

A street scene in San Diego, California. A white Honda Civic is driving on the road. A man is riding a bicycle across the street. In the background, there is a building with a sign that says "happy COCKTAIL BAR" and "MEDIUM". A street sign above the intersection reads "30TH ST 4000 BLK". The word "SAN DIEGO" is written in blue capital letters across the top of the image. The word "Reader" is written in large, blue, stylized letters across the middle of the image.

Reader

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*What gets lost
in a road diet*

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May 30, 2024



PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIET SANDERS

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

THE ROAD

Critical Mass draws criticism But at least these bands of bicyclists are buying!

Bike lanes have been criticized for taking up parking spots near San Diego mom-and-pop businesses, thus discouraging shoppers from driving in and shopping. Now, locals say that massive groups of bicyclists — sometimes numbering in the hundreds — are blocking access to businesses and putting San Diegans in a bad mood.

On May 9, Phyllis Smith drove from her City Heights home to Mission Valley. As she approached the Target store, she says, several cyclists pulled up alongside her stopped vehicle. “They surrounded my car, and one banged on it,” she says. “I’ll never forget the fear I felt that I would hit one of them, or what they would do if that happened. I was even afraid to stop the car in case one of them ran into the back of it.”



The Hecks Angels ride again.

May 9. Not everyone was enthusiastic. Bryan R. from San Marcos wrote, “As a taxpayer, this upsets me, and should upset everyone, because all of the police in the area had to focus their attention on these bike riders. Everyone knows that the police have a lot more to worry about than having to block traffic so these idiots don’t get run over when they run red lights or beat up when they harass people both walking and driving.” One I. Olvera wrote that he sees bike groups regularly, but unfortunately, “I have yet to

long time ago — a bunch of us rode across the Coronado Bridge, and the police wouldn’t allow us to cross back [to Logan Heights]. Some of us went home through Imperial Beach, but I had my people pick me up, as did many others. We spent a lot of money in Coronado at that time.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

ENCINITAS

Electric enticements City attempts to tempt buyers and builders away from gas

Encinitas is leaning electric — again. The city has introduced a modified version of an ordinance it passed in 2021 (and later suspended) that required new buildings to be all-electric. This time, the focus is on efficient residential buildings, and it applies to both electric and mixed fuel homes. While it doesn’t ban the use of gas technologies, it will make it cheaper to build all-electric.

Known as a “reach code,” because it goes beyond state efficiency standards, the original ordinance put Encinitas in the vanguard when it came to sustainable building prac-

pre-empted by federal law — in April 2023. As other cities backed down on their own ordinances, Encinitas followed suit, suspending its all-electric ordinance. Ana although Berkeley appealed the ruling, in January 2024 the Ninth Circuit Court denied the appeal, and Berkeley announced it would repeal its gas ban. So, given that there is no statewide all-electric requirement on the horizon, Encinitas has been looking for other ways to spur decarbonization.

This is easier said than done. Since the city suspended its all-electric requirement, about 35 percent of single family and 50 percent of multifamily permits in Encinitas propose natural gas construction. To counter this, city officials are promoting incentives to encourage all-electric construction. The new ordinance promotes increased

energy efficiency requirements and a reach code that applies to both electric and mixed fuel homes. There would also be requirements that make it easier to switch to all-electric in the future. (This may be crucial, as, starting in 2030, gas heating and water heating equipment will no longer be sold in California.)

Many public comments the city has received on the ordinance regard cost effectiveness. The city excludes small single-family homes less than 1500 square feet, high rise multi-family buildings of four stories or more, and nonresidential buildings, as an analysis showed that for those building types, meeting the requirement might not be feasible or cost effective.

According to the California Energy Commission, all-electric construction typically costs less than mixed-fuel. Studies state that a standard dual-fuel building will need a stove, air conditioning unit, furnace, water heater, and natural gas plumbing and pipeline connections. In comparison, an all-electric building will need only a stove, a heat pump, and a heat pump water heater.

As other cities backed down on their own ordinances, Encinitas followed suit, suspending its all-electric ordinance.

tices: it was the 50th of the state’s 482 cities to shuffle gas aside. It also made them the target of developers, who suggested possible litigation, mayor Tony Kranz told the city council recently. When the city first got started on the new code, they heard from real estate agents, too, who said potential buyers often turn around and leave if the kitchen does not feature gas appliances.

The city of Berkeley, which passed a similar ordinance in 2019, was sued by restaurants that relied on gas cooking. Their local gas ban was ruled unlawful — read:

The new code will increase the burden for those choosing gas appliances. To meet the minimum state code requirements, a mixed-fuel home could have rooftop solar panels, an electric heat pump water heater and a natural gas space heating system. “Ultimately, if someone chooses to have gas appliances, it will require many additional measures, which can be costly compared to an all-electric design,” said Madelyn Wampler, an analyst for Encinitas’ sustainability division.

SHEILA PELL

“That Critical Mass group was much smaller than when we’d roll out. We’d have 2000-3000 bikes out.”

Because of the number of cyclists in Mission Valley that Thursday — some people on the internet estimated that there were about 70 — some motorists couldn’t pull into Target to shop. Other, like G.P. Vazquez, were “late for work. We couldn’t move until they cleared out. My boss will probably dock my pay this next pay period — but oh well, they’re my bros from CM [Critical Mass].” Vazquez was forgiving because he rode with the original Critical Mass bike group between 2010-2018. According to the group’s Facebook page, “Critical Mass is a monthly bicycle ride to celebrate cycling and to assert cyclists’ right to the road.”

Vazquez continued, “That Critical Mass group was much smaller than when we’d roll out. We’d have 2000-3000 bikes out. Once, we went into that Target in Mission Valley and rode our bikes inside the store. People were flippin’ the fu@@@ out. We had unicycles, mountain bikes, 10-speeds — and the brethren with the BMX bikes were the crazy [riders] who’d bunny hop on anything.”

Other folks up the hill from Mission Valley — in Normal Heights, North Park, and South Park — also saw many cyclists on

see large groups of cyclists shopping locally.”

Roger L., the Critical Mass Facebook page administrator, argues that the cyclists rendezvous and spend money at Blind Lady Ale House on Adams Avenue. And Niki O. wrote on a NextDoor post that the group of cyclists typically stops in “places that they know can accommodate them; Nice n’ Easy is organizing a group ride that starts and ends at my business, Seek Beer Co., if you’d like to join!” Bob LaRose from North Park took photos of the cyclist groups and wrote, “One Sunday morning, I saw them organizing at Communal Coffee in South Park, which I hope was a big plus for the coffee shop. On the other hand, at least some of them drive their cars to these points and ironically take already limited parking. The bigger groups blow past all of the business and temporarily tie things up.”

Looking back on his own days of biking and shopping, former Critical Mass rider Vazquez recalls, “When we’d block intersections back then, many of us would stop into the liquor stores or convenience stores to buy drinks and snacks. We’d spend 500 bucks in one spot sometimes. I remember once — a

UNDER THE RADAR

Peace and sanctity An array of special interests, including pot dealers, funded the February 21 annual state of the county speech by Democratic County Supervisor **Nora Vargas**, newly posted disclosure filings show. Cannabis dealer March and Ash Management Co., LLC, came in with \$3629.23 on the same day, according to a disclosure document time-stamped March 21. State business records show March and Ash, which touts itself online as the Best Weed Dispensary in San Diego, was started in 2019 by **Breton Peace**, a Mission Valley lawyer and son of former state Senate Democrat **Steve Peace**. No other names are given.

Last year, the younger Peace was identified as a partner and general counsel to the company in a May 6 *Star-News* dispatch regarding funding the company provided for a non-profit safe marijuana storage program, a longtime controversial facet of the industry, post-legalization. “Stash Your Stash demonstrates what cannabis entrepreneurs and community health advocates can accomplish together when we put aside our differences and find common ground,” he was quoted as saying.

“What is important is that we all have kids. We coach little league, soccer.” He added, “I remember our first Halloween when we were open. That really jumps out to you because we sell edible products. I remember customers walking out with bags, and in the back of my mind I said, ‘Oh my gosh, it almost looks like they are trick-or-treating.’ What do we do about a customer that takes that home, and cannabis being so new, and isn’t thinking at the forefront of their mind, ‘What happens if one of my kids gets their hands on this bag? It sure looks like the same stuff they are going to get on Halloween.’”

Not all county supervisors are on board. Late last month, when a so-called Cannabis Social Equity Program passed the board on a 3-2 vote, with Vargas voting to approve, Republican Supervisor **Jim Desmond** voted no, saying, “I don’t think that’s how we want to go in society. The less cannabis we have, the better,” according to a May 1 KPBS account.

Also among donors to the Vargas state of the county event was call phone giant AT&T, which came up with \$2743.13 on March 8, per an April 3 disclosure. Solar Turbines, busy protecting its next-door plant on the bay from occasional efforts to get the company to move, forked over \$4999 on February 21, per a March 21 report. Then there was

Republican **Joel Anderson**, who picked up \$850 worth of “Photography services at District 2’s Legislative Open House on December 14, 2023,” from the Barona casino tribe, per a February 6 disclosure. Barona also kicked in \$26.99 to help Anderson make “Reimbursement to County staff who purchased refreshments for public attendees at the Sanctity of Human Life event held January 22, 2024 at Foothills Christian Church,” according to a March 27 filing.



Steve Peace's son wants folks to watch over their weed.

River of money The San Diego developer fronting a controversial landfill in the Tijuana River watershed with the three oldest children of onetime Republican presidential candidate **Roque de la Fuente** came up with \$10,000 on May 16 for the 2026 gubernatorial campaign of San Diego state Senate Democrat **Toni Atkins**, according to a May 17 filing with the California Secretary of State’s office.

The timing of the campaign gift, made by **David Wick**, the CEO of National Enterprises, could be problematic, coming as it did just a month after Wick’s friend, ex-state Senate Democrat and longtime Atkins ally **Ben Hueso**, showed up before the state Senate’s Environmental Quality Committee to oppose Senate Bill 1208, authored by Democrat **Steve Padilla** to “prohibit the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board from handing out waste discharge permits for any landfill in the Tijuana River watershed,” says a May 4 account by *Voice of San Diego*.

Adds the story: “He’s aiming the bill right at Hueso’s client: National Enterprises. The company is trying to get permits for a more than 300-acre landfill and recycling center on the far eastern edge of Otay Mesa.” Said Padilla: “We can’t take anymore. To try to site a landfill in the river watershed is insane.”

....*San Diego Union-Tribune* owner Alden Global Capital, whose papers recently sued Microsoft and artificial intelligence purveyor Ope-

nAI for allegedly using the papers’ news data without permission, has now been targeted for a lawsuit by reporters for the *Chicago Tribune*, claiming pay discrimination. “According to the plaintiffs, an independent analysis of newsroom salaries found women are paid 10 percent less than male counterparts, and Black journalists are paid 10 percent less than White colleagues doing similar work. Black female journalists are paid 20

continued on page 4



Roque de la Fuente's kids are looking to locate a landfill on a watershed.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARC NOZELL

Who do you love?

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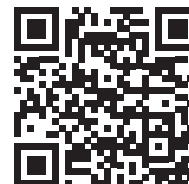
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LETTERS

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

Fuming over funding

("UCSD accedes to protesters' demand for divestment", SD on the QT, May 23, 2024) So to get rid of all the companies that fund the slaughter of millions of Palestinian people, we the parents have to pay more in housing and tuition for our kids to go to college... yes? Why doesn't this country spend the billions of dollars they send to everyone else in this world on our future scholars? Spend those billions on this country. I pay my fair share of taxes, as does everyone in my household.

I think we should have a say in where our tax money is spent. I don't want to fund wars and mass killings, I'd rather spend it on the young adults and their education and future. This country is full of crap when it lets its own people suffer, starve and go homeless while tak-

ing care of others outside the United States. No other country would step up and do that.

Nicole A.
La Jolla

SD on the QT is the Reader's Almost Factual News column. —Ed.

Some particulars about Universalists

In last week there was an article that featured the Unitarian Church in Chula Vista ("Unitarian Universalist Justine Sullivan wants everyone to get along", Sheep and Goats, May 17, 2024) and I find them to believe the following: they don't believe in God and his son Jesus Christ.

They don't follow and teach from the Holy Bible and the scriptures about anything that is and of the Bible, and they contradict all teachings in the Holy Bible too and dispute all of what the Bible says. Note that the Holy Bible, according to them, is full of legends and myths and isn't valid as it is to Christians everywhere. They deny the doctrine of the Trinity, aka Father, Son, Holy Spirit. They think that sin doesn't exist and that all of the people are essentially good and without sin. They actually are a religious cult and are followers of Satan, who is their only god and who they worship and obey always.

John J Jusko
San Diego

Not revolutionary, evolutionary

("The Curious Case of the E-Bike", Cover Story, March 23, 2024) As a bicyclist with sixty

years of riding experience, a motorcyclist with fifty years of off-road and on-road riding experience (with no crashes and one citation forty years ago for riding 48 mph in a 45 mph zone), and a mountain biker with forty-five years of experience, I can assure you that e-bike riders are a self-solving problem.

C. Darwin
Oceanside

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

Boom or Bust?

Cover Story, May 16, 2024

This was a good read.

-Good reader

^Great read?? You have no idea.

-Idea person

Horrible read full of inaccuracies. The writer should have made better fact checks.

-Fact checker

^It is not inaccurate. The event is biased and much of what was promised has not been achieved.

-Double checker

Utter garbage journalism. Wrong facts. Misrepresentation. Slanderous deformation. Utterly typical of our time — easy to be negative and knock down all the hard work of people, teams and projects. Much harder to be a positive contributor. The writer should be ashamed.

-Very angry

Full of ignorance and misinformation. Did you have permission to run photos? No credit to photographers,

an unethical practice. Clearly the writer does not have a clue about what design, nor bothered to investigate how both the bid and the work being done for WDC2024 articulates how design can/is being used to help the two cities navigating big hairy challenges.

So easy to sit on the sidelines and pick apart the work of dozens and dozens of volunteers who worked to help our region change the narrative and try something new to make a difference. Shame on you for not doing the work to tell a truthful, balanced story. Curious who is behind you feeding you with misinformation?

-Even angrier

I had the exact same reaction. What a terrible piece of writing. Absolutely wrong on so many points. Shameful negativity about a wholly positive initiative. Pity all the great people to build something great to face this kind of rubbish journalism.

Spurious, random business ethics commentary around an initiative intended to build relationships, networking and collaboration. Totally misunderstood. This is what good Cities do.

-The angriest

What was misinformed in this article?

-Just curious

I met the professor Don Norman who the award is named for, I like to see positive results. it's the other journalists who stick to the facts.

-Sideline stander

San Marcos hides the ugly truth about its schools

Cover Stories, Aug. 27, 1998

I have gone through the SMUSD school system and now work within the district. This information is valuable and serves as a window into our past and the importance of multicultural, cross-cultural, and intersectional approaches.

In any way, do you have any references? I would love to use this information for future research. Thank you.

-SMUSD Alum

Under the radar

continued from page 3

percent less than their White male counterparts," says a May 17 *Washington Post* dispatch. "The suit is the latest escalation in the tensions between Alden Global Capital — which purchased the *Tribune* in 2021 on its rapid path to becoming one of the largest newspaper owners in the country — and the journalists who work for it. But it also represents years of frustration with past corporate owners?...San Diego State University is looking to hire a new environment reporter for KPBS, its non-profit TV and radio operation, with a yearly salary between \$65,416 of \$75,525. "The environment affects every single person," says a recent online job post. "The beat is rich with personal stories and systemic challenges which, when told with people at the center, can offer a powerful glimpse into the differences between how things are and how they should be"...While *ex-Union-Tribune* proprietor **Doug Manchester's** grandiose plan to build a hotel tower at the corner of Broadway and Pacific Highway downtown remains on hold due to apparent financing problems, a more traditional San Diego landmark is being installed on the site: a sprawling new ACE Parking lot.

— 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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Safe remote camping, for me, is about keeping it minimalistic and far from populated areas, as at this very secluded spot south of Bahia Asuncion

Baja camping, then and now

Given the recent tragic event south of Ensenada at a popular surf spot near Puerto Santo Tomas, there has been quite a bit of rhetoric flying in the press and on social media about camping in Baja. First, I am not writing this to defend criminal elements. This was the senseless murder of three young men. And it was not a one-off; there have been many incidents of violent crime against U.S. citizens throughout Mexico. As Ron Gomez Hoff, the founder of the Talk Baja Facebook page and corresponding website, noted in his very

Baja was so much a part of my father's life that his deathbed request was to have his ashes spread off Punta Willard near Papa's, which my brother and I did by kayak in 2005.

It was a different Baja back then. When the boat trailer axle broke, we left it behind, still loaded with gear, until our next trip down with a replacement axle. When we returned, nothing had been touched. And to say camping in Baja is perfectly safe today would be wholly irresponsible. It is not. And, as always, safety depends in part on how one presents and carries oneself.

Within Baja's many camping meccas, there is

To say camping in Baja is perfectly safe today would be wholly irresponsible. It is not.

Open Letter, safety for tourists in Mexico has been on the decline. Mr. Hoff, the victim of a horrific attack along with his wife, Cristine, near their home in San Quintin in 2011, also hosts other Baja -related pages, including the recently added Safe Camping in Baja Mexico.

I have lived and traveled in Baja California and Baja California Sur for most of the last two and a half decades. Most of that time has been spent camping remotely and renting long-term in modest "normal" local communities. I avoid crowded, touristy spots and seek more natural, out-of-the-way environs.

I love Baja. It is in my blood. My parents and grands on both sides spent time here, especially my father, who began flying down when he achieved his pilot's license in the 1950s. In the '70s, he would take my brother and me down to Gonzaga Bay for vacations in our Landcruiser, sometimes pulling an old Gaspar Gold Cup, from which we would catch fish after fish. Our usual camping spot was on the beach behind Papa Fernandez's settlement on the north side of the back bay channel.

safety in numbers. But if you are boondocking in solitude, I recommend: getting as far from any populated city or known drug routes as possible; obscuring the campsite from view of the road; having a reliable connection to the world, such as a GPS locator or better, Starlink; traveling with a dog or two (the new CDC dog policy comes into play here); and mostly, keeping a low profile concerning the value of your rig and gear. My normal MO is tent camping with my big dog out of my stock, mid-'90s, 4x4 Jeep Cherokee.

To me, the safest area for remote camping now is along the southern stretch of the Vizcaino Peninsula below Guerrero Negro on the Pacific side. (The Gulf side is all considered a drug trade route — and very touristy, which is attractive to petty thieves.) The small co-op towns are successful, do not generally harbor criminal elements, are off the beaten path of the drug routes, and offer beautiful solitude in a mostly unblemished environment just outside of the sparsely populated areas.

For those seeking camp spots where they

can hang with others and find needed supplies nearby, that, too, is available, closer to or in the fishing co-op towns from Bahia Asunción to La Bocana. Roads in are well-maintained in general, and usually well-graded, as is the coastal route toward La Bocana from Bahia Asunción.

Rattlesnake reminiscence

Recently, a much-shared Facebook post by the Phoenix Herpetological Sanctuary about a study conducted by their rattlesnake expert Cale Morris caught my attention. Morris used a boot and pant leg on a stick to tread upon rattlers found in the wild, and the result was that only six of the 175 trod upon by the fake leg struck the boot. Three went into a coil position. The rest just froze in position or tried to get away. (And no, it wasn't because the fake leg lacked a heat signature. Pit viper sensory glands are employed during nighttime predation, when the body heat of a rodent would stand out against the surrounding cool.)

My experience with rattlers began before I was five years old; my father used to milk them for venom used in studies and for anti-venom. He was installing air conditioning in Twentynine Palms during the mid-1960s, and on the side, he worked with a herpetologist named Ed Hayes. I can just barely remember terrariums with snakes inside them. Later, as an adolescent living in Arizona's Avra Valley, I hunted for them as a kid might, checking them out, and even learning to handle them. I learned that by looking closely at sidewinder tracks in the sand washes, or dry rivers, I could tell in which direction they were traveling, and that some were "left-handed" and some the opposite. Once, I found tracks adjoining another set, making crude squiggly Xs in the sand. I followed them upstream and found the breeding pair in the shade of a Palo Verde tree overhanging the sand wash, still stuck together.

