

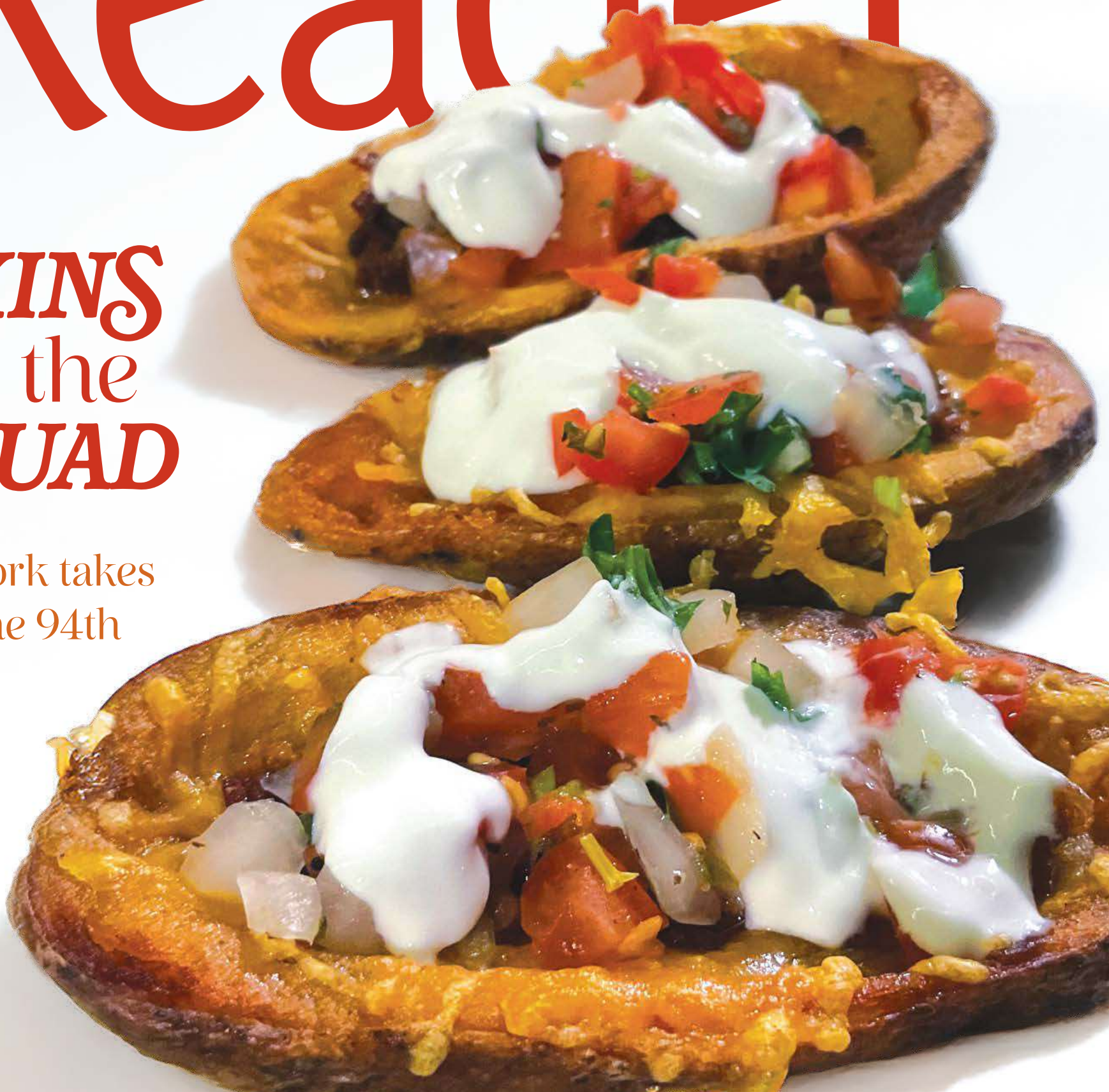
S A N D I E G O

VOL. 53 | NO. 50 | DECEMBER 12, 2024

# Reader

## SKINS at the SQUAD

Tin Fork takes  
on the 94th



Banana ketchup ban? ■ U-T bigwig bullish on bull riding ■ Wax loves vinyl





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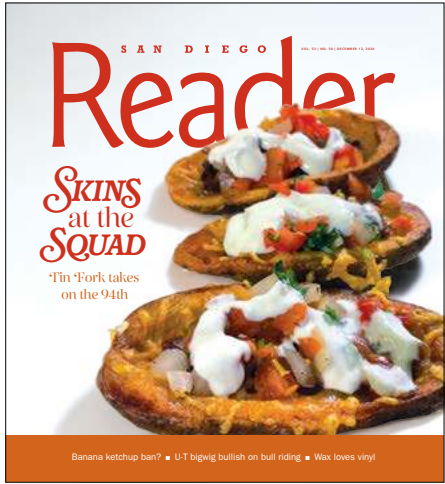


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December 12, 2024



PHOTOGRAPH BY ED BEDFORD

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

## THE COAST

### Seawalls and semantics Condo owners question meaning of existence

According to a report by the Legislative Analyst's Office, between \$8 billion and \$10 billion of existing property in California is likely to be underwater by 2050. Now, a lawsuit that had beachfront property owners feeling hopeful about their ability to rely on seawalls to protect their homes is leaning the other way — toward upholding limits on coastal armor.

The current fight is between homeowners and the California Coastal Commission, and it hinges on whether seawalls may be used to defend any structure on the beach or only those built before the California Coastal Act took effect on Janu-



storm sent 20 feet of bluffs crashing into the ocean in front of the townhome complex. The owners' subsequent request to build a 257-foot concrete seawall was denied by the Coastal Commission. The homeowners association for the Casa

allowed for seawalls and other armoring to protect "existing structures." But since that term was never clearly defined, property owners have tried to argue a different meaning, saying it applies to any building that exists when the permit application is filed.

Another attempt to use a wall to prevent migration.

## CONDIMENT COUNTRY

### Sauce loss FDA declares war on Filipino Christmas

Rumors of a U.S. ban on popular Filipino condiments such as Mang Tomas, banana ketchup, and other traditional sauces have

The case under consideration involves ten townhomes in Half Moon Bay (29 miles south of San Francisco), but the ruling could affect thousands of private properties and hundreds of public beaches — from San Diego to the Oregon border.

ary 1, 1977. The case under consideration involves ten townhomes in Half Moon Bay (29 miles south of San Francisco), but the ruling could affect thousands of private properties and hundreds of public beaches — from San Diego to the Oregon border.

The court battle began after a 2016

Mira townhomes sued, and won. But the commission appealed, and in a tentative ruling in October, the 1st District Court of Appeals in San Francisco agreed with the commission that homes built after the California Coastal Act took effect are not entitled to permits to build seawalls. Under the landmark Coastal Act, permits were



The FDA: preserving us from preservatives, but at what cost?

Attorneys for the commission argue that seawalls and other armoring — which now covers at least 33 percent of the southern California coastline — stop bluffs from eroding and beaches from naturally migrating inland. As sea levels rise, sandy public beaches grow thinner and thinner. Surfrider San Diego, which joined the fight against the "seawall precedent" in Half Moon Bay, argued the case could reshape the entire coast.

A final opinion on the seawall case will be issued after a Dec. 11 hearing.

SHEILA PELL

spurred panic buying among Filipino Americans in San Diego County and beyond. The FDA recently restricted imports of these tangy and spicy sauces, because ingredients like BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole) and potassium iodate exceeded permissible levels. But despite risks linked to these preservatives, locals have been scrambling to secure the dipping sauces in time for the holidays.

Countywide, besides scouring the OfferUp and Facebook Marketplace platforms, Filipinos are meeting with strangers in parking lots to buy bottles of sauce for as much

continued on page 5



Bluffs vs. beaches, or, whose coast is it anyway?



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 4

as ten times the original market value. “Without the special sauces for our big parties — Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve — it’s really not the same,” said Jon-Jon Hernandez of Chula Vista. He compared the situation to “banning ketchup and mustard before the Super Bowl — and I’m not over-reacting!” Hernandez and others are shelling out \$20 to \$25 per bottle for sauces that previously sold for just \$2 to \$5 at the Seafood City supermarkets in Mira Mesa and Chula Vista. “We’re biting our tongues because we need the *sawsawan* for our house parties and Karaoke together,” Hernandez added.

Despite internet claims that the condiments have been outright banned, the FDA has clarified that they are being detained at U.S. borders under Detained Without Physical Examination policies until manufacturers comply with safety standards. But even so, the scarcity of sauces has turned some locals into opportunistic sellers. Kirby Pac from North County has been listing his surplus bottles of Mang Tomas sauce — traditionally paired with *lechon* (roasted pig) — for \$20 each on Facebook Marketplace. As of this writing, his ad warns, “Only ten bottles left. Will not ship; meet around Peñasquitos or Mira Mesa on week-ends. Priority to buyers purchasing multiple bottles — no bulk discounts.”

On Amazon, Mang Tomas bottles sell for \$20 plus \$9 shipping, while Jufran Banana Sauce, a Filipino alternative to ketchup, fetches \$23. About six months ago, I bought a bottle of banana sauce at Ranch 99 on Claremont Mesa Blvd. for just \$3-\$4. I use it as a dipping sauce for my Max’s Fried Chicken and lumpia. Even non-Filipinos guests have expressed disappointed online over the lack of Mang Tomas or banana ketchup at recent Friendsgiving gatherings. (Popular dipping sauces like UFC Sweet

Chili Sauce and Jufran Sweet Chili Sauce, often served with lumpia, are also on the FDA-restricted list.)

For those unwilling to pay inflated prices or unable to find the sauces, DIY recipes have become a last resort. “I went to Seafood City for Mang Tomas Lechon Sauce and All-Purpose Sauce,” said Joselito Santos, “but it’s banned now! I have to find someone selling it or make it myself.” Happily, websites like *TagalogLang.com* offer step-by-step guides to recreate Mang Tomas using ingredients like breadcrumbs, vinegar, garlic, liver, sugar, and spices.

The shortage doesn’t end with the sauces mentioned above. Products like UFC Sweet Filipino Style Spaghetti Sauce, a staple for sweet spaghetti with hot dog slices, have been restricted. HDR Foods Corporation’s Kare-Kare Stew Mix, beloved in Filipino kitchens and restaurants across Mira Mesa and National City, is another casualty. Kare-Kare, a rich peanut-based stew featuring oxtail, tripe, and vegetables like banana blossoms and eggplant, is a staple for Filipino Christmas and New Year celebrations. Even its essential accompaniment, *bagoong* (fish paste), has faced restrictions in the past.

These scenarios are not the first time San Diego’s food scene has faced challenges due to import restrictions or food bans. Around the time of Covid, local Thai restaurants struggled when retailers stopped selling a famous coconut milk brand over allegations of monkey labor in its supply chain. The coconut milk ban disrupted the curry menus, soups, and even the peanut sauce — San Diegans’ go-to dishes and condiments when choosing Thai cuisine.

Food restrictions and bans go beyond Asia. Authentic brie cheese, made with unpasteurized raw milk, is illegal in the U.S. Haggis, Scotland’s national dish, has been banned since the ’70s due to its inclusion of sheep lungs, and Beluga caviar is prohibited to protect overfished sturgeon.

MIKE MADRIAGA



Jufran Bananan Sauce is selling for nearly \$24/bottle online.

“I went to Seafood City for Mang Tomas Lechon Sauce and All-Purpose Sauce, but it’s banned now!”



UFC Sweet Filipino Style Spaghetti Sauce has been restricted entirely.

## UNDER THE RADAR

**Basket bets** Heath Freeman, the high-rolling Wall Street investor behind the takeover of a raft of distressed American newspapers, including the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, is moving into the world of junk sports. “In Heath, we’ve found a partner who is passionate about developing communities and creating meaningful change for the better. This market has the unique distinction of mirroring the growth and expansion that is currently underway in our league, and I am confident that Miami will be an ideal home for our second Big3 franchise,” said the rapper and actor **Ice Cube** in a June 18 dispatch by *SportsPro.com*.

Freeman is backing a new team for the Big3, a professional three-on-three basketball league. Chimed in Freeman: “I am honored to join Ice Cube and **Jeff Kwatinetz** at the Big3 and bring a new professional basketball team to Miami. Big3 is shaping the future of basketball; the gameplay is dynamic and nuanced and the product on the court appeals to the audiences in this incredibly fast-growing region. Basketball fans across South Florida can rest assured that this franchise will soon add to our great region’s winning sports pedigree.”

However happy he is to have Heath aboard, however, Ice Cube remains unhappy with the rival National Basketball Association. “They’ve been doing things behind the scenes that nobody can see. They’re discouraging networks from showing Big3, discouraging sponsors, those kinds of things. It’s terrible. And it’s been going on for six years,” he said in an interview posted in June 2023, by the *Dallas Morning News*.

“They don’t own basketball. They think they do, but they don’t. I like to say that nobody goes to their house and says, ‘Mom, I wanna play NBA.’ They say, ‘I want to play basketball.’ They just don’t like the fact that we’ve changed the game. All the stuff they’re doing behind the scenes — I believe they’re breaking a lot of antitrust laws — it has to stop.”

What role Freeman and his newspapers may have in taking on the NBA remains unknown. In the meantime, Freeman’s name surfaced in a *Wall Street Journal* story last week about the Professional Bull Riders League, under the headline “Meet the Billionaires Taking Over Professional Bull Riding.” Per the *Journal*, “Some are longtime sports investors, looking for the next big pro league, such as Nascar team owner **Richard Childress** and the Fisher family, owner of the Athletics Major League Baseball team. Others

have serious Wall Street credentials. Avenue Capital bought a bull-riding team earlier this year, wagering that a big media deal would draw more deep pockets into the sport.” The paper described Freeman as “President of Alden Global Capital, an investment firm that gained attention for buying up local newspapers and slashing costs. He owns the Florida Freedom.”

Freeman and his fellow bull riding owners have found themselves in a tough new world. “PBR starts each event with a prayer. It



Heath Freeman, fan of smaller newspapers and smaller hoop teams.

is sponsored by the U.S. Border Patrol, has partnered with the U.S. Concealed Carry Association and often honors the military at events. Longtime PBR fans have noticed the crowd changing: Many point to sightings of cowboy hats worn backward, or the emergence of booing during events, which is taboo in bull riding.” Besides bull riding and basketball, Freeman has branched into professional volleyball, published reports say. No details

have been provided about how he has paid for any of the deals, or whether he has any investment partners.

**Pressure group** A controversial, Palestinian-leaning non-profit from Northern California picked up the tab for an aide to Democratic House member **Scott Peters** to take a free October trip to Jordan, Israel, Jerusalem, and the West Bank with a cohort of fellow congressional staffers, per a November 14 disclosure filing. **Jason M. Bercovitch** and associates “met with various government officials, nonprofits, and families in the region,” says the document. “We also toured sites central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”



Scott Peters: getting some perspective on Palestine.

The cost of Bercovitch’s transportation during the nine-day roundtrip from Los Angeles to Amman, starting October 18, totaled \$3875. Lodging ran \$1394 and meals were \$770. Other expenses amounted to \$2466. The journey was sponsored by Rebuilding Alliance, which, according to a June 2024 account by National Public Radio, “has been lobbying members of Congress to pressure Israel to create a steady pipeline of medical evacuations and to lift restrictions on medical aid missions. After the war in Gaza began with the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack against Israel, Nisreen Malle, the group’s advocacy coordinator, said it was White House intervention that persuaded Israel to allow child cancer patients to leave for treatment and that pressure is needed again.”

continued on page 6



## LETTERS

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

### No-brainer

How are the city and those responsible for obtaining living sites, not seriously looking at the former FRY'S property? ("Escondido planners nix office building switch to apartments", Neighborhood News, Nov. 14, 2024) The building is probably several thousand square feet with utilities to support sanitary facilities. Seems like a no-brainer. Trees are dying which could supply shade and a sense of nature. The property is a solution waiting for a plan and funding.

Clay C Bomberger  
La Mesa

### Response to Letters on "Blockfall & Blame," 12/09/24

Thomas Larson responds:

Three letters were published in the Reader on December 5, 2024 ("Reader readers sound off about Encinitas cliffs", Letters, December 4, 2024), and each one made untrue statements about my two-part series on the deaths of three women at Grandview Beach, 2019, in Encinitas. These sorts of responses are common today: each seems not to have read the actual article; each selects some portion of it, misstates or makes up facts counter to the work itself, and suggests that the journalist (me) has failed to do what they think I should have done. According to them, my role should have been to point out how Pat Davis and family are gold-diggers motivated only by money. Read the piece and you'll see Davis denies that accusation. For him it was and is about beach safety.

M. Featherby falsely

construes SANDAG and the Del Mar cliff problem with the Grandview tragedy. I mention that ongoing mess, but it's off point. I'm not sure what \$300 million has been misspent. Erroneous statements pack the letter: there are no recent efforts to stabilize any cliffs along the coast (except trying to save the train tracks); the Coastal Commission has a hands-off approach called, "managed retreat," which I detail in the article. There's no evidence for "chemical and mechanical ways to consolidate the bluffs without changing their appearance." What in the world is "dewatering"? And the insinuation that this lawsuit was brought by "drunks, Democrats, or two-year-olds" shows how idiotically uninformed MF is.

Anonymous of Encinitas accuses me of having "failed completely." Was it that I somehow failed to tell the plaintiffs that they should have used their common

sense? Had Anon read the piece, he/she would have noted that the lifeguard told them to set up where they did, that the family, despite going to the beach a "thousand times" never picnicked at Grandview under the bluff, and that decades of erosion made the cliff extremely unstable, facts that are documented over decades; only a few beachgoers knew the threat of collapse, though there is ample proof the City and the State and the Condo Association knew of it for years.

"Tough Love" also accused me of failing to note that no one can sue any aspect of the natural world, citing death by random lightning as similar to the bluff collapse. Lightning is an act of nature; bluffs are ruined by people. Of course, I covered immunity. And, yes, of course, there are frivolous lawsuits, rarely ever won; most get thrown out. But the fact that city and state paid millions for its negligence (a trial would have meant three times the award) proves the four defendants were negligent. If Tough Love can't see the suffering this blockfall caused and thinks the Davises should just lick their wounds and admit it was their fault, I conclude neither reason nor compassion can get through to this cliché-quoting person.

I believe we should print letters from responsible readers. Free press, yes! But it's clear to me that these letter writers did not recognize what they read, or if they did, they used their opinions to spread untruths. If such false letters are printed, then I and others have the right to counter them.

This article's two parts, 8000 words, took more than 100 hours to research, report, write, and revise, dozens of emails and phone calls (messages left and unreturned), and hours of in-person interviews. All of it is on tape, transcribed, and filed.

Thomas Larson

## Under the radar

continued from page 5

Last month, Malley spoke to Capital News Service at the University of Maryland about why the group paid for House staffer tours. "When you're physically [visiting someone] who's talking to you about how their home was demolished...it's hard to ignore that when you're thinking about your policies."

The local food, as shown by Bercovitch's trip itinerary attached to his disclosure form, also may play a role. "The Old Man and the Sea Restaurant in Jaffa, founded in 1999 by **Younes Ali**, is a well-known spot that offers fresh Mediterranean seafood, a table filled with salads, a captivating sea view, and a warm, friendly atmosphere where families, friends, and dignitaries come together to enjoy dinner," says a group's itinerary.

In an account of meetings held by the group on October 27, the itinerary says: "With Congress defunding [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees], it is important to understand the scope and scale of the work that they do." Israeli officials have accused the U.N. relief agency of involvement in the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, but the Rebuilding Alliance itinerary maintains reductions aren't called for.

"Instead of a cut in funding, if anything, the health centers need more money to deal with increased demand after the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 10 official camps across Jordan, [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees] also provides waste management services for more than 400,000 refugees, which is essential in preventing disease. The UNRWA operates 161 schools, serving more than 100,000 students in Jordan, UNRWA also provides vocational training to nearly 4,000 students who cannot afford university.

