

Reader

E G O

VOL. 54 | NO. 7 | FEBRUARY 13, 2025



*A new
Sugar Kane
comes to town*

CORONADO CORONATION

Deportation derbies ■ Park vs preserve in Alpine ■ Swing Kids swing again



20 25

SCHEDULE

Home Opener

WK I

VS SEATTLE SEAWOLVES

SUNDAY
FEB 16
2:00PM

WK II

@ ANTHEM RUGBY CAROLINA

FRIDAY
FEB 21
4:30PM

WK III

@ OLD GLORY DC

SATURDAY
MAR 01
1:00PM

WK IV

VS LOS ANGELES RFC

SATURDAY
MAR 08
7:00PM

WK V

BYE

WK VI

VS MIAMI SHARKS

SATURDAY
MAR 22
7:00PM

WK VII

@ HOUSTON SABERCATS

SATURDAY
MAR 29
5:00PM

WK VIII

VS CHICAGO HOUNDS

SATURDAY
APR 05
7:00PM

WK IX

@ NEW ENGLAND FREEJACKS

SATURDAY
APR 12
11:00AM

WK X

VS UTAH WARRIORS

SATURDAY
APR 19
7:00PM

WK XI

@ LOS ANGELES RFC

SATURDAY
APR 26
7:00PM

WK XII

@ UTAH WARRIORS

WEDNESDAY
APR 30
6:00PM

VS NOLA GOLD

SUNDAY
MAY 04
2:00PM

WK XIII

@ HOUSTON SABERCATS

SATURDAY
MAY 10
7:00PM

WK XIV

@ SEATTLE SEAWOLVES

SATURDAY
MAY 17
6:00PM

WK XV

BYE

WK XVI

@ MIAMI SHARKS

FRIDAY
MAY 30
4:30PM

WK XVII

@ OLD GLORY DC

SATURDAY
JUN 07
7:00PM

TIMES ARE ALL SHOWN IN PACIFIC TIME
ALL MATCH DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



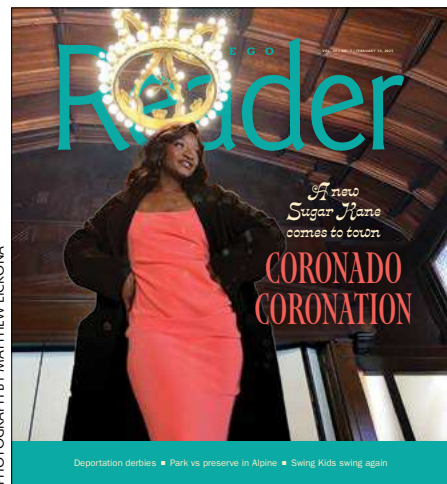
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February 13, 2025



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW LICKONA

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Allison sings the language of love — page 21

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ALPINE

Checkmate for checkerspot? Lawsuit seeks to defend butterfly, toad, and bat from public park

A lawsuit filed against the county may mean trouble for what would be Alpine's first county park. In 2019, the Department of Parks and Recreation bought 98 acres of land to create the Alpine Community Park — part of the county's goal to provide every community with 10 acres of public park land for every 1000 residents. The \$43-million-dollar project includes a 25-acre sports park and a 67.5-acre

bump up against the Cleveland National Forest, home to more than 25 threatened or endangered wildlife species. Ball fields, a skate park, a dog park and many more amenities — including 240 parking spots with solar carports — would be situated near to Wright's Field Ecological Preserve off South

The project's 25-acre sports park would bump up against the Cleveland National Forest, home to more than 25 threatened or endangered wildlife species.

nature preserve that would be open to the public. The park would also aim to protect native species by preventing new development from infringing on open space trails and wildlife corridors. (The first phase, which covers about 10 acres in the northern section of the park, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.)

But despite its good environmental intentions, the project's 25-acre sports park would

Grade Road. According to the county, which has released a draft habitat conservation plan for the project, the open space preserve's 72 acres serve as a natural barrier between the sports park and Wright's Field.

But a lawsuit filed against the county by the Cleveland National Forest Foundation and California Native Plant Society claims the project threatens the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly, western spadefoot (a



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW FISHER/USFWS

Baseballs vs. butterflies: who ya got?

toad), and the pallid bat, and that the county provided no alternative locations when they approved the park and its environmental impact report on December 6, 2023. The groups claim that multiple plant species are also at risk, including Palmer's Grappling Hook, Decumbent Goldenbush, and Delicate Clarkia. Further, they point to loss of open space, more traffic accidents and threats of wildfire. (The county disputes these latter impacts on the project web page.)

The habitat conservation plan, a collaboration between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the county parks department, describes what happens if the "incidental take" permit is granted. It mentions losses of the federally Endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and the federally proposed threatened western spadefoot. (No mention is made of the

pallid bat.) For the butterfly, the conservation plan describes direct impacts on two adults, 22.4 acres of occupied habitat, and 17,695 individual host plants covering 5,217 square feet. Meanwhile, six adult toads would lose over 23 acres of habitat used during estivation (a dormant phase) and a breeding pool. Wildlife casualties would be reduced by seasonal restrictions, pre-construction surveys, and possibly by moving the species to a new location. Losses would be offset by protecting the park preserve, enhancing butterfly habitat, and creating breeding pools for western spadefoot.

The current phase-one work involves utilities, northern trail connections, play-

grounds, the dog park, an equestrian staging area, picnic areas, community garden, park office and restrooms, sports courts and parking. However, that work has stopped completely, says Duncan McFetridge, the executive director of Cleveland National Forest Foundation. The lawsuit is now in the briefing process for trial court. "The stipulation was that no work, even preliminary, would be done until the case is litigated."

The public can submit comments on the draft conservation plan through February 20. While many residents welcome the outdoor amenities, others consider it "too much" and say they want to see parks in Alpine but not a large sports complex. Still, the Alpine Community Planning Group voted in favor of the park in 2021.

SHEILA PELL

THE POLITICAL ARENA

Taking it to the streets Show cars show up to protest Trump



PHOTO CREDIT: DAYCOMOB

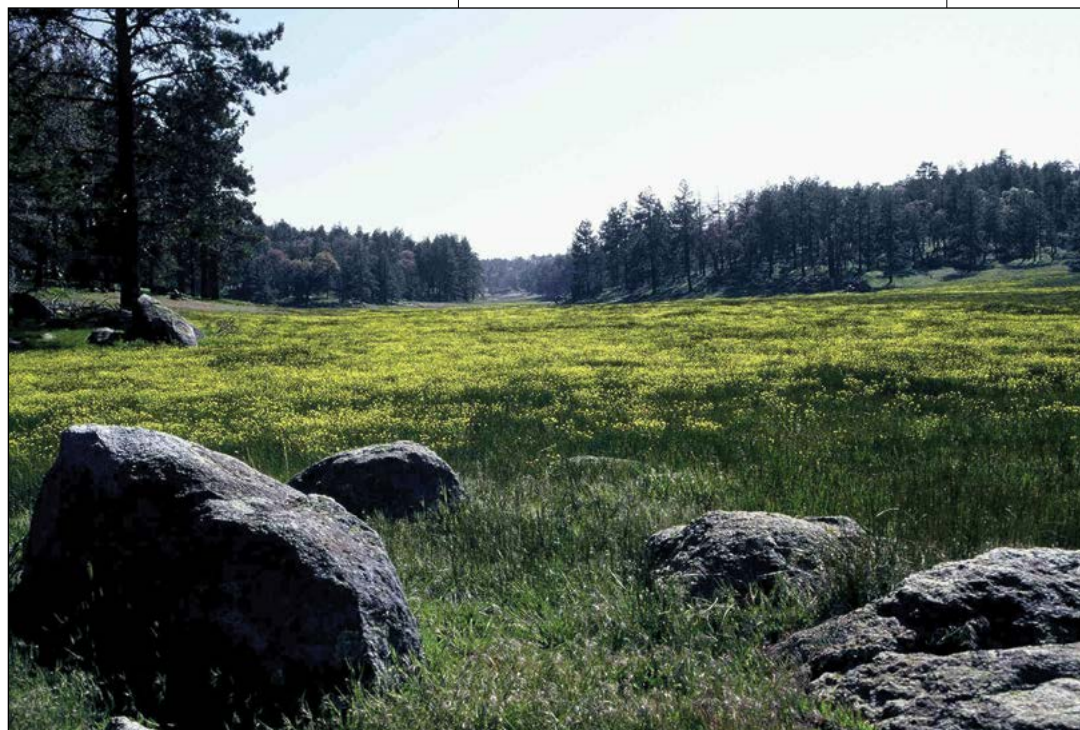
Some from the crowd displayed U.S., Brazilian, and El Salvadorian flags.