It was during those days that I was bitten, even though I had handled many snakes without incident. Gaining control of the snake by pinning the head down with a forked limb, then carefully grasping it just behind the head, wasn't too hard. And as many of my friends were deathly afraid of snakes, it was a way gain some street cred, which I badly needed as a recent transplant from California. But on that occasion, I lost control of the head. Happily, while the bite was painful, it was glancing; the snake did

not squeeze down and inject venom. Still, that was the last time I held a live rattlesnake without using a utensil.

I have always been an advocate for the slithering creatures. All snakes, including rattlesnakes, are very important members of the various biospheres in which they exist. The best method of dealing with them is to simply avoid them, give them their space, and move along. When a rattler coils and rattles, it is a defensive thing, not an act of aggression. They evolved their rattles as a warning to larger beasts that might step on them.

The San Diego Natural History Museum blog page on rattlesnakes notes, "Studies show that the largest group of people who are bitten by rattlesnakes are those who try to engage with or handle them." Yup, I can attest to that. The best thing people can do to reduce interactions on their property is clear debris piles, keep weeds down — preferably before they go



Cale Morris of the Phoenix Herpetological Society using his fake leg to step on a rattlesnake during his research.

to seed, as that will draw rodents, which snakes prey upon — and mind their reach when working outdoors. With the wet winter, rattlesnakes will be more abundant this summer. Snake training dogs and advising children on what to avoid are also good practices.

There are several for fee snake removal services offered in San Diego County, or contact Animal Control in your area. In Poway, Trapper Pat's Rattle Rescue offers free removal of rattlesnakes in the 92064 ZIP code, though tips are appreciated. ■

Long live Leucadia

Walking the circuit, meeting the neighbors in Avocado Acres

There is a magnificent hawk that likes to perch on top of Alila Marea, the new resort overlooking South Ponto Beach where Leucadia becomes Carlsbad. The hawk is unperturbed by the cost of the hotel rooms (which can run into four digits), or by the crashing waves. It stares steadfastly north towards Batiquitos Lagoon, surveying the open spaces for a tasty, scuttling mouse. But if it turned its head to the right to look across Highway 101 and the train tracks, it would see Avocado Acres, the small patch of Leucadia that is my home.

Avocado Acres was named in the 1920s. My home was built in the '70s, but some date back to the '30s. The remaining avocado trees from the original orchard are threaded along geometric lines through the yards; a couple of them are rooted in my garden. In 1986, Leucadia, which was founded by English spiritualists on Kumeyaay land, was incorporated into Encinitas, with the promise that it could retain its identity. But now, if you type "Leucadia" into any online address field, it automatically changes to "Encinitas." "Leucadia" means "sheltered paradise" or "refuge," which is not something to let go of lightly. Newcomers may not mind, but those of us who have lived here

awhile — I've been here 26 years, and my husband Ron for 45 — retain a nostalgia for the dirt roads and the vanishing greenhouses, for an ethos captured by the informal slogan dreamed up by a couple of surfer friends of mine: "Keep Leucadia Funky."

I once attempted to explain this to some young visitors as we drove along Highway 101. I pointed out Fred Caldwell's Antiques, a treasure trove whose contents all but buried the man in the back, who was a reservoir of local history. Not far north, standing outside the door and gate shop Rustic 101, was the wagon that Ron built for an unknown actress named Whoopi Goldberg; she pulled it in the San Diego Rep's '80s production of *Mother Courage*. The twentysomethings in my car, admirers of the contemporary chunky design style I consider sterile Soviet, asked incredulously, "Why would you want to keep it funky?"

Fred Caldwell died this past year; his antique store is boarded up. Whoopi's wagon is almost buried in undergrowth. In December, the bulldozer came for the last tiny hippie house from the '30s (the one with a yurt out back). Rents all along 101 have been jacked up, making it tough for small businesses.

Today, keeping things even a little bit funky means signing petitions and attending City Council meetings. Sometimes, a tree can be saved here and a matchbox strip of land there. (Thanks City Council for saving the hillock known as Surfer's Point.) It's mostly a losing battle, but a community is so much more than the financial value of the land.

First and foremost, a community is its people — and their interaction. Avocado Acres is zoned residential; we don't have much in the way of gathering spaces. But we do have a walking circuit. I didn't fully appreciate it until



Online, "Leucadia" gets changed to "Encinitas," but IRL is another story.

I was no longer able to use it: during the Covid year, when everyone was walking around the block to get a glimpse of the outside world and a smile from a neighbor, I spent seven months in bed with cancer. Afterwards, I had to re-learn how to walk.

First, around the house; weeks later, to my mailbox. Then to the neighbor's mailbox — the one with a white wooden bunny on top — then gradually up the hill. Months later, I made it unaided around the circuit. All along the route, I was greeted by neighbors who seemed to know my story and gave me a thumbs up, or said, "Well done." The experience increased my sense of belonging to a place where, previously, we had all been too busy driving to work to get to know one another at all.

The circuit shows me the best of Avocado Acres. The people who put out water bowls for passing dogs, and those who leave "help yourself" buckets filled with their excess oranges and limes. The retired schoolteacher who hangs up poems so passersby can be uplifted. (I once met a woman who told me she walked in our hood just to read the next installment.) The couple who built a miniature art gallery; anyone can contribute minute works of art and then take another one home. The three tiny libraries. When I walk through my neighborhood, I'm infused with gratitude for all these good and generous souls who contribute to my life whether we have met one another or not.

My neighborhood's spirit resides in the warm woman who hosts an annual cookie exchange — open to anyone. It's in the retired realtor who knows the name of every neighbor and their dog, and keeps tabs on whoever is ailing and could use a casserole. She and her husband host

a street party twice a year; multiple residents pitch in to cook and serve their neighbors, plus the occasional lucky stranger who happens to be walking by. It's in the well-read widower in his nineties who painstakingly copies significant articles from the *New Yorker* and delivers them to half a dozen people on his walking route.

We're not without our problems. There have been robberies and break-ins — even when people are home. Parents who help their grown children struggle with addiction and homelessness. Family violence and incarcerations. Late night police visits and ambulances. Rising rents and impossible power bills. Lonely people who can't afford to maintain their houses. Alas, none of this gets mentioned on NextDoor Leucadia; reading that, you'd think our only problems were speed bumps and roundabouts.

My neighborhood has its tensions just like everywhere else; between the old timers and the newcomers, the rich and the struggling, and, like the rest of the country, the right and the left. But when I, once a co-host of the community group Lefty Liberals of Leucadia, was stuck in bed for months, it was my Republican neighbor who brought me fresh flowers every week. Our divisions diminish when we see each other often, walk together and talk together. When I arrived in San Diego in the '80s, I was homeless. I never imagined owning a house, let alone complaining about keeping things funky. However, I do know that the spirit of my community doesn't exist in worrying about the soulless, Huntington Beach future we're headed for, or in nostalgia for the lost green spaces of the past, but in this place between past and future where we all live, right here, right now, under that magnificent hawk's watchful eye.



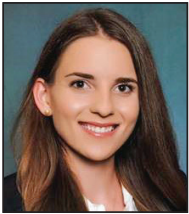
The author pays a visit to the miniature art museum along the Avocado Acres walking circuit.

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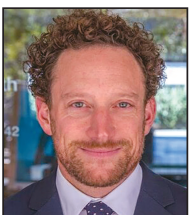
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TROUBLE IN TRANSIT: PART 2

What gets lost in a road diet

Two years ago, in late March 2022, the city of San Diego added bike lanes to Gold Coast Drive in Mira Mesa. It was one of hundreds, if not thousands, of similar road reconfigurations taking place in urban areas around the country to reduce reliance on the car and encourage alternative forms of transportation, including bicycles.

In the case of Gold Coast Drive, what had been a two-lane roadway saw the double yellow pavement line in the center of the street, separating eastbound and westbound traffic, eliminated. White lines were painted on either side of the now-single-lane road, creating “advisory bike lanes” so-called because cars could veer into them in the face of approaching traffic — provided, of course, there were no bikes to be seen.

A week after the reconfiguration, city crews came out and redid the work, restoring the street striping to its original design. The single traffic lane was too narrow for cars moving in opposite directions, and residents protested to the city that they feared a rash of head-on collisions.

Mayor Todd Gloria personally visited the area and dispatched a letter of apology to residents — although he pled

Work on the 30th Avenue Bikeway was completed in the summer of 2021, but the controversy triggered by the road diet was only beginning.

mea culpa not to allowing a stupid design, but to not explaining the concept to residents beforehand. Because of the uniqueness of the design, he wrote, “we owed it to the community to spend time with them, to explain what was going to happen, how this works, and we did not do that. That failure is something I regret and something we’re gonna fix.”

Even so, plans to build advisory bike lanes in other parts of the city, including on Evergreen Street in Point Loma, were subsequently scrapped.

Advisory bike lanes are the latest tool urban planners around the country are using to reduce society’s dependence on the car as the primary way to get from here to there. It’s a variation of what’s known as a “road diet,” which more typi-

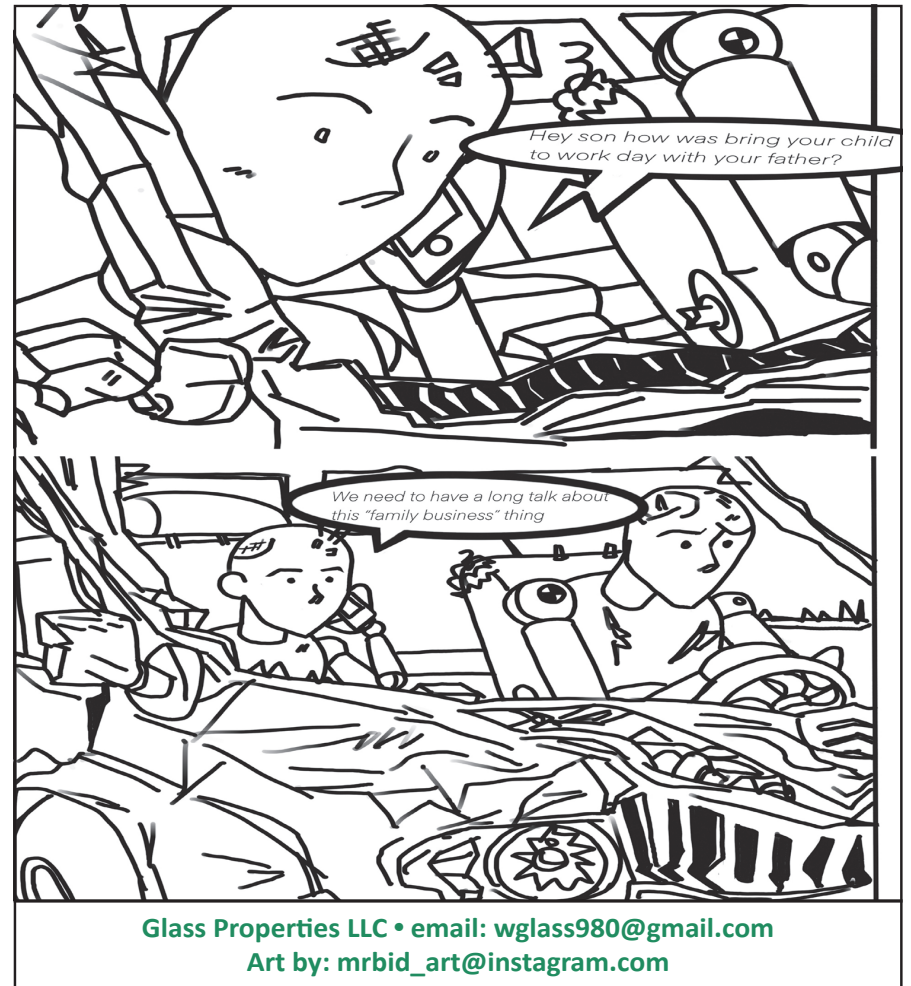
cally involves converting a four-lane roadway into two lanes, with bike lanes on either side, or else creating a wide center lane for left turns. Road diets have historically proven to be controversial and divisive, with proponents arguing that the driving force is public safety and critics maintaining it’s a misguided war on cars fueled by climate change concerns.

Either way, the concept is to slow speeds on roads to make them safer, and more conducive, to bicycle and pedestrian traffic. As the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration says on its website, “a road diet, or roadway configuration, can improve safety, calm traffic, provide better mobility and access for all road users, and enhance overall quality of life.”

Peder Norby is a for-

mer San Diego County planning commissioner and Carlsbad city council member, who for 25 years consulted on Coast Highway 101 issues for Encinitas and Carlsbad. He is a strong advocate of road diets from a public safety perspective.

“Public safety is everything,” he says. “It’s the number one thing we do as cities.” Norby maintains that studies have shown consistently that slower speeds — the end goal of road diets and other “traffic calming” tools such as speed humps and roundabouts — lead to fewer accidents, and less severe injuries and deaths in the accidents that do occur. “There can be a big difference between hitting someone on a bike at 55 miles per hour and hitting someone on a bike at 30 or 25 miles per hour,” he says.



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Norby also maintains that the proliferation of electric bikes in just the last few years has increased the urgency to slow traffic on roads, particularly near schools. “We had an exchange student eight years ago and she rode my wife’s e-bike to Carlsbad High,” he says. “She was the only one. Today, you see hundreds of e-bikes parked outside virtually every high school. And while motorists might see these e-bike riders as annoying little mosquitos who are in their way, if you’re a planner, you have to adapt to societal changes.”

Norby says that while public safety is the number one driver of the move to slow traffic and build more bike lanes, it’s not the only motivating factor. “For every person who rides an e-bike to school,” he says, “that’s four trips

that parents aren’t making in their cars: driving to school, driving back home, and then doing it all over again when school lets out. And that’s going to have a big impact on both congestion and pollution.”

Still, Norby concedes there are times when road diets can be too severe. “If you go from two lanes to one on a road where there’s already too much traffic, it won’t work and you shouldn’t do it,” he says. “And with bikes, it would be great if they were all completely separated from cars, but when you start putting up physical elements like these verticals you see in some parts of North County, that can be difficult for drivers to adapt to.

“It’s both a science and an art, and the art is about coming up with the right solutions

for your community. I look at some of the stuff that’s going on in North Park, where they’re taking away parking in the belief that if you’re within a half mile of rail, you’re not going to drive. That’s simply not true. My experience and intuition tell me that if you have a 200-unit building, at most 20 percent, 25 percent of those people are going to use rail, with the rest still relying on their cars. It’s never a binary choice; it’s putting everything on the table and coming up with the best solution, with the understanding that no solution is ever perfect. No solution will ever solve 100 percent of the issue. But there are better solutions and there are worse solutions.”

Sandi Banister, a retired San Diego radio executive who lives in Kensington, has mixed feelings about road diets. On

certain wide roads with little traffic, she’s fine with adding bike lanes, even if it means narrowing the roadway for cars.

But over the last couple of years, she says, “I think it’s gotten a little out of control. The other day, I was giving a friend of mine a ride in Serra Mesa, on Mission Center Road, which they made into a single-lane road. It was backed up when it was two lanes, and now, my friend tells me, it gets backed up all the way to Aero Drive. Meanwhile, the bike lanes are empty.”

She pauses, then adds: “It’s crazy. And I don’t remember voting for bike lanes. Did the citizens of San Diego vote for all these bike lanes?”

No, Sandi, they didn’t. Road diets are part of the “smart mobility” — alternately known as “complete streets” — movement now sweeping the country, which strives to make all public roadways as safe as possible not just for cars, but also for bikes and pedestrians. Road diets are promoted by politicians and enacted by city traffic engineering departments, often with little or no public input.

In the San Diego

mayor’s race, incumbent Todd Gloria came under fire from two primary opponents about exactly that. Both Larry Turner, the police officer and former U.S. Marine who will square off against Gloria in November, and unsuccessful primary challenger Genevieve Jones-Wright bashed Gloria for his aggressive championship of road diets and bike lanes during a February candidates forum in Rolando.

“When the city of San Diego decided to put in bike lanes, they didn’t talk with community members,” Jones-Wright said, according to a *San Diego Union-Tribune* story.

Of course, Gloria isn’t the only politician who has jumped on the road diet bandwagon. Prior to her 2022 election to the California State Senate, Catherine Blakespear was mayor of Encinitas and chair of the San Diego Association of Regional Governments (SANDAG). She was one of the key instigators of the Leucadia Streetscape project, an ambitious \$65 million reworking of the northernmost 2.5 miles of Coast Highway in Encinitas. One of the

most significant modifications in the project is reducing the number of traffic lanes from four to two between A Street and La Costa Avenue. Work began in January 2021 and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2026. Other modifications include bike lanes, wider sidewalks and better drainage.

In 2021, Blakespear told the *Reader*, “Congestion [on our freeways and roads] is created in the last 5 percent to 10 percent, and if we can even get just 5 percent of commuters to ride their bikes instead of drive we would reduce congestion and people would enjoy themselves and their lives much more than sitting in traffic for hours. Having a car as the only option is just really not what we want as humans.”

Last December, the San Diego City Council officially adopted its first-ever Complete Streets Policy, which, according to a city news release, “reflects and guides the city’s commitment to provide a safe, comfortable and accessible transit circulation system that meets the mobility needs of everyone... ‘Complete

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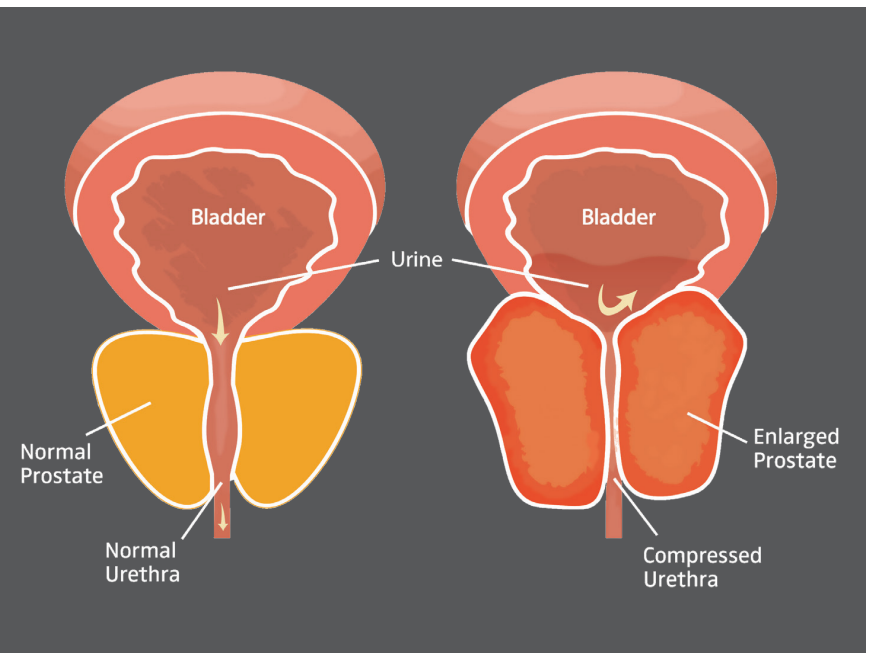


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Streets' refers to a concept that roadways should be designed with all users in mind, not just motorists. Making travel convenient and accessible for people of all ages and abilities, regardless of their mode choice, continues to be a citywide priority."

But Blane Adessa, a 65-year-old real estate appraiser who lives in Encinitas, isn't convinced San Diego's elected politicians are acting in the best interests of their constituents. "The same politicians who wanted building moratoriums a few decades ago are now over-building our wonderful county," says Adessa. "It seems like their efforts are to make it ridiculous to drive your car. Even now, before tourists get here and with the thousands of new homes and accessory dwelling units that our elected representatives are approving, we have to wait for traffic signals to cycle twice to get through many intersections."

Joe Donnelly, a 58-year-old sales executive in San Marcos, is an avid mountain bicyclist. In the 1990s and early 2000s, he even managed a mountain bike team for

UC Cyclery, a big bicycle shop east of La Jolla. "In my younger days, most of my training was on the road, all over North County," he says. "These days, I avoid the road. A third of the drivers are high, half are texting, and the others are speeding." And while he's all for more bike lanes, but not if it means reducing the number of lanes reserved for cars. "The idea of converting drive lanes to bike lanes, in the belief that this will lead to a big shift in people using their bikes instead of their cars for transportation rather than recreation, is a utopian dream for planners who don't live in the real world — especially these enormous bike lanes that are as wide as, or even wider than, car lanes," Donnelly says.

