well for the fleet going forward, as long as conditions allow the trip out to the grounds. It's still a bit lumpy out there, but the high spots off Baja are producing well and there have been some excellent calm days (though not many) between the fronts coming down the coast.

It seems everything is popping off a bit early this year. As I reported last week, surf perch are in spawn mode on Southern California and Baja California beaches down toward the end of their range. Sand crabs are thick here in San Quintin, and the perch are on them. A couple of weeks ago, sand crabs were tough to find, and now I see wide swaths of them, many with roe, all along Playa Santa Maria south of San Quintin. Reports from others up the coast indicate similar conditions. Maybe the big south swell with the last front churned them into action, but either way, they are thick here.

As you go south along the Baja coast, surf perch thin out, then completely disappear before you get to the state line between Baja California and Baja California Sur at Guerrero Negro. Oddly, you can still find plenty of sand crabs south of there; California corbina and spotfin croaker are the main predators once the perch thin out. Spotfin fishing is best north of the Vizcaino Peninsula, specifically near Santa Rosalillita, but great corbina action can be found as far south as La Bocana. (We San Diegans are used to all three on our beaches, and targeting the two larger species, spotfin and corbina, often involves trying to get through the pesky perch for the “better bite.”)

So, if you want to catch spotfin or corbina while avoiding perch, head south. I have done some of my best corbina fishing in Bahia Asunción, where there are sand crabs aplenty,



Two of K&M Sportfishing's Catian brothers, George and Oscar, hanging good-sized yellowtail while working yoyo irons during a wide-open bite off San Quintin.



Rigoberto Geraldo Lucero of Tortugas sportfishing with his massive 90-pound amberjack caught while fishing out of Ensenada de Los Muertos.

normally small surf, and no barred surf perch. I have not tried Santa Rosalillita yet, but have several friends who make annual trips there just for the amazing spotfin action. Santa Rosalillita is a small fishing village at about the same latitude as Bahia de Los Angeles. It is the town where the failed “Sea Ladder” project was half completed and abandoned after south swells filled in the new marina.

The “Escalera de Mar” project goal was to have a marina and haul-out so that sailors could trailer boats across the peninsula from the Pacific to the Sea of Cortez at Bahia de Los Angeles, thus shortening the normal around-the-cape-route to the upper crystal-clear waters of the mid and upper Sea of Cortez. The road into town from the main highway was paved, and power was pulled in for the Sea Ladder project, so it's easy to get to and has better infrastructure compared to most remote coastal villages in Baja.

Bahia Asunción is about the same: paved all the way, has power and water and plenty of options for digs, and still has that old school, non-touristy Baja feel. As things are changing rapidly in Baja, many folks are eschewing the old haunts — which are becoming meccas for the new “overlanding” crowd and resort-seekers — and are

rather seeking out less popular places. Bahia Asunción and Santa Rosalillita are good options for folks who desire more solitude and fewer tourist-trappings. Both are also great fisheries for halibut from the beach when spawning, and even occasional bonito and yellowtail can be caught from shore.

Further south, San Diego's long-range boats are still getting great yellowfin action along with a smattering of wahoo off the Ridge, while dorado action is hot nearshore and even on the beaches near Cabo San Lucas. That said, the big catch of the week would have to be the 90-pound amberjack boated by Rigoberto Geraldo Lucero of Tortugas sportfishing running out of Ensenada de Los Muertos near La Paz. The huge jack was caught off a high spot using a live bait on a dropper loop while out fishing for yellowtail and sierra. Also known as “reef donkeys,” amberjack put up a ferocious fight, and even landing a 40-pounder can test gear and an angler's ability, as they tend to run straight into the reef and are very hard to stop. They do get much larger elsewhere (the world record is just over 163 pounds, caught off Japan), but for our part of the world, it is a monster. A good friend who lives in the La Paz area used to tell me they were “like a yellowtail on steroids.” All in all, it's been a great post-storm week, and fears of the weather shutting down the yellowtail bite did not come to fruition. The 1.5-day boats are starting to run, it is beginning to feel like spring has sprung, and they're out there, so go get 'em!

DANIEL POWELL

experienced palm tree trimmers who know the trade, and see the trade as an art form. Retired OK. This is for interviews. Unpaid. mikeacampbe1@gmail.com

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CAMP BARKLEY TEXAS COURSE COMPLETION YEAR-BOOK Sir MAC-OCS. Decem-ber 29, 1943. Large troop photo. Ball cap \$125. Call (760) 720-9424. Carlsbad. S