— Matt Potter  
([sdmattpotter](mailto:sdmattpotter))

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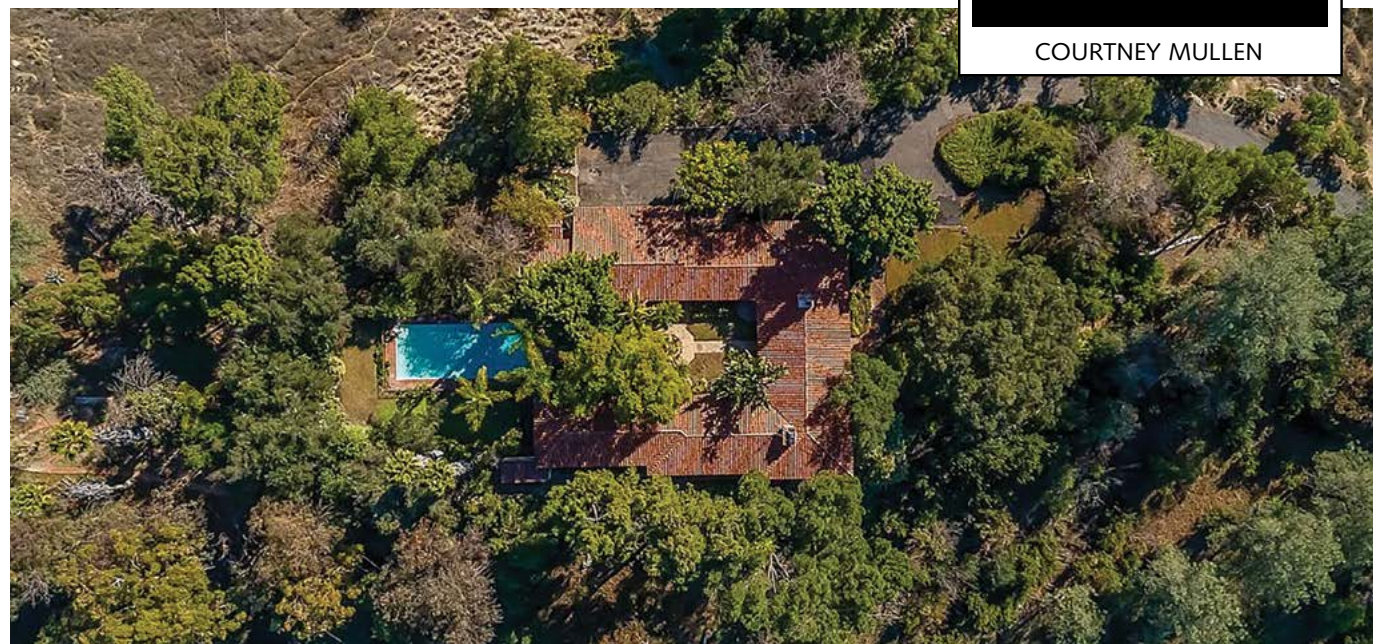
# Big house on the hill

## A little history of Ivanhoe Ranch

Ivanhoe Ranch was part of a nearly 9000-acre land grant — Jamacha Rancho — given in 1840 by Alta California Governor San Juan Bautista Alvarado to Apolinaria Lorenzana, a Mexican orphan under the care of the Catholic Church at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. She lived at the San Diego Mission, nursing and educating Native Americans on the premises. Daily operations of the Rancho were conducted by her *mayordomo*, Robert Kelly, who oversaw the cultivation of wheat, corn, and limes. Although she would visit her property on occasion, she did not reside on the premises. Eventually, she moved from San Diego to San Juan Capistrano when the last pastor, Father Olivós, left in 1847.

Following the Mexican-American War, all rancho land was appropriated by the U.S. government. Kelly allowed military officials to stay on the rancho and graze livestock. In 1853, Colonel John Magruder purchased Jamacha Rancho from Lorenzana for \$4167. She later began an appeal process to recover the land, but had already sold her mortgage, which weakened her legal position. In later interviews, she claimed she had not sold the property, and that it had been taken from her by the U.S. military. In 1928, the section of Rancho Jamacha that eventually became known as the 200-acre Ivanhoe Ranch was bought for the recently orphaned John Paul Scripps in 1928 — to give him space to raise cattle and earn an income. Barns, bunk houses, and houses built around this time still exist on the ranch today.

The Spanish hacienda, situated at the top of a lone hill in the Sweetwater River watershed, was designed by noted architect Frank Hope and completed in 1941. The nearly 5000-square-foot house has views of the surrounding Steele Canyon



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and Cottonwoods golf courses located along the river valley and Mt. McGinty. It contains four master suites and five baths, plus an office/library, four fireplaces, and a private saloon. The grounds are lush and carefully landscaped. The property contains an Olympic size swimming pool with accompanying changing rooms for men and women. The pool lies adjacent to a picturesque courtyard decorated with palms and birds of paradise, and is adorned with brick walkways and a fountain.

In 1946, Robert Immenschuh married Jean Campbell, and in 1949, Jean's father David — a tuna boat builder and the founder of Campbell Machine Co. — bought the property for them.

Robert was originally from Kansas; he moved to San Diego and worked as a veterinarian for the San Diego Zoo during World War II. Jean was a veterinarian as well, and an accomplished equestrian. She was a member of the Cow Belles, the women's affiliate of the Cattlemen's Association, and a director for the San Diego County Cutting Horse Association. The family raised quarter horses and Hereford cattle, and grew oat hay, which kept the operation self-sustaining. They were involved with racing and showing horses. Jean's parents lived in an adobe hacienda on the ranch until her mother's death in 1980. After that, the ranch served as a hospital for horses from all over San Diego as well as a boarding center — until Jean and Robert divorced in 1999.

The marriage had produced two daughters, and after the divorce, one of them attempted to sell and develop the property. However, the ancestral family will stated that while any grandchildren of the couple would inherit the ranch, no development of the ranch could occur until Jean's death. This would later become a source of bitter contention and litigation among the family. According to a local resident, Karen Romano, she was taken to court by one of her daughters, and lost. The ruling allowed Jean to stay in the ranch house, while control of the ranch property was ceded to her daughter. The other daughter would visit on birthdays and holidays, but most of the time, Jean lived alone.

I personally have fond childhood memories of riding my bike down the dirt road at the end of Ivanhoe Ranch Road and onto the ranch. It was guarded by an electronic fence that seemed to be open more often than not, and since the ranch occupied an immense mass of land, the "no trespassing" sign was hardly, if ever, heeded. Other

neighborhood kids and I would frequently hop the fences to play hide and go seek and explore.

In July of 2005, Jean hosted a community event at the main ranch house featuring Jane Goodall, a famous biologist known for her work with primates. A local middle school science teacher, Marion Soloway, organized the event on behalf of the local chapter of the youth organization, Roots and Shoots, which was co-founded by Dr. Goodall. Students, teachers, and families from Hillsdale Middle School came to hear Goodall speak. Jean offered tours of her manor and incredible garden. The ranch was sold the same year, and Jean died in 2020.

Today, the corrals are overgrown with weeds and large portions of the fence are missing. The stalls remain largely unoccupied. The main ranch house and its five-acre property, while currently vacant, continues to be maintained by on-site staff, and is currently listed as a rental property. An effort to convert the property to a residential development has been underway for several years, but has met with numerous challenges.

A groundskeeper named Manuel has been working the Ivanhoe property since 1984. He described Jean as very strict with the four or five workers she employed. One day, he didn't show up to work without leaving a message because he wasn't feeling well. The next day, she told him, "I expect a message if you're not coming in," and said that he would be fired if it happened again. But he also described her generosity and personal emphasis on the value of education. Manuel's eldest daughter wanted to go to college, but the family did not have enough money. Jean ended up financing her education for the first semester, including books. She also personally financed the college education of a horse trainer who worked on the ranch.

CLOSE TO  
HOME

COURTNEY MULLEN



Development has been slowed by the discovery of Native American remains and traffic concerns.





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# Stories of downtown

## A Small Room at the End of the Hall

So please, let me take your picture. Let me take your picture! I want to see what you think of yourself. If you're proud and sure, you'll look right at me. If you're scared and are wishing to hell that I would leave you alone, that I'd let you live in your shell and not have to be looked at or asked a question or an opinion, then you'll turn away. You'll turn and you'll laugh. Because you feel that I'm taking something away from you. [Armed Forces YMCA]

By Richard Smith, OCT. 14, 1982

## Old Haunt

"They tore down the original hotel and put the facade in crates. Then they tore down another building and put that facade in crates. Then they built a new building, stuck the old facades on the outside, and had the gall to call it the Horton Grand. It's no more the Horton Grand than Main Street in Disneyland was once a road. It's a hoax. It's a Laura Ashley fake. They even claim they've got a ghost!"

By Michael Lesy, JULY 19, 1990

## Come Float at My Dock

The *Midway* will be parked this side of the pier, less than 50 yards from the restaurant. Its smokestack will reach up 65 feet higher

still. Its bow won't cut off the Fish Market's main view of Coronado, but it will be a gray wall blocking the northern prospect. One of De Anda's partners recently offered the carrier group \$250,000 to take their museum somewhere else, perhaps by the airport. They turned him down."

By Bill Manson, OCT. 2, 1997

## A Lullaby of Broadway

"I was sitting in my room," declared one hotel resident, "when I heard a knock at the door. I opened the door and three or four men forced their way in. I was totally surprised. They pushed me onto the bed and put a belt around my arms. Someone kept my face pushed into the mattress until they got a pillowcase over my head. One



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD SMITH

Sounds like you're from the South. I've never been there — maybe you'll tell me about it. About the people, the smells, the hot steam that'd come off the yards after a summer rain.

of them pressed my eyes into the sockets with his fingers."

By Merton Gaudette, JAN. 12, 1978

## Plaza Suite

There are three subcultures in Horton Plaza: Resigned and rootless old men, like me, who want no trouble and make

none, who come there to ruminate and warm their bones; the winos, sharing their Mickeys, pint bottles of port wine, which are swaddled in brown paper bags not to deceive the law but from kindness (that way, no one knows and so need feel no guilt when he takes the last swallow left).

By John B. Koffend, JAN. 18, 1979

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Ed note: A version of this story ran in the Reader on December 23, 2004

# Shoppers spill the Christmas tea

**ANN, 80, LA MESA**

Kohl's Santee

I'm shopping for just my family — my daughter and grandchildren. Our Christmas is Christmas Eve. That is our family tradition. I have been doing this all my life. I grew up with that. I'm from Germany, and always Christmas Eve was the big thing. You go to church and then you have Christmas when you come home from church that evening. As a child, I remember the snow, up to my chin. I remember the bustle, the getting ready, the baking, the house smelling so good, and the traditional things you have there. We didn't do the lights outside of the houses. My favorite Christmas carol is "Silent Night," but in German, "*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht.*" My worst Christmases were during the war. Those were bad times. We were bombed, and then we were in the Russian occupation. You don't like to look back to that; you go forward. My fondest Christmas memories were as a



PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLETAIONESCU, ISTOCK / GETTY IMAGES PLUS

child growing up, being with the family. As long as you were with your family, it was a merry Christmas.

**JOE, 52, SANTEE**

Kohl's Santee

When I was growing up in Hartford, Connecticut, the oldest working child in the family bought the Christmas tree. That was his Christmas gift. There were seven kids, my parents, and my grandparents. There weren't a lot of presents — we were pretty poor — but everybody got together and trimmed the tree. The older kids went to Catholic Church on Christmas Eve, the

younger group went with the folks on Christmas Day. We had presents Christmas morning, a big meal early Christmas afternoon. When I was seven, I got a used bicycle. My father had bought it and repainted it, and that was the best Christmas gift ever. It was really icy. I crashed a lot, but it was great. The one gift I wanted and never received was a motorcycle.

**VICTOR, 27, LA MESA**

Westfield Shoppingtown Parkway

Christmas growing up: gifts, lots of gifts. I was a Navy brat, so we moved around, but we actually had family come out wherever we were for Christmas. My dad would go all out with lights and everything. A couple of years we did

reindeer, and then a couple of years we did a snowman in the front of the house and lights everywhere. What symbolized Christmas in our household was the food. My mom's Filipino and my father is Mexican, so we had a whole variety of food, a cross section of different stuff. We had a dessert called a *halo-halo*; it is kind of like a slushy ice cream. And we had Filipino cheesecake, which is juicy and sweet. And we had all sorts of adobo — chicken adobo, pork adobo — and of course *pansit*. And then my dad had his tamales, oh, man.... The GI Joe aircraft carrier, that was the

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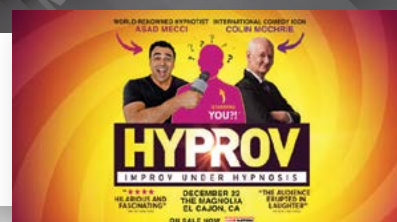
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one thing that I always wanted, and I never got it. It wasn't because they didn't want to get it for me. Every year, when it came time to buy it, the stores didn't have it. They were sold out. It was huge — it was almost as long as this bench. And every year, my dad tried to get it, and then the last year he even special ordered it, but they messed up the order.

#### ROY, 54, EL CAJON

Westfield Shoppingtown Parkway

I remember the best Christmas I had. I was five years old. I got the whole set of Tonka trucks that I always wanted. The old stamped metal ones. I think my grandkids are still playing with them. Really, I can't remember a gift that I wanted and didn't get. I basically got everything that I wanted. Of course, I didn't want all that much, and then I was pretty well happy with what I did get. Kids today, they want everything they see. My worst Christmas was in 1997 when my ex left the day before Christmas and took my three-year-old daughter with her. That was my worst one.

#### DARISSA, 20, CHULA VISTA

Westfield Shoppingtown Plaza Bonita

Probably my favorite gift I ever got was this jean jacket I got from my sister. I wore it everywhere. I was like 15 or 16, and I thought it was the coolest thing ever. I got so many compliments on that thing it was ridiculous. The favorite gift that I have given was a Playstation for my dad. He is into games. Last year, I wanted jewelry from my boyfriend, and I didn't get it. I think I am getting it this year, though.

What makes me cry at Christmastime is watching other people's expressions when they open a gift that you've gotten them, something that you know they are going to love, and they are just so excited. That will make me cry. Do I wrap my own gifts? Yes and no. Sometimes, like if the shops will do it I will let them do it, but more normally I will do it. My mom taught me how to wrap gifts.

We used to decorate the outside of our house, but not anymore. We put a bow in front of our gate and we put lights up, that's about it. Nothing

too extravagant. I always wanted the moving reindeer, but no. Maybe this year. My mom, she is very nitpicky. She doesn't want anything to be all messy, so she will only decorate the living room. But she is very subtle and neat. If it were my house, I would have more stuff, like the cinnamon smell when you walk in and everything.

#### LUDY, 48, CHULA VISTA

Westfield Shoppingtown Plaza Bonita

I plan to spend a lot of money on gifts. Probably in the range of \$1000 to maybe \$3000. My immediate family gets the most expensive gifts, my children and my husband. But first of all, we don't celebrate Christmas like many others do, because we don't observe it in our church. We don't celebrate Christmas in our church, because every day is a Christmas in the Church of Christ Pentecostal Church. We believe that every day is giving day. But so that our children don't feel left out, we give them what we call Good Boy, Good Girl presents. And then it is also our anniversary, so my husband and I give

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each other gifts. We just make it a family day.

**MONICA, 33,  
REDONDO BEACH**

Westfield Shoppingtown Mission Valley  
Santa never wrapped anything at our house. Presents from Mom were wrapped, but not the ones from Santa. And there was always flour — and we knew it was flour — all over the place, with footsteps in it that led to the fireplace and up the chimney. Yeah, you know what was funny was that I knew that it was flour, but I just kind of went with it. We always had family over all day the 24th and all day the 25th. We'd have all the parties. Fun? Well, yes and no, because of the cleanup. You'd ship one-half of the family out, clean up, and the next group came in.

But now that I think about it, the best part of the season wasn't Christmas. My aunt would come over sometime before Christmas and my mom and she would bake for 24 hours one day, and we would pass out all the cookies around the neighborhood. What makes me cry at Christmastime? I

work for UPS at night, and so we have a little gathering, not on Christmas but the week before, and we have kids that come from shelters or orphanages so that we can give them gifts. That makes me cry.

Family Christmas traditions that we have — well, now that we've grown up it has kind of changed, but when we were kids, the tradition was that we would all go next door to our neighbor's house on Christmas Eve. We would have food and see everyone, and then we were sent home to go to bed. The adults stayed at the house, drank a lot, and assembled all of the toys. So the next morning, you didn't know if you were going to sit on the bike and it was going to fall apart or what.

**STEVE, 57,  
LEMON GROVE**

Westfield Shoppingtown Mission Valley  
I've done Santa here and at Fashion Valley. I've done radio shows, I've done parties, and I've done SDSU, which is where I work. It is a blast. About 15 years ago, I had a neighbor of mine who did one of the Santa houses and asked me to

try it out, and I have been doing Santa ever since. It's very rewarding. I get to listen to kids, and I mean all ages. I've had young girls come in, 18 to 19 years old, that were pregnant and just wanted to talk. And little kids that had their hamster die and wanted to talk about that.

**TENA, 56, LAKESIDE**

Westfield Shoppingtown Mission Valley  
I don't decorate my house. I don't do a tree. I do a tree at work, so I count that. In fact, I do four trees at work, at Mary Birch hospital. I'm the decorator. I don't do one at home. My son is 30-some years old now, so...

My favorite Christmas gift ever was probably a sewing machine I received from my mother when I was about 15 or 16. That was about the best gift ever because I didn't know I was going to get it and I was into sewing. It was just a perfect gift. My favorite gift given was a gift to my father, which irritated the whole family so much. My father chewed tobacco. So for his gift I bought him a spittoon. And you know, my mother tried to hide

the fact that he chewed tobacco, but I got him this spittoon and I had it specially delivered. And she had a fit. He was very happy. He used that until there was a hole in the bottom. That was the best gift ever. The one gift I always wanted but never got? Well, let me see. I would say a good husband. That would have been a nice gift.

**PATTY, 38, DOWNTOWN**

Westfield Shoppingtown Mission Valley  
I had a very nice upbringing. This time of year, it was like putting on the Ritz in our home. Mom and Dad went all out. I tell you, we kids were spoiled. I am going to be honest with you. Every year, the basement was full of gifts from my mom and dad and from our uncles and our aunts and from Santa. It was always full. It was usually more than 10 or 12 gifts per child, it really was.

I am in a hotel living right now, and I am not too pleased with it. That is why my Christmas present to myself is to save my money and move into a nice apartment or condo. But I am going to decorate my little space. I've made my own little wreath already. I think my fondest Christmas memory was probably the first year that I was out on my own, away from living in my parents' home. That was my fondest. It had its hardships, being away from the family, but when I look back at it, it was my fondest Christmas.

My favorite gift I ever got: one year they came out with the Barbie's apartment set. My younger sister had got that one, and I got the Barbie Beauty Salon. It was so cool. My younger sister and I got along for the whole year after that, even

when we weren't playing with the set. Before that, we always argued.

**ANGEL, 33, LA MESA**

Grossmont Center  
I wrap my own gifts; my mom taught me how. I remember one year, I think she just kind of threw me to the wolves: "Here you go. Wrap these." And I did a really bad job. I was probably about eight, and then the next year she taught me how to measure the box, because my boxes weren't all the way covered that first year.

My worst Christmas was the first year that I wasn't with my family. I had moved out of my parents' house, my brother had gone away to college, my aunt who had lived with us moved back East. My mom and dad moved to Hawaii, because my dad got relocated there. And I was the only one left here. I stayed, and everyone else moved. It was the worst because my family wasn't around. I still had a tree. I put up a little Christmas tree. I did the best I could. I just called them.