According to the Federal Highway Administration website, "the focus of roadway projects during the 1950s and 1960s was on system and capacity expansion, not contraction. Whenever and wherever traffic volumes on a section of road outgrew what a two-lane road could accommodate efficiently, the next step in roadway design



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

On Tamarack Avenue east of El Camino Real, the road was narrowed from two lanes in each direction to just one, with the remaining traffic lane significantly narrower than the bike lane and buffer lane.

in most cases was to increase the cross-section to four lanes...Consequently, four-lane roadways became the norm throughout the country."

The first known lane reduction project, according to the FHA, took place in Billings, Montana in 1979. Seventeenth Street West was converted from a four-lane undivided highway to a three-lane highway, with the center lane reserved for cars turning left and also acting as a buffer between the

two traffic lanes. But road diets became increasingly popular in the 1990s, the FHA says, with roadway reconfigurations taking place in Iowa, Minnesota and Montana, and the urban centers of Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon.

Back then, public safety was the primary motivator. A 2005 study in Iowa concluded that road diets led to a 25.2 percent reduction in crashes per mile of roadway, and an 18.8 percent decrease in the car crash rate.

In San Diego, the southern stretch of La Jolla Boulevard that runs through Bird Rock is believed to be the first local example of a road diet. According to the Project for Public Spaces website, "the high volume of traffic along the Boulevard had been causing safety and air pollution problems. Local residents of the community were concerned about the high speeds and congestion during peak traffic hours, and had issues with crossing the street. The width of La Jolla Boulevard divided the neighborhood, which was also

suffering from a lack of usable public space, a lack of parking, and struggling local businesses."

The Bird Rock Community Council began meeting with city representatives in 2003 to discuss potential changes, and ultimately decided on reducing the number of traffic lanes from five to two, adding medians and installing five roundabouts at key intersections. Construction began in 2007, and the city subsequently reported a 90 percent decrease in car accidents and a 30 percent uptick in retail sales at neighborhood businesses.

The next major road diet took place four years later, up on La Costa Avenue in Carlsbad. In a split vote, the Carlsbad City Council in March 2011 approved a plan to slim down the heavily trafficked road between El Camino Real and Rancho Santa Fe Road from four lanes to two lanes. The outer lanes would be reconfigured for parking and bike lanes.

The road diet split the community. One resident told the *San Diego Union-*

Tribune it was time to end La Costa Avenue's status as "a four-lane freeway," while another, in a *Forum* opinion piece, called the council vote a "knee-jerk reaction" and said, if anything, the road "should be widened ... with traffic lights and adequate speed enforcement, not put on a public relations fad diet."

In May 2014, the *Streetsblog USA* website reported that the city of San Diego "has completed its first road diet," adding buffered bike lanes along Fourth and Fifth avenues on Banker's Hill between Laurel and Elm streets. (The La Jolla Boulevard reconfiguration in Bird Rock came before the "road diet" term was coined.)

The following year, the community of City Heights got its first road diet, slimming down Fairmount Avenue, between Redwood Avenue south to Home Avenue, by a lane in either direction and adding buffered bike lanes.

More road diets followed, both in the city of San Diego and in several of the county's other towns, including Carlsbad and Encinitas, before the most ambitious road diet yet was developed in 2019 in North Park.

The 30th Street Bikeway, as the project is known, called for the re-striping of a 2.4-mile stretch of busy 30th Street, between Adams Avenue and Juniper Street. Traffic lanes were narrowed, and upwards of 450 parking spaces were removed in order to accommodate protected bike lanes. Bicyclists were shielded from motorized traffic by either plastic posts or parked cars.

Work on the project was completed in the summer of 2021, but the controversy triggered by

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the road diet was only beginning. Merchants along the busy thoroughfare complained of a loss of business because their customers could no longer find parking, and a group called Save 30th Street filed suit against the city. The suit was ultimately decided in the city's favor in a December 2022 appellate court ruling, despite the plaintiffs arguing that since the road diet was put in place, no fewer than 34 retail establishments had gone out of business.

William C., a small business owner who lives in Allied Gardens, argues that road diets not only impede traffic and parking, but also amplify rather than mitigate air pollution. "Our council and mayor — and SANDAG — want to reduce the carbon footprint of San Diego, but it has become obvious that road diets actually increase carbon emissions," he says. "During high-traffic hours, one can easily see that reducing lanes for automobiles means all these vehicles are forced to use fewer lanes, which, in turn, means a longer time spent on the road getting from place to place. With this increased time on the road comes an increased output of carbon dioxide. And other than holidays, this is happening five

days a week, 52 weeks a year. Added together, that means a lot of pollution put into the atmosphere that wasn't there before."

Road diets, he adds, also increase "the daily stress and unhappiness of many of the people who use those roads. Making a commute longer during peak driving times greatly adds to stress. This is especially true when drivers and passengers need to get to their destination and look at the empty bus/bike lanes, and there are no buses or bikes in sight. A very small percentage of citizens bike on the major roadways, and statistics involving cars and bikes can be misleading when they use 'cars' versus bikes. Cars often carry a group of friends or couples or a family. So when comparing road use, in order to be accurate, the statistics need to account for the people in cars versus the people on bikes. When that is done properly, the number of people riding bikes to get to a destination is extremely small compared to the number of people using a car to get to their destination. Additionally, it is very inconvenient for seniors to do their shopping and errands using a bike. It is very inconvenient to move a whole family from one place to another on bikes."

More controversy followed a major road-diet initiative up in Carlsbad that began in the fall of 2023 and is continuing into this year. The Safer Streets Together Plan, approved by the Carlsbad City Council in September 2022, calls for 16 miles of major east-west roadways to be reconfigured. According to the city website, the move is being undertaken "to balance the needs of all roadway users" and consists of "narrowing, and in some cases reducing, car lanes and expanding bike lanes and buffer areas between bike and car lanes."

In the northern part of the city, Carlsbad Village Drive, between Appian and Chatham roads, and Tamarack Avenue, between Skyline Drive and Carlsbad Village Drive, are being taken down from four lanes to two. In the southern part of the city, the same fate awaits Poinsettia Lane between Carlsbad Boulevard and Avenida Encinas. And several other roadways are being slimmed down without any lane reductions to accommodate wider bike lanes.

The road diets have met with mostly negative responses on Nextdoor, the social networking site for neighborhoods. And in a lengthy post

on the Wake Up Carlsbad Facebook page, local Steve Linke, a former city of Carlsbad traffic commissioner, argues that "the ongoing narrowing of arterial street lanes in Carlsbad likely will decrease safety. Over the next couple of months, the vehicle lanes on major portions of Carlsbad's east-west arterial streets will be narrowed from their general current width of 11 feet to as little as 10 feet—with 9 feet also mentioned as a possibility. For reference, large vehicles can be up to 10-½ feet wide. These narrowed lanes will have been done to major portions of Olivenhain Road, La Costa Avenue, Poinsettia Lane, Cannon Road, College Boulevard, Tamarack Avenue, and Carlsbad Village Drive, and there is evidence that the city may have similar plans for Palomar Airport Road, Rancho Santa Fe Road, and perhaps others..."

Linke maintains that instead of reducing speeds, the narrower lanes "are likely to lead to driver error, with more encroachments into adjacent vehicle and bike lanes — and the likelihood

of increased collisions and injuries."

But whether or not that's true, road diets are not going away, or even slowing down. The next big road-slimming project will be the stretch of the Coast Highway that runs through Oceanside, San Diego County's northernmost city. According to the city of Oceanside's website, "the plan envisions creating a 'road diet' — meaning that vehicle travel lanes will be reduced in some areas to promote safety and increase space for pedestrians and bicycles. Mid-block crosswalks, roundabouts (at select locations), and streetscape features will create space in the public right-of-way for bicycle facilities, improved sidewalks, and additional landscaping."

The California Coastal Commission gave the project its blessing in February, four years after the plans were initially submitted. The delay was due to a series of community meetings to gather opinions and tweak project plans. The latest plans call for the entire stretch of Coast Highway to be slimmed

down to one lane in either direction, and the replacement of traffic signals with roundabouts for up to 12 intersections. The city hopes to finalize the design by the fall of this year; construction is scheduled to begin as early as 2025, "pending the allocation of funds," according to the city.

Peder Norby knows about as much about the Coast Highway as anyone, given his years of consulting for Encinitas and Carlsbad. And yet he is hesitant to weigh in on Oceanside's plans for its stretch of the Coast Highway because he is not privy to the traffic counts and other data that helped city engineers draft those plans.

"Generally speaking about Highway 101, it's not a four-lane road with 40,000 cars going 70 mph anymore," he says. "But I can't really offer my opinion on what I think they should do, other than to say that what's worked somewhere else, like Leucadia or Cardiff or Solana Beach, may not work in Oceanside. You can't take a cookie-cutter approach. One size does not fit all."

— Thomas K. Arnold



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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 30

DR. SEUSS: THE SPARK OF AN ICON

View a behind-the-scenes look at Dr. Seuss' concept drawings, hosted by the Exclusive Collections Gallery. Theodor Seuss Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, began his career as a little-known editorial cartoonist in the 1920s. His work evolved quickly, and included



DR. SEUSS

deft illustrations, modeled sculpture, and imaginative oil paintings. Geisel "forged a new genre of art that falls somewhere between the surrealist

movement of the early 20th century and the inspired nonsense of a child's classroom doodles."

WHEN: 10 am to 9 pm, through Friday, June 7

WHERE: Exclusive Collections Gallery Gaslamp, 621 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. ecgallery.com/dr-seuss

Friday | 31

PSYCHEDELIC PORN CRUMPETS

Australian rock band Psychedelic Porn Crumpets formed in 2014 in Perth, and was

originally conceived as a university course solo project for English guitarist and singer Jack McEwan. Inspired by classic rock and experimental jazz, the band is known for elaborate videos heavily influenced by UK comedy troupe The Mighty Boosh. Their most recent full-length *Fronzoli* was released last November. Oakland paisley underground rockers Sugar Candy Mountain open the show.

WHEN: Friday, May 31, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Music Box, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. musicboxsd.com



PSYCHEDELIC PORN CRUMPETS



SATURDAY, JUNE 1: WING FEST SAN DIEGO

Saturday | 1

US SUMO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This event will bring over 100 competitors, ages 4 to 64, from all over the United States to compete. Every competitor who wins first place in their division will represent the United States at the 2024 Sumo World Championship in Poland.

WHEN: Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm.

WHERE: Lincoln High School, 4777 Imperial Avenue, San Diego. bit.ly/uswatch2024sumo

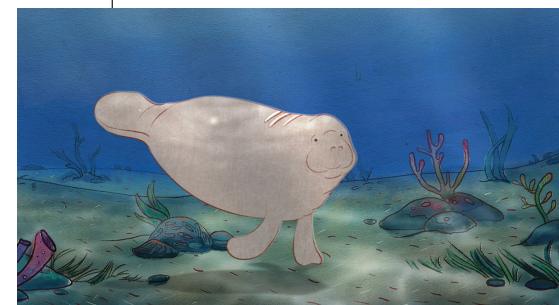


Tuesday | 3

SAN DIEGO FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL DAYS

The San Diego French Film Festival, presented by the Alliance Française San Diego, is back for its fourth edition. The movie lineup includes award winning short and feature films with a mix of history, adventure,

biopic, and environmental documentaries. On June 3rd, there will be a 6:30 pm showing of *Humanatee* (short) and *Oceans* (feature). At 8:10 pm there will be a panel discussion.



HUMANATEE AT THE SD FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

WHEN: Monday, June 3, 6 pm to 9 pm

WHERE: Reading Cinemas Town Square, 4665 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont. afsandiego.org

WING FEST SAN DIEGO

Come taste chicken wings at this family friendly event. Top wings chefs will compete in a cooking showdown. Also, there will be spirits sampling at multiple booths, live DJs, entertainment, games, sauces, rubs, and local vendors. VIP ticket receives early entry.

WHEN: Sunday, May 26, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Lane, Downtown. wingfestsandiego.com

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

ART

Denise Cerro: My Colors Of Home Denise Cerro's art is characterized by its vibrant, expressive use of color and a playful yet sophisticated blending of elements. Her works often display a whimsical quality, combining elements of the fantastical with the everyday in a way that invites viewers into a unique and imaginative world. Monday, June 3, 11am; **free**. Gallery 21 in Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

South American Colors by Carlos Grasso Exhibition by mixed-media artist Carlos Grasso, in conjunction with Argentinian Arts, focuses on canvas deconstruction and otherworldly tapestries Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, June 9, **free**-\$5. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

Steve Breen & Grant Oliphant Join Steve Breen and Grant Oliphant as they dive into the world of cartooning, art, and how storytelling brings communities together. In addition, you will receive exclusive after-hours access to Comic-Con Museum. Sunday, June 2, 3pm; \$45. Comic-Con Museum, 2131 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

AUTOMOTIVE

Carlsbad Cars & Coffee - Saturdays, 7am; through Saturday, December 28, Behind Pelly's Fish Market in the Ralph's parking lot (CARLSBAD)

Escondido Cars & Coffee All cars welcome Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, August 24, **free**. Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Point Loma Cars & Coffee Where enthusiasts of vehicles of all makes and models gather and share our passion of cars on beautiful Shelter Island, next to the waterfront near the Bali Hai restaurant. Trucks and motorcycles included! Saturdays, 7:30am; through Saturday, December 28, Shelter Island parking lot, right next to the Bali Hai (POINT LOMA)

Rancho Santa Fe Cars & Coffee The Rancho Santa Fe Cars and Coffee automobile enthusiast event celebrates automotive excellence each Saturday morning in beautiful Rancho Santa Fe. We welcome the finest sports and luxury cars – hypercars, supercars, exotic cars, rare vintage cars, and other extraordinary cars. Saturdays, 8am; through Saturday, December 28, 6009 Paseo Delicias (RANCHO SANTA FE)

BEER

9th Anniversary Party! Enjoy deals on 28 different beers spread over 30 taps indoors and outside with music and a DJ all day. Saturday, June 1, 12pm; **free**-\$49. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Change Your Aura Book Launch Conducted by authors and spiritual teachers Barbara Y. Martin & Dimitri Moraitis. Saturday, June 1, 1pm; \$75. 18 and up. Spiritual Arts Institute, 527 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

First Sunday Open Mic Poetry Lexington, KY poet and pianist John LaMar Cole launches his collection *the ephemeral everything'* for *Poets INC (Inland North County)*. An open mic for everyone on the sign-up board follows in the second half of the afternoon. Sunday, June 2, 1pm; **free**. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Lisa Keefauver: Grief Is a Sneaky Bitch Warwick's presents Lisa Keefauver as she launches her new book, *Grief Is a Sneaky Bitch: An Uncensored Guide to Navigating Loss*, in conversation with Melissa Gould. Tuesday, June 4, 7:30pm; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Susan Coll Warwick's presents Susan Coll as she discusses her new book, *Real Life and Other Fictions*, in conversation with Rachel McMillan. Thursday, May 30, 4pm; **free**. warwicks.com/event/coll-2024. (ONLINE)

Weekends with Locals: Stanislav Synko Weekends with Locals will be hosting Stanislav Synko, author of *Simple Custom Wild: The Guide for Non-Technical Entrepreneurs on How to Build Tech Products*. Sunday, June 2, 1pm; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Alzheimer's SD: Estrategias para la planificación para la alimentación Aprenderá estrategias para asistir durante la alimentación. Esta clase es presentada por la organización local Alzheimer's San Diego y está diseñada específicamente para los cuidadores. Se recomienda la pre-inscripción @ alzsd.org/services/education/. Tuesday, June 4, 2pm; **free**. 18 and up. East County Career Center, 151 Van Houten Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Alzheimer's San Diego: Maintaining your Brain Health Learn about lifestyle changes and habits that everyone can use to maintain a healthy brain. This class is pre-

sented by local nonprofit Alzheimer's San Diego. Pre-registration is recommended @ alzsd.org/services/education/. Wednesday, June 5, 10am; **free**. 18 and up. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCIA PARK)

Belly Dance Basics Workshop This six-week journey explores the fundamental techniques of belly dancing, enriched with hints of salsa and merengue influences. Tuesdays, 7pm; through Tuesday, July 9, \$150. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Body Dynamics This class by San Diego Continuing Education provides students with an understanding of the Breath-Mind-Body dynamic and its relationship to health and wellness during the aging process. Fridays, 12:30pm; Mondays, 12:30pm; through Monday, May 20, **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Chord Craft Seminar, Guitar Workshop This comprehensive Guitar Workshop combines the best of beginner and intermediate classes. Wednesdays, 6pm; through Wednesday, July 24, \$200. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Coffee Cupping Embark on a sensory journey and enhance your coffee appreciation. Thursdays, 2:30pm; through Thursday, June 13, \$30. 18 and up. San Diego Coffee Training Institute, 1616 National Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Cooking Class: Japanese Street Food Learn how easy it is to make this iconic street food. The word "okonomiyaki" is derived from "okonomi" meaning "as you like" and "yaki" meaning "grilled". It's commonly referred to as being a Japanese pancake. Sunday, June 2, 5pm; \$59. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

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

DJ Redlite's Beat Lab Over four weeks, you'll dive into the essentials of entertainment, beat matching, turntable techniques, and DJ software. Monday, June 3, 6pm; \$100. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Free Family Day Camp Leader Adam will kick things off with an interactive "What is Archaeology?" presentation and Education Specialist Hayden will teach kids how to make clay pottery. Kids can explore the museum on an Archaeology Quest, and families are invited to bring picnics to enjoy in the museum's native plant garden along with lemonade and cookies. Saturday, June 1, 10am; **free**. San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

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Deadline to Enter: Friday, June 7 at 1pm

WIN TICKETS



Win a pair of passes to the Taste of Adams Avenue.

Deadline to Enter: Monday, June 24 at 1pm

WIN TICKETS



Win tickets to Sonic Symphony or Batman 1989 in Concert.

Deadline to Enter: Wednesday, July 3 at 1pm

Enter to win at sandiegoreader.com/contests

Free Kids Chocolate Making Classes The 90-minute classes are designed for children aged 5 and above, combining fun and education, offering kids the chance to explore the world of chocolate making. All materials and equipment are provided, and whatever the kids make during the class is theirs to take home and enjoy. Register @ seabreezechocolates.com/chocolate-classes. Sunday, June 2, 12pm; **free**. Seabreeze Craft Chocolates, 3840 Valley Centre Dr. Suite 604. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Meditation Expanding Consciousness with Sound – Meditation hosted by Teresa Thursday, May 30, 7pm; **free**-\$20. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Music Production Workshop Step into the world of music production with an immersive workshop. Wednesdays, 7pm; through Wednesday, July 24, \$200. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Nutrition & Fitness Beyond Cancer Treatment At this virtual event hosted by Scripps Cancer Center, learn about foods to include in the diet for decreased risk of cancer recurrence or second primary cancers, improved energy levels, and lower risk of chronic diseases. Registration is required. Tuesday, June 4, 12pm; **free**. scripps.org/events. (ONLINE)

Piano Parlor Instrumental Workshop This introductory course invites you to explore the essentials of piano performance, from reading music and navigating keys to crafting captivating chords. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, July 23, \$200. 18 and up. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Pound: A music & movement class Join instructor Cynthia Demorest for an hour of music and movement. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes and bring adequate hydration. Participation is voluntary and you will be asked to sign a liability waiver. Thursdays, 11:30am; through Thursday, June 27, **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Preschool Play Come and enjoy sensory and educational activities for preschoolers. Fridays, 10:30am; through Friday, June 28, **free**.

Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Spiritual Dynamics of the World Dimitri will explore the unfolding spiritual dynamics going on in the world and how you can take bolder steps in your spiritual unfolding. Sunday, June 2, 11am; \$20. 18 and up. Spiritual Arts Institute, 527 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

Tai Chi Tai Chi fitness class with gentle physical exercise and stretching. In the case of inclement weather, the class will be canceled. Fridays, 10am; through Friday, June 28, **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Zumba Inclusive Zumba fitness class adapted for adults of all abilities. In the case of inclement weather, the class will be canceled. Mondays, 10am; through Monday, June 24, **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

COMEDY

Affion Crockett Actor, writer, dancer, and comic, Affion Crockett, can next be seen as a guest star in NBC's SUPERSTORE. Thursday, May 30, 8pm; Friday, May 31, 7pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, June 1, 7pm and 9:30pm; Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Brassy Broads Comedy 6 comics including local stand-up teacher, Tony Calabrese. Wednesday, June 5, 7pm; \$20. 18 and up. Emerald C Gallery, 1331 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Comedy Under the Stars Outdoors with food vendor onsite. Saturday, June 1, 7:35pm; **free**-\$10. 21 and up. Bolt Brewing, 8179 Center Street. (LA MESA)

Gaslamp Comedy Open Mic & Happy Hour No cover. No drink minimum. \$5 Happy hour. Sign-up between 7:30-7:50 for stage time. Tuesday, June 4, 7:30pm; **free**. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Improv VS Standup Guest standup comedians do their set, then improvisers create scenes based on their material. For mature audiences. Saturdays, 8:30pm; through Saturday,

Rhyme & Verse

Three poems by Marge Piercy

The Woman in the Ordinary

The woman in the ordinary pudgy downcast girl is crouching with eyes and muscles clenched. Round and pebble smooth she effaces herself under ripples of conversation and debate.

The woman in the block of ivory soap has massive thighs that neigh, great breasts that blare and strong arms that trumpet. The woman of the golden fleece laughs uproariously from the belly inside the girl who imitates a Christmas card virgin with glued hands, who fishes for herself in other's eyes, who stoops and creeps to make herself smaller. In her bottled up is a woman peppery as curry, a yam of a woman of butter and brass, compounded of acid and sweet like a pineapple, like a handgrenade set to explode, like goldenrod ready to bloom.

Winter Promises

Tomatoes rosy as perfect baby's buttocks, eggplants glossy as waxed fenders, purple neon flawless glistening peppers, pole beans fecund and fast growing as Jack's Viagra-spiced stalk, big as truck tire zinnias that mildew will never wilt, roses weighing down a bush never touched by black spot, brave little fruit trees shouldering up their spotless ornaments of glass fruit:

I lie on the couch under a blanket of seed catalogs ordering far too much. Sleet slides down the windows, a wind edged

with ice knives through every crack. Lie to me, sweet garden-mongers: I want to believe every promise, to trust in five-pound tomatoes and dahlias brighter than the sun that was eaten by frost last week.

Some Things Return in Spring

The brave spears of the garlic rustle in the damp hair of the wind off the marsh brushing them: a sound you will never again hear.

The maple is waving little russet hands. Long brown scaled buds line the beech twigs. Spring explodes into hundreds of daffodils

on the hillside that was yours. Tulips strut their brilliance bowing to the sun where you will no longer pass. My tears are

brief years after you died. Still my thoughts are bouquets like the red tulips I can never lay on your invisible grave.



Marge Piercy (b. March 31, 1936) is an American feminist poet and novelist who has written 17 books of poetry, including *The Moon Is Always Female* (1980), which is considered a feminist classic. Piercy identifies as a Marxist and an activist for numerous progressive causes, including anti-war and environmental issues. Her poetry is often personal, written largely in free verse and focuses on social and feminist issues of the day. Her later poems also reflect a growing interest in the cultural and religious dimensions of her Jewish roots.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

December 28, \$7-\$15. 18 and up. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

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

Juicy Scoop with Heather McDonald Heather McDonald's wildly successful comedy and pop culture podcast LIVE at Pechanga Resort. Saturday, June 1, 8pm; Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway. (TEMECULA)

Keon Polee Keon Polee is a stand up comedian originally from the Bay Area. Sunday, June 2, 6pm; \$20-\$200. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Late Night at Mic Drop We invite all COMEDY LOVERS to be apart of the most exciting Friday Night Open Mic in the city! Watch national touring comedians try out new bits for Netflix, and watch day one dreamers face their fears for the first time. Thursday, May 30, 9:30pm; \$5. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Laugh A Latte Hosts Rand, Carol and Simon with Pamela Wardrip, Chuck Foster, Kim Jones and headliner Chris Clobber. Saturday, June 1, 3pm; **free**. Brew Coffee Spot, 6101 Lake Murray Boulevard. (LA MESA)

Lyrics & Laughs Cabaret singers perform, then improvisers take the stage to create scenes based off their songs. Fridays, 7pm; through Friday, December 27, \$7-\$15. Mockingbird Improv, 2590 Truxtun Road #200. (LIBERTY STATION)

Nate Jackson Nate Jackson has exploded as one of the fastest-growing comedians through his viral content and engagement on TikTok, where he has amassed over 3 million followers and more than 500 million views globally. Saturday, June 1, 7pm and 9:30pm;

Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Rich Vos A comedian's comedian, he can be heard regularly on Opie and Jimmy and as a guest on the most popular podcasts including WTF with Marc Maron and Rogan. Friday, May 31, 7pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, June 1, 7pm and 9:30pm; Sunday, June 2, 7pm; \$25. 21 and up. Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

Roast Battle Direct from The Hollywood Comedy Store, the OFFICIAL ROAST BATTLE returns to The La Jolla Comedy Store! Two comics go head-to-head for three rounds in a boxing-style no holds barred battle of insults. Wednesday, June 5, 8pm; 21 and up. Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

Samuel Comroe As seen on Conan & America's Got Talent. Thursday, May 30, 8pm; Friday, May 31, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, June 1, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Steve Furey - Friday, May 31, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, June 1, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; \$5-\$40. 18 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Truth in Comedy Truth in Comedy, or TiC for short, is a story-

telling, stand-up comedy, and art show where humanity is the muse. Friday, May 31, 8pm; \$20-\$25. 21 and up. Tenth Avenue Arts Center, 930 Tenth Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Truth in Comedy Truth in Comedy, or TiC for short, is a storytelling, stand-up comedy, and art show where humanity is the muse. Saturday, June 1, 8pm; \$20-\$25. 21 and up. Tenth Avenue Arts Center, 930 Tenth Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

DANCE

Belly Dance Dinner Show Enjoy Persian cuisine and a belly dance show. Saturdays, 7:30pm; through Saturday, December 28, **free**. Shiraz Restaurant, 12125 Alta Carmel Court. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Emerging Choreographers Showcase & Awards San Diego Dance Theater annually seeks newly emerging dance makers to participate in the Emerging Choreographers Showcase & Awards. Sunday, June 2, 6pm; \$15-\$30. Light Box Theater, 2590 Truxtun Rd., Studio 205, Building 176. (LIBERTY STATION)

The Little Mermaid Ballet BalletCenter Studios presents a new ballet, "The Little Mermaid." The two act ballet takes inspiration from the classic tale of "The Little Mermaid," featuring music and

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OUTDOORS

Jacarandas brighten our streets, wild grass, popcorn flower, daylight

Blue-Blossoming Jacaranda Trees are taking a paintbrush to the streets of San Diego. They're a little late this year, but as the warm weather increases, these Brazilian imports will be putting on a dazzling show. Larger jacarandas, which when in full bloom are nearly leafless, display a myriad of delicate, trumpet-shaped blossoms — a lavender haze when seen from a distance. Jacarandas are commonly used as landscaping in parks and on most college campuses. Nice rows of jacarandas grace many of the streets in downtown San



A ROW OF JACARANDAS BLOOM ON THE CORNER OF ROSECRANS AND SHELTER ISLAND DRIVE.

Diego, Rosecrans Boulevard in Point Loma, 25th Street in Golden Hill, and Mission Village Drive above Snapdragon Stadium.

Wild Oats, Foxtails, And Other Non-Native Grasses growing around San Diego have mostly turned gold, but other varieties of wild grass, such as rye, remain green in some areas. Yellow waves of wild mustard continue to put on a good show here and there, especially on the steep slopes and road cuts overlooking several of the local freeways.

Spring Wildflowers May Have Largely Dried Up in most areas of San Diego County, but in the cooler coastal enclaves such as Cabrillo National Monument and Torrey Pines State Reserve, several kinds remain. Look for paintbrush, purple nightshade, coreopsis, sea fig, popcorn flower, and red monkey flower, among others.

Enjoy the Increasing Daylight! By the end of May, we'll have over 14 hours between sunrise and sunset! The days will continue to get longer until the summer solstice on June 21.



CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/JIM MOOREFIELD

PACIFIC POPCORN FLOWER (*PLAGIOBOTHRYSTENELLUS*) BLOOMS FROM MARCH TO MAY AND CAN BE FOUND FROM SEA LEVEL TO 6000 FEET

choreography creatively adapted from the ballet, "Le Corsaire." Friday, May 31, 7pm; Saturday, June 1, 1pm and 5pm; \$30-\$60. Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (ROLANDO)

Trifecta Come celebrate Golden State Ballet's third anniversary with an incredible program of winning contemporary masterworks from the past, present, and future. A not-to-miss event! Sunday, June 2, 2pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Healing the Healers When one person heals, we all heal. Tuesday, June 4, 6:49pm; \$20. 18 and up. Divine Bubble Metaphysical Boutique and Healing Center, 4639 30th Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

SD Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale See succulents and cacti from around the globe and shop unique plants from dozens of plant vendors and local artists. Free admission with early-bird access on Saturday for SDCSS members. Saturday, June 1, 9am; Sunday, June 2, 10am; free. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

FOR KIDS

Cocoa the Tour Dog Featuring Scott Woodruff, Adam Mansbach, Cocoa, and Molly. Tuesday, June 4, 6pm; free. Diesel, A Bookstore, 12843 El Camino Real Suite 104. (DEL MAR)

Kids Fashion Week Model Call Kids Fashion Week Network is casting models for its 4th Runway Show in San Diego. Saturday, June 1, 10:30am; free-\$10. Starlight Dance Studio, 6506 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

Preschool Storybox Storytime Enjoy a Japanese storytelling tradition called kamishibai (kami = paper; shibai = theater). A storyteller stands behind a little wooden theater, also known as a storybox, and reveals a series of illustrations that tell a tale. This program is recommended for ages 3-5. Thursday, May 30, 10:30am; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Puppets in the Park The Puppetry Arts Guild of San Diego presents "Puppets in the Park" This is a free event with Puppets and Puppet Making, Face Painting. Saturday, June 1, 10am; free. Villa Norte Park, 6475 Antigua Boulevard. (TIERRASANTA)

Stump Music School: Friday Nights Live Enjoy a free perfor-

mance with the rock class students from Staump Music School, as well as a rock climbing wall and caricature drawings. There will also be kids' activities. Friday, May 31, 5:30pm; free. Santee Trolley Square Town Center, 9884 Mission Gorge Road. (SANTEE)

Summer Reading Program Kickoff Celebrate the start of summer reading with activities, crafts, community guests, a live performance from Bertrand's music, and a theatrical production from Cygnet Theatre. Saturday, June 1, 10:30am; free. Rancho Penasquitos Library, 13330 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

FUNDRAISERS

San Diego Pride Sprints Second annual Pride Sprints: an inclusive, open lineup 500m dash rowing regatta open to athletes of every age, ability and gender identification. Sunday, June 2, 11am; San Diego Rowing Club on Mission Bay, 1220 El Carmel Place. (PACIFIC BEACH)

LECTURES

Free Lectures Presented by LIFE at Bldg T200 Friday, May 31, 1pm; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

NATURE

Farm Tour Adventure Enjoy educational and historical farm tours with outdoor recreational activities. Farm Tour Activity Package includes: - Farm Animal Visit - Educational & Interactive Reptile Show - Archery - Tomahawk Throwing - 20 paint balls at the Ghost Town Slingshot Range. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, June 30, \$22. Fort Cross Old Timey Adventures, 4425 Highway 78. (SANTA YSABEL)

Guided Nature Walk Join an MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park. The trails used are easy so be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturdays, 9:30am; Sundays, 9:30am; Wednesdays, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

A Day at the Park The Port of San Diego presents a free family-friendly multicultural celebration with performances by local artists and musicians, activities for kids of all ages, and opportunities to shop and eat from your favorite local vendors. On-site parking will be available. Saturday, June 1, 11am; Cesar Chavez Park, 1449 César E. Chávez Parkway. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Bathroom Bazaar Vintage & Used Wares, Local Art, Live Music, Native Herbal Goods, EMF Educations, and Hand-crafted Items. Saturday, June 1, 10am; free. Jacumba Hot Springs Spa & Lodge, 44500 Old Highway 80. (JACUMBA)

Heartfelt Singing Stroll the halls and visit patient rooms, singing uplifting songs to the residents. This is a heartwarming experience and all are welcome. No need for singing experience just a wide open heart. Sundays, 1:30pm; through Sunday, December 15, free. Brookdale Senior Living and Memory Care, 13101 Hartfield Avenue. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Japanese Cultural Bazaar Free Annual Cultural Bazaar with a Silent Auction, Food (Teriyaki Chicken, Chow Mein, Sushi, Tacos, Tofu Salad, Bake goods), Demonstrations, Performances, Cultural Displays, Traditional folk music (Taiko, Shamisen), Games for Kids, and a Beer Garden. Sunday, June 2, 11am; free-\$15. Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

Navy Region Southwest Career Fair This event is your chance to connect with Navy recruiters and explore a variety of roles in Navy civil service. Friday, May 31, 10am; Red Cross San Diego / Imperial County Chapter, 3950 Calle Fortunada. (KEARNY MESA)

North County Career Fair Meet face-to-face with employers, explore job opportunities and even apply on the spot. Don't forget to dress to impress and bring

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A photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, blowing a bubble with gum. The background is a soft-focus field of yellow sunflowers.

copies of your resume. A variety of industries and positions will be available from entry level to skilled, within multiple industries including construction, hospitality, education, social services, and more. Tuesday, June 4, 10:30am; **free.** 18 and up. Escondido Library, 239 South Kalmia Street. (ESCONDIDO)

Paint Drop-off and Giveaway Event At this free one-day paint drop-off event, households and businesses can safely and easily drop off unused paint for recycling. Paint in good condition will be made available to the public for free. Households may bring any amount of paint, stain, and/or varnish. Limits may apply to businesses. Saturday, June 1, 8am; **free.** Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc., 6465 Marindustry Place. (MIRAMAR)

Soulful Saturdays A Community Event Focused on Renewal & Self Care. Saturday, June 1, 4:30pm; \$65-\$100. 21 and up. Hera Hub Carlsbad, 5205 Avenida Encinas, Suite A. (CARLSBAD)

Thank Buddha It's Friday Includes a short silent meditation, light vegetarian meal provided by the temple, followed by a workshop on Single-Minded & Undistracted: Meditation & the Pure Land by Mr. Andrew Nguy. Friday, May 31, 6:30pm; **free.** San Diego Buddhist Association, 4536 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

SPOKEN WORD

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

SPORTS & FITNESS

Padres Watch Party Gather with fellow fans to rally behind the Padres in their showdown against the Kansas City Royals. With giveaways, and a live DJ. Friday, May 31, 5pm; Barleymash, 600 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Growlers vs Seattle Cascades Kids 12 and under get in **free.** Saturday, June 1, 6:30am; Mission Bay High School, 2475 Grand Avenue. (MISSION BEACH)

US Sumo National Championship This event will bring over 100 competitors, ages 4 to 64, from all over the United States to compete. Every competitor who wins first place in their division will represent the United States at the 2024 Sumo World Championship in Poland. Saturday, June 1, 9am; \$10. Lincoln High School, 4777 Imperial Avenue. (LINCOLN PARK)

MOVIES

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, Ryan Brothers, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

Civil War — It's telling that the two war photographers at the center of Alex Garland's story say they have parents back home in the heartland who are pretending that the civil war that is raging right here in the No Longer United States of America (the reasons for it are unclear and unimportant, but maybe the President shouldn't have disbanded the FBI) is not happening. Because if your harrowing images of human conflict and suffering, obtained at great personal risk and even greater personal cost, can't even rouse Mom and Dad to belief — let alone concern, let alone action — well then, what exactly is the status, what exactly is the point, of the media? Why are you wading into the horror — no, not wading, plunging, immersing yourself in the very worst of humanity. We get it, you're good journalists: you're here to get the story, not to take sides. But really, why? Weary Lee (a scowling Kirstin Dunst) isn't quite sure any more, but she's still game to join gung-ho Joel (Wagner Moura) on a mad dash for D.C. in an attempt to interview a President who might just have them shot on sight, since he views journalists as the enemy. (At least Joel is honest about his motivations: com-

bat gets him hard, and even after it hits too close to home, he stays on task.) What Lee didn't count on was bringing newbie Jesse along for the ride (an impossibly tiny Caillee Spaeny); Jesse with her old-school camera and new-kid eagerness. "If I got shot, would you take a picture of it?" she asks, wonderingly. "What do you think?" snaps Lee. Unlike this review, Garland keeps the thinky stuff in the background and concentrates on the brutal, intimate action — like a good war photographer should. (2024) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Evil Does Not Exist — Well, then, what does, Mr. Director? Ryusuke Hamaguchi's followup to *Drive My Car* goes very small to dig very deep. There are precious few events — a girl walking home from school through the woods, a forgetful man doing chores, a contentious community meeting in the country followed by a blunt business meeting in the city, etc. But the scarcity sharpens focus on what is there, makes room for rumination on the careful — methodical, really — presentation of words and pictures. There are answers to my opening question — desire, competition, chance, intention, etc. — but they still leave room for mystery. A quiet, thoughtful, but very ungentle moment in the life of a place that, like all places, threatens to collapse once things become unbalanced. (2024) — M.L. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Furiosa — Just as Tom Hardy's taciturn Max was not the dramatic center of director and co-writer George Miller's hyper-kinetic *Mad Max: Fury Road* — that honor went to Charlize Theron's rebellious Praetorian Furiosa

and her mad quest to find a paradise in the wasteland — so that same Furiosa is not the center of the more reflective but still wildly mobile prequel *Furiosa*. This time, it's Chris Hemsworth's hook-nosed, ambitious and vicious, frequently weird and somewhat less frequently wise gang leader Dr. Dementus who gets the sidelong spotlight. Dementus just wants what's best for his people, even if he himself is doomed to despair, now that the endlessly warring world has taken those he loved and left him with just a stuffed bear for comfort. And what's best for his people, as far as he can tell, is for little captive Furiosa to tell him where he can find her Edenic home — the sort of place where fruit trees still grow, even after humanity has all but wiped the world clean in its mad embrace of violence. Talking of which, Dementus kills Furiosa's mom in an effort to get the location, thus giving our big-eyed heroine her *raison d'être* for much of the rest of the film. But before he can get the girl to talk, he stumbles into the unholy trinity of *Fury Road*'s makeshift civilization — The Citadel, Gastown, and the Bullet Farm — and the mental wheels start turning. Phew! That's a lot of plot just to set the scene — small wonder the thing runs two and a half hours. And yeah, some of that scensetting involves surprisingly clunky special effects/sound work — how exactly do people chat in a sandstorm? But once the gears catch and things get rolling, literally and otherwise, the ride is by turns thrilling and fascinating, a brutal, complicated struggle of conflicting interests and strategies leading to a desert showdown that is...well, a word on that. It's talky, and it slams the action to a halt, and it sounds very much like an authorial statement: Dementus throwing off his

eccentric speech and vocabulary and revealing the dark heart of the Mad Max saga. But it also makes way for a nasty, batty, but strangely redemptive segue into *Fury Road*'s story. Make it epic, indeed. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

I Saw the TV Glow — Jane Schoenbrun's followup to *We're All Going to the World's Fair* has been hailed as a breakthrough cinematic treatment of gender dysphoria. Maybe so, but it's a good enough piece of art to bear multiple interpretations; for your humble correspondent, it played an almost shockingly effective evocation of How Things Felt, back before the internet made cult followings into malignant mobs, and more importantly, back before we — the collective we — put aside childish things and let adulthood take hold. Before the mundane obscured the magical. Maddy and Owen are miserable middle-schoolers; she because Dad is loud and violent, he because Dad is cold and controlling. They bond over and take comfort in watching *The Pink Opaque*, a show that is supposedly for kids, but way too complicated and creepy for that to be true. The show's heroines are up against Mr. Melancholy, a moon man whose chief weapon is self-forgetting. Hardly the enemy of children; more like the enemy of childhood. After the show gets cancelled, Maddy disappears; her reappearance years later forces a reckoning. What she says is impossible; what she asks is terrifying. And yet. Owen says early on that he knows something is wrong with him, and Justice Smith's performance makes that clear. Whether it's anything more than simply being a person is less so. (2024) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)



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IN THEATERS JUNE 14

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PHOTO: KEM JACQUES

Vanity Fair: More like Vanity Unfair, am I right?