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and/or pictures (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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NEW DIGITAL KITCHEN FOOD SCALE This high quality scale with large LCD screen displays weight in 0.1 oz. increments up to 11 lbs. Weigh items directly on the glass top or use your own plate/bowl. Battery, use & care guide included. New in original box. \$20. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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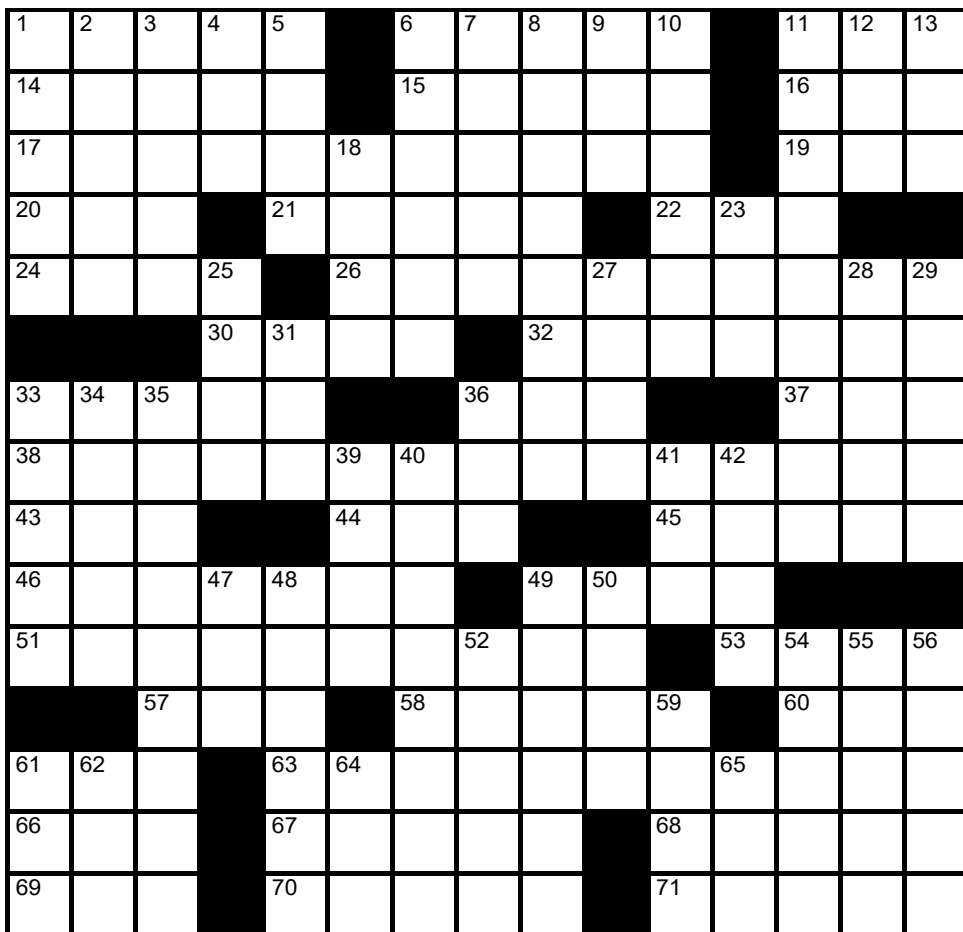
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CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1.** "Billions & Billions" author Carl
6. Return-postage enclosures, for short
11. What Wednesday's child is full of
14. Act out
15. Origami bird
16. Airline's base
17. Southern restaurant chain with an "Index" indicating the severity of a storm
19. Royal sphere
20. Card game with four different colors
21. Hurry along

Down

- 1.** Close, as a hole or a deal
2. Refrigerator manufacturer
3. Attempt to get
4. Anti-moonshine org.
5. Wilco lead guitarist ____ Cline
6. Superintendent's responsibility
7. "Get ____!"
8. Relative of a skillet
9. Dinner centerpiece?
10. Enter through the cracks
11. Oval on a staff
12. Possessive pronoun
13. Subside
18. Parrot
23. Gator or Power follower
25. Affectedly elegant

22. Crony

- 24.** Role
26. Bob Saget's bailiwick, on a show he hosted from 1990-1997
30. Sweater material
32. Pesto bit
33. Super Bowl LVIII halftime headliner
36. Ceiling fixture
37. "Based ____ true story"
38. Spectacular play in football or baseball
43. Suffix after mountain
44. Bad spell
45. Angler's basket
46. Takes things easy

27. Rhames of the "Mission: Impossible" movies

- 28.** 1/16 of a pound
29. "60 Minutes" correspondent Lesley
31. "Grey's Anatomy" locales
33. Hot desking sharers
34. Cake variety at a supermarket bakery
35. Belmont event
36. Predicament
39. In said fashion
40. Handyperson
41. Hypo measurements
42. Newssite section
47. Former CollegeHumor cast member ____ Yang
48. Overhead stadium

49. 1990s puzzle game set in an island world

- 51.** A-1, for one
53. Adoption org. of sorts
57. "Succession" surname
58. Relative by marriage
60. "Maggie May" singer Stewart
61. Memorable period
63. One of the bald Stooges
66. Car wash appliance, briefly
67. Completely wiped out
68. Lemon section
69. ____ of Horus (Egyptian symbol)
70. Malory's "Le ____ d'Arthur"
71. Serious

equipment

- 49.** Rap pioneer with a 2004 Grammy nomination for "Ride Wit Me"
50. 33 Across hit
52. Like catacombs, usually
54. "The Devil Wears ____"
55. Queen Elizabeth's preferred dog breed
56. Thrown in
59. Astonishes
61. The night before
62. Manzanek of The Doors
64. "Teach ____ Fly" (2009 single for Wiz Khalifa)
65. ____ Bandits ("Home Alone" burglars)

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

HARD:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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



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Wait, How Many?