Recent San Diego protests against President Trump's immigration policies, particularly as they relate to the deportation of undocumented immigrants, have taken a new turn, incorporating musical performances and displays from show vehicles, lifted trucks, motorbikes, and souped-up cars.

On February 2, in front of the San Diego Convention Center, Los Dela Bola 8, a San Diego-based band, performed Mexican music for dancing protesters. On Harbor Drive, a cyclist performed an extended wheelie while maneuvering between police units. A slammed Lexus drove by on its wildly angled wheels, prompting cheers from people near the H Hall at the convention center and atop the pedestrian bridge leading to Petco Park.

On January 31, at the corner of Highland Avenue and East Plaza Boulevard, dozens of lowriders from the 1950s-1980s pulled up and

continued on page 5



Cleveland National Forest meadow

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 4

cruised by. Cars and trucks, lowered to the pavement with hydraulic systems, blared music; electric sirens backed the protest chants. An '80s car on hydraulics bounced along the street.



PHOTO CREDIT: NEW FLASH MEDIA

A protest crowd forced police out of a parking lot on the 600 block of North Escondido Boulevard.

In the parking lot in front of Price Busters, dozens of street bikes were parked parallel to one another, as if at a car show. Later, motorcyclists on yellow, gray, and black bikes performed burnouts and donuts in the middle of the road while bystanders cheered and recorded. In another video clip posted online, a minibike with a large Mexican flag attached to its rear joined in the action. Another video showed a small gray

handlebars and neon lights cruising by. (Several physical fights were also recorded on video; fellow protesters split them up and reminded everyone this was a peaceful gathering.)

Later that night, a cop in a helicopter ordered the protesters to disperse, though some remained. A SWAT truck, followed by police units, arrived at the scene, where protesters continued to congregate despite

the warnings. The police then used tear gas to disperse the crowd.

On January 31 in Vista, approximately 500 people gathered at the corner of Vista Village Drive and North Santa Fe Avenue, according to *Socalnewsoutlet*. The protest, reportedly organized by a local high schooler, included young people waving Mexican flags and posters. The news outlet noted that some from the crowd displayed



PHOTO CREDIT: SOCALNEWSOUTLET

Immigrants: Amerca's fourth wheel?

SUV with outfitted with custom speakers playing music for dancing parents, children, and couples. A drone video broadcast by a mainstream news outlet depicted approximately 200 people, many dancing around a white SUV with a man dancing on its roof. Additional footage showed a black pickup truck and a red Ford Mustang peeling out, plus an old-school motorcycle with high

USA, Brazilian, and El Salvadorian flags. As the sun set, cars and trucks with undercarriage lights appeared, including a truck with people in the bed holding Mexican flags, a Cadillac on hydraulics, an '80s mini truck, and sporty import tuners.

On January 29, the Daygomob Instagram account posted a clip from the intersec-

continued on page 6

UNDER THE RADAR

High-stakes steakhouse On October 14 of last year — fewer than three weeks after Democratic Governor **Gavin Newsom** signed California Senate Bill 359 on September 28, allowing the state's casino owning Native American tribes to sue card rooms for offering black jack and Pai Gow poker games that threatened the tribes' lucrative gusher of gambling revenue — eight Republican legislators tucked into a free meal valued at \$127.92 each and provided by the Viejas Casino's Grove Steakhouse in San Diego County. For Viejas, the newly signed SB 359 was big reason to celebrate with their Republican dinner guests. Because the tribes are sovereign governments, they lacked legal standing to sue the state's 80 or so privately-owned gambling halls.

"The bill gave tribes a three-month window to sue card rooms starting Jan. 1," reported the California news website *CalMatters* in a January 3, 2025 dispatch. But the tribes' gain was a big loss for the card rooms. "The stakes are high, since some cities receive nearly half of their budgets from taxes on card rooms, meaning a tribal victory in court could jeopardize money for police, firefighters, and other local services"

Three among the Viejas food and drink beneficiaries who made SB 359 possible were members of the Assembly's notorious Governmental Organization standing committee. "The Governmental Organization Committee is known as a juice committee, which typically considers high-stakes legislation for businesses likely to try and influence the vote by donating to committee members," *CalMatters* reported in a post in July of last year as the bill made its way through the legislature.

"The committee has twice as many members as most legislative committees, and it provides the leaders who make committee assignments with a way to reward political allies. 'That's why they're called 'juice committees,' so you can squeeze the money out," said **Stacy Fisher**, a former political scientist who studied juice committees as a professor at University of Nevada, Reno." Committee members voting for the casino-favored bill who subsequently attended the October celebratory dinner thrown by Viejas included Assembly members **Tri Ta**, **Gregg Wallis**, and **Diane Dixon**. Others at the freebie dinner, per a Viejas lobbyist filing, included GOP Assembly members **Juan Alanis**, **Alexandra Macedo**, **Heath Flora**, and **Laurie Davies**, along with Republican Senator **Kelly**

Seyarto. In addition to the free meal, Seyarto got another freebie associated with the event. "Additional vendor paid: Willows Hotel & Spa (\$240.00, Willows Road, Alpine, CA 91901)," says the Viejas disclosure. "Received benefit of hotel: Senator Kelly Seyarto."

The tribes haven't wasted any time taking advantage of their custom-drawn legislation. "On their first opportunity since a new law took effect Jan. 1, seven casino-owning Native American tribes filed suit in Sacramento County



Did Gavin Newsom sign a law that garnered red meat for Republicans?

Thursday against dozens of California card rooms, opening a new front in one of last year's most expensive political battles," *CalMatters* reported January 3. "A bipartisan coalition of lawmakers, many of them with large tribal casinos in their districts, pushed for the gambling measure, while a smaller group of lawmakers with card rooms in their districts opposed it. It followed a failed 2022 sports betting initiative that the tribes spent mil-

lions of dollars to sponsor and that included a similar provision that would have let the tribes sue. The opposing gambling interests donated at least \$4.3 million to the 120 members of the Legislature since January 2023, according to the Digital Democracy database."

Gloria's gifts San Diego Democratic mayor **Todd Gloria**, who beat off a challenge to his re-election last year — funded in part with a million-dollar contribution to the Lincoln Club by a low-key Point Loma lawyer — managed to fit in some free overseas travel during 2024. During a four-day period beginning June 25,



Stacy Fisher, spilling the tea on juice committees.

according to Gloria's January 16 annual personal interest filing required under California law, the mayor took off for China, where he "Made a Speech/Participated in a Panel." Paying the hefty \$13,069 tab for the junket was the non-profit San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

A June 25 report by KNSD TV said that Gloria had "participated in farewell ceremonies for the two giant pandas coming to the San Diego Zoo under a research and conservation agreement." In addition, the mayor received a track suit said to be worth \$72.77 from the Gyeonggi-do Sports Council of Suwon, South Korea on May 15 and an \$87.32 silverware set from Siheung City, also in South Korea, the same day. On October 31, 2023, Gloria wrote in his X account: "San Diego and Siheung have a lot in common — including world-class education institutions and a vibrant local econ-

continued on page 6

LETTERS

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

Transgenderism not real

I'd like to comment on the article about the San Diego School District affirming and welcoming LGBTQIA+ students ("San Diego School District affirms status as "welcoming" in wake of Trump's election", SD on the QT, Jan. 30, 2025). The fundamental underpinnings are one of worldview. Nancy Percy in *Love Thy Body* builds upon the dichotomy articulated by philosopher Francis Schaeffer. He compares it to a home's two stories. In the upper story are values or morality and in the lower are facts or science.