**ANDREW AND GREG,  
LOS ANGELES**

University Avenue in Hillcrest

**Andrew:** I don't have a lot of happy childhood memories. Too many expectations, and my family could not live up to them. They were very cynical, kind of crazy alcoholics with too much money. Drunken parents, Christmas tree knocked over, not a good memory. Now Christmases are fun.

**Greg:** I was poor; it's all right. For children, Christmases generally are excellent.

**Andrew (motioning to Greg):** He's the one to ask about carols.

**Greg:** Do I know a carol?

**Andrew:** "O Come All Ye Faithful"?

**Greg:** Oh, that's ridiculous. "White Christmas."

**Andrew:** I don't know if that's a carol.

**Greg:** It's better than most; most carols are dull things.

**Andrew:** I try to get presents wrapped. I'm terrible at it.

**Greg:** I have a natural flair for wrapping. One time I wrapped everyone's gifts up in Chinese parchment and twine, and then I put Chinese coins in the twine. That was good. I really liked that.

**Andrew:** We don't decorate, because we always leave to go to each of our families'.

**Greg:** My family makes a halfhearted attempt.

**Andrew:** My sister is really into decorating. All the boxes are already out.

**Greg:** The most annoying thing in the world is when people take bathing and try to make it look like snow in Southern California. There's something about it that's just wrong.

**Andrew:** We'll go to his family's on Christmas Day for dinner.

**Greg:** You've got to hear this story. It only happened once. My cousin was courting her now-husband, or he was courting her. We had to do some repair work on him because one Christmas he brought baked Red Hots with rum as his special family contribution to Christmas dinner. It was really alarming; people politely nibbled at it.

**ERIN AND KRISTEN,  
BOTH 23, LA JOLLA**

Fashion Valley Mall

**Erin:** We're roommates and best friends.

**Kristen:** For 12 years. We'll have a tree, and we'll have a theme -- sil-

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ver. Not shiny, though.  
**Erin:** And red -- we're red girls.

**Kristen:** Maybe red pearls -- like cranberries! White lights, not colored ones. And no tinsel. We have cats; they'd eat it and die.

**Erin:** The best Christmas ever was last year, when all my friends came over to our new apartment and we all drank wine and had a fire and opened presents, and it was so fun -- just friends. Or maybe it's when the kids come down -- my niece and nephew come downstairs -- and it's like we've spent all night putting together these huge toys for them and they're saying, "Ooooooooh! Aaaaaaah!" I love that.

**Kristen:** The worst Christmas ever was the year before my parents got a divorce. Everybody was fighting and everybody was yelling and everybody was crying on Christmas Day. It was horrible. I don't necessarily actually cry at Christmas, but it just kind of sucks to have a dysfunctional family and you have to go to like five places to see everybody -- you can't have just one place and everybody being together and happy like in the movies, because it's not that way.

**Erin:** My mom and my real dad were great; they used to do a whole bunch of fun stuff. It'll be fun when I have kids and they'll all be happy and I'll get to give them all their stuff.

**Kristen:** I want my kids to be happy, and so that's why I'm waiting to have kids. I want them to be excited for Christmas. I'm going to try really hard not to be dysfunctional.

#### COLLEEN, 45

Wal-Mart Lemon Grove  
The worst Christmas ever was when we were homeless and living in a Motel 6. We couldn't afford a Christmas tree. I went down to the local 7-Eleven and bought gifts for my two daughters; they were 8 and 11. This year, I'll probably spend about \$1300.

Our tree just happens to be artificial, very full, seven and a half feet tall. We use mostly old-fashioned ornaments or Hallmark ornaments or a combination, and we have all kinds of lights. My favorite gift? The first time I got a gold chain. My mother gave it to me; I was 16. The best gift I gave was probably a Gone with the Wind doll I got my daughter when she was 12. My mother taught me to wrap presents; I remember I was surprised at how long it actually took.

#### JED AND SALLY, RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS

Fashion Valley Mall

**Jed:** I grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, so we used to do the traditional thing -- both sides of the family just get together and have dinner. We cut our own Christmas tree, and we made strings from cranberries and popcorn. We made our own ornaments out of Styrofoam balls by putting different types of fabric on them.

**Sally:** It's very traditional. I remember spending Christmas there, and everybody opens their gifts one at a time. At my house, we all open them up at the same time. The best gifts I've given have always been experiences rather than materialistic things. I remember taking Jed to a Prince concert and a Harry Connick Jr. concert. And I remember feeling so proud giving him fourth-row seats to Phantom of the Opera. Our tree is fake this year, about six feet tall and probably modestly decorated. We're both teachers, so sometimes kids make ornaments for you. You hang those up, and those are really nice.

**Jed:** The better Christmases for me are the ones where I still believed in Santa Claus.

The magic was still more prevalent than the hustle and bustle. I tried to push it as long as I could; I even pretended that he was real, for my parents' sake, until I was about 12.

**Sally:** I think I cry when I see older people really happy. They see all the kids, and you almost see in their eyes what they've seen, and they're thinking about their children and about when they were kids. I enjoy Christmas because people are so busy in life, and Christmas forces you to actually get together. I'm really good at forgetting all the bad things.

#### EVA, 26, BANKER'S HILL

University Avenue  
in Hillcrest  
There's a tree in my family's house. We have a lot of nieces and nephews, so there are a lot of decorations and lights. I like all the old ornaments my sister and I made in kindergarten. There's a reindeer that Mom always pulls out; it's wooden and it's got colorful Christmas lights attached to it. We've had it for a long time; it's handmade by

one of my Mom's friends.

I like seeing the nieces and nephews adding on to the family. Probably this is going to be the worst Christmas ever. I have a family fight. I'm probably not going to spend Christmas with my family this year. I'll probably spend it with friends.

#### JERRY AND GAIL, 69 AND 70, RANCHO BERNARDO

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**Gail:** My favorite Christmas carol is called "A Christmas Carol." It's not really popular, but it's beautiful. My son is a singer and he sings in a church choir. He sings it.

**Jerry:** "Little Drummer Boy" is the only thing that pops into my head right now. I don't know why. The gray is setting in and I have trouble remembering.

**Gail:** We haven't had much time to think about Christmas; we're celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary next week. We're planning a big party, a combination 50th anniversary and Christmas party. The tree is going to be a pink poodle tree:

pink flocking, black-and-white checked flags, pink poodles, and about as tacky as you can get. We have a different theme every year with our tree -- that's our Christmas.

**Jerry:** I'll cry at most anything at Christmastime.

**Gail:** Getting maudlin about the past. I think my fondest memories are of when I was little, waking up Christmas morning and having all those toys there. I remember a red tricycle.

**Jerry:** An electric train.

**Gail:** My dad didn't have a boy, so I had to get one of those too. Jerry gave me this watch, and I love this watch. That was a good one.

**Jerry:** That's one out of 50!


**Gail:** And missing the little ones. They're all grown up now. But they'll all be there for dinner at our place.

**Jerry:** We have three sons, and they'll bring their families.

**Gail:** We'll serve prime rib and maybe ham. And oven-browned potatoes.

**Jerry:** We normally have popovers with roast beef.

—Reader staff



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[petcoparkevents.com](http://petcoparkevents.com)

#### WILL SMITH'S DANCE IN THE DARKNESS TOUR

Will Smith, the one-time Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, released his last full-length musical album in 2005. This year, he returns to his musical roots as a rapper for a tour in support of a new album said to be in the works. "The theme of the music I've been working on is 'Dance in your Darkest Moments,'" according to Smith's Facebook page.

### Friday | 13

#### LIGHT SHOWS, SNOWFALL, CAROLING

Community caroling groups will sing



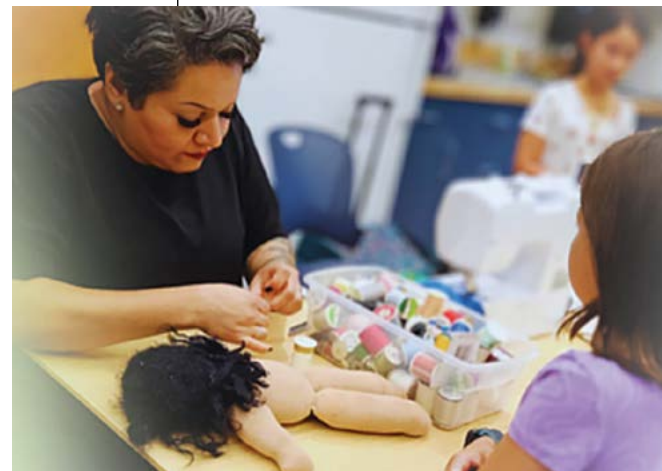
holiday favorites between two light shows featuring snowfall. Children will receive magic glasses to view the shows in an array of colors. Visit with Santa in his sleigh and take the holiday express train. Children's holiday craft and activity books available for free. There is a holiday arch for picture taking at the entrance to the bridge next to the koi pond.

**WHEN:** Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 6 pm to 7:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Village Walk, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive, Eastlake.  
[shopvillagewalk.com](http://shopvillagewalk.com)

### Saturday | 14

#### SAN DIEGO FIX IT CLINIC

Zero Waste San Diego is hosting a San Diego Fix It Clinic. Bring your broken, non-functioning things (electronics, appliances, computers, toys, bicycles, clothes) for assessment, disassembly, and possible repair. Work-space provided, plus specialty tools and guidance to help you disassemble and troubleshoot your item.



SAN DIEGO FIX IT CLINIC

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 14, 10 am to 1 pm  
**WHERE:** Bonita-Sunnyside Library, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita.  
[sdfixitclinic.org](http://sdfixitclinic.org)

#### GASLAMP HOLIDAY PET PARADE

Register your pets in advance for \$25, or just watch for free. There will be holiday costume voting, festive pet accessories, holiday vendors, and photos with Santa, Rudolph, and Frosty. After the parade, guests are invited to stroll to the third annual Pups in the Pub Party at the Hilton from 2 pm through 4 pm. Enjoy craft beer, complimentary goody bags, holiday tunes, games for pups and peeps, and photo ops.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 14, 1 pm  
**WHERE:** Gaslamp Quarter. Fifth Avenue, between Broadway and Harbor Drive, Downtown. [gaslamp.org](http://gaslamp.org)



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

ART

**Ancient Echoes: Ice Age Pigments Handprint Edition** Put on your dirty painting clothes and come to the SDAC for this all-ages outdoor art event where we'll be spraying, blowing, and flinging our favorite ancient pigments like an Ice Age Jackson Pollock. All art materials will be provided. Tickets include coffee, tea, and light refreshments. Saturday, December 14, 10am; \$25-\$35. San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

**Exclusive Grinch Celebration in San Diego** Celebrate the season with an exclusive behind-the-scenes journey into the making of a holiday Grinch classic with a rare glimpse into the creative collaboration between Chuck Jones and Dr. Seuss. Craig Kausen, grandson of Chuck Jones and CEO of Linda Jones Enterprises, will lead this multimedia presentation, sharing personal stories about the artistry and genius that brought the Grinch to life. Friday, December 13, 5:30pm; **free**. Chuck Jones Gallery Seaport Village, 809 West Harbor Drive #E4-B. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Little Fish Comic Savvy** Merry X-Menmas! Enjoy comics, good conversation, and a large library of comic books and graphic novels has just about a little of everything for everyone, so please feel free to peruse the stacks. A large amount of free comic books and graphic novels are available for attendees to go through and take home. Saturday, December 14, 7pm; **free**. Little Fish Comic Book Studio, 6822-B El Cajon Boulevard. (ROLANDO)

**Tarnished Emporium Opening Reception** Tarnished Emporium, an exhibition of new works by celebrated sculptor Valency Genis. She has created a melange of delightfully odd, offbeat creatures sculpted from clay, resin, glass and for the first time - metallics. There will be live music and drinks available for purchase from LastSpot by Tortari. Artist in attendance. Thursday, December 12, 6pm; Distinction Gallery, 317 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**Wildlife Jewels & Project Wildlife Art Fundraiser!** Celebrate the season and support wildlife through exclusive art, warm cider, and the company of Wildlife Ambassadors. Meet some of the inspiring animals, learn about the project work, and enjoy an exclusive art collection. RSVP online @ [wildlifejewels.org/upcoming-events](http://wildlifejewels.org/upcoming-events). Friday, December 13, 5pm; **free**. Serpentine Cider, 8665 Miralani Drive #100. (MIRAMAR)

AUTOMOTIVE

**Cars & Coffee** Discounted admission price or partake in the completely free event outside with coffee and donuts (while supplies last) for guests to enjoy while browsing the wide array of vehicles. The public is also invited to bring their own cars to display in the parking lot. The Museum will open at 8:00 am with a discounted admission rate of \$10 before 10:00 am. We will also have a Toys for Tots donation bin set up for your convenience. Sunday, December 15, 7:30am; **free**. San Diego Automotive Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

BEER

**Ales 'N Rails: Beer Tasting Holiday Fundraiser** Enjoy an evening of local brews and food, live music, raffle drawings, and an Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest. The museum seeks to raise \$10,000 to support the preservation of its permanent exhibits and the resident model railroad associations who design, operate, and maintain them all. Saturday, December 14, 6pm; \$45-\$50. 21 and up. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**San Diego SantaCon** Downtown pub crawl, costumes encouraged. Saturday, December 14, 4pm; **free**-\$29. 21 and up. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

BOOK SIGNINGS

**Meet Brian Baumgartner of The Office** This is a ticketed meet-and-greet book signing and photo opportunity; there will be no discussion. Join us for a meet & greet photo op with Brian Baumgartner as he signs his new book *The Night Before Christmas at Dunder Mifflin*. Tuesday, December 17, 6pm; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

**9th Annual Holiday in the Village** Free holiday event including skating on a synthetic "ice" rink, an "All White Winter Wonderland" kids area filled with inflatable bouncies, Mrs. Claus Reading Nook, Gingerbread House photo booth, Miniature Golf and a fun-themed Elf Adventure Trail. Saturday, December 14, 12pm; **free**. La Mesa Village, Spring Street at La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

**A Tree Lot Christmas** Joining Jesus' Family Tree is a childrens musical that brings to life what it means to be a part of God's family tree and the importance of shar-

ing His love with others. Thursday, December 12, 6pm; Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**A Victorian Christmas** Step back in time with an afternoon of Victorian stories, poetry and music. Explore the real meaning of Christmas through humor, kindness and unexpected visitors in the night. Saturday, December 14, 1pm and 3pm; \$30. Villa Montezuma Museum, 1925 K Street. (SHERMAN HEIGHTS)

**Chunky Yarn Christmas Workshop** Get ready to craft some festive cheer with Chunky Yarn. Wednesday, December 18, 6:30pm; \$45. Mike Hess Brewing Ocean Beach, 4893 Voltaire Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

**City of Encinitas & Encinitas Ballet: Nutcracker** Experience the magic of *The Nutcracker* brought to life by the Encinitas Ballet with costumes, choreography, and the music of Tchaikovsky. Saturday, December 14, 2pm and 6pm; \$40-\$60. San Dieguito Academy, 800 Santa Fe Drive. (ENCINITAS)

**Disney & Hello Kitty Holiday Market** Stop by Mission Valley Center for a pop up market by the Christmas Tree with 60+ vendors. There will be Disney and Hello Kitty themed door prizes for the first 100 adults in line. Sunday, December 15, 11am; **free**. Westfield Mission Valley Center, 1640 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Holiday Date Night! Chocolate Making Class** Make a bark with over three dozen seasonal and classic ingredients to choose from and make molded chocolates. Friday, December 13, 6pm; \$75. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

**Macrame Christmas Tree Garland Workshop** Learn the art of macrame with a delightful Christmas twist and leave with your very own handcrafted garland. Sunday, December 15, 1pm; \$55. Mike Hess Brewing North Park, 3812 Grim Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

**Santa's Workshop & Bluey's Christmas Bash** Meet Santa Claus and Bluey. Saturday, December 14, 10am; \$35-\$45. Toucan Play, 1750 East Palomar St., Suite 7. (CHULA VISTA)

**Starlight Parade & Festival** Celebrate the magic of the holidays in Chula Vista at the 60th Annual Starlight Parade and Festival! There will be new twists on this long-standing favorite event, including a holiday movie showing at the Memorial Bowl. Saturday, December 14, 3pm; **free**. Third Avenue Village, Third Avenue @ K Street. (CHULA VISTA)

**Victorian Christmas Tours of the Davis-Horton House** This December, learn this history of Victorian Christmas traditions as you take a self-guided tour through the decked halls of the Davis-Horton House! Keep an eye out for hidden nutcrackers along the way—find them all, and win a prize! Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Wednesdays, 10am; through Wednesday, December 18, 10. Gaslamp Museum at the

# A Charlie Brown Christmas

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC WITH ARCHIE THOMPSON AND THE ARCHTONES

FOOD AND BEVERAGES  
GAMES AND KIDS ACTIVITIES

FREE EVENT  
DECEMBER 21  
ANY TIME BETWEEN 2PM AND 6PM

320 DATE STREET, DOWNTOWN

First Presbyterian Church  
SAN DIEGO

# NOW OPEN

## LITTLE ITALY MERCATO

SATURDAYS 8 am to 2 pm  
WEDNESDAYS 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

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

OPEN YEAR-ROUND, RAIN OR SHINE

Information and safety protocols:  
[sandiegomarkets.com](http://sandiegomarkets.com)



OMA'S  
FAMILY FARM

# CONSTRUCTION Christmas

**December 5-7**  
*featuring Mrs. Claus*

Join Mrs. Claus for a Storytime session followed by a fun and festive Christmas craft to take home. Storytime starts at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.

**December 12-14**  
*featuring Santa*

Bring your family to visit with Santa and capture the magic! On December 14, a professional photographer will be on-site to capture these special holiday moments.

Explore the farm as it's transformed with staged heavy equipment displays and enjoy thrilling tractor demos throughout the day





# Drinks All Around

BY MATTHEW  
LICKONA

**ANTHONY SCHMIDT**  
Born & Raised  
1909 India Street  
Little Italy



The news of late has been full of stories about the price of eggs; some pundits have gone so far as to suggest that it tipped the recent Presidential election. It's not just a lot of clucking and crowing; the Bureau of Labor Statistics website features reports on eggflation. Eager to toast the end of same and the promise of better times to come, I went looking for the most elevated egg nog I could find, and soon found myself

ensconced beneath the walnut blooms of the baronial bar at Born & Raised, there to sample their Holiday Punch.

"They say you can live on one egg a day; I can feel that in this drink," marveled The Wife. "That substantial yolk secures the center, and yet it's not cloying or heavy. You want a tray of them to send down the hatch, like Anthony Blanche with the Brandy Alexanders in *Brideshead Revisited*." I had to agree, at least about the relative lightness of the foamy-custardy cocktail.

It turns out that much was intentional. "Not every egg cocktail needs to have a whiskey base," says Anthony Schmidt, partner and Beverage Director at CH Projects. "We wanted a lighter version, something not crazy decadent — especially in a situation like Born & Raised, where so much of the experience is decadent. Cognac tends to be more velvety and luxurious than whiskey, but while there's a richness and an opulence to it, there's also some lightness. We didn't want a dessert drink to just hammer you."

There are similar reasons behind

the use of amaro CioCiaro. "We have what we call 'burnt orange;' it's a super-reduced orange juice — we cook it down, down, down to 70% water reduction. It's this intense orange — super thick and syrupy, and slightly bitter and roasted. Then we stabilize that with the CioCiaro bitters, which has its own hint of orange. We knew the orange aspect would freshen up the drink, lighten it. But the burnt caramel aspect of it was going to keep it in that transitory place of 'sort of a dessert, sort of not.'"