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 Ballad of Johnny & June

Love is a burning thing Country music royalty Johnny Cash and June Carter remain to this day one of the most famous couples of the 20th Century. Created with the support of the family and told through the eyes of their son John Carter Cash, this new musical covers it all: their childhoods, their 1956 meeting at the Grand Ole Opry, the storied on-stage proposal in 1968, and the soaring highs and whiplash lows of fame, life on the road, addiction, arrests, controversies, marriage, family and devotion.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 1PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Dr. Glas

Penning by Jeffrey Hatcher based on a Swedish psychological thriller that slowly unravels a life-and-death moral dilemma of passion and all-consuming desire. Obie winner Daniel Gerroll (*The Blacklist*, *Chariots of Fire*) plays the title role.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 7:30PM MONDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM TUESDAY, JUNE 4.

Legally Blonde: The Musical

Elle Woods appears to have it all. Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend Warner dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle ingeniously charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with peers, professors and her ex. With the support of some new friends, though, Elle quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world. Music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe & Nell Benjamin.

SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE, 4650 MERCURY ST., CLAIREMONT. +18585605740. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Mrs. Doubtfire

Based on the film and directed by four-time Tony Award® winner Jerry Zaks, *Mrs. Doubtfire* tells the story of an out-of-work actor who will do anything for his kids. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. +16195701100. 7PM TUESDAY, JUNE 4 & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5.

Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members

Lolita finds herself in the Wall Street office of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board. Like a Boricua Lolita before her, she is here in the name of La Revolución! She's got glamour, glitter, and a gun, but is she really ready? Let the office receptionist lead the way! *Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members* is a hilarious and harrowing drag show about decolonizing places and people. MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620.

858-598-7620.

Pásale Pásale

Get ready to embark on a journey into the heart of the Swap Meet with TuYo Theatre's latest production. "Pásale Pásale" comes back from the sold-out workshop in the 2024 La Jolla Playhouse W.O.W. Festival and joins TuYo Theatre's record of successful immersive plays like "On Her Shoulders We Stand", illuminating the contributions of Latinas during WW2 in San Diego, and "Las Cuatro Milpas", celebrating the iconic Barrio Logan restaurant. Set against the backdrop of the bustling Bayfront Swap Meet, "Pásale Pásale" transports audiences into a vibrant world where laughter, music, and solidarity reign supreme. When Señor Muchacosas decides to raise vendors' fees, a wave of anxiety sweeps through those already struggling to make ends meet. However, amidst the uncertainty, audiences become active participants in the journey towards self-determination, standing in solidarity with the vendors as they navigate the challenges ahead. BAYFRONT CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL, 830 BAY BL., CHULA VISTA. 6:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Stark Truth Of Humanity

A collection of six plays written by Thomas J. Misuraca. This curated selection, chosen from a collection of over 150 of his short plays, will engage audiences with thought-provoking tales of human behavior and the underlying motivations we aim to disguise from ourselves and from others. This show aspires to promote conversation, contemplation and transformation through humor, drama and tragedy, as well as answer the question: Are we really all that different? TRINITY THEATRE COMPANY, 1640 CAMINO DEL RIO NORTH SUITE 129, MISSION VALLEY. 7PM FRIDAYS &

SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

TL;DR: Thelma-Louise; Dyke Remix

T and L drive their 1966 Ford Thunderbird Convertible off the edge of the Grand Canyon. Suspended in mid air, the two discover their authentic selves and embark on a queer odyssey that defies conventions and dares to ask: "Why do strong female characters always gotta die?" Aided by a kick-ass Riot Grrrrr band, T and L attempt to sort out their new identities, how those identities impact their relationships with each other, and seek out the gay happy ending they've always deserved. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820.

Vanity Fair by Kate Hamill

There are many tensions in Kate Hamill's adaptation of William Makepeace Thackeray's novel of amorality and ambition in 19th-century English society, some of them fruitful, some of them less so.

Fruitful: the "we are not so different, you and I" drama between lowborn Becky Sharp and highborn Amelia Sedley, emphasized by the way they frequently manage to utter the same line at the same time but in different situations and from different parts of the stage. Less so: the hard lean toward comedy on the part of the largely capable cast (in scenes that might be played as serious or even sad) vs. the Manager's sardonic harangues, which are aimed squarely the audience. She's full of talk about the false glory of war, the immutable cycle of history, and the illusion of morality — "nobody's good or bad really, we're all just trying to get along" — to the point where we might justly wonder why we're supposed to care about the goings-on onstage. (She's ready for that, accusing us throughout of being bored and eager to leave and/or falling asleep, but going meta doesn't help add meaning.)

Fruitful: highlighting the fact that while morals may change, the clash of character and circumstance will always produce drama, both in the soul and society. (A repeated refrain: "All the choices you made, would you make them again?") Less so: highlighting the passage of time with bits of modern dance-pop and strange protests against being judged.

Moving on to the production: Scripps makes do in fine fashion with its seven actors, all but two of whom play multiple roles, and Alyssa Anne Austin has the charisma to make Becky's rise believable. Special note should be made of Marcene Drysdale's costumes, which do good work delineating the character changes, and look great to boot. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

LARRY & JOE

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blurt the inside track

San Diego's other Symphony DJ Symphony, official tour DJ for Wu-Tang Clan, was born in New Jersey and raised in New York City, but now calls San Diego home. He became a DJ at nine, "many years ago, almost four decades, just

it was with Rae and Ghostface Killah. Then I was doing Wu legend tours with Cappadonna, GZA, Rae, Ghost, and Method Man."

Symphony ended up signing a full deal with GZA, where he's remained for thirteen years. "Once you get



DJ Symphony made his mark; now he's looking to share his skills.

about thirty-eight years. I wasn't good at anything. I tried every sport: baseball, football, and even boxing. I hated school and wasn't good at math." His late brother DJ Kashief, who taught Symphony how to DJ for his rap group, passed away in September 2000. "I was just too young to be a part of it, so my mom made them give me the role of the DJ. Without turntables, because we were poor." He had to pretend to DJ without equipment, until his mother bought him a cheap deck.

DJ Symphony has been playing with members from Wu-Tang Clan for close to twenty years. "Back in those days, it wasn't like it is now, about instant gratification. You had to be really doing something." He'd already been a DJ mixer for an overnight radio show at 102.5 KSFM in Sacramento, as well as DJing for Raz-B and B2K. Wu-Tang co-founder Raekwon was the first to sign him. "I was with Rae for many years. Then from Raekwon, I went to Ghostface Killah. From there,

to Wu Tang, you really don't want to do anything outside of that, because you're focused on building a brand within a brand. I put everything else aside and just toured the world full time. That's how I made my staple in that group. I did countless tours, countless shows, and been everywhere in the world with Wu Tang artists."

His good friend Faizon Love, the actor who played Big Worm in the movie *Friday*, is a San Diegan, and encouraged Symphony to relocate. He made the move from Sacramento to San Diego in 2022. "Going into my forties, I realized I love water. Every time I was performing in San Diego with Wu-Tang and members of Wu-Tang, I fell in love with the place. Come on, you come across the Coronado Bridge, bro, it's a sight in itself. Me living in other places, I've never seen a place like San Diego."

DJ Symphony recently released his first studio album, *Bigger Than Music*. He didn't want it limited to digital-only platforms, so he pressed a small vinyl run. "I

made the album for me to have something for my two daughters, so they could see some of my accomplishments. It was also on my bucket list to hear myself on my own vinyl. I could have had one copy of that, and would have been grateful and satisfied."

His current day job is lead instructor for Cuts DJ Academy in Kearny Mesa. He teaches a curriculum in music production, a kids music camp for ages 10 through 17, and a DJ certification program for ages 18 and over. Students learn how to DJ for a certain amount of time, and when they get good enough, they're enrolled in a job placement program that gets them in front of audiences. "Once graduated, we push them into the job field so they can start earning money as a DJ. I remember learning how to be a DJ, there was never an outlet to be a DJ. You could be a DJ and have nowhere to spin. It's a good thing to have a DJ academy to send the graduates to work when they finish. That gives them

incentive and something to look forward to." (They also offer DJ Date Night, where couples can come together and learn how to work the turntables together.)

Another upcoming effort is a collaboration with R&B performer Kayla Ramos on project they call *Butterflies*. Symphony would also like to get involved with rock music; he says that he wants to work with local tribute act Fleetwood Max sometime in the future. "I go to a lot of venues and like to watch rock bands. I'm heavy into drums and live rock bands. 'Dago got a lot of undiscovered good talent. Since I'm here now, I might as well share my knowledge with as many people as possible. My brain is loaded with information. I've seen things nobody will ever see. Why not teach and share some of the knowledge before I leave this Earth?"

— Gabriel Garcia

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Aztec Brewing Company:
Sunday, 6pm — Aztec Jazz Jam. Free.

Baker-Baum Concert Hall:
Sunday, 3pm & 6:30pm — San Diego Children's Choir Spring Concert.

Balboa Theatre:
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Mandy Patinkin: Being Alive. \$50-\$150.

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
Friday, 6pm — Orion Song.
Saturday, 6pm — Mike Myrdal.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Yard Act.
Friday, 8:30pm — The Spazmatics.
Saturday, 8pm — No DuH.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Never Die Young.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Something Wonderful.

Books & Records:
Friday, 7pm — Carter Key. Free.

Brick by Brick:
Friday, 10pm — Blinding Lights: The Weeknd Dance Party. \$25.
Saturday, 10pm — Friki: Karol G + FELD Dance Party. \$25.
Sunday, 7:30pm — GRLwood. \$20-\$25.
Tuesday, 7pm — Outline in Color, Nightlife, FOXCULT. \$16-\$20.

Cannonball:
Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.
Tuesday, 5pm — Kai Kalama.

Casbah:
Thursday, 8pm — Blackwater Holylight and Early Moods. \$22.
Friday, 7:30pm — Lee Ving's Range War. \$25.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Zeros '77 and Poison Hearts A.C. \$15.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Blitzkid and Dark Ride.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — CVBZ, Sayak Das, Moxxy. \$20.

Clementine McDuff Elks Lodge #598:
Saturday, 7pm — Chitlin' Circuit Blues & R Jamm. \$15.

Cordova Bar:
Saturday, 9pm — Froth Club Disco.

Duke's La Jolla:
Friday, 3pm — Russell Paihiniui.
Sunday, 4pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

Epstein Family Amphitheater:
Friday, 8pm — Yachtley Crew. Free.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
Saturday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.
Sunday, 4pm — David Rosales.

Farmer & the Seahorse:
Saturday, 11am — David Shyde.

First United Methodist Church of San Diego:
Saturday, 4pm — Life & Water Vocal Recital. Free.
Saturday, 7pm — Stage & Screen.

Five Suits Brewing:
Friday, 7pm — Into The Void. Free.

Ginger's:
Thursday, 9pm — Emo Karaoke.

Golden Island:
Friday, 6pm — The Garners. Free.

Holding Company:
Sunday, 5:30pm — Inspectah Deck. \$30-\$40.

House of Blues:
Thursday, 7pm — Maldita Vecindad.
Thursday, 7:30pm — Mind's Eye and Friko.
Friday, 7:30pm — Colby Acuff.
Friday, 7:30pm — Monsieur Perine.
Saturday, 9pm — Electric Feels.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Ionnalee.
Tuesday, 7pm — The Jins.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Friday, 8:30pm — I-90. \$15.

Humphreys by the Bay:
Friday, 7:30pm — Xavier Rudd.

JAI at the Conrad:
Saturday, 6pm & 8:30pm — Larry & Joe.

Jacumba Hot Springs Spa & Lodge:
Saturday, 10am — Damian & Marion Bowles Band.

Ki's Restaurant:
Friday, 6pm — Folkloric. Free.

L'Auberge Del Mar:
Thursday, 5pm — Marelle.
Friday, 7pm — Farrah Camu.
Sunday, 11am — Helena Holleran.
Wednesday, 5pm — Christian Taylor.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, 5:30pm — Shea Givens.
Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, 6pm — Helena Holleran.
Sunday, 11am — Jemille Violet.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:
Friday, 7pm — Jesse Johnson.
Saturday, 7pm — Jolene Cruz.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Chiquis.

Mission Bay Resort:
Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, 6pm — Jesse Johnson.
Sunday, 6pm — Israel Maldonado.
Tuesday, 6pm — David Shyde.
Wednesday, 6pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8:30pm — The Father The Son Country Band.
Friday, 8:30pm — The Jagerbombs.
Saturday, 8:30pm — Bonneville 7.

Music Box:
Thursday, 7:30pm — The Chameleons.
Friday, 7:30pm — Psychedelic Porn Crumpets.
Saturday, 8pm — Los Cafres.
Wednesday, 8pm — Kalimba Acoustic Show.

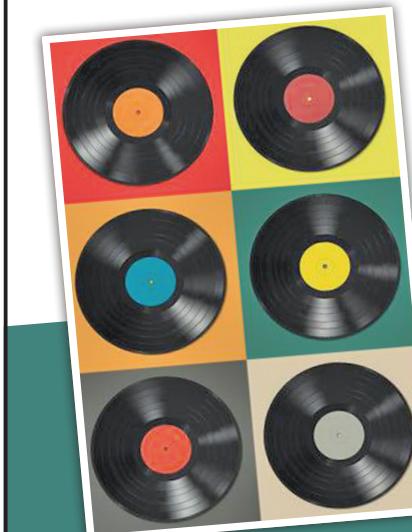
Navajo Live:
Friday, 8pm — Ass Pocket Whiskey Fellas and Manzanita Blues. \$6-\$10.
Sunday, 7:30pm — The 524. \$5-\$7.

North Park Mini Park:
Friday, 4pm, Saturday, 12pm — North Park Music Festival. \$45-\$60.

Observatory North Park:
Friday, 7:30pm — Sophie Ellis-Bextor.

Old Poway Park:
Saturday, 10am — Sam Hinton Folk Heritage Festival. Free.

Pechanga Resort & Casino:
Sunday, 7:30pm — Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez.



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NORTH PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL at North Park Mini Park | MAY 31 AND JUNE 1



Music Beyond Borders presents the North Park Music Festival, featuring the contemporary blues of Fantastic Negrito and TJ's Parque de Cometas. The highlight of the outdoor event will be a reunion of local glam rock stars Louis XIV, known for early 2000s radio hits such as "Finding Out True Love Is Blind" and "God Killed the Queen," as well as music videos like the R-rated "Paper Doll."

SAM HINTON FOLK HERITAGE FESTIVAL at Old Poway Park | JUNE 1



The Sam Hinton Folk Heritage Festival includes storytelling in the Porter House and jam sessions all over Poway Park. Performers include kids' music duo Hullabaloo, as well as Marilyn McPhie, MohaviSoul, Scarborough (Simon and Garfunkel songs done by Ashley Norton and Sharon Katz), Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi, the Lee Coulter Band, and Billy Lee & the Swamp Critters.

MIDNIGHT TRACK at Tower Bar | JUNE 1



"We are a Brazilian/American band," says Henrique Scapini Tubino, aka Ricky Scapini of Midnight Track. "We play punk rock music with influences from ska and reggae." Midnight Track will play their farewell concert at the Tower Bar, where they been headlining regularly for nearly a decade. The bill includes Making Incredible Time, Abortz, and Punch Card.

JEMILLE VIALET at La Valencia Hotel | JUNE 2



Originally based in the Virgin Islands before relocating to San Diego, singer-pianist Jemille Vialet specializes in lounge and beach vibe music, with a variety show repertoire that covers everything from pop and top 40 to R&B, reggae, and soul. He's become a regular presence at local restaurants, resorts, weddings, and corporate events.

OUTLINE IN COLOR at Brick By Brick | JUNE 4



Post-hardcore rockers Outline In Color formed in Tulsa, Oklahoma circa 2009. Through various lineup shifts and reunions, they've released three EPs and five albums, garnering a cult following along the way for their loud and rowdy stage show and occasional song hooks that have landed them on the *Billboard* charts three times. Also appearing will be Sleep It Off, Nightlife, and FoxCult.

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<p>TUE. JUN. 4</p> <p>OUTLINE IN COLOR Nightlife, Foxcult, Sleep It Off</p>	<p>THU. JUN. 6</p> <p>SCALP Auditory Anguish, Provoke, Serenity, Madrugado</p>	<p>FRI. JUN. 7</p> <p>MYTHRAEUM Donella Drive, Cerúlean, Temblad, Fistfights With Wolves</p>
<p>SAT. JUN. 8</p> <p>NECROT BAT, Street Tombs, Mortal Wound</p>	<p>SUN. JUN. 9</p> <p>CONTORTION Whispers of Torment, Godhammered, Theosis</p>	<p>TUE. JUN. 11</p> <p>HOODS Brick By Brick, SAWD, No Luck</p>
<p>THU. JUN. 13</p> <p>GLASSING Knumears, Old Gods</p>	<p>FRI. JUN. 14</p> <p>ILL NINO Flaw, A Killer's Confession, The Crowned</p>	<p>SAT. JUN. 15</p> <p>SPITER Desolus, New Skeletal Faces, Chain Wolf</p>
<p>WED. JUN. 19</p> <p>PLANET B Kent Osborne</p>	<p>SAT. JUN. 22</p> <p>WACKEN METAL BATTLE - NATIONAL FINALS Cascade Effect, Father Wolf, Versipul, Prime Prophecy, WarTroll, Fadrait</p>	<p>TUE. JUN. 25</p> <p>DEATH TO ALL Cryptopsy, Aggression</p>

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Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier:
Saturday, 6pm — ThrowBack Festival: Freestyle on the Pier.

Quartyard:
Sunday, 7:30pm — Flamingosis & the Bodega Groove Collective.

Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Cody Jinks and Blackberry Smoke.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Sarah McLachlan and Feist.

San Diego Oasis at Rancho Bernardo:
Saturday, 4pm, Sunday, 1pm — SD Harmonics Choraie: Listen to the Music. \$25.

San Pasqual Wine Bar and Gallery:
Saturday, 7pm — 8 East Band. Free.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 7:30pm — BabyJake.
Friday, 7pm — From Indian Lakes.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Moon Panda and Caravan.
Sunday, 7:30pm — The Umbrellas.
Monday, 7pm — Beach Vacation and Foliage.
Tuesday, 7pm — Trauma Ray.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Breathing Effect.

Soma:
Friday, 7:30pm — Queef Jerky.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Sean Paul.

Sound:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Tokischa.

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:
Saturday, 4pm & 8pm — The Rockin' Revival.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:
Friday, 8pm — Lisa Lisa.

TERI Campus Of Life:
Saturday, 8pm — Gregory Page Concert. \$25.

Thornton Winery:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Damien Escobar and Adam Hawley.

Tower Bar:
Saturday, 8pm — Midnight Track Farewell Show.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, 9pm — The Higgs and Shambala. \$15.