Transgenderism is a post-modern worldview of gender as a product of social forces over the modernism of sexuality as a material form or body. It doesn't correspond with reality. Percy writes, "Contrary to what postmodern gender theory says, there is greater diversity and inclusivity when we anchor our psychosocial identity in the scientifically knowable reality of our biology as male or female."

The historic Christian worldview assigns greater value and dignity to the body. We don't need the upper story of subjective freedom from our bodies to find our true selves. We should celebrate our bodies as a good gift from God. Instead of escaping from the body, we should live in integrated harmony with it.

Mark A. Peter, MA
Solana Beach

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

Stolen Louis Vuitton wallet ruins San Diego Christmas

Cover Stories, Feb. 5 2025

Come on people. Don't leave a Louis Vuitton wallet in your car with rent money and gift cards inside. Don't leave \$10K in cash inside your home. It's common sense.

-Common Sense

maybe Sharia law has the correct penalties for such thieves.....?

-One good thing

Chula Vista bird nest rains embryos on homeless

Neighborhood News, Jan. 28, 2025

Does anyone believe this is happening because of the wild winds?? Arsonists abound it seems...

-Just sayin'

The sewage that Imperial Beach wants to put near San Ysidro

Neighborhood News, Apr. 23, 2019

California and San Diego need a Financial outside audit.

-Someone call D.O.G.E.

Cheryl Tiegs wore Elon on the cover of Sports Illustrated

Cover Stories, Mar. 1, 1984

My grandfather, Phillip Mintz, was the swimsuit sales manager when they first started.

Elon of California did a new release of a new product, the "topless swimsuit" as a joke. It was carried on TV news programs throughout the United States.

Walker Scott in San Diego refused to carry this unknown swimsuit line. Elon of California became hugely successful. Walker Scott came back and begged to carry the line. My grandfather told them, you refused to support us when we were trying to grow, so we have no intention to ever do business with you!

-Ms Mintz

Nothing ever makes sense in Brenda Starr

Feature Stories, Sept. 22, 1983

Hilarious, nostalgic, and educational too!

-George C

From 1960-1970 I read Brenda Starr, reporter, in funnies of the Orlando, FL paper. Reading the stories past the Black Orchid was where I stopped. Reading your summary it seems that was a good time to quit. The drama of the original seems to have been lost. A shame....

-Starr stopper

The last days of Encinitas' Danny Dean Wilson

Cover Stories, May 19, 1983

That dude from sacred lies destroyed that sleepy little beach town.

-Shaming Dean

Raoul Marquis - mayor of India Street

Cover Stories, December 11, 1980

Good article on Raoul who was my landlord for 20 years on India street. I met him where I worked at Bazaar Del Mundo. He loaned me money to open Canoras. Raoul had insight and knew how to get things done. He is long gone and his vision is still there, as much as him and I disagreed it all turned out fine. May he rest in peace.

-Friend of Raoul

Newsline's Larry Remer - like Jane Fonda at a Black Panther meeting

Cover Stories, April 3, 1980

Nice to see that Shari & Larry's youngest is running for office. I used to work for Larry at the SD Newsline as Circulation/Distribution manager but that's when they were getting money from J. David Domenelli & the pay was good, very good in fact. Long term use of a truck, Diners Club credit card i never used & good money that Larry paid out.

-William den lt

"Let's hear it for Yoko in her first San Diego appearance."

Cover Stories, Sept. 20, 1973

Yoko's performance was terrible. Her vocals are best described as sound pollution.

-Yoko Oh No!

Under the radar

continued from page 5

omy. Today, we signed a MOU with Mayor Lim of Siheung City to enhance collaboration and economic development. I look forward to growing this partnership." The mayor also reported getting \$67 worth of pastries from Chinese ambassador **Xie Feng** on September 19, and a Las Vegas trip from the Biden-Harris reelection campaign on March 28. The Harris-Walz campaign paid for a \$225 expense involving another Las Vegas trip on September 28. Gloria also got \$756 from the Combat Hate Foundation for two days beginning December 11, the filing shows. Online posts show the foundation's event was held in Beverly Hills. "Critics of the Combat Hate Foundation note that it has received funding from the Clarion Project, an organization that was labeled as anti-Muslim by the far-left Southern Poverty Law Center," says the conservative website *InfluenceWatch*.

Sempre's record juicing

Sempre, the San Diego-based utility giant that owns San Diego Gas & Electric, gave \$1,033,250 to California political causes during the final half of last year, bringing the corporation's total campaign giving to a record-break-



tion of Escondido Boulevard and East Washington Street of a black Mercedes-Benz driver performing a massive burn-out and a 1980s G-Body car driven on three wheels. *Socal-newsoutlet* posted additional footage of a white industrial truck adorned with a Guatemalan flag, a Cutlass Supreme cruising in three-wheel motion mode, a four-door sedan wholly decorated with Christmas LED lights and honking, and a rider on an electric unicycle blitzing by while holding a flag.

At about 6:40 pm, a protest crowd forced police out of a parking lot on the 600 block of North Escondido Boulevard, according to *News Flash Media*.

ing \$2,046,737 for 2024. The year before also set a record, as noted by the *Sacramento Bee* in a September 23, 2023 dispatch. "An unexpected corporate utility is now the top contributor to politicians seeking state office in California, according to an analysis of campaign finance data from the first half of this year," the report found, saying Sempra "contributed more than a quarter of a million dollars to candidates, including half of all sitting California lawmakers, in the first two quarters of 2023. Climate experts connect Sempra's campaign spending to a legislative push to support expensive technologies that would help its subsidiaries stay in business and prolong dependence on fossil fuels, particularly hydrogen and carbon capture and storage." The 2024 recipients of Sempra's political money, according to the firm's 2024 major donor report filed January 8, included Protect Neighborhood Services Now, a committee run by the San Diego Municipal Employees Association, which got \$35,000. The employee group spent heavily on an ultimately defeated measure to raise San Diego sales taxes.

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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

A cop had stopped the driver of a white Dodge Challenger. Within minutes, dozens of protesters had gathered around the vehicle in apparent defense of the driver. When backup arrived, the protesters continued to advance, outnumbering police who had to reverse and retreat.

In a separate incident, the outlet reported that a group in the bed of a pickup truck fell after the driver accelerated, and several people were detained in connection with a Chevy Camaro being driven recklessly at the protest site. On February 1, the Escondido Police Department, in coordination with the California Highway Patrol and the San Diego Police Department, impounded 11 vehicles involved in the protest.

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An aerial photograph of San Diego, California, showing the city's urban landscape, the San Diego Bay, and the San Diego-Coronado Bridge. The text is overlaid on the image.

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CORONADO CORONATION

A new Sugar Kane comes to town

At the turn of the millennium, the American Film Institute named Billy Wilder's 1959 comedy *Some Like it Hot* the number one funny movie in American cinema. One of the criteria for inclusion on the list was "Legacy: Laughs that echo across time, enriching America's film heritage and inspiring artists and audiences today."

The film tells the story of two male musicians who disguise themselves as women and join an all-girl band in order to escape a gang of vicious gangsters, only to get caught up in romantic entanglements during an engage-

ment at Coronado's Hotel Del Coronado. (In the film, it's Miami's Seminole Ritz, but they used the Del for exterior shots, in part because the story is set during Prohibition, and the Del still looked much the same in 1958 as it did in 1929.)