As for the absinthe rinse that graces the glass with its herbal bite, "that's been around in cocktail books as far back as 1900. It's an old trick to make a gin drink a bit more ginny, but it works really well with a number of spirits. A Sazerac is basically a rye Old Fashioned served without ice in a glass that has been chilled with a little bit of absinthe in it. You empty the glass before pouring in the drink, but it has a lovely residual aroma. And the oldest version of a Sazerac is a cognac Old Fashioned. We've been messing with that combination since forever."

## BORN & RAISED'S HOLIDAY PUNCH



- .5 oz VSOP cognac
- .5 oz. Licor 43
- .5 oz caramelized orange syrup
- .25 oz amaro CioCiaro
- .1 oz cream
- egg yolk

Combine ingredients with ice in shaker can and shake vigorously. Strain into the small side of the shaker can, empty ice, re-seal shaker and shake intensely for a brief moment. Pour into 6-7 oz cocktail glass that has been rinsed with absinthe.

Davis-Horton House, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

day, December 16, 6:30pm; **free**. 18 and up. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

12, 4pm; \$45. Cellar Hand, 1440 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

toe shoes and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Cooler temperatures make for a great experience. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30am; through December 29, **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Free Skateboarding Lessons For Girls** Exposure's youth clinic, Skate Rising, provides free hands-on skateboarding instruction where girls can connect with Olympic and pro skateboarders while progressing their skills and learning about giving back to their community. Saturday, December 14, 9am; **free**. Encinitas Community Park, 425 Santa Fe Drive. (ENCINITAS)

**Holiday SD Fixit Clinic** Bring your broken, non-functioning things: electronics, appliances, computers, toys, bicycles, clothes, etc. for assessment, disassembly, and possible repair. Work-space provided, with specialty tools, and guidance to help you disassemble and troubleshoot your item. Saturday, December 14, 10am; **free**. Bonita-Sunnyside Library, 4375 Bonita Road. (BONITA)

**Stand Up Comedy Class** Join our six week stand up comedy workshop, and develop a 5 minute set that you can perform at open mics and live shows! Every week will be an interactive workshop that will cover different topics. For more details please email Jesse Egan @ jesseegancomedy@gmail.com Saturday, December 14, 12pm; Mic

## COMEDY

**Laurie Kilmartin** Laurie Kilmartin is a comedian and an Emmy-nominated/WGA Award-winning writer for CONAN. Thursday, December 12, 8pm; \$25. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

**Pretty Funny Women** is the longest running all female stand up show in the world. PFW currently plays at the La Jolla Comedy Store every last Wednesday of the month and features a totally different line up of hysterical women each show. Wednesday, December 18, 8pm; \$28. 21 and up. Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

**Richard Lederer: A Feast of Words** In A Feast of Words, Richard Lederer will serve up a veritable banquet of words, from a brief history of English to rib-tickling bloopers and puns. Saturday, December 14, 11am; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

**Ube World** Filipino-american comedian Mikey Perry hosts the one and only Filipino comedy show in the city! Specifically designed to bring together the community, we celebrate the culture, food, and hospitable vibes of the islands. Sunday, December 15, 8:30pm; \$20-\$200. Mic Drop Comedy,

## DANCE

**Encinitas Ballet's The Nutcracker** Encinitas Ballet's production blends young talent and professional artistry. These young dancers don't just dance; they bring the holiday spirit to life. Saturday, December 14, 2pm and 6pm; \$40-\$60. San Dieguito Academy Clayton E. Liggett Theater, 800 Santa Fe Drive. (ENCINITAS)

**Golden State Ballet's Nutcracker** With Tchaikovsky's iconic score performed live by the world-renowned San Diego Symphony, this production promises an unforgettable experience. Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 14, 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 15, 1pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Swiftie Book Club** Whether you're a die-hard Swiftie superfan, a literature enthusiast, or simply curious to explore a unique intersection of music and literature, explore the diverse range of books referenced in Taylor Swift's songs, uncovering the rich connections between literature and music. Mon-

## FOOD & DRINK

**December Whiskey Club II** Featuring Iowa's Templeton Distillery. The interactive evening includes a welcome cocktail, 0.5-oz pours of four selections (Straight Rye, Bourbon, 10-Year, Barrel Proof), and a food menu of charcuterie, wings, and steak sliders. Wednesday, December 18, 5pm; \$45. 21 and up. Whiskey House, 420 3rd Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Ramona Holiday Wine Trail** Purchase tickets and receive a wine glass along with visiting 15+ participating wineries offering 3 tastes of wine. Each winery has different events planned. This purchase allows participation for all 3 weekends. Saturday, December 14, 12pm; Sunday, December 15, 12pm; \$20. 21 and up. Ramona Main Street

**Winemaker Night with Pali Wine Co.'s Aaron Walker** Aaron Walker, Pali Wine Co.'s longtime winemaker, will be pouring four of his favorite wines, including Pali's first vintage of estate-grown Chenin Blanc, along with their Pinot Noir, Cabernet Pfeffer, and Syrah. Cellar Hand's chef Logan Kendall and his team will be serving a special food pairing to perfectly complement each pour. Thursday, December

## FOR KIDS

**Children's Storytime** Great for children ages 1 through 9. This is a free event. Reservations are not necessary. Fridays, 3pm; Wednesdays, 3pm; through Wednesday, December 18, **free**. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

**Trail Tykes** Created for children 2 to 5 years of age, Trail Tykes takes place every second and fourth Sunday and Monday of the month. The free program includes a read-aloud story, and a craft/activity or a short walk with MTRP Foundation staff and volunteers. Please register @ mtrp.org/trailtykes/ to reserve your space. Sunday, December 15, 10am; Monday, December 16, 10am and Wednesday, December 18, 3:30pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

## NATURE

**Guided Nature Walk** Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park. The trails used are easy, but have uneven surfaces and some involve steps, so be sure to wear sturdy, closed-

**Guided Nature Walk** Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk. Learn about the lush riparian habitat of the Kumeyaay Lake shoreline, home to many birds, animals, and unique plants. See the winter foliage and overwintering birds. The trails used are easy, but have uneven surfaces, so be sure to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks start from the Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry Station. Saturday, December 14, 8:30am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTÉE)

**Horticultural Tours: Botanical Building** Forever Balboa Park offers thematic park tours that focus on the park's unique biodiversity and highlight the park's horticultural wonders. Saturday, December 14, 10am; **free**. Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Nature Collective Inclusive Habitat Restoration Project** Nature Collective Hosts Inclusive Habitat Restoration Project, with The Queer Sol Collective. Registration required. Saturday, December 14, 9am; **free**. San Elijo Lagoon



Ecological Reserve, 2710 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA)

**Ocean Connectors Tide Pool Exploration Eco Tour** Be an Ocean Connector and join a Tide Pooling adventure. Explore the intertidal zone with local experts while they identify species and teach you about marine conservation. Friday, December 13, 1pm; Saturday, December 14, 1:30pm; \$15-\$25. Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 8622 Kennel Way. (LA JOLLA)

SPECIAL  
EVENTS

**SantaCon San Diego** Holiday extravaganza. Saturday, December 14, 12pm; \$30. 21 and up. Whiskey Girl, 702 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

SPORTS &  
FITNESS

**Banked Track Roller Derby Game** During every banked track game this season, there will be a public skate taking place the outdoor concrete rink on the other side of the property at the same time. Saturday, December 14, 2pm; \$18. Ringer's Roller Rink, 6060 Federal Boulevard. (ENCANTO)

**Cage Warriors 182** Cage Warriors is back in San Diego on December 13th, 2024 live from Sycuan Casino Resort. Beamed live into 180+ million homes and online via UFC Fight Pass. The promotion returns for another thrilling event, make sure you don't miss out! Friday, December 13, 5pm; 21 and up. Sycuan Casino Resort, 5469 Casino Way. (EL CAJON)

**San Diego Gulls Home Game** The San Diego Gulls will host the San Jose Barracuda at Pechanga Arena. Saturday, December 14, 6pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

**San Diego Seals Home Game** The San Diego Seals face off against the Colorado Mammoth at the Pechanga Arena. Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

THEATER  
LISTINGS

*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.*

**A Christmas Carol** This year's production features new elements including fresh original music, an expanded storyline, and a revitalized script with imaginative stagecraft, puppetry, live sound

OUTDOORS

“Christmas berry” decorates our landscape, Geminids, high tides

**Toyon, Or “Christmas Berry,” One Of The More Distinctive Shrubs** of southern California's native chaparral plant community, has begun to flaunt clusters of red berries. Hollywood (California) derives its name from the holly-like appearance of this plant. Here in coastal San Diego, toyon can usually be found wherever large patches of native vegetation survive, but especially in the thick chaparral covering some north-facing slopes. A holiday warning: toyon branches may look inviting to cut as a Christmas wreath — but they're protected by California state law.

**December 13 Will Be The Peak Of One Of The Year's Brightest And Most Active Meteor Showers**, the Geminids. The Geminid meteor shower is also the longest shower of the year typically averaging 75 meteors per hour from 9 pm until the break of dawn. Most showers don't get going until well after midnight, but this show begins early because the Gemini constellation rises so early. Ideal viewing



THE TIDE POOLS AT THE CABRILLO MONUMENT ARE A GREAT PLACE TO EXPLORE THIS UPCOMING LOW TIDE WEEKEND.



TOYON BERRIES CAN BRING A LITTLE HOLIDAY COLOR TO ANY LOCAL LANDSCAPE.

will be at 2 am as Gemini reaches its highest point in the night sky. **Unfortunately, December's “Cold Moon” Will Wash Out Most Of The Meteors** and only the brightest will be visible. December's Full Moon, named the “cold moon,” “oak moon,” “wolf moon,” and “moon of long nights” according to the traditions of certain past cultures, rises spectacularly over the eastern horizon a few minutes before the sun sets on Sunday, December 15. The moon's night-long journey will take it nearly to the zenith of the sky by midnight and then down to a setting position over the ocean by dawn on Monday morning. **Exceptionally High And Low Tides Are Set To Occur** on several days in mid December. These tides coincide with the full moon, and also with the upcoming winter solstice — two factors that influence the tidal extremities. Friday, December 13, the tide will reach 7.32 ft at 7:02 am; on Saturday, December 14, 7.51 ft at 7:44 am; on Sunday, December 15, 7.51 ft at 8:25 am and on Monday, December 16, it will reach 7.28 ft at 9:07 am. If any strong winter storm happens to arrive from the west during these peak tides, some flooding of low-lying coastal areas around San Diego is likely. Several exceptionally low tides will also occur within the same string of dates. On December 14 and 15 the tide will fall to an extreme depth of -1.84 feet at 3:01 p.m. and 3:46 pm. December 16 will see a low of -1.61 feet at 4:30 pm. A perfect winter weekend for exploring marine life in the tidepool areas along San Diego County's coastline.

effects, and all the heartwarming tradition you love. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, 7PM TUESDAY, DEC. 17 & WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18.

**A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story Told by Jefferson Mays**

Mays will portray over 50 beloved characters from Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol—from Scrooge and Marley to Tiny Tim and the three Ghosts. In this new version of his one-man show, Mays showcases Dickens's text. OLD GLOBE - SHERYL & HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

**A Christmas Carol: A Radio Play**

The classic Charles Dickens story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the Spirits that visit him unfolds in a retro style radio play! The audience will

be inside the studios of radio station WSRT as nine actors portray dozens of characters, while an integrated soundscape and visuals enhance the experience. Presented in 2 acts with one 15 minute intermission. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 7:30PM FRIDAY. & SUNDAY.

**Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

Back for its 27th year, the family favorite features the songs “Santa for a Day,” “You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” and “Welcome, Christmas (Fah Who Doraze).” OLD GLOBE - DONALD & DARLENE SHILEY STAGE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 10:30AM & 2PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

**Hope Springs, Eternal: A Christmas Mystery**

What would you do if someone offered you more money than you've ever seen to do something worse than anything you've ever

done? It all starts when a man named Charlie wanders into the quiet Midwestern town of Hope Springs one clear autumn day. Some believe Charlie is an angel but he sure stirs up one devil of a mess. CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. +17608394138. 7PM THURSDAY.

**The Jinx & DeLa Holiday Show**

You better watch out, you better not cry, because “The Queens of Christmas” (Entertainment Weekly) are coming to San Diego with a brand new edition of the internationally acclaimed The Jinx & DeLa Holiday Show! Another holiday season brings another year of fabulous spectacle, whip-smart comedy, brand new songs, and annual favorites. Join the sugary DeLa and spicy Jinx for an evening the New York Times says is “sure to lift your spirits and make you howl with laughter.” BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. +16195701100. 8PM TUESDAY, DEC. 17.

**Ken Ludwig's Twas the Night Before Christmas**

“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.” But wait. A mouse is stirring - because Santa missed his house last year. Before you can say “Merry Christmas,” we're off on the wild adventures of a mouse, an elf, and a spunky little girl who visit the North Pole and just won't take no for an answer. Featuring: River Baig, Dani Guinn, Thomas Jarrett, Chris Miller, Matt Sayre, and Dani Uzman. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

**Manny & The Wise Queens**

OTC presents the first full staging of *Manny and the Wise Queens*, introducing audiences to the small town of Bethlehem, U.S.A., where a bright star draws distant visitors to usher in a new era one December night in 2020. The gift-bearing travelers find themselves in the attic

of Manny, a depressed recent high school graduate, who has locked himself away to escape the remnants of holiday cheer in his quarantined town. Luckily, the sudden arrival of the two wise queens provides a potential key to Manny's deliverance. Written by Idris Goodwin and directed by Jacole Kitchen. SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-433-8900. 8PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

**Miracle On 34th Street: Live Musical Radio Play**

Told in the style of a radio play and created by San Diego artists Jon Lorenz and Lance Arthur Smith, with live Foley effects and a score of holiday carols. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

**Thank YULE for Being a Friend**

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the store, each department was dripping with



Yuletide decor. Sophia was nestled all snug in her bed, while visions of sugar prunes danced in her head. Before traveling to spend the Holidays with their families, Dorothy, Blanche, and Rose participate in a golden gift exchange full of hilarious surprises. Just as they get to the airport a winter storm blows in, leaving them trapped! In an unexpected Charles Dickens twist of events, the three grannies must visit their past, present, and future to save Christmas (and find Sophia)... just in time for turkey lurkey. Lucky audience members may even have a chance to make their stage debut and become the next #TokenSophia. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

**Your Local Theatre Presents: A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, Again**

A late contender for my favorite play of 2024. I went in with my guard up, thanks to that arch title — the bland anonymity of “Your Local Theater,” the world-weary ennui of “Again.” Yes, local theaters tend to do *A Christmas Carol* every year. What of it? *A Christmas Carol* is not only a great Christmas story, it’s a great story, period. And if you can’t indulge — and even revere — tradition at Christmas, then you probably hate tradition. And Christmas. Bah, humbug! What could possibly



PHOTO CREDIT: RICH SOUBERT II

**Your Local Theater Presents....: A Dickens of a play!**

be more tiresome than a backstage play in which a bunch of Theater People tear apart something beloved by the rubes in the audience?

Funnily enough, the play has an answer: a twenty-hour meditation on the passage of time in which a naked woman covered in flour crawls across the stage with agonizing slowness against a backdrop of primitive puppetry. Happily, *that* show is only referenced by one of the actors playing in *this* show, which is a much briefer, more engaging, and yes, more entertaining meditation on the passage of time in which a man makes his way from Fred to Cratchit to Scrooge over multiple productions of a Philly theater’s annual rendition of Dickens’ famous ghost story.

Yes, the characters are theater people — from the outset, our man is more comfortable on a stage,

where he knows what he’s supposed to say and how things are supposed to go. (Once those things are out of the way, he can flourish; the old hand playing Scrooge marvels at the way he handles the “difficult beast” of Fred, transforming him from cardboard prop to beating human heart.) But before that, they are people, people with off-stage lives that must be navigated without a script. And it is to playwright Anna Ouyang Moench’s considerable credit that when she finally brings the action “on stage” and into the world of *A Christmas Carol*, she manages to merge those two aspects in genuinely moving fashion. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAY, 1PM & 7PM SUNDAY.

**MOVIES**

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

**Anora** — Writer-director Sean Baker’s latest foray into the private lives of people who make their privates public opens brilliantly, as New York City stripper/escort Anora (a gung-ho, all-in Mikey Madison) grinds her way through her daily grind, making nice with a steady procession of customers, one replacing another so seamlessly that they run together just as they must in our heroine’s mind. Then, during a break, a co-worker marvels that one fellow “told me how much I reminded him of his daughter, then ordered five private dances from me!” (The horror.) “At least he paid for the dances,” replies Anora. (The banality.) That’s Baker, mingling the deeply personal and the “merely” physical in ways feel moral without feeling moralistic.

Talking of which: the reason Anora (who prefers “Annie”) gets picked to take care of Ivan, the young Russian playboy who shows up at her club, is that she had a

grandmother who never learned English after coming over from the old country. Ivan is so taken with her attentions that he hires her for a week of sexy partytimes and whisks her off to Vegas, a city famous for its spur-of-the-moment weddings. What fun! He even tells her that he’d be happy with her even without his parents’ money. Annie tries not to believe him, but she doesn’t have enough happy reality to counter the much happier fantasy — there’s a sister (who feels like she should show up more), but no future. Small surprise when a mid-video game quickie gets interrupted by Ivan’s long-suffering babysitter Garnick and his assistant Igor.

The manhunt that follows is longer than it needs to be, and even a bit indulgent, but still largely entertaining — a description which fits the film as a whole. Perhaps the director’s most conventional effort to date; it even veers toward cliché in its final scene. But what comes before is strong enough to make it hit anyway. (2024)— M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**Conclave** — Director Edward Berger’s adaptation of Robert Harris’ novel about the election of a new pope is shot and acted as a Serious Movie: all those muted reds and saturated blacks in those lingering shots of the Sistine Chapel ceiling overhead and the embattled Cardinals below, all that anguish

and intellection in the faces of Ralph Fiennes, John Lithgow, Stanley Tucci, et al. (Oh, and not a little ambition, as well: Tucci’s American hopeful insists that every Cardinal, deep down, has picked out the name he’d choose for himself as pope — although it’s hard to believe this applies to the humble, war-weary newcomer who arrives at the conclave’s outset and announces that he was elevated in secret by the late pontiff, despite his mysterious health concerns.)

But it’s scored and written as a potboiler in the mode of *The Da Vinci Code*. (No Opus Dei assassins here, but still plenty of sturm and drang about the dark forces that keep the Church mired in the Dark Ages of Latin rites and sexual rigidity, forces that are threatened by the modern virtues of doubt and openness.) The sawing strings and plunking piano that punctuate the action, the ponderous portentousness of pronouncements like, “The Church is not tradition; the Church is what we do next.”

And the fact that in the end, the drama is driven not by the Cardinals’ ideas and ideals, but their secret sins: the sexual puritan with a promiscuous past, the lover of Latin with a heart full of hate, etc. It’s possible that the film takes itself entirely too seriously; fortunately, the viewer is under no such obligation, and may have a good time as a result. (2024) — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)



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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

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

**Baker-Baum Concert Hall:**  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Spanish Harlem Orchestra. \$68-\$100.

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:**  
Friday, 6pm — Blaise Guld.  
Saturday, 6pm — Mike Myrdal.


**Belly Up Tavern:**  
Thursday, 7:30pm — Sixpence None The Richer. \$30-\$53.  
Friday, 7:30pm — Cash'd Out and Total Distortion. \$26-\$46.  
Saturday & Sunday, 7:30pm — White Drugs Christmas.  
Monday & Tuesday, 7:30pm — Matisyahu. \$168.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Venice Christmas Show. \$26-\$46.

**Brew Coffee Spot:**  
Saturday, 3pm — Garza Sextet. Free.

**Brick by Brick:**  
Thursday, 7:30pm — Burton C. Bell and Exmortus. \$20-\$25.  
Friday, 7:30pm — Greet Death and Prize Horse.