— And you thought your glovebox full of unpaid parking tickets was impressive. Police detectives and patrol officers arrested Ahyoka Keith, aka Carol Ann Sumner, on Feb. 16, two weeks after she was charged with an astonishing 322 felonies and 327 misdemeanors by the Spring Township police department in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Keith is an over-the-road trucker, and her 649 warrants were related to the theft of thousands of dollars from a relative.

Not Getting It

— A 42-year-old resident of Ajax, Ontario, was arrested and charged with impaired driving on Feb. 20 at the Durham Regional police station, where he had driven to complain ... about his arrest for public intoxication from earlier that morning. The man asked to speak with a supervisor when he arrived at the station, but officers noticed he seemed to be intoxicated, and, after confirming he had driven himself, issued a breathalyzer test, which the man failed. His license was suspended and his vehicle was impounded.

Need for Speed

— The Hockenheimring racetrack in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, was the setting for a Guinness World Record-setting run recently. The speed reached – 92.24 mph – might not sound so impressive, but Fulda University engineering student Marcel Paul attained that velocity in a toy car. Paul spent 10 months modifying the minia-

ture Porsche with the goal of beating the 88 mph made famous by the time-traveling DeLorean DMC-12 in the "Back to the Future" movies, and in the process created the world's fastest ride-on toy car. Said one user in the comments on Paul's Instagram video of the milestone event: "Hell no that looks dangerous."

Bleepin' Birds

— Eight potty-mouthed parrots are set to re-join the rest of their flock at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Park in Boston, United Kingdom, after zoo officials decided that recent efforts to help the dirty birds clean up their act in isolation had shown promise. Steve Nichols, who serves as chief executive of the park, still isn't sure what will happen when the birds are reunited with their more well-behaved peers. "We could end up with 100 swearing parrots on our hands," Nichols said. "Only time will tell." For now, the park does not plan to take down its signs warning visitors of the potential for foul language.

Sticky Situation

— A coyote that found itself in an ironic predicament in mid-January has the Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) and the Wildlife in Need Center (WINC) of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, to thank for its rescue –maybe with a little help from above? WDJT in Milwaukee reported that the coyote had gotten its head stuck inside a hollow statue of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, while chasing a

rabbit. The coyote was spotted dragging the statue and working to free itself, but by the next day, the animal was exhausted and still trapped. HAWS located the coyote and transported it to WINC, where it was freed, treated for minor injuries and given the nickname "Frannie."

Thong and Pony Show

— Australian equestrian Shane Rose, a three-time Olympic medalist, decided to push the sartorial envelope on Feb. 11, competing in a skimpy mankini – the kind popularized by the 2006 movie "Borat." In fairness, the annual Wallaby Hill Extravaganza in New South Wales is a costumed competition, where equestrians put horses through their paces in all kinds of wacky get-ups. Some even go through multiple costume changes, which was the case with Rose. As the Wallaby Hill Equestrian Centre put it on Facebook, Rose "truly showed us 'all he's got' as he wore less and less with each horse he entered the arena with." But someone complained about the mankini, *USA Today* reported, leading governing body Equestrian Australia to bar Rose from competing while it investigated. (Even rowdy Aussies must follow codes of conduct, it seems.) For a few days, Rose's 2024 Paris Olympics plans hung in the balance, but he was soon cleared of any wrongdoing. Let's hope he changes clothes before heaving a big sigh of relief.

Animal Antics

— Caterina Sevares of Florida had a late-night craving for tacos on Feb. 13, so she did what many of us have probably done: She placed a DoorDash order and hopped in the shower while waiting for her food to be delivered. But when she opened the door to retrieve the Talkin' Tacos delivery, Fox 35 reported that she was met by three masked bandits -- a trio of racoons who got to her meal first, eating everything but the tortillas. Sevares began to film the carnage but retreated once the racoons started engaging -- one stood up on its hind legs while the other two stared her down. "Once they started hissing, I shut the door so fast. I was like, 'They can have the carne asada, it's fine,'" Sevares said. Talkin' Tacos caught wind of the bandits' antics after Sevares' story went viral on TikTok, and sent her a gift card for her troubles.

— Elsewhere in Florida, bears ransacked a woman's car – on Valentine's Day, no less. Cassidy Simoes' boyfriend left chocolates in the front seat of her car the night before, intending to give them to her the next day. But NBC2 reported that at about 3:30 on Valentine's morning, the couple woke to find the car in bad shape: "Basically, the whole door panel, I can't even open the door at all or roll the windows down, nothing," Simoes said. No word on if the chocolates were replaced.

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