Balboa Theatre:
June 8 — Joshua Guerrero & Andrea Carroll
June 21 — Justin Hayward

The Bancroft:
June 12 — MC Chris and Crunk Witch

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
June 8 — Christian Taylor
June 22 — Blaise Guld

Beach House Grill:
June 8 — Parliament Funkadelic
June 15 — Will Clarke
June 21 — Defected San Diego

Bellamy's Restaurant:
June 6 — Alice Wallace
June 8 — Andrew Peña

Belly Up Tavern:
June 6 — Sabrosas Latin Orchestra
June 7 — Strangelove: The Depeche Mode Experience
June 8 — Fan Halen and Livin' On A Prayer
June 9 — Kamasi Washington
June 11 — The Routine & Monette Marino Keita Band
June 12 — Ambrosia
June 13 — Mike Gordon
June 14 — WITCH (W.I.T.C.H.) and Scientist
June 15 — Wayward Sons
June 16 — Cowboy Junkies
June 17 — Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio
June 18 — The Steely Damned 2
June 19 — Matthew Phillips and Lioneer
June 20 — Third World
June 21 — Saved By The 90 and Radio Thieves
June 23 — Al Stewart

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June 18 — The Steely Damned 2
June 19 — Matthew Phillips and Lioneer
June 20 — Third World
June 21 — Saved By The 90 and Radio Thieves
June 23 — Al Stewart

The Brick Hotel:
June 22 — Red & Ted

Brick by Brick:
June 6 — Scalp, Auditory Anguish, Provoke
June 7 — Mythraeum Album Release
June 8 — Necrot and BAT
June 9 — Contortion and Whispers of Torment
June 11 — Hoods, SAWD, No Luck
June 13 — Glassing, Knumears, Old Gods
June 14 — Ill Niño 25th Anniversary Tour
June 15 — Spiter and Desolus
June 19 — Planet B and Kent Osborne
June 22 — Wacken Metal Battle National Finals

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
June 14 — Old Crow Medicine Show

Cannonball:
June 6 — Ben Benavente
June 18 — Mike Myrdal

The Casbah:
June 6 — The Coronas
June 7 — JUUUUU and Wild Wild Wets
June 8 — Daring Greatly and Kings of Karma
June 9 — Kacy Hill
June 10 — Whores and Venus Twins
June 11 — King Thieves and Strawberry Jam
June 12 — Angel Du\$ and End It
June 13 — Tyler Halverson
June 14 — French Cassettes
June 15 — The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band
June 16 — Chest Fever
June 17 — The Suede Grenades and The Film Company
June 18 — Davila 666, DFMK, Junkys
June 19 — Open Oscillator #45
June 20 — Justin John Rodriguez and Sutton James
June 21 — Emo Nite
June 22 — Very Be Careful and Ritmos Tropicosos
June 23 — The Dollyrots and Go Betty Go

Del Mar Fairgrounds:
June 12 — Kolohe Kai
June 13 — Old Dominion
June 14 — TLC
June 16 — Pepe Aguilar
June 19 — Whiskey Myers
June 23 — Pancho Barraza

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
June 6 — Dead Heads Night
June 10 — Bluegrass Jam
June 11 — SD Jazz Collective
June 20 — Keep On Duckin'
June 23 — Sunday Bluegrass Jam

Epstein Family Amphitheater:
June 20, June 22, June 27, June 29 — Mainly Mozart All-Star Orchestra Festival

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
June 7 — Jesse Johnson
June 9 — Farrah Camu
June 10 — Helena Holleran
June 11 — Rachel Jay
June 13 — Blaise Guld
June 15 — Johnny Martin
June 16 — Israel Maldonado
June 17 — Andrew Peña
June 21 — David Shyde
June 23 — Jason Graham

Farmer & the Seahorse:
June 8 — Alex Elisabeth
June 9 — Johnny Martin
June 15 — Mike Myrdal
June 16 — Kinnie Dye
June 22 — Jonny Tarr

Farmer & the Seahorse:
June 8 — Alex Elisabeth
June 9 — Johnny Martin
June 15 — Mike Myrdal
June 16 — Kinnie Dye
June 22 — Jonny Tarr

First Presbyterian Church Chapel:
June 9, June 16 — Jazz Vespers

Golden Island:
June 7 — Mikan Zlatkovich Quartet
June 21 — The Grinnells

Grossmont College:
June 7-8 — Sing Out! Loud and Proud!

Harrah's Resort Southern California:
June 15 — Walker Hayes
June 16 — Tesla

The Holding Company:
June 6 — Artillery and War

Curse
June 7 — Tea Leaf Green
June 8 — Sweet Revenge: My Chemical Romance Tribute
June 12 — Immortal Technique
June 13 — Mc Eiht and Graft

House of Blues:
June 6 — Bug Hunter And The Narcissist Cookbook
June 6 — From Ashes To New
June 7 — In The End: Linkin Park Tribute
June 8 — SPITE and Bodysnatcher
June 8 — Peach Tree Rascals
June 9 — Weapons of Mass Creation
June 10 — Led Zeppelin 2
June 11 — Oliver Hazard
June 14 — Half Past Two
June 14 — Mystery Skulls
June 16 — D. Savage
June 20 — Teethe
June 20 — Jose Madero
June 21 — Hot Water Music and Quicksand
June 23 — Mad Tsai

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
June 8 — Totally 80 Band

Humphreys by the Bay:
June 19 — The Movement

JAI at the Conrad:
June 9 — The Charles McPherson Quintet

The Jazz Lounge:
June 16 — Molly Miller Trio

L'Auberge Del Mar:
June 6 — Farrah Camu
June 7 — Joanna Gerolaga
June 8 — Marelle
June 9 — Helena Holleran
June 12 — Rachel Jay
June 13 — Orion Song
June 14 — Jemille Violet
June 15 — Gabriele Dagrezo
June 19 — Marelle
June 20 — David Shyde
June 22 — Jesse Johnson
June 23 — Jeff Brinkman

La Jolla Community Center:
June 14 — Münir Beken: The Soul of Turkish Music

UPCOMING SHOWS

Alejandra's Fine Mexican Food & Cantina:
June 7, June 14 — Robert Chini

Arrowood Golf Course:
June 7 — West of 5

Aztec Brewing Company:
June 16 — Aztec Jazz Jam

Baba Coffee:
June 7, June 14 — The Soto Six

Baker-Baum Concert Hall:
June 7 — Chris Thile
June 12 — Alison Brown and the Alison Brown Quintet
June 15 — A New World: intimate music from FINAL FANTASY
June 23 — Mainly Mozart All-Star Orchestra Festival

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Fri - June 7
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Francis Blume • Alex Bergan
SAT - JUNE 8
LOVE HANGOVER
Mon - June 10
OPEN VINYL DJ NIGHT
Wed - June 12
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Daybenders • Ski Club • Aristotote Jones
Thurs - June 13
TEMPLE OF MERCY
In a Darkened Room • Mood of a Sinner
Fri - June 14
NEVER COME DOWN
Plus Special Guests
Sat - June 15
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Thurs - June 20
SLAPPIN' HANDS
with Ric Scales
Fri - June 21
SCIENCE IN NATURE
Hexa • Cruelties • Problems

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AMBER WILD
Thu 5/30 @ Casbah
BLACKWATER HOLYLIGHT
EARLY MOODS • FRANCIS ROBERTS
Thu 5/30 @ SOB Voodoo Room
MIND'S EYE
FRIKO
Fri 5/31 @ Soda
FROM INDIAN LAKES
KING OF HECK
Fri 5/31 @ SOMA
QUEEF JERKY
LENNY ZEN
Sat 6/1 @ Soda
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THE GONZO REPORT

Youth is a force

Rock and roll is alive and well at the Music Box

“Use the force, young Skywalker” reads the note attached to the mixing board at Little Italy’s Music Box. Jedi hijinks might help to explain the flow at Commotion Explosion, which sees several bands taking the stage at Youth Arts Academy’s annual rock concert fundraiser. “Youth” here is broad enough to encompass performers ranging from 18 years of age to under 10 — and all the energy that emanates from them. Impossible to contain, it can only be directed and temporarily corralled, lest mayhem ensue. But the instructors make it look easy — most of the time.

Interviewing Ryan Steele, bass player for Sound Wave, I ask him how he emulates Mike Dirnt’s distinctive pick sound on Green

Day songs — playing with his fingers and he moving them in a plucking motion. He replies, “Index finger and middle finger,” a direct answer to a stupid question. I later see and hear him demonstrate what he means onstage. No muted tones, the notes clean and distinct, capturing Dirnt’s midranges more than effectively. I’m impressed: it’s not just the group’s ability to nail the individual pieces that registers on the cool-o-meter. It’s their willingness to play songs using instruments not heard on the original tracks, like Nate Taylor’s piano work on Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit.” It works because all the musicians and their instruments agree on a higher level, one accessible only to bandmates who share a common vision that it will.

Spyder-Head opens the show, with singer-guitarist Isabella Slack doing songs that I thought were originals. She tells me later that she was covering bands like Turnstile and some others I haven’t heard of much. (That



Spyder-Head heads up Youth Arts Academy’s Commotion Explosion

echoes Metallica’s MO: when they didn’t have enough songs for a full set, they’d cover Diamond Head, and people thought the songs were originals.) Interviewing Slack is refreshing, because she’s so grounded. She says her biggest influence is her dad, who got her into classic rock and guitar.

Each band brings their own taste to the stage and molds it to their own styles. The evening features all covers, except for “Revenge” by The Illiterate Vamplifier Club. It was perhaps easy to predict that a Red Hot

Chili Peppers song would make an appearance, but I never could have guessed it would be a deep cut like “Warlocks,” played by the band Carbon. Guitarist Christopher Combs names Eddie Van Halen as his biggest influence, and says that solos are his favorite thing to play, so I’m unprepared for their rendition of Black Sabbath’s “War Pigs,” which is more of a dirge than a flash of guitar pyrotechnics. Combs and the rest of the band serve up the material in a slightly abbreviated version and own it uniquely. No mean feat to impress a Sabbath apostle such as myself, and only my growling stomach stops me from smiling.

About that growl: I did some culinary recon, checking out the menu before I arrived, and found that The Music Box offers a divine marriage of my two favorite foods: burritos and ramen. Yep, a tortilla with meat and ramen in it! But alas: my salivating mouth dries up in an anti-Pavlovian response when a staff member tells me today’s daytime menu is limited, and that item is not available. Inspired by the note about the force on the mixing board, I try to psychically will him to make the morsel available. But all he sees is me staring at him with a stupid look, and he just stares back with a blank one.

continued on page 24

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June 7 — Gabito Ballesteros
June 8 — Which One's Pink

Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD:

June 8-9 — La Jolla Symphony & Chorus: Time Present & Time Past

Mission Trails Church:

June 9 — StuckyLeigh

Moonlight Amphitheatre in Brengle Terrace Park:

June 27 — ABBA-MANIA
June 28 — Chicago Nights starring Jason Scheff
June 29 — The Midtown Men

Moonlight Beach:

June 15 — Switchfoot Bro-Am Beach Fest

Moonshine Beach:

June 7 — Whitey Morgan

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

June 6 — Brenda Gail
June 7 — Steal Dawn
June 8 — 80 Nation
June 9 — Jazz Jam

Museum of Making Music:

June 21 — Make Music Day
June 21 — OkCello

Music Box:

June 6 — Gingsu and Sugar Pit
June 7 — The TS Dance Party
June 8 — The Raveonettes
June 9 — Maybe I'm Amazed & Laurence Juber
June 13 — Vision Video
June 14 — The Soul Rebels and Seun Kuti
June 15 — Bunt
June 16 — Rebel Star Tribute to David Bowie
June 19 — Jeff Bernat
June 20 — Melt-Banana and Babybaby Explores
June 22 — Dead Man's Party

My Yard Live:

June 23 — The Ingredients

North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre:

June 6 — Janet Jackson and Nelly
June 8 — Caifanes and Cafe Tacvba
June 18 — Noah Kahan
June 21 — Third Eye Blind and Yellowcard

Nova SD:

June 7 — Valentino Khan
June 8 — Kaskade

Observatory North Park:

June 10 — Echo & The Bunnymen
June 19 — Hobo Johnson & The Lovemakers

Old Town Blues Club:

June 15 — West of 5

Omni La Costa Resort and Spa:

June 8 — Live from La Costa: Michael Lington & Steve Oliver
June 15 — Live from La Costa: Jessy J & Paul Brown

Open Air Theatre:

June 8 — Tedeschi Trucks Band and Little Feat
June 10 — Vampire Weekend
June 14 — Brit Floyd
June 16 — Daryl Hall and Elvis Costello & The Imposters

Oxford Social Club:

June 6 — DJ Shadowman
June 7 — Sophisticated Fridays with DJ Lucky Lou
June 8 — DJ Skratchy
June 13 — DJ Beatnick
June 14 — Sophisticated Fridays with Cutswell
June 15 — DJ Bamboozle

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

A great concert marred by mics

Felix Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* was an instant classic from the moment its lyrical first phrase was first intoned on March 13, 1845 by Ferdinand David. On Saturday, May 18, 23-year-old violinist Daniel Lozakovich performed the Mendelssohn with The San Diego Symphony Orchestra. Rafael Payare conducted.

Despite his youth, Lozakovich is a seasoned veteran of the world stage. He signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon when he was 15. His experience was evident in the maturity of his playing. The famous opening movement was nothing short of delightful. The second movement was exquisite, and the third movement's *vivace* conclusion had a little extra *viva* in its *vace*.

The remainder of the

concert was given to Act I of Richard Wagner's *Die Walküre*. I loved every single minute of it — once I resigned myself to the fact that there would be no Wagnerian singing on this evening. The singers — soprano Jennifer Holloway, tenor Viktor Antipenko, and bass Peter Rose — were mic'd far too closely for comfort. I still don't know what their voices actually sound like.

Viktor Antipenko had the same habit of coming off his voice that I've heard over and over again from tenors in operatic roles. I can give him a pass in this case because of the microphone, but had we been in a theater or a concert hall, it would have been absolutely unacceptable — and doubly so because it was only the first act.

I will say this here (and now but I don't necessarily have Mr. Anitpenko in mind): if a singer cannot sing the entire role on their voice — *aka* with the air being compressed — they have no business singing the role at all. I've heard it at LA Opera, at The Met, and at San Diego Opera. It would appear that opera has become so difficult in the 21st Century that singers find it necessary to only sing sections of a role, as opposed to what the composer wrote and how generations of singers have previously performed it.

As I said, once I resigned myself to the facts of the singing, I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. I was moved to tears as Antipenko, in the role of Siegmund, called out in despair for his father Wälse. Likewise, when Jennifer Hol-



When you have immersed yourself in Wagner, nothing hits harder.

loway, as Sieglinde, named him Siegmund.

When you have immersed yourself in Wagner and done the work necessary to understand that the massive holes in the action are being specifically filled in by the orchestra, nothing hits harder. Nothing. Not the Super Bowl, not the Throne Room scene from *Star Wars*, not "My name is Maximus Decimus Meridius, commander of the Armies of the North, General of the Felix Legions and loyal

servant to the true emperor, Marcus Aurelius. Father to a murdered son. Husband to a murdered wife. And I will have my vengeance, in this life or the next."

I will admit that I dragged myself to this concert in a state of lethargy. However, when it was over, I was buzzing. I even jogged back to my car, which was parked about a mile away because the concert was at The Shell.

All in all, this was one of the best concerts I've experienced in San Diego.

Classical Music this week

Bruce Liu Born in Paris to Chinese parents, Bruce Liu grew up in Montreal, and took the classical music world by storm in 2021 when he won the First Prize at the 18th Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw. Performances around the globe followed, as well as an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche

Grammophon. Friday, May 31, 7:30pm; Baker-Baum Concert Hall, 7600 Fay Avenue.

Le Salon De Musiques Program, introduced by musicologist Kristi Brown-Montesano: F. Chopin: Polonaise Brillante in C Major Op 3 for Cello and Piano; A. Foote: Piano Trio No. 1 in C

Minor Op 5 U.S. premiere; A. Dvorak: Piano Trio No. 4 IN E Minor Op 90 "Dumky." Performed by: The Darhsan Trio: Vijay Gupta, violin; Yoshkia Masuda, cello; Dominic Celli, piano. Sunday, June 2, 4pm; \$45-\$95. La Jolla Woman's Club, 7791 Draper Avenue.

SACRA/PROFANA: A Space to Belong Presenting the World Premiere of *All We Need: Meditations on Queer Being* by composer Cory Hibbs. Devised as a season-long collaborative project, this stirring new piece is a multi-movement choral work drawing from the personal narratives of the composer,

choir members, and members of the queer community, exploring the significance of safe spaces to the survival of any marginalized community. Saturday, June 1, 7pm; \$10-\$35. St. Paul's Cathedral & Episcopal Church, 2728 Sixth Avenue.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Panama 66:

June 13 — Uptown Rhythm Makers

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

June 21 — Reik
June 22 — Tito Double P: The Belishow

Pechanga Resort & Casino:

June 30 — Hauser

Petco Park:

June 9 — Mother Mother and Cavetown
June 19 — Kaleo and Neal Francis

The Quartyard:

June 9 — Lee Burridge

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:

June 21 — Kool & the Gang
June 22-23 — San Diego Smooth Jazz Festival

Ramona Mainstage

Nightclub:
June 14 — Jesse Dayton

Rustic Root:

June 18 — David Shyde

San Diego Civic Theatre:

June 15-16 — Edición Especial
June 21 — Intocable

Soda Bar:

June 6 — Pijama Piyama and Puerto

June 7 — Xana

June 8 — Death Cab For Karaoke

June 9 — Blu, Kahlee, 60 East

June 10 — Christopher Paul

June 11 — Aly Rowell and Ben Parks

June 12 — Habibi

June 14 — Dent May

June 15 — Ok Goodnight and Challenger Deep

June 16 — Omni

June 17 — Scout Gillette and Globelamp

June 19 — Anna Tivel

June 20 — Kate Yeager

June 22 — Semi-Charmed Kinda Night: 90 Party

June 23 — Twin Oaks and The Lylacs

Soma:

June 8 — Ocean Alley

June 9 — Joyner Lucas

June 11 — Frank Turner and Amigo the Devil

June 12 — Madison Beer and Upsahl

June 21 — PartyNextDoor

The Sound:

June 15 — Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:

June 18-19 — Twilight in the Park Free Concert Series

Sycuan Live & Up Close

Theatre:
June 15 — The Jets, Ross from Blue Magic & Dessa

June 20 — Lanco at the River

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:

June 7 — Clinton Davis

Stringband

The Tower Bar:

June 9 — Aquarian Blood and Spit Vipers

Viejas Arena:

June 6 — NF
June 20-21 — Fuerza Regida

Villa Montezuma Museum:

June 17 — Songs of the East: At the Villa

Waterbar:

June 6 — Ryan Hiller
June 20 — Ben Benavente

Waterfront Park:

June 22-23 — Horizon '24

Winstons Beach Club:

June 6 — Kyle Rising and Ace Monroe
June 10 — Electric Waste Band
June 11 — The Fourth Section
June 14 — Forreggae Party

THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 23

I settle for barbecue wings and get back to the show. The performers get less apprehensive as the day goes on, dancing and moving in ways that choreography could never envision. It's a natural expression of

musicality beyond the basic facts of their instruments. A version of Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now" brings the smile back to my face and starts a wave of audience members dancing in their chairs. And while my Jedi mind trick failed to make a ramen burrito materialize, I have time on my side. I hear Master Yoda's voice in my head, "Always in motion is the future." I can just come back in the evening.

There's a lot of talk about

how "rock is dead," talk that can be traced back to the lack of money it generates, and the delusion that a seven-figure investment is needed to break a band through to international status. Naysayers predict the future with less accuracy than a Magic 8 Ball, and with only slightly more veracity than a tweaker *with* an eightball. This afternoon, I have seen the present, and it looks to me like rock and roll is alive and well. ■

Meatless marvel

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit SDReader.com/feast

La Mesa Pizzaworks wins with phony pepperoni

La Mesa Pizzaworks, 7406 University Ave., La Mesa. "Why is our pepperoni so bright red?" asks one of the boys, eyeing his pizza.

"What kind did you get?" asks the other, eyeing ours.

Ours is a spicy Hawaiian, topped by pineapple and serrano peppers. There would typically be ham (or Canadian Bacon), but not in this case, because La Mesa Pizzaworks is a vegetarian pizzeria. You may order whole pies, pizza by the slice, calzones, salads, even a couple of vegetable soups, but no meat.

My wife and I have chosen to take our meatless meal a step further, adding \$8 to the \$26 price for the 18-inch pizza to use a non-dairy cheese alternative. We haven't found a lot of reliable non-dairy pizza options locally, and want to give this new one a shot. Whether our pizza can be considered vegan hinges upon whether you think the dash of honey in the crust qualifies. We like our pizza well enough,



The "Hot Helix Hawaiian" pizza: Serrano peppers and pineapple, with the dairy-free cheese option.

but it would never fly with the kids, who demand genuine mozzarella and parmesan cheeses on their pies. "Our pizza has real cheese, right?" asks the elder brother, now eyeing me suspiciously. This wouldn't be the first time I've tried to sneak something plant-based onto his plate.

"One hundred percent," I vow. "You can tell by the way the melted mozzarella stretches when you pull out your slice."

Of course, I've ignored that question about the pepperoni, which looks a little different—a little redder—because it is a plant-based alternative. Pizzaworks calls this pie the "I Can't Believe It's Not Pepperoni" (\$26), so I want to see if it's good enough to fool these two regular pepperoni pizza consumers.