**Cannonball:**  
Thursday, 5pm — Andrew Peña.  
Tuesday, 5pm — Ben Benavente.

**Casbah:**  
Thursday, 7:30pm — King Buffalo and Rickshaw Billie's Burger Patrol. \$20.  
Friday, 9pm — Emo Nite Holiday Edition.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — The Woggles and The Amandas. \$15.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — The Beat Farmers and Kimmi Bitter. \$25.  
Tuesday, 8pm — Francis Blume,



Wed 12/11 @ Soda

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LILY SEABIRD

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CHUCK RAGAN

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Thu 12/12 @ Soda

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A DIFFERENT KIND OF GIANT

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RUCHTER NUFFER

Wed 12/18 @ Soda

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BLUE ROJO

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Wednesday, 7:30pm — Pink Skies. \$20.

**Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:**  
Thursday, 4pm — Holiday Open House.

**Cordova Bar:**  
Sunday, 6pm — Martin & The Big Nativity Scene. \$5.

**Coronado Library:**  
Sunday, 1pm — Hugo Nogueira: Strings of the Season. Free.

**Duke's La Jolla:**  
Sunday, 4pm — Keni Yarbro.  
Tuesday, 4pm — Orion Song.

**Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:**  
Friday, 6pm — Jonny Tarr.  
Monday, 6pm — Richard Galiguís.

**Fairmont Grand Del Mar:**  
Friday, 8pm — OttoPilot.

**Farmer & the Seahorse:**  
Saturday, 11am — Matt Heinecke.  
Sunday, 11am — Blaise Guld.

**Fast Times:**  
Saturday, 7pm — Santana Soul. Free.

**First United Methodist Church of San Diego:**

Saturday, 4pm — Free Advent Choral Concert. Free.

**Georgina Cole Library:**  
Tuesday, 11am — The Rockin' Cranberries Festive Carolers Tour. Free.

**House of Blues:**  
Thursday, 7pm — Iglu & Hartly.  
Friday, 7:30pm — Anthony Raneri and Brother Bird.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Jessica Audiffred.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — Rata Blanca & Haragan Y Cia.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — Secrets. \$20.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — David Archuleta. \$30.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Ride and Rocket. \$30-\$75.

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:**  
Saturday, 7pm — Nick Moss Band Featuring Dennis Gruenling.

**JAI at the Conrad:**  
Sunday, 5pm & 7:30pm — Connie Han Trio. \$63-\$73.

**L'Auberge Del Mar:**  
Friday, 7pm — Tolan Shaw.  
Saturday, 7pm — Jolene Cruz.  
Sunday, 11am — Jemille Vialet.  
Monday, 5pm — Brian Pierini.  
Wednesday, 5pm — Lee Coulter.

**La Valencia Hotel:**  
Thursday, 5:30pm — David

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LAURA CHAVEZ

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RIC SCALES

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THE ERA-80S TO 2000S

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the inside track  
blurt

**Waxing lyrical over vinyl** Wax, whose “government name” is Michael Jones, knows his way around the local music scene. “I have played empty open mic nights in San Diego, and I have performed in front of a sold out crowd of 10K at Rady Shell. My go-to venue as a headlining act for a while was the Soda Bar. I lived a block away from there in Normal Heights. The Soda Bar has no green room, so I would just use my living room instead.” On the road, though, things sometimes get weird. “I think my favorite gig I ever did was on the campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, about 2009,” recalls Jones, who boldly went vinyl-only for his new album Lifetime Achievement Award.

“The student organization that booked the musical events was run by a student who was a huge fan of me. I had started gaining notoriety online at that time, but still, even to this day, the average college student has no clue who I am. They set me up at lunch time in the middle of a dining hall. I was playing instrumentals from my iPod and just rapping in the middle of the cafeteria. All the students were walking by, looking at me like I was insane. *Wait, we have a random rapper happening today?* One guy came up about two feet away from me and just laughed in my face for a minute. I remember just staring at the clock as the contractually-obligated hour went by ever so slowly. The dude that booked me sat there watching me, smiling the whole time, absolutely loving it. He was the only person who gave a shit out of the hundreds of people who were there to

eat. I think now I am experienced enough that I wouldn't be that embarrassed. At the time, it was quite rough.” Wax started out in Maryland, but hit Southern California in 2006. “I have lived in Ocean Beach, Normal Heights, and now Santee. I enjoyed liv-



Wax wants you to put the needle on the record and just listen for while.

ing in Ocean Beach during the pandemic, it was even more lawless than usual. People were selling large bags of psilocybin mushrooms openly at the farmer's market. Maybe that is legal now, I don't know. They wouldn't do that here in Santee...unless the mushrooms were somehow Trump-endorsed. He sells vodka, so I wouldn't put it past him.” As for that three-letter moniker, “My name has zero relation to the LA band Wax, but I did meet their singer Joe Sib, who is now a comedian. He is a good dude. Unfortunately, there are, like, 100 musical artists — from metal bands to K-Pop singers to folk singers to other rappers — named Wax. If I were to name myself today, I would be WaXXX\$67 or something like that. You gotta be search-engine optimized these days, that is why young rappers often have names that look like

email passwords.” He grew up on the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pharcyde, NWA, and the Wu-Tang Clan, but now loses himself in Steely Dan, Earth Wind & Fire, the Bee Gees, and Stevie Wonder. “I still mostly write simple stuff, but I take it up a notch here and there thanks to the brilliance of these folks that came before me.” So why a vinyl-only release? “Nowadays, when an album comes out on Friday, you see it posted on Instagram, listen to ten seconds of a song through a short-form content video, then maybe head over to your Spotify app and listen to the first fifteen seconds of each song while getting interrupted by text notifications and whatever other noise you have your phone programmed to bombard you with. On top of that, you're thinking about what to do that weekend and scrolling TikTok or YouTube shorts, or whatever other nonsense you are addicted to.”

However, he says, “When you listen to a vinyl record, you listen mindfully. You drop the needle, then sit down with some wine, weed, cheese, popcorn, and/or a cigar, and consume the whole album the way you would watch a movie. You don't skip. You listen to the songs you don't like. You experience the record with respect for the record. Don't get me wrong, I love the convenience of streaming, and one day this album will be on there too. But for now, the intention behind this project was for it to be experienced as a vinyl record. And yes, the people who have tried to talk me out of it are mostly people who don't own record players.” — Andrew Hamlin

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

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Andrew Hamlin, Dryn Keltz, Jake Peterson, Jay Allen Sanford, Spike Steffenhagen



# THE GONZO REPORT

## Minnesota nice — and gnarly

### A polite pit coalesces at Quartyard

“Are you more concerned about your drinks being stolen or someone putting something in them?” I ask a gaggle of patrons at The Quartyard in East Village where Hockey Dad, Remo Drive, and Tatiana Hazel are performing. (As the customers left their drinks on a table to come outside to the smoking section, a security guard assured them he would remain vigilant while they partook.) In unison, several of them say that someone drugging their drinks is the greater concern. After all, they reason, they can always buy another drink if one gets pilfered. Over a smoke, Rose tells me about one of her friends being dosed and then walking on the 8 West. She got home safely, but didn’t remember anything the following morning.

Rose discovered the band Hockey Dad while bartending in their native Australia at a small bar. I tell her I liked the name and was inter-

ested in the venue, though I’m disappointed that the Wayne Gretzky jersey I’m wearing isn’t sparking a game of pickup puck. But back to Rose, who was traveling in Indonesia when she saw a woman wearing a hat sporting Hockey Dad’s logo. Amazed that anyone else had heard of them, she approached the woman and found herself talking to the singer’s mother. I have so many questions for her, but she’s going back into the show after telling me she’s an engineering student at UCSD with no solid plans for doing anything cool like creating a taco making robot. (I have my obsessions.) She’s just “learning to learn.”

Tatiana Hazel has just wrapped up her set. It’s atmospheric music with an angsty flavor, but her presence has a strength, a “fuck you” undercurrent that complements the power of her voice. I heard it when I made the short walk down Market Street from the trolley stop to the club, but seeing the performance accentuated the impact. The line for drinks is getting longer, but moves quickly. Cool names for the beverages don’t sway me from my usual Diet Coke on the rocks as Remo Drive comes on. They’re from Minnesota, as they remind us several times. They’re also on Epitaph records,



Hockey Dad's Zach Stephenson gives no pucks.

which is owned by Bad Religion co-founder Brett Gurewitz. I find myself wondering how they got signed to that label, because the first song is about a deck being flooded and other mundane suburban concerns. Or at least that’s what I surmise.

Later in the set, things get faster, a bit heavier, and the rhythm section becomes volcanic, churning with fluid intensity. The word “mercy” in lights has been on the stage during both sets — it’s both the name of Remo Drive’s newest album and a snarling showstopper that sets off the most polite pit I’ve ever seen. Still, it makes a little sense of Epitaph. Singer-guitarist Erik Paulson seems to have a thing for lights. Particularly the string of lights that drape and illuminate the floor area. Being a polite Midwesterner, he clarifies that he’s not being sarcastic, that he genuinely loves string lights, before

launching into a cover of The Darkness’ “I Believe in a Thing Called Love” that manages to rock without the cheese of the original. I didn’t see him grip his balls to hit the high notes, so it must be skill or a very well-hidden clamp.

Back out in the smoking area, I talk to Stephen and his friend Winston. They heard about Hockey Dad through friends, plus, they dig the venue. Winston shares with me his passion for helping others, a calling he’s fulfilling through getting a psychology degree at UCSD. A former military member, his focus is treating his fellow vets. A pit opens up for Hockey Dad, and it’s still more polite than any I’ve ever seen, just bigger than the one before. On my way to the front, I see a woman wearing an Iron Maiden shirt and have to comment because it matches my tattoo. Her name is Bailey, and she’s recently moved here for school. She’s a postgraduate student at — you guessed it — UCSD, majoring in art history, and this is her first concert. Up front, the barrier in front of the stage is bending under the collective weight of the crowd. It’s a testament to people being considerate that it doesn’t collapse and result in injury. It’s not meant to withstand weight like that; it’s made to help people form lines as they enter the venue or cross to the smoking section.

But it works. The sound is great, and I enjoyed both fantastic conversation and the short trolley ride home after a night under the open sky. Also, it turns out I too like string lights. ■

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

Shyde.  
Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.  
Saturday, 6pm — Rachel Jay.

**M-Theory Music:**  
Saturday, 6pm — Alternative Music Holiday Party. **Free.**

**Magnolia Performing Arts Center:**  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Puddles Pity Party.

**Manchester Grand Hyatt:**  
Thursday, 6:30pm — Taylor Swift Silent Disco at Rooftop Cinema Club. \$15-\$26.

**Mission Bay Resort:**  
Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.  
Saturday, 11am — Jonny Tarr.  
Sunday, 11am — Orion Song.  
Sunday, 6pm — Shelbi Bennett.  
Monday, 6pm — David Shyde.  
Wednesday, 6pm — Kinnie Dye.

**Music Box:**  
Friday, 7:30pm — Frankie J and Amanda Perez. \$47-\$84.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Will Ferrell’s Holiday Jam: Dogstar, more. \$127-\$152.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — Sungazer. \$26.  
Wednesday, 7pm — A Very Merry O’ Berkley Where Hart Thou Christmas. \$44-\$49.

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

**North Coast Repertory Theatre:**  
Thursday & Friday, 7:30pm,  
Saturday & Sunday, 2pm & 7:30pm, Wednesday, 7:30pm — 2 Pianos 4 Hands. \$64.

**Observatory North Park:**  
Thursday, 7pm — Will Smith’s Dance in the Darkness Tour. \$71.  
Friday, 7pm — The Slackers.

Saturday, 8pm — Bop to the Top Presents Jingle Bop.  
Sunday, 6pm — Bleeding Through.

**Orfila Vineyards & Winery Oceanside:**  
Saturday, 12pm — Blaise Guld.

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

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ:**  
Sunday, 2pm — Holiday Choral Concert: ‘Twas The Week Before Christmas (Barbershop Style). **Free.**

**Roma Norte Cocktail Bar:**  
Saturday, 10:30pm — Vibe Tribe Collective. **Free.**

**San Dieguito United Methodist Church:**  
Friday, 7pm — North Coast Symphony: Home for the Holidays. \$15-\$18.

**San Marcos Library:**  
Tuesday, 5:30pm — New Sunset Strummers Ukulele Band. **Free.**

**Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:**  
Sunday, 2:30pm — Left Coast Quintet. **Free.**

**Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina:**  
Sunday, 3:30pm — Sea Sessions (Holiday Edition): Martin McDaniel. \$165-\$185.

**Soda Bar:**  
Thursday, 7pm — Strawberry

Girls and Bloomer. \$24.  
Friday, 7:30pm — Tall Heights. \$29.  
Saturday, 7:30pm — Brainstory and Explorare. \$24.  
Sunday, 7pm — Sports Coach and Shindigs. \$15.  
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Meth Math. \$24.

**Soma:**  
Friday, 6:30pm — Virginia Crime. \$10.  
Saturday, 6:30pm — The Renters.

**St. Paul’s Cathedral & Episcopal Church:**  
Friday, 7pm — Respighi Lauda per la Natività del Signore & Marian Songs. \$30-\$50.

**St. Stephen’s Church of God in Christ:**  
Saturday, 6pm — Youthful Celebration: Making A Joyful Noise. **Free.**

**Sycuan Casino Resort:**  
Saturday, 8pm — The Platters. \$59-\$69.

**Tower Bar:**  
Friday, 7:30pm — Gus Baldwin & The Sketch.

**University Christian Church:**  
Sunday, 6pm — Randi’s Jingle Ball. \$20-\$35.

**Winstons Beach Club:**  
Thursday, 7:30pm — Athena and Cherry Knot.  
Friday, 5:30pm — Kim Wilson’s Blues Review.  
Saturday, 8pm — Color Green and Magic Fig. \$15.

Sunday, 4pm — GeminiiDRAGON.  
Tuesday, 8pm — Eric Lindell. \$35.

**Wong’s Dragon Room:**  
Saturday, 8pm — Steal Dawn. **Free.**

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Baker-Baum Concert Hall:**  
December 21 — Charlie Brown Jingles & Jazz

**Balboa Theatre:**  
December 19 — Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour  
December 20 — Las Posadas

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:**  
December 20 — Orion Song

**Belly Up Tavern:**  
December 19 — Sullvn and Friends  
December 20 — Chevy Metal  
December 21 — FABBA Christmas Show

**Brick by Brick:**  
December 20 — Vinny Appice’s Sabbath Knights  
December 21 — O.F.I with Kate Russell

**The Casbah:**  
December 19 — Faetooth, Home View, Blossom  
December 20 — Ziggy Shuffledust & the Spiders From Mars  
December 21 — El Vez with The Centuries

**Coronado Library:**  
December 21 — The King’s Carolers Holiday Sing-Along

**Duck Foot Brewing Company:**  
December 19 — Dead Head Night

**Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:**  
December 20 — Rachel Jay  
December 21 — Christian Taylor

**Harry’s Sports Bar & Grill:**  
December 21 — Go Scarlet Music Video Premier

**House of Blues:**  
December 19 — Beach Bums  
December 20 — Stoney B Blues  
December 20 — The Vandals  
December 21 — Fishbone, Damage, Strawberry Fuzz  
December 21 — Ramona

**Jacobs Music Center:**  
December 19 — Voctave: It Feels Like Christmas  
December 21-22 — San Diego Symphony: Elf in Concert

**L’Auberge Del Mar:**  
December 19 — Helena Holleran  
December 21 — Rachel Jay

**La Valencia Hotel:**  
December 19 — Perry O’Neal  
December 20 — Keni Yarbro  
December 21 — Helena Holleran

**Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá:**  
December 21-22 — 48th Annual Candlelight Musical Meditation

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## ANDREW PEÑA at Cannonball

DEC 12



Andrew Peña launched his own band The Verge in 2017, as well as playing with local acts such as the Clay Cotton Band and the Sidekicks. In addition to staging solo shows all over San Diego and California, he's spent the last 25 years performing in Puerto Rico, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, and Las Vegas.

## FRANKIE J at Music Box

DEC 13



Born in Mexico and raised in San Diego, Francisco Javier Bautista – aka Frankie J - spent four years with the Spanish-singing Los Kumbia Kings (where he was known as Cisko), led by A.B. Quintanilla, brother of murdered Tejano pop star Selena. His breakthrough solo album *The One* reached number three on *Billboard's* R&B chart. The bill includes Amanda Perez.

## THE BEAT FARMERS at the Casbah

DEC 15



Several surviving members of the Beat Farmers will gather to play a set in tribute to fallen comrades such as their late drummer and singer Country Dick Montana, who died onstage in 1995, and Buddy Blue, who passed in 2006. The current lineup features Joey & the Mentals frontman Joey Harris. The bill includes Kimmi Bitter.

## JESSE LAMONACA at the Casbah

DEC 17



*A Foolish Casbah Christmas* presents a local bill featuring Jesse LaMonaca, whose debut album with Americana soul outfit the Dime Novels earned a San Diego Music Award nomination for Best Americana Album. Also appearing will be blues rocker Ash Easton, Neighbors To the North singer-guitarist Sutton James, Francis Bloom, and Justin John Rodriguez.

## PUDDLES PITTY PARTY at Magnolia Performing Arts Center

DEC 18



When he found his operatic vocal interpretations of classic rock songs weren't earning him any attention or gigs, Michael Geier took on his Puddles Pitty Party persona, donning the Pagliacci-inspired makeup of the Sad Clown With the Golden Voice. Catch a full headlining set in advance of his support tour next year opening for Weird Al Yankovic.

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## The greatest first symphony ever?

Every now and then, a truly under-appreciated gem comes along. I have a friend who has bugged me for ages about Havergal Brian's *Symphony No. 1: "Gothic."* I ended up listening to it about a dozen times in a row over the course of two or three weeks.

This thing is *gigante*. It's at least 105 minutes long and requires a massive orchestra and chorus. I usually listened to it at the gym while on the stationary bike and while lifting weights. 105 minutes is the perfect length for a workout, and I have to admit that it got me pumped up while exercising. There are sections with the choir that sound like they were picked up and dropped into the *Lord of the Rings* movies.

Havergal Brian was an English composer born on January 29, 1876, in Birmingham. He was the son of a carpenter, just like someone else I've heard a lot about, and was introduced to music at an early age.

However, his formal education was cut short due to financial constraints, leading him to pursue various jobs, including a stint as a civil servant. It was not until he was in his thirties that Brian began to focus seriously on composition. He wrote his first symphony between 1919 and 1926. It wasn't performed until 1961, and didn't receive its first professional performance until 1966. Brian was 90 years old at that point.

Even though that 1966 performance was a smashing success, there have been only a handful of performances since then. The odds of ever hearing this symphony live are slim to none. There are also just a handful of recordings. I listened to The Slovak Philharmonia as conducted by Ondrej Lenard. I chose it because it was the first thing that showed up on Spotify.

Brian was influenced by Germanic composers such as Richard Wagner, Anton Bruckner, Gustav Mahler,

and Richard Strauss. He dedicated his *Gothic Symphony* to Strauss. Edward Elgar also influenced Brian. Wagner, Bruckner, and Elgar are three of my favorite composers, so it makes sense that I enjoyed this symphony.

There are some great first symphonies out there. Those by Johannes Brahms, Mahler, and Sergei Prokofiev are amongst the most popular. Ralph Vaughan Williams's first symphony is his *A Sea Symphony* and for decades, it was my favorite. I also considered it to be the greatest and grandest of first symphonies. I was wrong. Havergal Brian's *Gothic Symphony* surpasses Vaughan Williams. (I will say that the Vaughan Williams is more appealing upon first hearing it.)

Havergal Brian went on to write over 30 symphonies. Does this make him the greatest symphonist of them all? He died on August 28, 1972.



Havergal Brian: Sometimes, you have to wait until you're 90 to see your stuff break through.