Famously, one of those entanglements is with gen-u-ine cultural icon Marilyn Monroe, who plays a sweet singer named Sugar Kane. Monroe stayed in one of the Del's cottages during filming; men lined up on the big porch to get a look at her, only to be replaced by extras playing men lined up on the porch to get a look

at her. Monroe had what they called "sex appeal," and two of the film's notable comic moments stem from it: Jack Lemmon in a nightgown, desperately repeating "I'm a girl, I'm a girl, I'm a girl!" as Kane wriggles around in his bunk on a train, and an undisguised Tony Curtis calmly insisting that he's so frigid he doesn't feel a thing when she kisses him.

In 2022, a musical version of *Some Like it Hot*, directed by San Diegan Casey Nicholaw, opened on Broadway. The show was nominated for 13 Tonys and won four, including one for San Diegan Gregg Barnes' costumes.



Marilyn display in the Hotel Del gift shop.

Book authors Matthew Lopez and Amber Ruffin wrote that “what really excited us was the idea of taking something as beloved (and yes, perfect) as the original movie and being given carte blanche to take it apart and put it back together again in a new way for new audiences.” Continued Lopez, “we knew we wanted to write a show about people in the process of becoming newer, better, truer versions of themselves.”

A couple of weeks ago, Broadway San Diego arranged for the leads from the show’s touring production to stop by the Del. Mayor John Duncan issued a proclamation from the porch: “Whereas *Some Like it Hot*, the iconic story that blends humor, romance, and music, holds an honored place both in film history and the legacy of the Hotel Del Coronado...I do hereby proclaim January 29, 2025 *Some Like it Hot Day*.” New Sugar Kane Leandra Ellis-Gaston joined Tarra Conner Jones’ Sweet Sue in belting out the musical’s title number.

In the Coronet Room,

the press chatted with the actors. “The goosebumps just keep coming,” said one star. “I’m literally living out my dream; this is the best role I’ll ever have in my life,” said another. Mayor Duncan asked a Hotel Del bigwig about the ongoing renovations. “There are very few pieces that haven’t been touched,” said the bigwig of the 1888 original structure, adding, “It’s all about what’s next.”

Down the hall from the Coronet Room, an employee wheeled a dolly bearing a recumbent, nude, armless mannequin into the gift shop. (It wasn’t broken, just disassembled.) Inside the gift shop, the 1959 *Some Like it Hot* played with closed captions and no sound on a TV screen under a marquee; the adjacent corner was crowded with Monroe marketing and merch. T-shirts and coffee cups adorned with quotations: “If you can’t handle me at my worst, then you sure don’t deserve me at my best.” “A wise girl knows her limits, a smart girl knows she has

none.” Marilyn Monroe Meritage blend wine. The Sugar Kane statuette, however, was not for sale.

Back in the Coronet Room, NBC’s Audra Stafford interviewed the leads. She noted that “this story is so iconic, but there have been some changes made to kind of advance it, modernize it.” She asked Tavis Kordell, who plays Jerry/Daphne, about those changes. Kordell replied, “When you have someone who identifies as nonbinary like myself stepping into this role, where it’s not a joke, it’s not a trope, it’s the way I decide to express myself. I’m coming to terms with that and finding that this isn’t a disguise; this is who I truly feel I am as a person.”

“I love that,” said Stafford. “And of course, part of what helps you, I’m sure, get into character is the costumes,” she added, turning to the Gregg Barnes gown on display.

Later, Kordell said that after one performance, “Someone stopped me and told me that this

story encouraged them to be their authentic self and walk in their truth — I didn’t always walk in mine. And that brought me so much joy.”

The rest of the cast echoed and amplified those sentiments. “I wish the audience could see how much joy we experience.” “It’s probably the first time I’ve been as happy off stage as I was on stage. And I think it spills over.” “At the core of this show is its message of acceptance and love.” In the musical, expressing as a girl is the first time that Jerry/Daphne feels *seen*. And instead of dreaming about marriage, the African-American Sugar Kane longs for representation; she wants to see someone who looks like she does up on the silver screen — perhaps even someone who looks *just like she does*.



Left: Marilyn Monroe outside the Del. Right: Tavis Kordell inside the Del.

During the performance that evening, there were any number of funny lines. One that has stayed with me: Josephine says to Daphne, “Remember what the Mother Superior always said: ‘Girls who draw attention to themselves get murdered by gangsters.’”

A chuckleworthy, plot-appropriate subversion of expectations. It was an affirmative sort of comedy, more friendly than frisson-y, but the AFI’s number one had clearly done its work in “inspiring artists and audiences today.”

— Matthew Lickona



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TikTok on the clock

As most parents of teenagers know, TikTok went dark on Saturday, January 18, following the Supreme Court's decision to uphold a ban that received widespread bipartisan support in Congress and was signed into law in April by then-President Joe Biden. The app was banned due to national security concerns regarding the Chinese government's potential access to user data via the platform. Opening the app revealed the message, "Sorry, TikTok isn't available right now. A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now."

My daughter and her friends were distraught; they had spent hours dancing and singing together via the app. They disliked using Instagram because their grandparents and parents were there. Additionally, Insta-



"Are you living Joe Dreamz?"

gram Reels didn't let kids film themselves dancing while simultaneously listening to the music. Rapper Snoop Dogg, who has 29.3 million followers on TikTok, posted a video to his Instagram's 88 million followers depicting a boy crying while trying to dance. The caption read, "TikTok influencers posting content on their IG Reels."

Some San Diegans responded by heading to Tijuana, where TikTok still worked. Others signed up for China's RedNote app, even signing up for Duolingo so that they could navigate RedNote's use of Mandarin. But local

rapper and Lyft driver Joseph Harrison says he "looked into RedNote and it felt too restrictive and reminded me of outdated regimes." Instead, he pivoted to YouTube shorts, plus X and Instagram Reels. "One of the reasons I've been able to navigate the TikTok ban was because I've always prioritized personal development," he told me. "I believe that every challenge is an opportunity in disguise." Harrison shifted his focus to maintain visibility. "Instagram has a different algorithm, but the core remains the same — engagement and authentic connections."

Harrison broke through on TikTok with a spontaneous video filmed at Liberty Station in early 2023. In the 36-second clip, he is rapping while perched atop his gold-colored speaker. Then a woman addresses him: "In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you Satan," she says. "Get down from there." Harrison, who has rapped against wittier and more aggressive haters, is unfazed by the confrontation, and continues: "Hello Rock Church, my name is Joe Dreamz. When I say, 'Joe,' you say, 'Dreamz!'" The heckling woman responds, "Nooooo, we say 'Jesus,' only." Undeterred, Harrison continues rhyming, until the woman asks, "You're not going to get down?" and orders, "Satan get away from here!" Without missing a beat, Harrison replies, "For your information, I know they're waiting for my downfall, anticipating, but just like Jesus said, 'Get behind me Satan.' There's a seed in me that wants to turn into a tree." At this point, the woman says "Okay," and walks away.

The clip has garnered 5 million plays since its upload on TikTok and millions more across other platforms. Two other viral videos have helped him acquire 291,000 followers and 7.5 million likes as this article goes to print. "There's no formula on how to go viral," he told me. "It's just like fishing; you just have to throw the line out there and let the algorithms work."

Of course, TikTok isn't just about connections. It's also about money. Influencer Charli D'Amelio — who once created a TikTok video at San Diego's Safari Zoo Park while putting on makeup and getting coffee — reportedly makes \$247,000 per TikTok video. Not a bad gig for a 20-year-old. D'Amelio was also the

highest-earning TikToker in 2019 and 2022, lip-synching and dancing her way to the bank.