Only after they've each devoured a couple slices do I tell them the truth. They truly can't believe it's not pepperoni.

"This is vegan?" asks the stunned 6th grader. "My whole life is a lie!" declares the older brother.

They cry again when I dig in to eat a couple of their precious "Can't Believe It's Not Pepperoni" slices. Thanks to all the spice in actual pepperoni, this smoky facsimile gets the flavor right, and the chewy texture is close enough to pass as America's favorite pizza topping.

La Mesa Pizzaworks has boldly pronounced itself "The new best pizza shop in La Mesa." The kosher counter shop fits into a University Avenue shopping strip in the city's southwestern corner, where it offers a menu of dine-in or take out specialty pizzas (though you can pay to add toppings to a \$24 cheese pie). They offer 10-inch gluten-free versions too (\$14-25), but I couldn't do that to my hapless middle school test subjects. We'll enjoy the honey raised dough of the regular house crust, well-baked in a New York style.

I can't remember the last time I walked into a place that was specifically vegetarian rather than entirely plant-based, but for a pizza shop it totally makes sense, especially as some of its home-made sauces and toppings feature goat or aged cheeses.

I can recommend the mushroom medley pizza, a mix of mushrooms and cheeses over buttery garlic-shallot sauce. But I muse plead ignorance about a couple of other items that piqued my interest: when I go back to sample some \$5 slices, they're out of the ratatouille (with roasted zucchini, toma-



The "I Can't Believe It's Not Pepperoni" pizza at La Mesa Pizzaworks.

toes, and eggplants), and it turns out the roasted poblano "burrito pizza" can be ordered only as a \$35 whole pie (or \$19 calzone), because the black bean-sauced hybrid includes sides of sour cream and fresh-made guacamole. As a burrito fanatic, I'm intrigued, but it's just more economical to trick the kids into a meat-free pepperoni.

-Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

San Diego International Food Tour Savor the cuisines of the region and discover Chinese, Mexican, and Filipino food with 6 food tastings from 5 of

neighborhood eateries in National City. Beer will also be available for purchase at the first stop. Trip length of 2.5-3 hours with a walking distance of under 1 mile. Thursdays, 5pm; Sundays, 1pm; through Thursday, August 29, \$69. National City

Street Food Market Lane Field Park Market is a street food market showcasing 20+ food vendors, as well as boutique coffee, with live music from 12:30pm until 2:30pm. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Saturday, December 31, free. Lane Field Park, 1009 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Wing Fest San Diego 7th annual Wing Fest features spirits sampling included in entry ticket, DJs, live entertainment, giveaways, hot sauces and rubs sampling, games, and vendors. Saturday, June 1, 12pm; Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Lane. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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PERSONALS

STEVEN WELLSWENTZ I've been looking for you. I hope you're okay. Please call me -Samantha D. (your wife) (442) 977-0671

THE READER is SO San Diego! Thank you for being there!

DAN JULIAN from Melanie. I'm in Mexico at Cantamar. Come see me. I'll leave your name at the gate.

DEAREST FUN SIZE I heard that you took your work crew out for a celebratory dinner which I couldn't attend since I'm still at the unemployment office. Love, Frank

SEEK RV CAMPERS FOR CHATS 60's Female with small class A & cat seeks folks with RV's to socialize with on local trips to the beach, desert, casinos. Share meals, happy hours & current event chats to save Democracy, travels, crafts. Julian Trip Next FoodFoodieFun@gmail.com

THE DRIVEWAY SOCIETY has been busy issuing warnings to law breakers that they better change their ways or else they will find themselves in hot water.

IT WILL BE REAL Coca cola baby. Your world didn't revolve to suit me, but I didn't complain

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

TO SURRENDER A BABY in California within 72 hours of birth call 211 or 1-(877) 222-9723 or go to any fire station. No questions asked.

NOTICES

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ART CAMP, CLAY FOR KIDS Have fun learning hand building techniques in clay to make figures, animals, castles, bird houses, and more, a pot on the pottery wheel, a mosaic, plus color, mixing and painting all in one week session. June-August, Ages 5 to 14+, 9 AM to 12:30... \$375 www.ArtTilesbyCarla.com (760) 943-6313 / artncarla29@gmail.com

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MAKE YOUR OWN DREAM-CATCHER Join us @The Divine Bubble and make your own dreamcatcher. use crystals feathers and more to make yours special. Its Sunday Funday. Snacks too! sign up @ thedivinebubble.com. May 26. 12-5pm (619) 542-9191 / thedivinebubble@gmail.com

KIDS & TEEN SUMMER CRAFT CAMPS Do you have a child or teen looking for craft this summer? San Diego Craft Collective offers small craft camps for kids and teens interested in exploring traditional craft in a safe, nurturing space. We offer lots of crafts. Visit sandiegocraft.org! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

GET CHALLENGED! AIKIDO LESSONS North County Aikikai offers classes in aikido (a traditional Japanese martial arts). Try two weeks for free if you are interested in challenging your mind and body! Aikido practice builds discipline, confidence, balance, and strength. ncaikikai.org

(858) 792-8061 / northcountyaikikai@gmail.com

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ROOM WANTED 59 year old male looking for room to rent, studio, or 1 bedroom apartment ideally in east county but flexible with area. Looking for 1250\$ or less. Prefer no pets. Call (619) 405-2389

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AUTOMOTIVE

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LEGAL NOTICES

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 2024-9010903

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks Recorder/County Clerk County of San Diego: 05/22/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s): a. **Apex Reliability Solar Services**

Located at: 5113 Alpine Pl. Ste. 150, Las Vegas, NV 89107, Clark County

Mailing Address: 5113 Alpine Pl. Ste. 150, Las Vegas, NV 89107

Registered Owners Name(s): **Apex Reliability Services LLC**

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

I declare that all information in this statement is true and 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/ **Mark A. Fernandez, Manager** Corporation/LLC Name **Apex Reliability Services LLC** 5/30/2024, 6/6/2024, 6/13/2024, 6/20/2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 2024-9009488

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks Recorder/County Clerk County of San Diego: 05/02/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s): a. **San Diego Hot Water Supply Co.**

Located at: 508 Barnett Dr, San Marcos, CA 92069, San Diego County

Mailing Address: 508 Barnett Dr, San Marcos, CA 92069

Registered Owners Name(s): **Ruben Dario Vazquez**

This business is conducted by: **A Married Couple. 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/ **Ruben Dario Vazquez** 5/09/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24

Legals@SanDiegoReader.com ■ 619-235-3000

LEGAL NOTICES

We are a fully adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 2024-9008706

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks Recorder/County Clerk County of San Diego: 04/22/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s): a. **Finest City Musicians Alliance** b. **Harmonyx** c. **Finest City Wind Orchestra d. Windscape**

Located at: 21961 Long Trot Dr, Escondido, CA 92029, San Diego County

Mailing Address: 21961 Long Trot Dr, Escondido, CA 92029

Registered Owners Name(s): **Roberto C Castro**

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/ **Roberto C Castro** 5/09/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 2024-9009412

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

Fictitious Business Name(s): a. **BST Auto Registrations**

Located at: 3774 Grove St, Suite K3, Lemon Grove, CA 91945, San Diego County

Mailing Address: 3774 Grove St, Suite K3, Lemon Grove, CA 91945

Registered Owners Name(s): **GS Projx**

This business is conducted by: **A Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was 05/01/2024.**

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/ **Bianca Sanchez, Managing Member** Corporation/LLC Name **GS Projx** 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24, 6/6/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 2024-9009520

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks Recorder/County Clerk County of San Diego: 05/02/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s): a. **Able Virtual Assistant** b. **Fancy Fun Jewelry**

Located at: 4455 Mentone St, Apt 2, San Diego, CA 92107, San Diego County

Mailing Address: PO Box 371342, San Diego, CA 92107

Registered Owners Name(s): **Margaret Schneider**

This business is conducted by: **An Individual. The first day of business was 04/25/2024.**

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/ **Margaret Schneider** 5/09/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 2024-9008369

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks Recorder/County Clerk County of San Diego: 04/17/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s): a. **OPOA Foundation** b. **Extension Point Services c. Tyra's House d. Reaching Recovery Milestones**

Located at: 3774 Grove St, STE L4, Lemon Grove, CA 91945, San Diego County

Mailing Address: 3774 Grove St, STE L4, Lemon Grove, CA 91945

Registered Owners Name(s): **Tyra Marie Fleming**

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/ **Tyra Fleming** 5/09/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE-CHANGE OF NAME

Case No.: 37-2024-00021325-CJ-PT-CTL
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego
330 W. BROADWAY, San Diego 92101

Petition Of: **James Lee**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all Interested Persons: Petitioner: **James Lee** filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. **James Lee to Baoliang Zeng**

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: 06/26/2027

Time: 8:30 am, Dept: 61

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

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

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

Dated: 05/08/2024 **Maureen F. Hallahan**
Judge of the Superior Court.

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

Published: 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24, 6/6/24

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

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

TOYOTA PICK UP 1987 Gray truck, four cylinder, 22R engine, four speed. Runs great. Long term ownership. (619) 576-8196.

TWO 18 INCH TESLA RIMS \$100. Text for picture. (619) 832-3612

1998 FORD E-350 16' BOX TRUCK Ford 7.3 liter power stroke direct injection turbo diesel. 8'H x 16'L box w/3' x 6' liftgate. Original owner. 279,165 miles. Registered thru June 2025. Excellent mechanically, receipts for work done recently (858) 775-4084 / ralph.wilde@gmail.com

HEADLIGHT REVIVAL: LIKE NEW Yellowed headlights? Restore clarity & shine in 5. minutes! Professional cleaning service. Make your headlights look like new again. Call (619) 705-8766 / nikogrk@gmail.com

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.

CAR RENTALS RENT TO OWN PROGRAM no credit no problem. (760) 633-3552

4X8 TILT UP SINGLE AXLE TRAILER with title \$475. (760) 717-1334

LOOKING FOR 1990 OR OLDER FORD CARS Please contact fgrass0421@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING MANAGER (Vista, CA) Serve as dept lead for sustainment & improvement of mfg process of Class I, II & III Medical Devices w/ knowl of ISO 13485 & FDA reg reqts. Define, update & control mfg docs w/ QMS & reg reqts. Perf material evaluation & testing for apps in production of custom knee braces. Mng dept budget. Reqs 25% domestic & interna'l travel. Reqs: Bach or equiv in Indstrl Engg or reltd & 6 yrs exp in job offer or rtd. Salary: \$141,960/yr. Send resume to DJO, LLC, a

subsidiary of Enovis Corporation at resumes@enovis.com & ref title in subject.

PRINCIPAL SOFTWARE ENGINEER (Aya Healthcare, Inc.; San Diego, CA): Hands-on tech role w/ grp leadership resp. Using stg dsgrn skills in SW solutions and architecting multi-tier, distributed apps., the Repository, and Unit of Work dsgrn pattern exp to provide tech guid. and solution dsgrn for proof-of-concept as well as proj impl. Remote Position. Telecommuting allowed. \$185,000-\$195,000/yr. Resume to HR at: applicants@ayahealthcare.com. Ref: 2445

PROJECT DESIGNER Sillman Wright Architects seeks a Project Designer in San Diego, CA: Collaborate w/ clients & project teams addressing design, project goals, budget & timeline. Technical development of working drawings through CD & CA w/ an eye for quality control. Must be licensed architect. Email resumes to: hlandon@sillman-arch.com Salary \$104666/yr

DYNAMICS 365/AX TECHNICAL ARCHITECT for tech company in San Diego, CA. Must have MSC Software Engineering and relevant experience or acceptable equivalent. \$171,080 /yr. Send CV to Avantico Inc. 600 B Street, Suite 300 San Diego CA 92101 or to hr@avantico.com

SR. ENGINEER, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT LPL Financial LLC seeks Sr. Engineer, Software Development in San Diego, CA to dsgrn, dvp, build, deploy & supp s/w solutions for int & extfin srvc s/w using Web, .NET stack & web servs (REST/SOAP). Reqs Bachelor or foreign ed equiv in CS, C-ENG, IT, or rel & 5 yrs exp as Sr Eng, SD or rel dsgrn, dvp & maint s/w using Agile/Scrum method w/ JavaScript, CSS3, Bootstrap, JSON, & .Net Stack. Or, Master's in CS, C-ENG, IT or rel & 3 years same exp. Applicants are permitted to work remotely from an at-home worksite anywhere in US. Salary: \$171,080.00/yr. To apply, submit resume to recruitment@lplfinancial.com. Reference Position SESD200387.

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following positions in San Diego, CA: Associate Software Engineer (ref# 3461645): Develop and test features for multiple cloud products using main development technologies. Telecommuting permitted. Annual salary \$133,186-\$163,186. Email resume to servicenow-resumesUS@servicenow.com. Or mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 2225 Lawson Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Resume must include job title, job ref. #3461645, full name, email & mailing address.

No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER America Contact LLC seeks a Chief Operating Officer in San Diego, CA to direct or coordinate an organization's financial or budget activities to fund operations, maximize investments, or increase efficiency. Oversee & direct the ongoing review of the organization's performance & operations, incl productivity, quality, & timelines & key performance indicators. Implement processes to support new &/or expansion of existing biz oppty that enhance the organization's efficiency and capabilities. Appoint dept heads or mgrs & assign or delegate responsibilities to them. Analyze operations to evaluate performance of a company or its staff in meeting objectives or to determine areas of potential cost reduction, program improvement, or policy change. Bachelor's in Biz, Finance, or Mrktg w/ 6 yrs exp. \$196,810/yr. Send resume: mcruz@atencion.com

HOST/HOSTESSES FOR SPA PARTY Recruiting for an upscale event. Must be comfortable servicing pre-teens. Duties - Assist w/ applying lite make up, painting nails, Customer-centric attitude. Pay-\$20/H. Candidates may have to undergo a background check. No Prof. license required. yomage27@hotmail.com

CAREGIVER (NORTH PARK): Quadriplegic seeking evening caregiver from 4pm-7pm Sunday-Thursday and Saturday. Major responsibilities will be cooking, cleaning, and transferring client into bed. Must be strong, enthusiastic, and willing to learn. Will train but prefer those with caregiving experience. Please email resume or letter of interest to rustykrumm@Hotmail.com

DRIVER WANTED We are seeking for a driver for my old family member on a part-time basis (Mondays & Fridays only) weekly pay \$435 must have a valid state-issued driver's license Must be professional, safe and patient email us:walkergb10@att.net

AD SPECS SALESMAN NOW HIRING! Advertising Specialties Salesman Needed. Weekly Pay. Paid Leads Available. 1,200+ Promo Items To Sell! Please have previous experience and know how to Sell Promo Items. In Business 19 Years. 1099 Contractor work when you want! Call only:(858)652-8367 (858) 652-8367

TRANSCRIBER To transcribe a hand written book into a form. Must have good English and be a good speller. Price negotiable. This is something you can do in your spare time. The book is about corruption. Please call (619) 381-2134

IHSS CAREGIVER WANTED Looking to hire an IHSS caregiver. Fulltime or part time. Shift starts at 8:00 am daily. 7 days per week. This is for a senior lady who needs daily help in Mission Valley. Please call to set up an interview appointment. (619) 488-0822

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 endophenology (EEG). You will receive compensation for your time. Call to learn more. (858) 249-2625 / iptrials@health.ucsd.edu

NEED TO HIRE 2 GUYS WITH A PICK UP TRUCK to move 8 pieces of furniture one mile. \$150

a load, 2 loads guaranteed. (760) 472-9127.

IN HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICE CAREGIVER ASAP Mission Valley lady looking to hire a long term in home supportive service caregiver with vehicle. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm; 10 hour days. I need help with my daily tasks. To apply please leave your name and number by calling (619) 269-3434.

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.

JOBS WANTED

CAREGIVER FOR HIRE Kat (619) 964-3158

RETIRED AUTO BODY MAN LOOKING FOR WORK Dan Ross pain free estimates Tony (440) 308-1010

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

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will provide companionship, friendship, discuss topics of interest and prepare meals. Please call Carol at (858) 731-6996

WANTED / TRADE

LOOKING FOR TUBE TYPE STEREO This is just a Hobby for me. I would love to find old tube type stereo gear from the early 1960's. American Manufacturers. Components, not furniture. Do you know of someone storing this old stuff. Call Jack (619) 296-3100 / jack22@cox.net

CASH PAID FOR VINYL LP RECORDS. We can come to you! Thank you. Call/text (760) 828-3515.

LOOKING FOR A SCOOTER OR MOPED Cheap. Call AJ 1-(619) 250-4816

SEEK LEVEL COASTAL FARM-LAND Nonprofit needs your help to feed folks in need. Do you own acreage or even a quarter acre with water that a pro grower can transform into a beautiful edible sanctuary? If so, please email with location, water source & terms: YouGoFarmGal@gmail.

SOLAR PANELS WANTED NEW & USED I am looking for solar panels & inverters that are reasonably priced or if they are old I will haul them away for free so they don't end up in the landfill, I am setting up an off grid system, I am looking for a large quantity. (760) 746-7209

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

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

BUYING OLDER PINBALL MACHINES Looking to buy older model pinball machines. Any condition. Complete or parts Contact for a quote. Thanks (832) 651-8302. San Diego local. / ashscot@aol.com

SEARCHING FOR OLD TUBE STEREO I'm looking for old Tube Type Stereo Components. These were built in America around 1960. Your Grandpa might have had one. Please call Jack (619) 296-3100 (619) 296-3100 / jack22@cox.net

GRANDMA LOOKING FOR VEHICLE I need a good soul to help me get into a vehicle to pick my grandkids up from school. My car blew up and I desperately need anything that runs. Would so appreciate your donation. Please call Lee (760) 688-5695 (760) 583-7872 / catherinebr@zillowgroup.com

I BUY VINTAGE PILOT HELMETS (619) 806-6703 Scott

I BUY VINTAGE SKATE-BOARDS (619) 806-6703 Scott

OLD LAWN MOWER Old, gas powered lawn mower in usable, working condition. Please call, don't text. Bob (858) 274-8845

VINTAGE MUSIC EQUIPMENT I buy vintage music equipment, brass, drums, guitars, amplifiers. Scott (619) 806-6703

CAMERA COLLECTOR cameras lenses and all photographic items from 1882-1972 working or not. Please call at (760) 757-5445.

LOOKING TO BUY OLD DRUM SETS I pay cash. Any old Band Instruments. Text me pictures or call (619) 279-7833

CASH FOR OLDER BMX BIKES (619) 279-7833. Text pics please

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

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

INDIAN ARROWHEAD/ARTS Artifacts for my personal collection. Must be authentic and legally collected. No interest in modern reproductions. Call Steve at (619) 985-8562.

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

CASH FOR GUITARS Old guitars. Old Guitar Amplifiers. Call me (619) 279-7833 or text me pictures please

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

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

OLD SINGER SEWING MACHINES Singer 221 Sewing Machine. (619) 279-7833. Text me pictures of what you have

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

CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE

With any Service or Repair

SMOG CHECK SPECIAL

★ STAR Certified

\$3175*

Smog Test or All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through June 26, 2024

+\$.85.25 cert

★ STAR Certified

SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$5175

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

EXHAUST SYSTEM REPAIR AVAILABLE

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN AVAILABLE

Most Vehicles

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL

from \$279⁹⁵

4-cyl. Most vehicles.

Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE

Parts & Labor

from \$159⁹⁵

TIMING BELT SPECIAL

Recommended at 60k miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

\$50 off quoted price

Cliff Brown Automotive • 4491 Park Blvd, SD, CA 92116
619-297-4204 • Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5:30 pm
Coupons must be Presented Prior to Service • Senior Discounts Available • Offers Expire June 26, 2024

28 San Diego Reader May 30, 2024

I BUY HAMMOND ORGANS AND LESLIE SPEAKERS Text me pics. (619) 279-7833

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

I BUY VINTAGE STEREO EQUIPMENT pioneer, marantz, Sansui etc 1-(619) 806-6703 Scott

CASH PAID FOR OLD VW Old VW Bus, Van, Bug. I like to buy any condition. Call or text pics #619-279-7833

CASH FOR COMIC BOOKS Need Money? I pay cash for old comic books. Mark (619) 933-6275

WANTED: Speakers, amps and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call (619) 303-8031; e-mail JBL@cox.net.