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

### Mission Hills United Church of Christ:

December 21 — Have You Heard? A Celtic Christmas Celebration

### Music Box:

December 19 — Too Short and DJ Symphony  
December 20 — Phora  
December 21 — Klub Nocturno

### Navajo Live:

December 20 — Stone Horse and Manzanita Blues  
December 21 — Dive Bar Saints and The Thieves About

### Nick & G's:

December 20 — Matt Heinecke  
December 21 — Blaise Guld

### North Coast Repertory Theatre:

December 19-23, December 26-29 — 2 Pianos 4 Hands

### Observatory North Park:

December 20-22, December 28-29 — Social Distortion

### Orfila Vineyards & Winery Oceanside:

December 20 — Perry O'Neal  
December 21 — Orion Song

### Pechanga Resort & Casino:

December 20 — Air Supply

### San Diego Civic Theatre:

December 20-22 — Golden State Ballet's Nutcracker

### Soda Bar:

December 19 — Dumbo Gets Mad  
December 20 — Death Cab For Karaoke  
December 21 — DANG! A Soulful Electronic Dance Night

### Soma:

December 20 — Sundiver CA and Marlon Funaki  
December 21 — Avoid and New Aesthetic

### The Sound:

December 19 — Digable Plants and The Pharcyde

December 20 — Samantha Fish and Cedric Burnside

### Steele 94:

December 20 — Santana Soul

### Sycuan Casino Resort:

December 20 — Girl Named Tom

### Union Kitchen & Tap:

December 20 — Tolan Shaw

### Waterbar:

December 19 — Ben Benavente

### Winstons Beach Club:

December 19 — Sanford Street  
December 20 — The Irie. The Riddims, Ease Up  
December 21 — Shambala  
December 21 — Fish & the Seaweeds

# Noel Noel

## DEC. 13, 14, & 15

Jacobs Music Center

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Rafael Payare | Music Director

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All artists, dates, programs and pricing subject to change.

## Classical Music this week

### Golden State Ballet's Nutcracker

Get ready to be swept away by breathtaking choreography, a vibrant cast of our talented company dancers and award-winning academy students, all gracing the stage in stunning costumes amidst dazzling sets. With Tchaikovsky's iconic score performed live by the world-renowned San Diego Symphony, this production promises an unforgettable experience. Step into the magic with Clara and her Nutcracker Prince as they journey to the Land of the Sweets. This is the holiday event of the season—you won't want to miss it! Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 14, 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 15, 1pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

**Left Coast Quintet** The Pleasure of Your Company concert series, sponsored by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library, presents presents the Left Coast Quintet, performing music for woodwinds—from classical to jazz, Broadway, movie themes, pop covers, and more. Sunday, December 15, 2:30pm; **free**. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive.

**SACRA/PROFANA: A Candle in the Window** The choral ensemble, SACRA/PROFANA, presents a program for the holiday celebrating the warmth, guidance, and hope symbolized by a candle shining in a window. it's a simple beacon that has comforted travelers, welcomed loved ones home, and provided a sense of sanctuary through the ages.

The concert will highlight the vital work of refugee organizations in San Diego. Saturday, December 14, 7pm; \$15-\$35. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 3502 Clairemont Drive.

### San Diego Symphony: Noel Noel

Audiences will experience the return of Noel Noel, a program full of Christmas classics, sing-alongs, holiday cheer and jolly spirit. The concert will be led by Christopher Dragon and director Jonathan Gilmer, and it features the return of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra and the San Diego Children's Choir. Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 14, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 15, 2pm and 7:30pm; \$39-\$93. Jacobs Music Center, 750 B Street.



# A different sort of happy

*What happened? Covid happened. But it's still open.*

It was one of those gifts a cash-strapped cuss like myself always dreams of.

I heard about it first in 2013: this crazy eat-drinks place with World War I biplanes decorating its garden — plus old artillery and tons of actual live ducks — set in an authentic-looking World War I French farmhouse, all sitting at the edge of Montgomery Field. And with an equally crazy happy hour! Crab-stuffed mushrooms with hollandaise, \$4.50. Corn chips and stew, free. Carrot sticks on ice, free. Lasagna. Quesadilla. Veggie plates. Popcorn. Potato skins, \$3; escargots in mushroom caps, \$4. Aviator's cheeseburger and fries, \$4.50. Three sliders and fries, \$4.50. Margarita, \$3.50. Bud Light, \$2.



1918 life have been cleared away. Happily, once inside, you still get a zillion photos from when the Yankee 94th "Hat In the Ring" Squadron, aka Lafayette Escadrille, requisitioned a French farmhouse and made it their HQ for the final year of the First World War.

"Do you still have the happy hour?" I ask Angellena, who's patrolling the mostly empty tables inside (OK, it is early, and it is Monday). Well yes, she says. She brings the Happy Hour menu. Uh, far as I can see,

this is not your daddy's happy hour. Mostly, it's about drinks. But not all. "\$5 off select bar appetizers" — which happen on Monday and Tuesday only. I check the appetizer list. At the top are "Aero pilot's buffalo wings,"

nine of them for \$19. But with \$5 off, only \$14, as long as they are one of tonight's HH selections. An onion ring basket with ranch and BBQ sauces goes for \$13 (read HH \$8). Hot link sandwich (with hot dog bun, mustard, and sauerkraut) is \$11, or a \$6 deal for HH. Crispy calamari with marinara and habanero aioli costs \$20, or \$15. Three stuffed potato skins come with chopped bacon, cheddar cheese, *antiboise*, scallions, and sour cream cost \$14, or \$9 HH. Cheese curds with habanero aioli are \$15/\$10.

## Held together by cheese

Uh, *antiboise*? Turns out it's a sauce made popular in Antibes, on France's Côte d'Azur, and it's basically tomatoes with olive oil dressing plus capers, garlic, toasted coriander seeds, basil, spring onions and salted anchovies. Good to go with fish and meat. Count me in on that.

So yeah, reasonable deals, although nothing like the swingin' pre-Covid days of 2013. I opt for the stuffed potato skins. Forget to ask if they get the \$5 discount. But when the three skins come — while I'm on my second \$10 Alesmith .394 draft beer and hoisting a toast to Tony Gwynn, who, let's remember, batted .394 in 1994 — I decide I couldn't ask for anything more lush. Not sure if I can pick out the sauce from Antibes, but the totality is, well, deeply satisfying. That good ol' combo of sour cream, half-leathery skins, cheese, and the tang (maybe from the *antiboise* sauce?) does it all.

But my *coup de foudre* — since we're talking of everything French — has to be the last-minute decision to order a French onion soup *au gratin* (which, I'm just now realizing, means sprinkled with grated cheese, or bread crumbs, or both,



The "WW1 French farmhouse" where the 94th came and made its HQ

and browned). Not from the HH menu, but the regular one, under soups and salads. Only costs \$8. It comes with Parmesan and gruyère cheeses. And man oh man, they have the touch. Yes, part of it is the odd insert of a kinda-transparent cheese slice which folds under the onions, plus what looks like an egg. *Quail's egg? Grated cheese? Minced meat in its own womb?* I decide to just chomp and see what happens. Have to say, deep *ooh-ooh-umami* flavor, starting with the onions — rich like kettle drums beating deep beneath the cheeses. That's maybe a bit high-flown, but whatever, they just give out this cold weather/hot snack flange-flaring jowl appeal.

I make a note to myself to come back a little



Nature starts taking back the war machine

And hey, they're buying cigars! They're on the menu. Prices range from \$19 for a Padron 2000 Maduro to \$35 for a Romeo Y Julieta Reserva (\$25). "You can smoke 'em on the patio," says one of the guys. I ain't no smoker, normally, but somehow the whole idea, here, has the whiff of this other, older world. Guess I'll have to come back for that burger, maybe a glass of port, and maybe even that Romeo. ■

**The Place:** 94th Aero Squadron, 8885 Balboa Avenue, tel 858-560-6771

**Hours:** 11.00am - 3pm daily (except Saturday-Sunday, 9am-3pm); 4pm-8pm (except Friday, 4pm-2am; Saturday 4-9pm)

**Happy Hour:** 4-6.30pm, Monday-Friday

**Happy Hour Prices:** Aero pilot's buffalo wings (9), \$14 (as long as they are one of tonight's HH selections); onion ring basket, ranch, BBQ sauces, (HH \$8); hot link sandwich, sauerkraut HH \$6; crispy calamari (marinara, habanero aioli), HH \$15; 3 stuffed potato skins (bacon, cheddar, *antiboise*, scallions, sour cream) HH \$9; cheese curds, HH \$10;

**Regular menu:** American wagyu burger with spring mix, \$29

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## How was everything?

**Tell us about your dining experience - briefly!**

The *Reader's* restaurant issue will run March 13th, and will include our first-ever food writing contest!

Send us your best hundred-word food review of a local restaurant. You choose the style: journalism, essay, haiku, limerick, free verse...

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**San Diego Reader**

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Submissions must be received by Thurs, Feb. 13.

Sigh. I visited, natch, and it proved a night to remember: food, Buds, and instant buddies. A room full of genuine characters. Happy hour aficionados like George McBride, an old gent who was 86 and had just stopped flying his own plane (that he built himself). He used to land it and taxi up to a spot right outside the restaurant. The place, said George, was always crowded.

What happened? Covid happened. But it's still open, and a happy hour's still happenin'. So now I'm on the bus. We're in the zone. I see the sign: "94th Aero Squadron. Restaurant & Lounge. Open to the Public." "I've been driving this route for years," says the #60 bus driver, "and I have never thought to go in there." And yes, as I walk up, I see the three stacked wings of the Red Baron's Fokker triplane sticking out through the trees. I continue past a pile of 44-gallon drums of aviation fuel labeled "petroleum," and through to the airfield side. "Caution," says a sign by the fence. "There are rattlesnakes in this area. Rattlesnakes are active throughout the year." Good to see there's some wild life beyond the bar.

Still, in some ways, this place seems a shadow of its former self. The other ancient biplanes, the live gaggle of ducks, and various signs of



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**CELEBRATE BABAJI'S BIRTHDAY** Sunday, Dec. 15, 12:00 noon, abeshkam maha puja at Escondido Babaji Temple. We mark the advent of the deathless master. He teaches and supports us in our quest to elevate world consciousness. 11152 Arco Dr

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**PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES** is holding free weekly meetings at 6pm every Wednesday, 3653 Voltaire Street, Point Loma. For details, contact group facilitator Anke at (619) 363-4655 or service@palsandiego.com.

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## CLASSES / LESSONS

**LEARN TO SASHIKO-KANTHA STITCH** This Sunday, Dec 15, learn to slow stitch an embroidered pouch with Textile Artist-Educator, Sarah Winston. Using hand-dyed bamboo/wool felt, dive into this slow craft. Beginners welcome, 10+ yrs. Military & sibling discounts. Visit [sandiegocraft.org/](http://sandiegocraft.org/) (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**ALANON MEETINGS** Worried about somebody else's drinking problem? Alanon invites you to their 2025 Beginners Meetings in Spanish. January 13,16,20,23,27,30 at 625 Otay Lakes Rd Chula Vista from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. No children allowed. Free, anonymous, not religious. (619) 792-6042 / elemusic@hotmail.com

**ALATEEN MEETINGS** Feeling trapped with someone else's drinking? Alateen meetings for ages 12-18 every Thursday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. at 625 Otay Lakes Rd Chula Vista Ca. No cost, anonymous, not religious. (619) 792-6042 / elemusic@hotmail.com

**AFTERSCHOOL CRAFT CLASSES!** Welcome! Craft Collective is offering lots of fun, afternoon, after school & weekend craft classes—Craft Studio, Woodworking, Ceramics, Sewing & Fashion Design—for your pre-schooler, child & teen. Sibling & military discounts. [sandiegocraft.org](http://sandiegocraft.org) (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

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**LEARN TO MAKE YOUR OWN PERFUME** This January, learn to formulate your own signature fragrance with a French Perfume Designer. You'll use essential oils & fragrance notes to learn formulation. Beginners welcome, 14+. Military discounts. Visit [sandiegocraft.org](http://sandiegocraft.org) today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**LEARN TO THROW MINI POTTERY!** Learn to throw pottery on a tiny wheel! In this 2-hr workshop this Jan & Feb, you will learn to throw tiny ceramic pieces. Perfect for beginners & fun for ceramists at any level! Students will make multiple small pieces. Visit: [sandiegocraft.org/](http://sandiegocraft.org/) (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**LEARN TO THROW POTTERY!** In our 4 & 5-week series, learn how to throw your own handmade pottery on a ceramic wheel! Beginning in January & throughout the year, create your own long-lasting glazed pottery. Visit [sandiegocraft.org](http://sandiegocraft.org) for more info & sign up! Military discount. (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**LEARN TO WET FELT A FLOWER!** This January 18, 9am-12pm, join us at Craft Collective & learn to wet felt your own soaps! Handmaking season is here and mindful making with a friend or family is perfect to celebrate the new year! Military discount. Visit: [sandiegocraft.org](http://sandiegocraft.org) today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**MACRAME' A HOLIDAY SNOWFLAKE!** Happy holidays! Celebrate the season with this hands-on Macrame' Snowflake Ornament workshop taught by Jordan from The Knottery. This Sat, 10-11:30am at San Diego Craft Collective, you will learn to knot & tie. Ages 10+ yrs. Visit [sandiegocraft.org/](http://sandiegocraft.org/) (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**MAKE A HOLIDAY POP-UP CARD!** Join us this Saturday, Dec 7, 9am-12pm for a fun Decorative Holiday Pop-Up Card Workshop! Explore papers, folding, color and the element of surprise as we head full steam into the holiday season! Space is limited. Visit: [sandiegocraft.org](http://sandiegocraft.org) (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**MEND YOUR LOVEY THIS MONTH!** Calling all Stuffed Animal Lovies that need repair! Do you have a plush that needs mending & love?! Join us Sat, Dec 21 from 12-2pm for a special workshop to spark joy back into your stuffy! Great for kids &

adults. Sign up at [sandiegocraft.org](http://sandiegocraft.org) (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**PUPPET MAKING FUN IS HERE!** Fun for all ages! Learn to make your own puppet with colorful, surprising supplies with a teacher who learned the art of puppet making from a Jim Henson Muppeteer. You're never too old to have fun! Saturday, Dec 7 from 1-5pm at [sandiegocraft.org](http://sandiegocraft.org)! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

**RECORDING INSTRUCTION** Learn recording techniques one on one with a professional seasoned recording engineer in an established recording studio. Analog, digital, Pro Tools Recording, mixing, mastering, vocal tuning, drum tracking outboard gear and much more. Call Scott (760) 855-3551 / [exumrecording@gmail.com](mailto:exumrecording@gmail.com)

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

**HORTICULTURE, LANDSCAPE DESIGN,** redesign, troubleshooting, diagnostics on the spot. Solve your problems, improve your design, improve your maintenance today - no guessing! Educated, trained and experienced, 6th generation native, 6th generation horticulturalist in San Diego County. No sales, no installation, no maintenance. Check me out at [EdwardsHorticulture.com](http://EdwardsHorticulture.com), then call (619) 402-8670.

## ROOMMATES

**2 ROOMS 4 RENT** Military Friendly. 5 bedroom home. 2 rooms for rent. Access to Laundry and Kitchen. Utilities included. (619) 905-2479 / [krisrains22@gmail.com](mailto:krisrains22@gmail.com)

**IN MAJOR NEED OF A ROOM STAT!!** Single gal who is responsible, reliable, respectful & real needs a place/space in a safe, stable, serene, sane type of household! I love animals, clean background, zero drama or criminal record. Currently can trade various household tasks for rent! Thanks [sandiegolady13@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegolady13@gmail.com)

**I'M LOOKING FOR A ROOM TO RENT** 60 year old male looking for room to rent, studio, or 1 bedroom apartment. Call Mark at (619) 405-2389.

**POWAY \$1175 LG BR, PRIV BA** Poway \$1175 private br, ba. Share upscale 2 br, 2 ba dual-master apt. 2nd floor balcony entrance with view. Large br, walk-in closet, & full private bath. \$1175 + 1/2 Utilities. Available now! All amenities, near all. (858) 472-0470 [dirkf@cox.net](mailto:dirkf@cox.net)

**SENIOR ROOMMATE NEEDED IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS** \$780/Month. Very spacious, clean, furnished. Includes utilities, internet, cable TV. 1/2 bath in room. Laundry, no pets, non-smoker, senior building. Call (619) 415-7194

**LOOKING FOR PRIVATE BEDROOM** in East San Diego or La Mesa or El Cajon monthly rent. Flexible. (619) 287-3060

**ROOM FOR RENT. INDEPENDENT LIVING.** Room for rent. Independent living. Nice view home. Wi-Fi, meals. Shared room \$850 move-in bonus \$100 off first two months rent La Mesa (619) 750-4447.

**TINY ROOM TO LIVE PLEASE** 65 year healthy single, no family, never married non-smoker. Clean SoCal native low income full time job, male high school/college graduate. Seeking somber room in Solana Beach, Cardiff, Leucadia, Encinitas, Carlsbad. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973

## RENTALS

**RENT ME!** Mobile tap trailer for rent. 4 taps to pour. Use it to promote your business or elevate your party. Easy delivery, set up and clean up. Book us now. [www.splitpours.com](http://www.splitpours.com) (619) 859-0462 / [info@splitpours.com](mailto:info@splitpours.com)

**SENIOR 55+ APARTMENT** \$1499 55+ senior or handicapped applicant only. \$1499. 1 Bed/ 1 bath spacious 500ft rental. 4260 44th st, san diego, ca 92115. Remodeled. \* Move in ready! \* Gated entrance. \* New flooring. \* New paint. \* New AC. \* New heater (619) 559-4941 / [HSapts123@gmail.com](mailto:HSapts123@gmail.com)

**HOUSE FOR RENT - MIRA MESA** \$2700/mo. 2 bdrm, 1 ba, single family house with garage, large yard, washer/dryer hookups avail 01/07. Quiet street near schools, parks, shopping, bus stop. Outbuilding with windows for extra space. No pets/smoking. [lorene.kellogg@gmail.com](mailto:lorene.kellogg@gmail.com)

**OFFICE SPACE** 600 square feet zoned m2. \$950/month. Some lot space out back available as well. (760) 855-3551 / [exumrecording@gmail.com](mailto:exumrecording@gmail.com)

**BRAND NEW STUNNING STUDIO** New white oak floors, LED ceiling lights/fans, gourmet kitchen w gold-veined quartz countertops, eating bar, hi-end SS appliances including dishwasher, abundance of shaker cabinets. Pool and Spa (858) 926-8117 / [marcfpayne26@gmail.com](mailto:marcfpayne26@gmail.com)

**SAPT FOR RENT/EAST COUNTY** Cute 2 story, gated, views, horse property. Hiking trails. Secure. Sorry no pets. One person, No S, utilities paid. Private parking. Close to shopping. (858) 877-3891. \$1,700.

**BEAUTIFUL VENUE AVAILABLE!** This is a 5,000 sq. venue that includes a stage, runway, cascading stair platforms, dressing rooms, Sound, wireless microphones, LED lights, fog and a built-in bar / kitchen area.

**MEXICO, ROSARITO, ENSENADA, PUNTA PIERA** Four bedroom, six car garage. Best neighborhood in Baja. Five swimming pools, Jacuzzi, oceanfront access, gated community. \$2,100 a month. (760) 250-7055



**BAJA MX RENTAL** \$1100 a month long-term beautiful river and ocean views, gated community \$125 a night or \$500 a week (760) 250-7055

**MEXICO, LA MISSION TWO BEDROOM ONE BATHROOM** \$1100 a month. Other houses to choose from THAT are directly in front of the ocean and the river, and is very close to the community (760) 250-7055

**ONE BEDROOM/ ONE BATH APARTMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTRANCE** One bedroom/ one bath apartment in Little Italy for \$1,300. Near trolley, downtown, airport, and sea world, utilities included and private entrance. No smoking or pets. Includes fridge. Call Meredith (619) 771-8808.