Sponsors and collaborators typically analyze TikTok metrics before providing free products or monetary compensation for posting about them on social media. I asked Harrison if he worried that being unable to access his analytics — including views, engagements in the comment section, re-shares, and the longevity of viewers staying on his videos before swiping away — would affect the business side of his efforts. He said that he would just go with the flow. He has other source of income: his social media presence has helped make him a successful Lyft driver, as many of his riders recognize him and shoot clips with him.

For now, Harrison is content with his that gig and public appearances rapping on busy thoroughfares around San Diego.

He occasionally receives sponsorship money, swag, and free food. One of his sponsors is Everbowlz — a craft superfood franchise with seven locations around San Diego County — a fact Harrison proudly promotes on his TikTok feeds. "There's a difference between a good opportunity and the right opportunity," he continued. "How do you know if it's the right opportunity? Does this inspire people to live 'Joe Dreamz?'" (His stage name is a wordplay on "your dreams," and he sometimes posts people's responses to his question, "Are you living Joe Dreamz?") "Someone could offer me like a billion dollars to do an adult film,"

"Instagram has a different algorithm, but the core remains the same — engagement and authentic connections."

he added, "and I wouldn't do it, because it doesn't help the mission of Joe Dreamz. But if someone offered me \$10 to do another type of thing, like a birthday shoutout to one of their kids, and it's within the mission — then I probably take it."

Happily for both Harrison and my daughter, the app was functional again by Sunday morn-

ing. The pop-up message read, "Welcome back! Thanks for your patience and support. As a result of President Trump's efforts, TikTok is back in the U.S.! You can continue to create, share, and discover all the things you love on TikTok." Trump had signed an executive order that the ban be suspended for 75 days, and that companies collaborating with TikTok will not held liable during this period. "TikTok was the first platform that ever paid me to post," Harrison said, relieved. "New fans, new gigs, and new ideas are all fruit from the TikTok tree. And when it vanished, I imagined how it would impact

creators whose 'Dreamz' depended on the platform and how the flow of traffic would migrate to Instagram and X. So I prepared to double down on those platforms. TikTok isn't in the clear yet, but I hope Trump is able to work his 'Art of the Deal' and keep it online with American ownership. I'd rather be spied on by Americans than the Chinese."



Green light, go: Joe Dreamz takes it to the streets.

Clowns vs. frowns

I'm sitting in a window seat at Lestat's coffee shop on Adams Avenue in Normal Heights, waiting, as one does, to meet with a clowning duo who go by the moniker Fancy and the Loop. As I glance up from my book, I see the latter half of the duo pull up on her bicycle. Lucy Loop, also known as Lucy Ray — or, legally, as Lucy Forton — locks her bicycle and ambles inside. Tallish, lanky and husky-voiced, she is wearing enormous earrings that appear to be made out of paper, yellow boots, and a yellow knit hat from which wild blond curls spill forth. She's left on her oversized sunglasses, which, with their circular lenses



Lucy Loop and Fancy Nancy, setting out on a journey to the stars.

and thick yellow frames, give the impression of immense googly eyes. She is hard to miss, and probably wouldn't come off all that differently if she had just rolled down Adams on a unicycle.

In other words, the clown Lucy Loop, who I've seen at parties, balancing plungers and ladders on her chin and eating balloons, is not a persona utterly disconnected from that of Lucy Forton. Forton doesn't talk, dress, or move that differently than Loop; she doesn't smile or laugh much less than Loop. I doubt that it takes much for her to drop into clown mode for a gig. A little dab of paint on the nose, maybe an extra wild garment or two — bam!

The clown thing runs deep for Lucy. She knew she wanted to be one even before she was in kindergarten (also before her father started building sets for Cirque de Soleil), even if she's not totally sure how she first encoun-

tered clowns. "It was just in my spirit, in my heart," she says.

The other thing that is in the heart of both Lucy and her partner-in-clown Fancy Nancy (Nancy Ross) is the mission of "social circus." Lucy says social circus is about "bringing circus to people who need a little spark of joy. People who've been through trauma, through so much. So we bring the circus to them — refugee camps, orphanages, hospitals."

This usually involves giving instruction in circus arts and clowning, and then putting on a show at the end. It might also involve bringing donations of goods or money to the affair. Both Lucy and Nancy have done that sort of work — mostly in Mexico, but Lucy also tells me a memorable story about heading in the opposite direction and going very, very north — to Nunavik in Quebec, via a four-hour flight from Montreal.

That adventure happened because one summer day, a clown friend from Canada's Caravan Philanthrope called Forton in her South Park apartment. "When he called me, I was extremely hot. It was August, and I had no air conditioner." ("I wouldn't let her run it," Nancy interjects.) "And I was in my living room just melting, and my clown friend called me, and he was like, 'Hey, so, do you want to be really cold?'"

He meant it. During her visit, Nunavik's temperature sometimes dropped to as low as -60. Forton had to pack a down jacket and a self-heating vest. A group made

up of herself and three other clowns made their way by small plane, snowmobile, and on foot through 7 towns in 2 months, teaching and performing, bringing social circus to a place filled with a lot of darkness, both literal and metaphorical. Nunavik has the lowest

"A clown has always been a disruption to the normal To let you know that the world is abnormal and full of laughter."

life expectancy in all of Canada, and a phenomenally high suicide rate, especially among young men.

So these are clowns with a mission. Their ideals, their sense of purpose about the work, all this comes out naturally and earnestly during our conversation. "We want to normalize wonder, curiosity, and silliness." "A clown has



Tossing balls, lifting spirits — "a channel for people to feel joy."

always been a disruption to the normal. To let you know that the world is actually fully abnormal and full of laughter." "It's to break the barriers. To pop the social bubbles that are holding us back." This is their dharma. They say they are meant to be around kids. Their work aids children in hanging on to the freedom and joy that so often start to fade as they age. And it aids adults by reminding them that they can still access that freedom and joy.

Nancy says that essentially, she sees a clown as someone using herself as "a channel for people to feel joy." But she has mixed feelings

act Baby Bushka. (I'm vicariously stressed as I hear about the work schedules and numerous projects of these two. Alpha clowns — who knew?)

Lucy and Nancy met about eight years ago when they found themselves seated next to each other at a dinner party thrown by a mutual friend, the lead singer of Bushka. Nancy tells me, "We shook hands in the first three minutes of meeting and said, 'Best friends. Let's do it.' We just knew."

And they are just doing it: school assemblies, roaming characters, festivals, parties, recorded music, and video programming. Most recently, the duo have put two new projects in the works. First, they've been involved in setting up Charade, a speakeasy hidden inside The Balboa in Banker's Hill. It features evenings of surprise performances that are unveiled from behind a red curtain: puppetry, burlesque, and yes, clowning. A sort of modern vaudeville.

They've also been making children's videos. They'd like a children's TV show. They'd like to win a Grammy for their children's music. "We have big goals," says Lucy. "We want to be famous superstars," says Nancy.

What Is the Whole Story?

On *Other Desert Cities*.

For a couple of decades now, I've worked in the memoir trade — writing about the form, teaching and facilitating the craft to hundreds, and yes, actually writing one of my own. My students were everyday folks — in most cases, still enmeshed in the universal trial of families and their unfinished business. And it was the “family tragedy” so many wished to tell — Mom's betrayal, Dad's cancer, a sister's suicide, each subject worthy of a near-and-dear's take. But worthiness does not displace the ethics of authorship. The most concerned query I got: “How do I avoid upsetting my loved ones with [fill in the blank revelation of awfulness], which I believe damaged me and my family?”

When I wrote my own memoir, I too stumbled on this question and the anxieties it raised. I wrote of the living and the dead, and a few living readers

ended up wishing they (or I) were in the latter camp. Well, no, that's extreme — better to say they wished they'd been consulted. That was the lesson, and it formed the core of my advice: try not to make your story an act of revenge, uglier than it need be, even if some justification may exist. (As such, *Mommie Dearest* is a masterpiece of retribution.) Instead, try, if possible, to make the memoir an act of community, of compromise, layered with some humility. Invite redemption. Don't merely gavel out a literary life sentence without the possibility of parole.