WANTED: OLD SLOT CARS Or old toys. Cell/text (619) 279-7833.

GARAGE SALES

4S RANCH HOA GARAGE SALE 6/1&2 community garage sale-Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2, 2024-7:00AM-12:00PM. 4S Ranch HOA- Take I-15 to Rancho Bernardo Road and go west to 4S Ranch Parkway- north and south neighborhoods!

NORMAL HEIGHTS GARAGE SALE June 1, 2024 9 AM-1PM Join the largest community garage sale in abNormal Heights! Sign up to sell and check out the map at agentjon.com/events

FOR SALE

ARMOIRES 6ft tall with drawer, 1 for hanging, 1 with shelves, Rattan, excellent condition. Asking \$175 each. (858) 213-6306, Mira Mesa 92126



BEAUTIFUL SOLID WOOD DECOR BOX This small vintage box (5.5"x 3.5"x 2" high) with a hinged lid is nicely stained & varnished. It is a wonderful storage place for jewelry, tarot, oils, arts & crafts, sewing supplies, and other lovely things. \$12. Text or email for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



HALF GALLON JUG WATER COOLER Made in Kansas, USA, this red & white high quality cooler is made of durable plastic and is able to withstand the toughest outdoor conditions. Insulated to keep your drinks or food cold. Clean & in very good condition. \$15. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BOOK COLLECTION 570 BOOKS: 238 hardcover & 67 softcover, about 264 cookbooks, some hardcover & some softcov-

er, selling all for \$390. No haggle price, (760) 746-7209.



NEW 32" PISTOL GRIP REACHER This tool makes it easy to grasp lightweight objects up to 2.25" wide. Squeeze trigger closes the jaw tightly for secure grabbing. Pick up items overhead without reaching up (10 oz. limit) or bending down (5 lbs. limit). \$8. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



NEW BEAUTIFUL VINTAGE THERMOS This lovely vintage 4 cup thermos (new) was made in Taiwan. A wonderful gift to someone special or enjoy it yourself to store your favorite hot or cold beverages. Brand new, never used, in a plastic bag & original box. \$25. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



NEW GEORGE FOREMAN GRILL W/BOX This new George Foreman Lean Mean Fat Reducing Grilling Machine has non-stick cooking surfaces perfect for grilling burgers, steaks, chicken, seafood & more. New, never used, in original box w/ drip tray, owner's manual. \$35. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



OUTDOOR PATIO CHAIRS W/ ARMREST This set of 2 patio chairs are strong and good looking. Strong metal frame & legs, Heavy duty fabric seat & backrest. Comfortable, sturdy & durable with good support. Clean & in very good condition. \$25 each or \$45 for both. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

100' FISH TAPE Steel 100' Fish Tape w/leader. \$30.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

25' FISH TAPE 25' Fish Tape. \$15.00 (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

BAIT CASTER & TACKLE BOX Magforse Bait Caster & Tackle Box lots of plastic lures. \$50.00. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

CAMPING RECLINER CHAIR Camping Recliner Chair w/carry bag. \$15.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

CAT 5 CABLE TESTER CAT 5 Cable Tester \$30.00 Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com

DAIWA SPINNER REALS DAIWA 100C, 1300C or 1500C \$25/each. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com



GRANDKIDS PICTURE PHOTO FRAME This beautiful solid wood frame (9.5"x 7.5"x 1/2") with stand has 1/16" glass, 5.5"x 3.5" display & laser engraved sentiments perfect for grandparents to give to their lovely grandkids. Like new & in excellent condition. \$12 Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

LOW VOLTAGE VOICE & DATA STUFF low voltage voice & data stuff. Small tool bag, rippoff pouch, punch tools, butt sets and more. Ready to bundle. Lakeside (619) 390-8216 / robtville5@gmail.com



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

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The *Independence* finds big yellowtail down south – Tip your servers, they work hard for their money

Dock Totals 5/19– 5/25: 2012 anglers aboard 85 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 1 black seabass (released), 597 bluefin tuna (up to 240 pounds), 8 bocaccio, 439 bonito, 841 calico bass, 1 lingcod, 1 mako shark, 2896 rockfish, 57 sand bass, 126 sculpin, 73 sheephead, 179 whitefish, and 90 yellowtail.

Saltwater: While the 1.5- to 3-day trips have been concentrating on the area of bluefin tuna from the Corner down to off Ensenada with mixed results, the *Independence* ran south on their 8-day Graftech/Roger Eckhardt Limited Load trip and began fishing off the lower half of the Baja peninsula with a bang, boating a smattering of mid-grade yellowfin tuna and some whopper yellowtail to near-50 pounds. Upon arriving at their initial spot, fish were boiling around the boat as they set the anchor, and the fish were biting right away.

Back north, the *Intrepid* and others were still getting the majority of the big bruiser bluefin during dark hours between sunset and 4 am, though they did score a few on the kite during the day, along with smaller school-sized bluefin on light line and fly-lined baits. As has been the case lately, bringing a range of setups from 20-pound test to 100-pound test is recommended to fully take advantage of and enjoy the range of action. Much of the daytime light-line action was while on the anchor.

As the boats generally do not give out info on where they are fishing unless it is a "parking lot" on a spot and no secret, one has to wonder where they are fishing, especially, as with the *Intrepid*, they are anchoring the boat. In recent years, much of the action has been in water too deep to pin a boat, and drifting is the normal MO, though long ago in the late 1970s when I worked the deck, we did indeed anchor up to catch the smaller bluefin just off the southeast end of San Clemente Island. We would drop anchor in about 9 fathoms, or around 60 feet of water, where we could lay the boat out with the stern facing away from the island in the normal breeze out of the west/northwest, and then soak small "pinhead" anchovies on the fly-line (no weight, just a live bait hook) in hopes that a passing fish would bite. "Soaking a bait" meant letting it go far away from the boat, and sometimes the wait was tedious — so much so that about half of the passengers would just give up, rig up a dropper loop, and drop to the bottom for sculpin, sheephead, and other fish in the lower water column.

Back then, the reels used were usually Penn 500 Jigmasters spooled with line as light as 10 or 15 pounds, of which the reel could hold about 400 yards, which was plenty given the long hard runs. Even so, and though the fish were small at about a 20-pound average, being bit and hooked up would usually result in a prolonged battle, with maybe 50-50 odds of



A satisfied angler with this 45-plus pound yellowtail caught on the first fishing day during the *Independence* 8-day run.



Big bluefin tuna caught during the dark hours while fishing aboard the *Intrepid* 3-day trip.

and yellowtail would go into a fish box on the deck. Given that deckhand work involved being poked, hooked, and an occasional slice of a filet knife, it could be a painful job. I can remember chumming with a painfully swollen right hand, or the time when I was hooked a couple times by folks casting without looking behind them, or when I was jabbed while handling tangled ganoin rigs when on rockfish. Once, a slip with a knife while filleting in rough seas opened up a slice on my index finger that required an on-the-spot tape job so I could finish my work. But the most painful thing came when I was rushing to the bow to gaff a fish at color and I kicked a bag full of sculpin. Several spines punctured my thin cheap deck boots, and I got "spine poisoning." Thankfully, that was a one-off for me. It's not often that you catch bluefin tuna and sculpin at the same spot. And even though it was very painful, the memory is still bittersweet, as I was allowed to sit for an hour or so in the wheelhouse until the pain subsided.

My point here is that being a deckhand is not all fun and games. It is a service industry job and often hectic. Decking a sportboat can be hard, painful work with long hours and little rest. The struggle of keeping an eye on the bait while up all night on deck watch while underway, the havoc of a wide-open bite, the pain of minor injuries, the hassle of untangling wrapped lines, the work of hefting fish over the rail, and the confrontation with the occasional unruly passenger are normal for the hard-working crews, and they earn their pay, often working 18 or more hours in a 24-hour day. Pay is generally low compared to other physically strenuous jobs such as construction, and they do rely on tips to get by. So, even on those slow trips, make sure and tip your "servers." They're out there, so go get 'em!

bringing the fish to gaff. Any heavier line would drag the small bait down, if fish were not swimming well or far from the boat, the odds of hooking up were greatly reduced. Today's much improved tackle gives anglers a better chance of landing the strong-pulling fish on light line, but either breaking off or pulling a smallish hook is still a thing. Setting the drags correctly and staying with the fish so it is straight out to avoid tangles are important, along with keeping tension on the fish and being patient.

We did not have brine holds in which to stow the fish below deck then, but rather, gunnysacks hanging along the house on hooks with numbers on the bags for each angler. Larger fish like tuna, white seabass,

DANIEL POWELL

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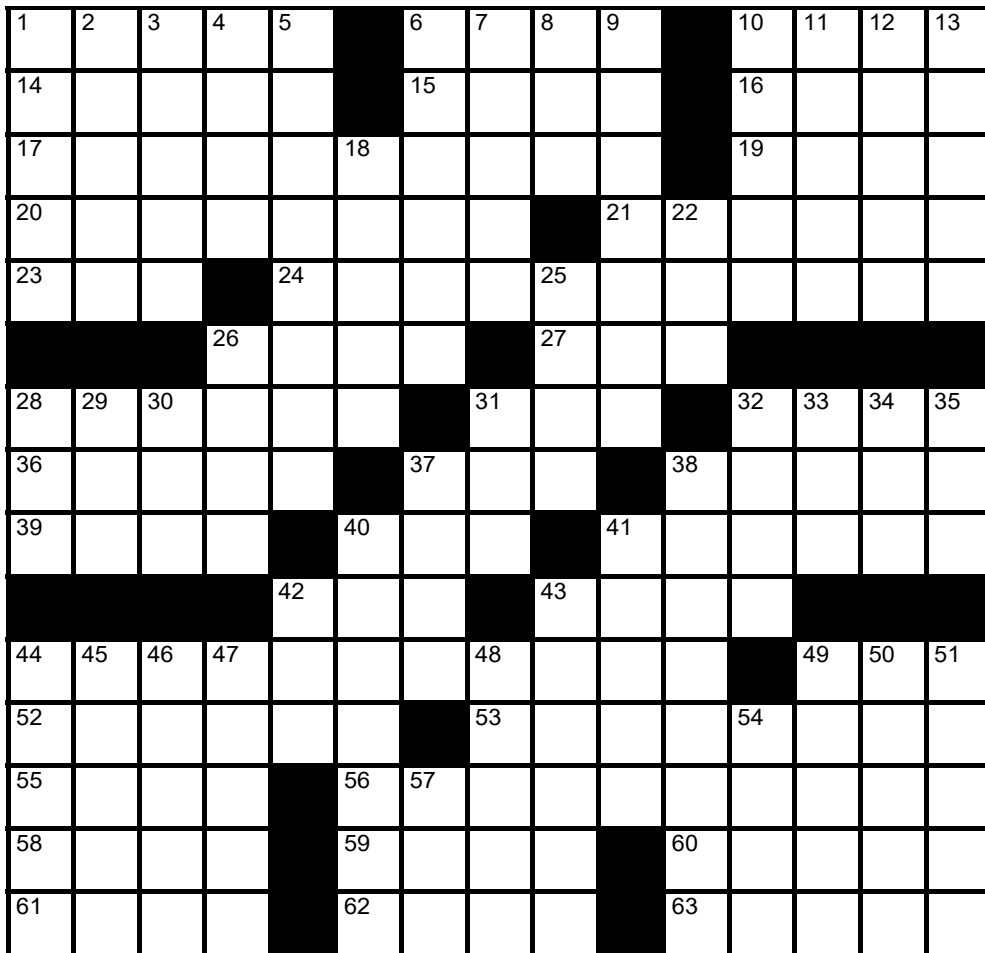
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Across

1. Gave a hoot
6. Some TV screens
10. Herring cousin
14. Former "SNL" cast member Cheri
15. "It's all ___!"
16. "Aladdin" parrot
17. Opera that's sorta supernatural, but by chance?
19. Actress Cannon of "Heaven Can Wait"
20. 2024 title role for Michael Douglas on Apple TV+
21. Those who ___ most
23. Partner of yang
24. Opera about actor Ribisi

- turning into a canine?
26. ___ California, Mexico
27. Expected
28. Opera about an Irish wiggly dessert?
31. Collective auction offering
32. Software creators, for short
36. "Holy cow!"
37. Office seeker, for short
38. Shakespeare collection
39. Ooze through a crack
40. Stan Getz's instrument
41. Opera about a superhero mechanic?
42. League where Utah is deciding on a team name
43. "The Big Easy"

44. Opera where a future king turns blue-green?
49. "Ask later" on schedules
52. Playwright Eugene
53. Send mass phone messages during an election, maybe
55. Shoelace issue
56. Italian opera about pub quizzes?
58. German article
59. Snack with a roughly 1.75-inch diameter
60. Oopsie
61. In proximity
62. Notify
63. Break a truce, maybe

Down

1. Like a nice recliner
2. Pong producer
3. "King Lear" daughter
4. ___ go brag
5. "King of the Surf Guitar"
6. Division for FC Barcelona
7. Held on (to)
8. "Hi and Lois" creator Browne
9. Escorted to the door
10. 45's main feature?
11. Composer with all the symphonies
12. "What is it now?"
13. "___ Make It Look Easy" (Meghan Trainor song)

18. 1988 Olympics track star nickname
22. Night before
25. K-pop star, e.g.
26. Radar flash
28. Fractions of a lb. or qt.
29. Coffee
30. Shorn animal
31. Bagel go-with
32. Kids' show explorer
33. Shade tree
34. Through
35. Family tree branch, perhaps
37. Hand part
38. Topple

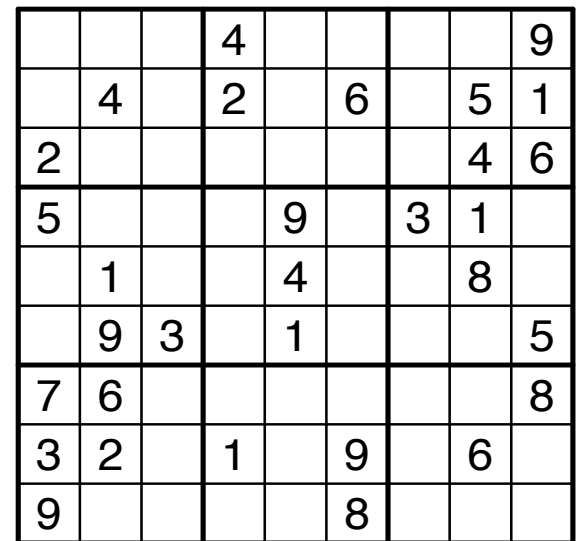
40. Superficial
41. Raccoon's South American cousin
42. 0, on a soccer scorecard
43. Cell that fires on impulse
44. Gotten out of bed
45. Concave belly button
46. Singer Lewis
47. Quart's metric counterpart
48. ___ Tots
49. Papal headpiece
50. Ulan ___, Mongolia
51. Clock-radio feature
54. Very urgent
57. Longtime Notre Dame coach Parseghian

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:



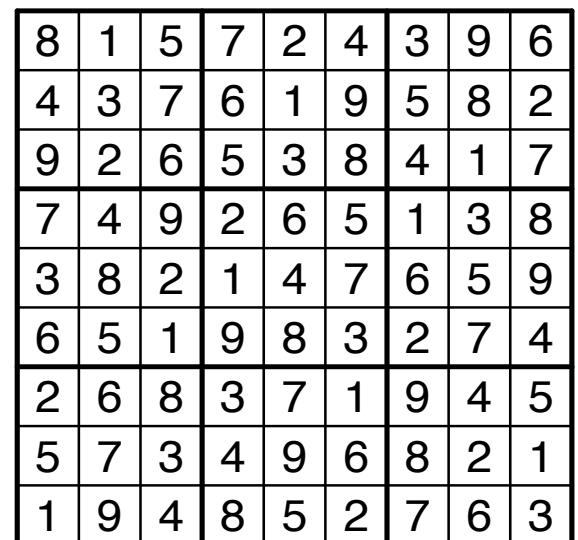
SUDOKU

MEDIUM:



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News You Can Use

— Are tacos sandwiches? Martin Quintana, 53, has hoped to open a second The Famous Taco location in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for a few years. However, businesses in the development he was eyeing are limited to "sandwich bar-style restaurants whose primary business is to sell 'made-to-order' or 'subway-style' sandwiches" – so Quintana was shut out. He sued, the Associated Press reported, and on May 15, Superior Court Judge Craig Bobay laid down the law: "(T)acos and burritos are Mexican-style sandwiches." Quintana said the new location should be open in two to three months.

Recent Alarming Headline

— "Priest Accused of Biting Woman During Communion," *Click Orlando* announced on May 23. On May 19, an unnamed woman attended Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in St. Cloud, Florida, where she attempted to take Communion. Father Fidel, however, allegedly refused to give her Communion bread because he said she had not confessed her sins. The priest said the woman pushed him and grabbed the tray of Communion bread, which is a no-no, and "the only way he thought to extract her from it was to bite her arm," according to police. The priest has not yet been charged.

Inexplicable

— A 45-year-old man identified as Omar B. was located in a neighbor's house in Djelfa,

Algeria, after being missing for 26 years, *Gulf News* reported. Omar disappeared in 1998 during the Algerian Civil War; his family assumed he had been kidnapped or killed. His captor, a 61-year-old doorman, was taken into custody after he tried to flee; Omar told officials on May 14 that he couldn't call out for help "because of a spell that his captor had cast on him." Omar is receiving medical and psychological help.

The Passing Parade

— Have plans for June 8? If you're free, head on down to Ocala, Florida, for the fourth annual Great Florida Bigfoot Conference. *Click Orlando* reported that the gathering will include "an all-star lineup of Bigfoot researchers, investigators and authors ready to interact with fans," along with exclusive merch for sale. You might even want to get in on the "Share Your Experience" forum, where you can relate your personal Bigfoot encounter stories. Organizers recommend buying tickets in advance.

Awesome!

— Cicadas are definitely in the news this summer, but the one Kelly Simkins discovered on May 20 in the Orland Grassland near Chicago is literally one in a million, *People* reported. Simkins, the owner of Merlin's Rocking Pet Show, was hunting cicadas to feed to her reptiles when she came across one with blue eyes. Most of the vociferous bugs have red eyes. "I just thought it was unique," she said – and she was right. Dr. Gene Kritsky, dean of Behavioral and

Natural Sciences at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, said the picture of the blue-eyed insect from Orland Grassland is one of only two he has seen this year so far. He said the cause of the different-colored eyes is unclear.

— Winemaker Andreas Pernerstorfer of Gobelsburg, Austria, was renovating his wine cellar in early May when he came across an unexpected find: a number of huge bones, which were later identified as being from at least three Stone Age mammoths. "I thought it was just a piece of wood left by my grandfather," Pernerstorfer told the BBC. "Then I remembered that in the past my grandfather said he had found teeth." Researchers from the Austrian Archaeological Institute have been excavating since the discovery. The bones are believed to be between 30,000 and 40,000 years old. Eventually, they'll end up at the Vienna Museum of Natural History.

Oops!

— Charlotte Russ of Fresno, California, and her kids visited Pismo Beach late last year, where the children collected seashells – 72 of them, ABC7-TV reported on May 23. "My kids thought they were collecting seashells, but they were actually collecting clams," Russ said. Sounds like the makings of a big party, but instead Russ got a ticket on the spot and later got a notice of a fine: \$88,000. "It kind of ruined our trip," she said. Lucky for her, a San Luis Obispo

County judge understood the confusion and reduced her fine to \$500. "It was definitely one expensive trip to Pismo," Russ said.

Field Report

— Groundskeepers at the Wisconsin state capitol in Madison were tasked with removing some invasive plants from a tulip bed on May 16, the Associated Press reported. It seems someone planted cannabis amongst the blooms, according to Shelby Ellison, a botanist from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "It was just a large number of plants for it to be anything accidental," she said. She was unable to determine whether the plants were marijuana or hemp; marijuana is still illegal in Wisconsin.

News You Can Use

— At the Krefeld Zoo in Germany, Jan, a Linne's two-toed sloth, celebrated his 54th birthday on April 30, making him the oldest living sloth in captivity – ever, United Press International reported. Zookeepers said Jan, who regularly sports a silk robe and cravat, is in terrific health and, as proof, he just fathered his 22nd offspring.

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