**3 BEDROOM/2 BATHROOM RENTAL IN MEXICO** Four car garage, extra large Jacuzzi in the bathroom, has a separate studio that rents out for \$600. Beautiful above the unit. \$1,600 a month long-term. kilometer 58 (760) 250-7055

**4BD/2BATH 6 CAR GARAGE RENTAL IN MEXICO** gated development. Four swimming pools, three Jacuzzis. \$2500 Punta piera (760) 250-7055

**BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOMS/2 BATH IN MEXICO** very large and high in furniture. Jacuzzi,

bring your dogs completely furnished LA Mission kilometer 58 Beautiful view. \$1000 Per month. (760) 250-7055

**FOUR BEDROOM, TWO BATHROOM, COMPLETELY FURNISHED IN MEXICO** Four bedroom, two bathroom, completely furnished direct river, and Ocean view. Bring your dog, bring your horses; plenty of parking. Gated community kilometer 58 very close to Lafonda. \$1,000 a month long-term 13 months high-speed Internet. Tenant pays for utilities, water, electric internet, propane. Very nice property not going to last (760) 250-7055

**FURNISHED STUDIO IN MEXICO** washing machine, dryer. Directly in front of the river and ocean kilometer 58 LA mission \$750 a month long-term rental 13 months (760) 250-7055

**TWO BEDROOM, TWO BATHROOM LUXURY CONDO IN MEXICO** directly in front of the river; a little bit to the right of the ocean. 58 LA mission very high end extra large Jacuzzi in the unit. \$1,000 per month. (760) 250-7055

**5 ACRE HORSE PROPERTY FOR RENT** Rosarito/Ensenada area. LA Mission beautiful property. 5 acre horse property. Four bedrooms, two bath plus extra large Jacuzzi. The 5 acres are completely fenced. \$1,000/month. Not going to last. Call now (760) 250-7055

**NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1510** Cozy studio near Adams, upstairs unit, vinyl plank flooring, water, trash and gas included. Great location near shopping and restaurants with easy freeway access. No pets. 3351 Madison Avenue. Agent, (619) 298-7724. [www.allpointsrealestate.com](http://www.allpointsrealestate.com).

## MUSIC

**REHEARSAL SPACE** Rehearsal space monthly 24-hour access air conditioned call Scott760-855-3551 (760) 855-3551 / [exumrecording@gmail.com](mailto:exumrecording@gmail.com)

**RECORDING CLASSES** Learn recording techniques one on one with a professional seasoned recording engineer in an established recording studio. Analog, digital, Pro Tools Recording, mixing, mastering, vocal tuning, drum tracking outboard gear and much more. Call Scott (760) 855-3551 / [exumrecording@gmail.com](mailto:exumrecording@gmail.com)

**ESTEBAN GRANADA G-100 CLASSICAL ACOUSTIC-ELECTRIC GUITAR** includes case, tick, song made easy. Sam's ash yearbook \$150 package. (619) 435-6561

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

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

## PETS

**WET CAT FOOD** I have a pretty kitty wet food in boxes of 24 about seven boxes. I will let them go for \$12 a box which is less than 30 cents a can. (619) 381-2134

**BENGAL KITTENS AVAILABLE NOW** Bengal Kittens - Male and Female available now. 12 weeks old. Parents on sight. \$800 or best offer. Location: Lakeside, CA (619) 244-0317 / [RJandHerbie@gmail.com](mailto:RJandHerbie@gmail.com)

**PETS MEDIUM SIZE ANIMAL CAGE** 2'x2 1/2' cost \$140. Will sell \$35 firm. Blk steel. (619) 586-7736

**ADOPT YOUR NEXT DOG OR CAT FROM BAJA DOG RESCUE!** We are a volunteer-run, 100% No Kill animal rescue in Tijuana. We have so many loving pets who can't wait to complete

## DOWNTOWN \$650-\$750



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

### Southern Hotel

1159 Sixth Ave. and 8 St. • 619-239-3808



# LEGAL NOTICES

We are a fully adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9020735**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**10/15/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. NHB Properties**

Located at: **4616 Van Dyke  
Avenue, San Diego, CA  
92116, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 4616 Van  
Dyke Avenue, San Diego, CA  
92116

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Theresa Smisek Reid**

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

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Theresa Smisek Reid**  
11/21/24, 11/28/24,  
12/5/24, 12/12/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9022649**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**11/13/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Cane Dubb – Music Video  
and Social Media Produc-  
tion**

Located at: **3131 Chamoune  
Ave, San Diego, CA 92105,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 3131  
Chamoune Ave, San Diego,  
CA 92105

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**David Edward Stafford**

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was 05/08/2023.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**David Edward Stafford**  
11/21/24, 11/28/24,  
12/5/24, 12/12/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9022258**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**11/06/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. SDC Optical**

Located at: **10089 Willow  
Creek Rd, Suite 200, San  
Diego, CA 92131, San Diego  
County**

Mailing Address: 10089 Willow  
Creek Rd, Suite 200, San Diego,  
CA 92131

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Anthony Lu**

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

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Anthony Lu**  
11/21/24, 11/28/24,  
12/5/24, 12/12/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9022391**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**11/08/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Minor Details**

Located at: **5913 Henley  
Drive, San Diego, CA 92120,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 5913 Henley  
Drive, San Diego, CA 92120

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Nicholas John Buchmiller**

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

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Nicholas John Buchmiller**  
11/21/24, 11/28/24,  
12/5/24, 12/12/24

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE-CHANGE OF NAME**  
**Case No.: 24CU025367C**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego**  
**330 W. BROADWAY, San Diego 92101**

Petition Of: **Caroline RoseMarie Rodriguez**  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all Interested Persons: Petitioner: **Caroline RoseMarie Rodriguez** filed  
a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. **Caroline RoseMarie Rodriguez to Willow RoseMarie Walters**  
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 ob-  
jecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection  
that 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 objec-  
tion is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Date: **01/22/2025**

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: **11/27/2024** **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 identi-  
fication, 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 informa-  
tion 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 holi-  
days) 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: 12/12/24, 12/19/24, 12/26/24, 1/2/25

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE-CHANGE OF NAME**  
**Case No.: 24CU021915C**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego**  
**330 W. BROADWAY, San Diego 92101**

Petition Of: **Shelby Lynn Schrager-Sours**  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all Interested Persons: Petitioner: **Shelby Lynn Schrager-Sours** filed a  
petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. **Shelby Lynn Schrager-Sours to Shelby Lynn Schrager**  
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 ob-  
jecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection  
that 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 objec-  
tion is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Date: **01/02/2025**

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: **11/12/2024** **Maureen F. Hallhan**  
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 identi-  
fication, 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 informa-  
tion 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 holi-  
days) 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: 11/21/24, 11/28/24, 12/5/24, 12/12/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9022627**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**11/13/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Don's Sicilian Specialty  
Foods**

Located at: **3955 Kenwood  
Drive, Spring Valley, CA  
91977, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 3955  
Kenwood Drive, Spring Valley,  
CA 91977

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Nicholas Thomas Ingrande**

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was 11/13/2024.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Nicholas Thomas Ingrande**  
11/28/24, 12/5/24,  
12/12/24, 12/19/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9021649**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**10/29/2024**

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

Located at: **3108 Fifth Av-  
enue, Suite D, San Diego, CA  
92103, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 3108 Fifth  
Avenue, Suite D, San Diego,  
CA 92103

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Savarra Kathleen Howry**

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

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Savarra Kathleen Howry**  
11/28/24, 12/5/24,  
12/12/24, 12/19/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9021812**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**10/31/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Fierro's Carpet Steam  
Cleaning**

Located at: **817 Eta St, Apt  
1507, National City, CA  
91950, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 817 Eta St,  
Apt 1507, National City, CA  
91950

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Oscar Fierro**

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was 03/03/2011.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Oscar Fierro**  
11/21/24, 11/28/24,  
12/5/24, 12/12/24

**FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

**File No.:  
2024-9022437**

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
**11/12/2024**

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
**a. Designs by M. Schneider**

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

Mailing Address: 4455 Men-  
tone St Apt 2, San Diego, CA  
92107

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

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was 05/02/2024.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Margaret Schneider**  
11/21/24, 11/28/24,  
12/5/24, 12/12/24



NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE  
OF RICHARD H. SMITH  
Case No.: 24PE001968C

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
CENTRAL DIVISION, CENTRAL COURTHOUSE,  
1100 UNION ST., SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of (specify all names by which the decedent was known):  
Richard H. Smith, also known as Richard Harold Smith

A **Petition for Probate** has been filed by Heidi J. Smith in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego.

The Petition for Probate requests that Heidi J. Smith be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A **hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**

Date: **January 16, 2025**  
Time: **1:45 pm.** Dept: **503**

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

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:

Michael Sweetman, Attorney for Petitioner Heidi J. Smith

Published: 12/5/24, 12/12/24, 12/19/24

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION FOR  
PARENTAL RIGHTS TERMINATION PROCEEDINGS

TO: The father, David Baillie, to child B.M.B born on September 9, 2009 to mother Jennifer Dawn Nalley.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

YOU ARE REQUIRED to answer the petition within ( 40) days after November 24, 2024, exclusive of that date, which is January 3, 2025.

Upon your failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed, your parental rights to the child may be terminated. Also take notice that (1) If you are an indigent parent and is not already represented by appointed counsel, the you are entitled to appointed counsel, and that provisional counsel has been appointed, and that the appointment of provisional counsel shall be reviewed by the Court at the first hearing after service; (2) this is a new case, and any attorney previously appointed will not be your attorney or represent you in this proceeding unless ordered by the Court; (3) notice of the date, time and place of the hearing will be mailed to you by the Clerk of Court upon filing of the Answer or forty ( 40) days from the date of services of this Summons if no answer is filed; ( 4) the purpose of the hearing is to terminate the parental rights to the above-named child; (5) the parents have a right to attend the hearing.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than January 3, 2025. Said date being forty ( 40) days from the first publication of this notice; upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This is the 18th of November, 2024.

Bryan M. Clousing

Attorney for the Department of

Social Services

Shelby, NC 28151

Published: 11/28/24, 12/5/24, 12/12/24

Legals@SanDiegoReader.com ■ 619-235-3000

LEGAL NOTICES

We are a fully adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT

File No.:  
2024-9023375

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
11/25/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):

a. **Big Oven Pizza Mobile  
Catering Truck**

Located at: **3083 Reed Road,  
Escondido, CA 92027, San  
Diego County**

Mailing Address: 3083 Reed  
Road, Escondido, CA 92027

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Smoking Oven 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 cor-  
rect. (A registrant who declares  
as true any material matter  
pursuant to Section 17913 of  
the Business and Professions  
code that the registrant knows  
to be false is guilty of a misde-  
meanor punishable by a fine  
not to exceed one thousand  
dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Abdulraouf Kreidly, CEO**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Smoking Oven LLC**  
12/12/24, 12/19/24,  
12/26/24, 1/2/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Crown Castle is proposing  
to install a 30-foot telecom-  
munications utility structure  
located within the public right  
of way located at the follow-  
ing site: 1770 Tamarack Ave,  
Carlsbad, San Diego County,  
California 92008 (33 9 15.2N  
/ 117 19 18.2W). The facility  
is not expected to be FAA  
lighted. Crown Castle invites  
comments from any interested  
party on the impact of the pro-  
posed action on any districts,  
sites, buildings, structures or  
objects significant in American  
history, archaeology, engineer-  
ing or culture that are listed or  
determined eligible for listing  
in the National Register of  
Historic Places and/or specific  
reason the proposed action  
may have a significant impact  
on the quality of the human  
environment. Specific informa-  
tion regarding the project is  
available by contacting EBI  
Consulting, Project #036349-  
PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA  
01803, or at 856-412-3272.

PUBLISHED 12/12/2024  
SAN DIEGO READER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Crown Castle is proposing  
to install a 28-foot telecom-  
munications utility structure  
located within the public  
right of way located at the  
following site: 59 Ponto Rd,  
Carlsbad, San Diego County,  
California 92011 (33 5 51.2N  
/ 117 18 54.4W). The facility  
is not expected to be FAA  
lighted. Crown Castle invites  
comments from any interested  
party on the impact of the pro-  
posed action on any districts,  
sites, buildings, structures or  
objects significant in American  
history, archaeology, engineer-  
ing or culture that are listed or  
determined eligible for listing  
in the National Register of  
Historic Places and/or specific  
reason the proposed action  
may have a significant impact  
on the quality of the human  
environment. Specific informa-  
tion regarding the project is  
available by contacting EBI  
Consulting, Project #036359-  
PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA  
01803, or at 856-412-3272.

PUBLISHED 12/12/2024  
SAN DIEGO READER

FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT

File No.:  
2024-9022750

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
11/14/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
a. **Levinson Realty Group**

Located at: **1644 Sagewood  
Way, San Marcos, CA 92078,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 1644  
Sagewood Way, San Marcos,  
CA 92078

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Todd Matthew Levinson**

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was 02/01/2020.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Todd Matthew Levinson**  
12/12/24, 12/19/24,  
12/26/24, 1/2/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 2024-9023049

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego: 11/20/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):

a. **Cali Property Maids**  
b. **Cali Property Maid**  
c. **Vacation Property Maids**  
d. **Vacation Property Maid**  
e. **Mover Maids**  
f. **Mover Maid**  
g. **Commercial Property Maids**  
h. **Commercial Property Maid**  
i. **Medical Office Maids**  
j. **Medical Office Maid**  
k. **Construction Property Maids**  
l. **Construction Property Maid**  
m. **Luxury Maids Services**  
n. **Luxury Maid Service**

Located at: **8880 Rio San Diego  
Dr. 8th Floor #2031, San Diego,  
CA 92108, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 8880 Rio San  
Diego Dr. 8th Floor #2031, San  
Diego, CA 92108

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Cali Property Maids, LLC**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Limited Liability Company.  
The first day of business was  
07/11/2019.**

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 punish-  
able by a fine not to exceed one  
thousand dollars (1,000).)

Registrant Name /s/  
**Maria McCarthy, Manager**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Cali Property Maids, LLC**  
12/5/24, 12/12/24, 12/19/24, 12/26/24

STATEMENT OF  
ABANDONMENT OF  
FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME

File No.:  
2024-9023178

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
11/21/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
a. **Stardust Gifts**  
b. **Stardust Gifts by Ella**

Located at: **415 Laurel St.  
#529, San Diego, CA 92101,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 415 Laurel St.  
#529, San Diego, CA 92101

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Ella Can LLC**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Limited Liability Company.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Michaela Martin,  
Managing Member**  
12/5/24, 12/12/24,  
12/19/24, 12/26/24

FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT

File No.:  
2024-9023202

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
11/21/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):

a. **Talent Code Solutions**

Located at: **11180 Brooke  
Drive, #41180, San Diego, CA  
92126, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 11180 Brooke  
Drive, #41180, San Diego, CA  
92126

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Talent Find Solutions LLC**

This business is conducted by:  
**A Limited Liability Company.  
The first day of business was  
10/17/2024.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Cherise McCaskill, President**  
Corporation/LLC Name  
**Talent Find Solutions LLC**  
12/5/24, 12/12/24,  
12/19/24, 12/26/24

FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT

File No.:  
2024-9023651

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks  
Recorder/County Clerk County  
of San Diego:  
11/27/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):  
a. **Rudy's Mobile Notary  
Services**

Located at: **1217 Gonzales  
Way, Chula Vista, CA 91910,  
San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 1217 Gonza-  
les Way, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Registered Owners Name(s):  
**Rudolph Ortiz**

This business is conducted by:  
**An Individual. The first day  
of business was 08/1/2024.**

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

Registrant Name /s/  
**Rudolph Ortiz**  
12/5/24, 12/12/24,  
12/19/24, 12/26/24



your family! All have been treated by veterinarians and ready to come home. Your rescue donation enables us to save countless lives, thank you! bajadogrescue.org/

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

SPORTS

**NEW FOLDING TREKKING POLES** Made of 7075 aircraft-grade aluminum alloy, this strong, sturdy & durable fast-locking adjustable hiking pole/walking stick has adjustable wrist wrap & comfort-grip handle. New in excellent condition w/bag. \$15 or \$25 for 2. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcsd@gmail.com



**PROFESSIONAL DIVING SWIM FINS** This set of blue Deep See brand diving / snorkeling / swim fins are size 10-11 or 44-45 (24" long, 8" wide). It is a high quality product made in Italy with a plastic carrying bag. Clean and in very good condition. \$15. Text for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbc-sd@gmail.com

**ROSSIGNOL 178 CM (70") SKIS** This high quality and good looking skis (70" long, 4.25"-5.375" wide) come with Marker Squire adjustable bindings which would fit any size boot. Clean and in good condition with some scuffs & chips on surface. \$75. Text or email for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcsd@gmail.com

**BASEBALL CARDS** 40K. 79' to the early 90's. Many brands. Many players. Football, basketball, baseball; mostly baseball. \$500 or best offer. Chris (805) 837-4928

**SPORT CARD COLLECTION** 2000 cards for \$20. All teams all players call Joe (619) 562-1129 bye or make an offer

BICYCLES

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

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

**BICYCLE EQUIPMENT** Impresa heavy duty, extra large 4 pack bike hooks; never used, easy to use on all tires, \$10. Bell telescoping frame pump, quick inflation with gauge, used once, \$5. Two small bike hooks with grips, \$5. Contact (619) 380-4861

**GORGEOUS BLUE AND WHITE BIKE FRAME** BMC road bike frame 47 CM and it's never used in storage. Must see call (619) 237-8043

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

MOTORCYCLES

**1972 HONDA 350 CL** Like new. gas tank never had gas in it,

no rust, won-t find a better one. 9,000. (207) 265-6640

**2014 HARLEY ELECTRA GLIDE** comes with cover and charger. \$14,000 OBO or trade for Jeep. 14K miles. (619) 258-3541

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

AUTOMOTIVE

**RIDESHARE** Need ride to work to carlsbad from mira mesa call (858) 471-6082

**YOUR NEXT CAR AWAITS!** 7980 Clairemont Mesa Blvd or Call in and let us know you heard from us on Classified (858) 277-2850. S1RY AUTO, for an extensive selection of top-notch used cars at unbeatable prices.

**2006 FORD F-150** For Sale - Needs engine - \$1500 OBO (760) 716-7808



**2005 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD. NICE!** Good condition, well maintained, low mileage for the year. 6.0 liter Vortec, automatic, power windows, locks, mirrors, seat. New tires and alloy wheels. Chrome step rails. Strong, clean, reliable heavy duty truck. \$9400 Cash. (760) 522-4293. Oceanside / matthibl@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.

**VW ENGINE PARTS** air cool, misc. good condition, original parts. (619) 576-8196

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

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

**2005 GMC 2500HD SIERRA** 2005 GMC Sierra 2500 HD. SLE. Well maintained 3/4 ton heavy duty pickup. Extra cab, four door, white with grey interior. 153k miles, 6.0 liter Vortec V-8, automatic. Well maintained, strong, reliable truck. \$9700 OBO. Call or text (760) 522-4293. / matthibl@gmail.com

**LOOKING FOR A 1990 OR OLDER FORD CARGO VAN** fgross0421@gmail.com.

**TOYOTA PICK UP 1987** Gray truck, four cylinder, 22R engine, four speed. Runs great. Long term ownership. \$4,500. (619) 576-8196.

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

**\$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 if you mention 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

**SR SOFTWARE ENGINEER** Zodiac Pool Systems LLC seeks a Sr Software Engineer in Carlsbad, CA to develop components of company's mobile app. using Flutter to support proprietary hardware products. F/T. No calls/agents, no visa sponsorship. Comprehen. benefits program incl. base salary, annual performance-based bonus, 401K match, paid vacation & sick time, full range of health benefits, education assistance, etc. SR:\$177,154-\$180,000/yr. To apply send CV to NA-Recruiting@fluidra.com & ref.#6030.