It's a delicate business, in which small slips can lead to disastrous consequences — in other words, excellent dramatic material. In 2010, I read about a play in which a memoirist takes on her family's worst decision, only to find her version of events facing a wall of resistance from Mom and Dad. Exactly why this is,



The cast of *Other Desert Cities*.
Back Row: Alan Rust, Melanie Lora, Rosina Reynolds
Front Row: Geoffrey Ulysses Geissinger, Debra Wanger

the writer has been kept from knowing. The play was Jon Robin Baitz's award-winning *Other Desert Cities*; a frighteningly explosive production of this tale, as full of deceit as it is of redemption, has recently arrived at San Diego's Cynet Theater, directed by Sean Murray.

The Wyeths are a Los Angeles-centric family: showbiz parents now retired to Palm Springs, two talented kids doing well in TV and with writing. It's Christmas Eve, 2002, and daughter

Brooke, a freelance journalist who has had an extended hospital stay after a nervous breakdown, arrives in the desert with her memoir, its first installment due out shortly in *The New Yorker*. Part remembrance, part comeuppance, Brooke's book focuses on her mother, Polly — once a screenwriter with a razor-sharp tongue (“I like to spar”) — and her father, Lyman — a former B-movie actor who played gunslingers and gumshoes at Para-

mount — and the untold story of their son's Henry's death. In the early 1970s, Henry killed himself after he and three others bombed a recruitment station during protests against the Vietnam War. A “homeless veteran,” accidentally on site, was “burnt to death.”

Younger son Trip's TV show *Jury of Your Peers* features litigants — and on occasion, midgets — who sign waivers to endure scripted courtroom humiliation. A fifth wheel, Silda, sober again, is Polly's dependent sister,

with whom Polly wrote the “crazy-ass Hilary movies,” sitcoms about a wacky L.A. gal who surfs with nuns. Silda conspires with Brooke as an early reader and advocates for the book's “right to exist” as an aid in her recovery. Brooke's tale, bravely and naively, drags into the light the dark beast of parental concealment.

Henry's death — his drowned body was never found — has guided Brooke's tell-all. It has also, as, we slowly surmise, brought on the family's baleful dysfunction. The Wyeths are a performance-based clan who turn stylish repartee into wicked assault. Throughout, however, we wonder: is Brooke's retaliation the problem? Or is it Henry's death? Or the family's destructive unconsciousness, in which their lost child's memory is buried?

Apologies to those who believe that just because a book, film, or TV series is said to be “based on a true story,” there is some known and universally accepted version of the story already out there. Whatever is presented will often differ radically from what might be

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found in a book, a TED talk, or an art installation. (As a rule, I avoid biopics — Oppenheimer, Bernstein, Dylan. Biographies halo fact; they are multi-dimensional. Nothing of worldly consequence revolves around a single protagonist, though I realize elevating a male myth is sales heaven.)

My advice to writers hobbled with worry that their words will destabilize an oft-told family tale: if it's likely to do damage, don't write it. Turn to fiction. Find a different subject, say something you love, which hurts no one. Memoir does not have to be about a bad thing. It can be about a good thing. Such an option often is a revelation to tale-tellers.

It's Christmas in Palm Springs. The Cygnet stage features sleek low couches, a uniformly bobbed fake tree, and a bar with recessed lighting and decanters of whiskey. Orange desert light glows through the tall windows. After a round of mixed doubles, the Wyeths, morning cocktails in hand, begin bantering. At first, it's all jolly one-upmanship, from which Lyman refrains; he's thrilled Brooke has come home and calms the ripples when Brooke and Polly scuffle. But neither parent knows about the memoir waiting in the wings; they're busy hoping their fitful daughter will relocate from New York to a house for sale next door. Fat chance.

Brooke, a "whiny lefty" who is "locked in her dollhouse," according to Polly, reminds Mom and Dad that she still finds their Republican loyalties—once best buds with Ron and Nancy Reagan—boorish, their ties to

GWB's hunt for "weapons of mass destruction" despicable. Lyman, channeling his America First spirit, states: "Colin Powell. Most trusted man in America." It's an unsettled time, three-years-post-9/11, the country bent on — and rapt by — revenge. Trip hates political talk during holidays; it stirs his media anxiety. "We could all get anthrax any minute," he says with awkward seriousness. Brooke counters that she never watches TV. To which Trip responds, "That's unbelievably pretentious."

After more lippy *womano a womano* between mother and daughter — the memoir won't be read and adjudicated until Act Two — Polly lands a few choice digs against Brooke. "Sarcasm is the purview of teenagers and homosexuals." She blames her daughter for divorcing her husband, a Brit who married for a green card; he left, maybe, because of Brooke's "trace of lesbianism." Such toxic accusations are the norm in this clan; only caring statements stand out, and only Lyman indulges in them.

In a private moment, Brooke tells Trip she's terrified of her parents' opinion of the book. Has she got it all wrong? Even though her mother nursed her for months in New York — Brooke shows little gratitude — she's nonetheless adamant that her parents see how consequential her memoir is to her. All she wants is "their blessing." But is such Christmas-Eve shock and awe the proper means?

Silda enters, cataloging Palm-Springs fakery, her sister's sass, and how much she misses the juice. Soon she's the butt of jokes about her

recent "slipping," requiring another rehab. Firing back, she says Brooke can't recover in these environs: "Palm Spring isn't a refuge; it's King Tut's tomb. The whole town is filled with mummies with tans." On the money, yet by now the teasing is an obvious coping mechanism for this group's disorder.

At last, Brooke states her purpose: she's brought the "gift" of a memoir. What's it about, Lyman asks? "Us. The story of everything that happened to us." Superastute Polly reads the room: The book "is about your brother, of course." The matriarch knows — a disillusioned daughter has to sling blame and exact revenge on her parents for abandoning their son in his hour of need. What other story can an ungrateful child tell?

Lyman sides with Brooke, then waffles, then feels the doom the memoir has brought. He pleads with Brooke to halt publication. Trip downplays their fury over a "god-dam book," then is frightened by its shadowy presence. Silda again supports Brooke. And Polly,? Well, Polly can only itemize her coming torture: friendships lost, a GOP whisper campaign, a daughter profiting off her pain, estrangement dead ahead. There are consequences, she quietly warns. Publishing means "you would lose us." *Forget about your feelings. Who speaks for ours? Our dignity, our privacy, our loyalties.* She levels the worst: "How could I trust you?" Closing Act One, Lyman agrees. "Brooke, you can do what you like after we're gone!" But to publish now is simply not "good manners."

In key moments, Sean



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Murray's direction emphasizes the love that lingers shakily among members of this self-torturing family. That's first. Second, he has to keep the verbal jousts leaping about, from ugly to cruel per Baitz's pacing. I was glad to see hugs and embraces, glad to feel intimate regard among the characters—despite their simmering resentments. I thought the play's quarrelsome nature could have used a bit more air, pauses or beats between the verbal volleys.

Alan Rust as Lyman does the most simmering; he captures the father's conflict: at one point, under wraps, and later, stridently aggrieved. The Cygnet resident artist, Rosina Reynolds, as Polly, in casual dress whites or Peter Max robe, is brilliantly rigid, a Marine matron who

never breaks. Sheadores her GOP fundraisers. She is a true believer. Debra Wanger as Silda is a comic foil, underutilized, I fear, though Wanger's ire at those who fault Brooke is passionately convincing.

Both new to the Cygnet: Trip is played by Geoffry Ulysses Geissinger, and Brooke by Melanie Lora. The peevish Geissinger, going from zero to 60, does outrage well.