**SR. MANUFACTURING ENGINEER** DJO, LLC seeks Sr. Manufacturing Engineer in Vista, CA to dvlp new or modified process formulations, define processing or handling equipmnt reqs & specs, & review processng techniques & methods applied in manufacture, fabrication, & evaluation of products. 25% domestic & intern'l travel req'd. Reqts: Bach or equiv. in Mechatronics Engg, Electromech Engg, Manufacturng Engg, or rlt'd, & 3 yrs exp in positn ofrrd or rlt'd, incl. 3 yrs exp w/ Projct Mgmt tools, incl. Gantt Charts & MS Project; Incl. Manufacturng tools, incl. Value Stream Mapping, PDCA, Kaizen, Kanban; deployment, update & maintenance of process control documtn, incl. Procedures, Work Instructions, Process FMEA, Device Master Record, & Master Validation Plan; Statistical tools, incl. Pareto Diagrams, DOE, ANOVA; advncd use of CAD (Solidworks, AutoCAD) to dzn fixtures & equipmnt for manufacturng; & manufacturng site eval for CapEx prjcts. Salary: \$111,966/yr. Send resume to DJO, LLC, a sub of Enovis Corp, to resumes@enovis.com & ref job title in subject.

**ADVANCED ANALYTICS ARCHITECTS** [MULTIPLE POSITIONS] Avanade Inc.is seeking Advanced Analytics Architects in San Diego, CA to build solutions using Azure data science & machine learning stack focusing on AI & IoT use cases. Periodic travel to client sites (domestic & intl) is expected up to 80% of the time. Must live w/in reasonable commuting dist. of San Diego, CA. Position reqs. at least a mast. deg., or foreign equiv., & at least 1 yr.' exp. \*\*Alternatively, in lieu of mast. deg. & 1 yr.'exp., emp. will accept bach. deg. & 3 yrs.' exp. Offered Salary: \$148,200.00 per year. Benefits information available: https://www.avanade.com/en/career/benefits For full position details and requirements, and to apply online, please visit https://www.avanade.com/en-us [Click Careers: Choose "Search for your dream job": Search by Keyword: 7713] OR visit https://www.avanade.com/en-us/career/job-details/7713

**PAID RESEARCH STUDY- VETERANS** Veterans Needed for VA Research study! Veterans with Schizophrenia or other psychiatric disorders (619) 316-6242 / fcil@health.ucsd.edu

**PAID LAB DRAW STUDY FOR SENIOR** Adults 65 and Older Can Participate in a Paid Lab Draw Study that Could Determine Risks for Memory Loss. Qualified Participants will Receive \$95 for Time & Travel Can be Provided at No Cost. Call (855) 367-8834 / art.recruitment@artemis-research.com

**IHSS FEMALE CAREGIVER** Active elderly man needs help with daily routine. Position requires enrollment: www.sdi-hsspa.com. \$20+ /HR. 5 hrs/day Mon Wed Fri. AM. San Diego 4S Ranch. Ad is not for other offers. (858) 360-0388 Text only

**DRIVER** Seeking loyal driver for senior family member, part time, Mondays & Fridays. Pay: \$415/week. Must have a valid state-issued driver's license and be professional, safe and patient. Please email: momoajasonpr@gmail.com

**IHSS CAREGIVER WANTED** Must have vehicle. 3 to 5 days per week. Mornings only. Prefer long term. Must be an organized person and a good cook and willing to to start ASAP. Please call for more information (619) 488-0822. I'm a Christian lady PS

**IN HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICE CAREGIVER** Lovely woman lives by Allied Gardens near Mission Valley. Needs a registered in-home supportive service caregiver. Must be in the mornings for 4-6 hours per day up to five days per week. Please leave your info and phone number by calling (619) 269-3434.

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San Diego Reader December 12, 2024 31



# Yellowtail show off La Jolla, Big tuna south, spiny lobster doing well

**Dock Totals 11/24 – 11/30:** 1117 anglers aboard 49 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past week caught 1 bonito, 5 calico bass, 1 lingcod, 5 rock crab, 1904 rockfish, 116 sand bass, 255 sculpin, 19 sheephead, 15 spiny lobster (39 released), 176 whitefish, and 38 yellowtail.

**Saltwater:** La Jolla has seen a bit of late season yellowtail action this past week, through the fish are holding deeper and not boiling on the surface the way they often do. Metering for schools and presenting jigs vertically has been the best method to catch these fish, though the further south one goes along the Baja coast, the more surface action for topwater jigs and fly-lined live bait can be found.

Since most local boats shifted to deep-water rockfish along the 9-Mile Bank, the yellows have been caught more by those fishing just outside the kelp beds, especially just outside the La Jolla Reserve. Due to the bite, there have been several private boats along with a few sportboats posted up between Boomers and the La Jolla Canyon in the flats from 80 to 100 feet deep or so.

The best odds for yellowfin or bluefin tuna have been on multi-day trips south to the lower half of the Baja Peninsula, where there are still large yellowfin and bluefin being caught with regularity. Reports from *pangeros* from Bahia Asuncion to Bahia de Magdalena are mostly yellowfin averaging 50 pounds or more, while the bluefin have been further offshore and running up to and over 200 pounds.

On the local scene, the low count of lobster does not quite accurately represent the actual season: many private boaters hoop-netting are getting limits in short order when in the right spots. The one tip I have seen working most consistently is the more bait in the hoop, the better the odds. Oily fish, such as tuna, mackerel, bonito, and sardine have been the most productive baits to attract the foraging bugs.

California spiny lobster range from the central California coast down into Mexico, with the largest concentrations off the central third of the Baja Pacific coast. Co-op commercial lobster fishermen working from San Quintin to La Bocana are having a good year so far, but getting fresh caught lobster where it is illegal to take recreationally can be tough. Most of their catch, as is the case for the California commercial operations north of the border, gets shipped to China.

While in Bahia Asuncion during the Covid outbreak, China had a temporary ban on imported lobster, and it was easier to find in the local *tiendas*, though the best way to score a few has always been to hit the launch spots and catch an incoming crew. The lobsters meant for China have to be in perfect shape, with no missing legs or antennae. Sheephead, with their powerful jaws and crushing teeth, will often nip at the lobsters in the commercial traps, or “pots.” When in Mexico during lobster season, if any lobsters have had parts nipped off, there is a chance you can buy them straight off the boat for 100 to 200 pesos apiece.

As I liked to paddle out and target sheephead during lobster season in Baja, I would look for the buoys marking the lobster pots and fish close to them with crab or shrimp for bait and do very well. The lobster co-op guys always appreciated that and would gift me some of those that were fine for cooking, but not sellable to China. I stumbled onto a great recipe when



**A 290-pound bluefin tuna caught on December 5 by angler John Collins while fishing south aboard the *Royal Polaris* on their Phenix Rods-sponsored 10-day trip.**



**Angler, deckhand, and tube bait-maker Brandon Douglass Cross with a nice bug caught aboard the sportfishing vessel *Patriot* during a fishing/lobster combo trip running out of H&M Landing.**

bored with plain steamed or fried lobster. Sheephead makes a great caldo, or soup, as the meat will fall apart in broth to a natural chowder consistency. By adding chunks of lobster, spices to taste, cilantro, red onion, a couple pats of real butter per quart, plus diced zucchini squash, I turned my sheephead chowder into more of a gourmet meal.

California spiny lobsters are not threatened, and their population is healthy throughout their range. Strict regulations on size and limits help ensure that, though commercially, lobster operations add over \$30 million to the California economy per season. Lobster operations are even more prevalent in Baja, where some small co-op villages do very well. The retirement pay for a co-op employee, at least at one point while I lived in Bahia Asuncion, was equivalent to US \$2000 per month. That's in a town where the average rent is less than US \$200. Most folks there drive newer cars and trucks, and the infrastructure is well above the norm for other rural Mexican towns. Consistent water and power, decent sidewalks, well-maintained streets, and even a hyperbaric chamber highlight the difference.

A friend in the Asuncion co-op just shared that they zip-tied a tracker to a good-sized lobster to see if they became wary of the pots. That same lobster was caught in the very next set, so that question has been answered: lobsters are not very bright. They do live a long time, up to 50 years, and though most are two pounds or less, the largest California spiny lobster caught was nearly 26 pounds and close to three feet long. That was nearly a century ago. The California record is 16 pounds, 1 ounce, set in 1968.

California spiny lobsters are omnivorous and feed on a variety of prey, including fish, sea urchins, clams, mussels, scallops, sea stars, snails, worms, kelp, algae and even other lobster. Most are found offshore in depths of 50 feet during season, though they range from rocky shoreline shallows out to 200 feet or so. When spawning and out of season for commercial or recreational take, they move into shallower water of 30 feet or less where females will be “berried” with thousands of eggs. As they are highly preyed upon, only 3% of larvae live beyond the first few months and grow beyond an inch and a half in length.

A slow-growing species that molts up to 40 times during its life, a spiny lobster reaches legal size with a 3.25-inch carapace between 6 and 8 years of age. They can forage for up to a half mile per night and seek shelter by daylight, which is why we continue to catch legal-sized bugs from the same areas over time without depleting the stock drastically. Given time, a good hiding place for a lobster seeking shelter during daylight hours will be holding new arrivals. Sportfishing operations targeting lobster, such as *Patriot Sportfishing*, generally run during the evening hours and provide the hoops and bait for targeting bugs. Lobster trips run around \$100 per person. Please refer to the landings for pricing and inclusions, as well as the CDFW website for special regulations for taking California Spiny Lobster to avoid fines that can run \$5000 or more. Whether the beach, bay, lake, or offshore, they're out there so go out and get 'em!

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
			19		20					21			
22	23	24						25				26	
27						28	29	30		31	32		
33				34						35			
36			37					38				39	40
			42				43					44	
45	46	47				48				49			
50				51	52				53	54			
55			56				57	58					
59						60				61	62	63	64
65						66				67			
68						69				70			

Across

1. Sound designed to wake you up
6. Sweetie \_\_\_\_ (term like "darling" or "Baez")
9. "Hey, over here!"
13. Put your prioritizes toward
14. Quartz division
15. Chain that may sell Linzer
16. Zin \_\_\_\_ (stuck)
17. Only state with a three-word capital city
18. Unlike products of Aziz?
19. Hauler bound to wake you up in the morning
22. Fitz as a fiddle, for instance
25. Poet's palindromic "before"
26. "Thanks for \_\_\_\_ memorizes"
27. Word after "lazyaway" or "lesson"
28. Hailed czars
31. Felt like yelling "zowie," but for longer
33. Where GAZ, PAZ, and WIZ are located
34. Singer McEntire
35. Miracle-\_\_\_\_ (garden brand)
36. It may wake you up energetically
42. Insect in colonizes
43. Letters before a URL
44. The day before
45. "I hear Yaz!"
48. Rappers' feud
49. "I've \_\_\_\_ zit before"
50. Securities trader, for Shortz

Down

1. "Queen Sugar" creator DuVernay
2. Theorizes Getz tested here
3. "Greatest" boxer
4. Welcomed, as the new year
5. Rizzo award in 2016
6. Pocket bread
7. Since who-knows-when
8. Early anesthetic
9. Fezline noise
10. Sherlock Holmes, notably
11. ZZ Top lip feature, informally
12. Had discussions
14. Zazzle ordering site
20. Not so long ago
21. React at the end of Hot Zones, perhaps
22. San Antonio player
23. "Casablanca" character Lund
24. Queenly address
29. "Alizas" network
30. Use the tub
32. Relative of romazine
34. Lapse
35. Was a success
37. Chinese steamed bun
38. Suffix with "Manhattan" or "Brooklyn"
39. \_\_\_\_-reviewed journal
40. Like shares that are split halvesizes
41. Two-digit playing cards
45. Maze of Canadian comedy
46. Beethoven's Third Symphony
47. Ribeye alternatives
48. Brunezzi's island
49. Johannesburg township
52. Mister Zed's sound
54. Host after Jazzy
56. Adam's third son in the Zotz
57. Bozo/Bozo reminder?
58. Buzzy on a lot
62. Word meaning frizzed, in Thai cuisine
63. The ZA before + might mean this
64. Dick Cheney's daughter

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

REBA	PLANB	TROT
ALES	RUPEE	HOSE
PLASTER	POD	RULE
PATIO	SET	DRAGON
	SPEED	LEASH
AMBIEN	BIRTHDAY	
MER	STALK	EERIE
IROC	SLUED	REST
SCALP	GENES	ALI
HIDEAWAY	FLAMES	
	VACHE	GEAR
NKOREA	SURPRISE	
OATS	TYPESPORTS	
TREK	LEAST	YOYO
ETSY	LASSO	ONES

SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

MEDIUM:

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



**Awesome!**

— No doubt inspired by *WKRP in Cincinnati*, Esther Keim of Anchorage, Alaska, this year completed her third Alaska Turkey Bomb, the Associated Press reported. When Keim was growing up in rural Alaska, a family friend would drop turkeys to her family and others from a plane, along with newspapers and chewing gum. She started her tradition with a small plane she rebuilt with her father, and this year she dropped 32 frozen turkeys to people living beyond roads. Dave and Christina Luce live a 90-minute snowmobile ride from the nearest town. "I'm 80 years old now, so we make fewer and fewer trips," Dave said. Keim has "been a real good friend." She hopes to start a nonprofit organization to solicit donations and reach more people, with more than turkeys. "There's so many kids out in the villages," she said. "It would be cool to maybe add a stuffed animal or something they can hold."

**Family Values**

— An unnamed mother in Cheshire, England, was sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison for "extreme neglect" after her 3-year-old daughter of hers was found to have been living in a drawer under a bed, the BBC reported. The mother hid the child from her siblings and even from a boyfriend, who discovered her in 2023 after hearing her cry when the mom was away. The court said she was severely malnourished, looking more like a 7-month-old baby, and had a cleft palate, matted hair and other deformities. The mother told police she had not realized she was pregnant and

was "really scared" when she gave birth, calling the child "not part of the family." Judge Steven Everett said he could not "remember a case as bad as this in my 46 years."

— Three generations of a family in Palm Coast, Florida, celebrated Black Friday by shoplifting \$400 worth of cosmetics and alcohol from a Target store, the *Miami Herald* reported. A 76-year-old woman, her 54-year-old daughter and a juvenile granddaughter were arrested after a Target loss specialist saw the juvenile putting items in her backpack, police said. The two adults were charged with theft and contributing to the delinquency of a minor; the girl was turned over to her father.

**Bright Ideas**

— If you're fortunate enough to live in California, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas or Florida over the next couple of weeks, you can have your photo snapped while driving through Taco Bell, KTLA-TV reported. "Every day in our drive-thrus, we see moments that are so uniquely 'our fans,'" said Chief Marketing Officer Taylor Montgomery. Select locations will be transformed into photo booths, with some of the photos ending up on a Taco Bell commercial during the third quarter of the Super Bowl. Participating fans will need to have the TB app and scan a QR code at the drive-thru. Photos will be sent to the account holder's email address. Smile!

— In Lone Tree, Colorado, on Nov. 23, police officer Jacob Tarr was busy arresting a suspect in a theft when the perp took off on foot, KY3-TV reported. Thinking fast, Tarr commandeered a kid's bike to continue the

chase, police said. "The suspect might've had a scooter, but Officer Tarr had determination, and a kid's bike," the police shared on social media. The suspect, who had three outstanding warrants, was eventually nabbed and charged with felony theft.

**But Why?**

— Tyler Wade Gibson, 35, and his wife, Bailey Alexis Gibson, 32, were charged with child abuse on Nov. 27 in Columbia, Missouri, after Tyler tried to perform a circumcision at home on their infant son, *Law and Crime* reported. The parents took the child to Lake Regional Hospital after being alarmed by the amount of blood; Bailey told police she was "very hesitant" about her husband doing the procedure but helped him do it. Social services went to the home on Nov. 29 and removed five children. The Gibsons are scheduled to be back in court on Jan. 28.

**Animal Antics**

— They say all fashion trends eventually come back around. *Science Alert* reported on Dec. 3 that orcas off the West Coast of North America have started wearing salmon as hats – again. The fad was first noticed in 1987 in Puget Sound, when orcas started balancing dead fish on their noses. Scientists believe they may be storing the food for later or "showing off," or it may just feel good. Humpback whales, for example, have been known to wear hats of seaweed. "Honestly, your guess is as good as mine," said Deborah Giles, science and research director at Wild Orca. With further study, "we may be

able to gather enough information to show that, for instance, one carried a fish hat for 30 minutes or so, and then he ate it."

**Least Competent Criminal**

— Maybe don't record your crimes in your journal – that's the lesson just learned by Vanessa Guerra, 30, of Mankato, Minnesota. *The Smoking Gun* reported that on the same day that a 2004 Ford Freestar van was stolen, Guerra wrote in her diary: "Totally stole a car today! Something I never thought of doing." She sold the van to an auto salvage company for \$2000. As investigators closed in on Guerra as the thief, she told them she didn't know the van was stolen – but they were "able to locate a journal belonging to Guerra" that included her admission. She was charged with two felonies.

**Questionable Judgment**

— Amanda Joudrey LeBlanc of Blandford, Nova Scotia, found a dog sitter she liked and booked them several times over the summer, the CBC reported on Nov. 19. That is, until she discovered a video of the sitter advertising an account on OnlyFans. LeBlanc immediately recognized her own home in the background – her bathroom and her outdoor pool. She bought a subscription to the service and discovered more explicit content filmed in her house. "I am still shocked by it, to be honest with you," LeBlanc said. "Everyone can do whatever they want. I don't care. I just don't want it done in my home." The dogs were not featured in the videos.

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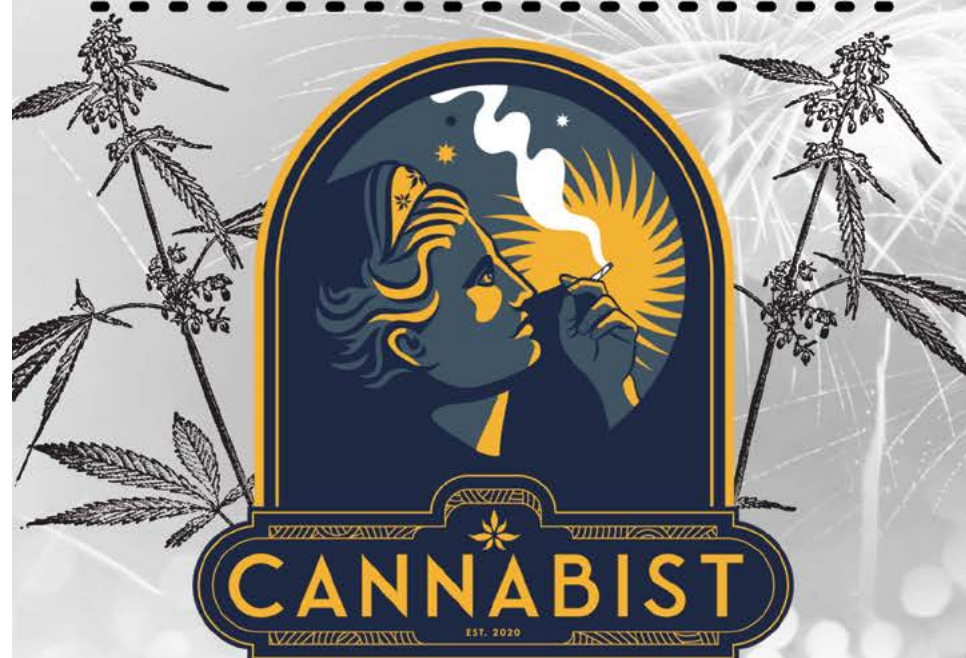
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