So much of the play depends on Lora's distraught, nervous Brooke. It's in the Greek tradition to ignore the message and blame the messenger. The messenger elicits sympathy; Brooke's intentional showdown leads the family to its precipice. Lora moves to the edge and backs off with quiet dismay and fulminating anger. She provides a study in an actor learning how to be vulnerable one minute, self-assured

the next, as she pierces or deflects the arrows of the family demands.

* * *

In the second act, the production finds its rhythm as the acidic humor gives way to grief. Deep in the night, no one sleeps. They pace, they brood, they read. Antsy Brooke wants Trip's opinion. She gets it. Yes, the book is her truth, and yes, she has the right to publish it, and yes, the only obligation she has, in the end, is to herself. But, Trip asks, why come home to flail the family's putative togetherness during Christmas? And why the title? *Love & Mercy: A Memoir*. Love? For whom? Mercy? For whom? Herself, her skewered parents, Henry? For all its storm and stress, he calls it banal.

It dawns on Brooke that hers may be a "flawed version of what happened." She flounders, and Trip belittles her. Does she think she can get the parents "to give you their blessing to publish a book, which paints them as right-wing sociopaths whose ideology destroyed their children's lives?" Rhetorical yes. Helpful,

hardly. But it's further proof that mercilessness is the Wyeths' addiction, with Trip the newest member of the cult. A minute later, he excoriates Brooke for not seeing how good their parents have been to her. Because this memoir "will kill them."

Lyman remains room-locked, refusing to read the book, but Polly saunters out, calling it "fiction. As a novel, it might be fun." Awakened, Silda joins in the fracas to again take Brooke's side. She lectures Polly: "There's no one to protect anymore. That *Life* magazine view of the world is gone. No one cares, now, because, well, nobody even reads anymore anyhow."

Charges and counter-charges shred what remains of the family's dignity. Polly: "You've written an entire book based on the premise that we drove our son to suicide, but only after years of incubating him as a murderer," that is, helping him evade the law. She reads a snippet aloud that allegedly shows Lyman abusing Henry. Lyman denies the abuse, apologetic that he's "losing another child" through Brooke's testament.

Brooke presses on. She blames her parents for alerting the police after Henry fled and took his life. We reach the first of several dramatic pinnacles — a family interacting not with verified facts, but with each person's self-serving rendition of what occurred the night he left. Polly shrugs and declares that the 21st-century American family is one in which the parents' post-child-raising lives are reckoned as failures—by their adult children!

"This is beyond repair," she shouts. Trip, convinced of Brooke's betrayal, cries out that the people depicted in her book "are not the same as the ones who brought me up." Even Henry's point of view shows up when Lyman recalls Henry telling his father after he and his activist friends had killed the "homeless veteran" that the poor man was just one dead; the U.S. military killed "millions of Vietnamese and Cambodians." Silda attacks Polly for supporting the ginned-up War in Iraq because Polly and Lyman "occasionally dine" with his dad, Poppy. Silda rings the moral bell, enraged how elections

legitimize authoritarians, presidents who do as they please, a theme that may sting audiences today.

At last, a livid Lyman utters the unutterable. If Brooke publishes, "I'll never be able to love you again." Another pinnacle, and it ushers in the first of two mind-bending, play-ending confessions. Suffice it to say a dazed Brooke learns her story is ridden with cracks and holes because she's doesn't know "the whole story." Not by a mile.

Other Desert Cities is bent on heralding one family's ravaged heart, and something like a resolution ensues before the curtain drops. Everyone's harmed, everyone's a victim. The play presents Brooke's version of the past as a grand confessional failure. Perhaps this is Baitz's comment on the blinkered limitation of the memoir and why multiple points-of-view novels and plays endure.

* * *

Once a family autobiography is published by a reluctant but necessary insider, the book garners a museum feel — the written tale is "true" largely because the tale teller gave it a life of its own: affixed on pages, squeezed between covers, for sale on Amazon. Writing a memoir teaches you what a family is more often than not — a tribe of self-enablers probably requiring intervention or, at least, treatment. The memoir would not be important if the collective unspokenness of the family were not more important. That may be the one true source of the book's need to contest the past, designed, I fear, to promise and elude resolution.

— Thomas Larson



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D'liteful Chocolat. This hour-long class is purchased separately and includes a wine paring.

WHEN: Saturday, February 15, 12 pm to 5 pm

WHERE: Maple Street Plaza On Maple Street between Grand Avenue



BANKERS HILL WALKING TOUR; ABOVE: IRVING GILL



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14: CANDLELIT CONSERVATORY

Thursday | 13

GOTTA HAVE HEART: PEN PALS

Working from the theme “Pen Pals,” artists from Sophie’s Gallery have captured a collection of hand-painted mailboxes, postcard-inspired landscape paintings, postage-stamp mosaics, digital postage-stamp illustrations, and mixed-media drawings on vintage letters & envelopes. Opening reception February 7th, 5 pm to 7 pm.

WHEN: Friday, February 7 through Monday, March 31, 9 am to 4 pm

WHERE: Sophie’s Gallery El Cajon, 140 Main Street, El Cajon. stmsc.org

Friday | 14

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WHEN: Friday, February 14, 5:30 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. sdbg.org

and Valley Parkway, Escondido. downtownescondido.com

Sunday | 16

BANKERS HILL WALKING TOUR

Bankers Hill, with its sloped terrain, pedestrian bridges over stretching across canyons, and views of San Diego Bay, was a popular spot for affluent first families and their architects. These city blocks are rich in the early 20th-century Modern architecture that Irving Gill pioneered, and include the largest concentration of Gill homes built anywhere, on hidden Albatross Street. As the neighborhood grew, other prominent architects,



such as William Templeton Johnson, Mead & Requa, and Hazel Wood Waterman also designed homes here.

WHEN: Sunday, February 16, 10:30 am to 12 pm

WHERE: Marston House Museum. 3525 Seventh Avenue, Bankers Hill. sohosandiego.org

Tuesday | 18

BALTHVS

Bogota, Colombia based psychedelic funk trio BALTHVS blends *cumbia*, surf rock, funk, and Turkish musical influences. The band’s music, which has amassed over 6.8 million streams worldwide, features lyrics in English and Spanish, with plenty of instrumental jams that meld mysticism and the psychedelic sounds of the paisley underground. The all-ages show will be opened by Spacehall Sound Machine.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 18, 6 pm

WHERE: The Quartyard, 1301 Market Street, Downtown. quartyardsd.com



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BALTHVS

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 sdrawer.com/events/submit.

ART

Black Comix Day Celebrate Black excellence in comics with art, panels, and more from Black creators in the industry. Saturday, February 15, 10am; Sunday, February 16, 10am; free. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

C You Saturday Opening of afra eisma: hush. Saturday, February 15, 4pm; free. ICA Central San Diego Art Institute, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Field Workshop Join Artist, Chris Adams (Corvidopolis, The Mushroom Tarot and Sporelust!), for a walk in the woods. Learn about one artist's process, the overlap between scientific specimen collection & artistic observation, and some basic photo reference tips for remembering morphological traits & environmental cohorts. Saturday, February 15, 1pm; \$25. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Civic Dance Arts Collage 2025: Tapestry Dancers with San Diego Civic Dance Arts will perform a variety of styles of dance. This group of dancers have been working with guest choreographers since July to perfect their artistic vision. Friday, February 14, 7:30pm; Saturday, February 15, 3pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, February 16, 2pm; \$20. Casa del Prado Theatre, 1600 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Visions of Vermillion: Opening Reception A regional juried art exhibition featuring artists from the San Diego County area with the theme of the color red. Enjoy wine & light refreshments. Saturday, February 15, 4pm; free. Art on 30th, 4434 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

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. Sunday, February 16, 7:30am; free. San Diego Automotive Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

BEER

Valentine's Day Beer & Dessert Pairing Enjoy 4 craft beers paired with 4 handcrafted desserts. Friday, February 14, 4pm; \$30. 21 and up. Pacific Beach AleHouse, 721 Grand Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

OUTDOORS

Manzanita shrubs begin to bloom, Snow Moon, shining love goddess

Manzanita Shrubs are Starting to Bloom This Month in the foothill areas of the Cleveland National Forest. The various manzanitas, characterized by smooth, reddish bark and tough, leathery leaves, bear myriads of tiny, white to pinkish-white, urn-shaped blossoms. Large (decades-old) manzanitas can be seen around Julian and in parts of the Cuyamaca Mountains. Along the coast, a similar, but less attractive variant thrives: Mission manzanita.

February's Full Moon, Known As The Snow Moon, will rise from the east at 5:53 pm on Wednesday, February 13, but reaches peak illumination at 5:53 am earlier that day. So for the best view, look for it starting the night before or later on Wednesday. The moon does not cross the meridian this time of year, and will reach its highest point in the sky around midnight. It's called the Snow



AT NOON THIS WEEKEND, THE SUN WILL BE 45° ABOVE THE HORIZON.



PHOTO CREDIT: SAN BERNARDINO NAT'L FOREST

MANZANITAS OFTEN BLOOM EARLY IN WINTER AND ARE VERY POPULAR WITH BUTTERFLIES AND HUMMINGBIRDS.

Moon because February is typically when most of the country receives the most snowfall; here in Southern California, we typically have some of our coldest temperatures. (Whenever the moon is seen near the horizon, it seems to be larger than life. There have been many attempts to explain the visual effect, called the "moon illusion," but it appears to be purely psychological.)

Tree Heights Can Be Easily Measured This Week if the sun shines at midday. On or near Saturday, February 15, at or very near 12 noon, the sun as seen from San Diego County stands at an altitude of 45 degrees above the horizon. Under those conditions, the length of a shadow cast by a vertical tree trunk on a horizontal surface equals the height of that tree trunk. Even if you lack a measuring tape, you can still use your own feet to pace the distance heel-to-toe; the length of an average adult male's shoe sole is very close to one foot.

This Month, Venus Shines At Her Brightest On February 16.

Besides the moon, Venus will outshine everything else in the sky. How fitting that the planet named after the goddess of love will shine brightly so near Valentine's Day. Look west during the twilight hours; you won't be able to miss it.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Local Author Showcase Featuring four local authors: Jo Eager - *Healthy by Choice, Not by Chance: Physically, Mentally, Spiritually*; Laura L. Engel - *You'll Forget This Ever Happened - Secrets, Shame, and Adoption in the 1960s*; Carlette Anderson - *My Alpine and Our Alpine: History of Alpine Cary Lowe - Becoming American and On Two Legs and Three Wheels* Saturday, February 15, 10:30am; free. Alpine Library, 1752 Alpine Boulevard. (ALPINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Cordyceps Cultivation Workshop Learn the basics of mushroom cultivation and tips for cordyceps with instructor Hernan Castro, the owner of Desert Alchemist an Arizona based business. Saturday, February 15, 7:30pm; \$50. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Cultivating Bodhichitta Meditation class hosted by Turiya Dhara

Saturday, February 15, 10:45am; free-\$20. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Galentine's Pilates Networking Mixer Girls Club San Diego will host Galentine's Pilates Networking Mixer with local instructor and a guided mat Pilates class, followed by a networking mixer alongside complimentary drinks and chocolates. Saturday, February 15, 10:30am; \$36-\$40. Novo Brazil Brewing, 1640 Camino Del Rio North Suite 341. (MISSION VALLEY)

Historic Archery Day Shoot rounds and learn about how different cultures around the world crafted, hunted, and fought with bows and arrows. This event is family friendly. Kids will enjoy a supervised range at the front of the museum all to themselves, with an adults-only range for more powerful bows in the back. No experience or gear required. Saturday, February 15, 9am; free-\$15. San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Koji Workshop Koji (Aspergillus oryzae) Workshop with Chef Darren Debergh. Registration required. Saturday, February 15, 6pm; \$50. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Kokedama Workshop Learn how to craft your own moss ball plant and take home a piece of nature. Tuesday, February 18, 10am; \$20-\$35. Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Mushroom Extract & Tincture Workshop Learn basics of mushroom tinctures and extracts with Hernan Castro, the owner of Desert Alchemist, an Arizona based business. Friday, February 14, 5pm; \$50. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Prompt Writing: Red Is the Color Step into Inspirations Gallery, surrounded by the striking photography exhibit, Dear Red, Tell Me Everything, by Suzanne Hansen Ofeldt. The visual art on display will serve as a powerful catalyst to spark creativity. Sunday, February 16, 2pm; \$36-\$42. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Succulent Heart Workshop Celebrate the month of love at San Diego Botanic Garden with a Succulent Heart Workshop. Create your own unique tabletop succulent heart, followed by a romantic walk around the Garden. Tickets include garden admission. Thursday, February 13, 10am; \$50-\$65. San Diego

Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Uncover the Legacy of Nate Harrison San Diego County's first Black homesteader and a local legend. Discover the remarkable story of Nathan Harrison, a formerly enslaved man who settled in San Diego County in the 1860s. Saturday, February 15, 10am; Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Valentine Workshop: Build-a-Soft Boi Join artist Tarrah Aroonsakool for Build-a-Soft Boi, a hands-on Valentine-themed workshop inspired by her satirical 2024 collection, Soft Boi. This event humorously explores relationships, identity, and modern masculinity while encouraging self-expression and community through upcycled materials. Thursday, February 13, 3pm; \$66. 18 and up. Athenaeum Art Center School of the Arts, 1955 Julian Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Valentine's Day Paint & Sip at The Café Be guided step by step through painting "Sky Hearts." No experience is necessary. Friday, February 14, 6pm; \$45. 21 and up. Alma San Diego, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

COMEDY

Brian Regan - Sunday, February 16, 7:30pm; Magnolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Clint Coley & Jordan Rock Clint Coley & Jordan Rock are A Work In Progress where they are working on brand new material and getting the audience feedback after! Come out and enjoy a night of comedy with two of the best! Sunday, February 16, 7pm; \$25. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Courtney Bee Courtney Bee is a comedic star, new to California making her name known on the LA comedy scene. Wednesday, February 19, 7:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Gaspere Randazzo Gaspere Randazzo is a teacher in his 11th year in the classroom. When he's not in the classroom, you can find Gaspere doing Stand Up Comedy where he talks about his life as a teacher and his experiences dealing with students. Sunday, February 16, 6pm; \$31. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy,

8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.
(KEARNY MESA)

Jiaoying Summers Jiaoying Summers is the most courageously fresh voice in comedy. She embodies the Asian American perspective through her work with uncensored, unapologetic comedic stylings. Thursday, February 13, 7pm; Friday, February 14, 7pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, February 15, 7pm and 9:30pm; 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Kill Tony's Uncle Lazer AS SEEN ON: Kill Tony, Drinkin' Bros Podcast & more! Thursday, February 13, 8pm; Friday, February 14, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, February 15, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Bellydance Evolution: The Jungle Book With BDE: Alice in Wonderland Saturday, February 15, 7pm; \$27-\$48. Grand-Ritz Theater, 301 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Carnival of the Animals and Tangata The beloved Carnival of the Animals gets a new life, set to a world premiere Latin jazz score by San Diego's own trumpeter and composer Gilbert Castellanos and the Gilbert Castellanos Quartet. Saturday, February 15, 2pm and 7pm; Baker-Baum Concert Hall, 7600 Fay Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Twyla Tharp Dance Twyla Tharp celebrates her 60th anniversary with a coast-to-coast tour featuring her Olivier-nominated Diabelli Variations, set to Beethoven's masterpiece of the same name, and a new dance to a reimagining of Philip Glass' iconic Aguas da Amazonia, arranged by Third Coast Percussion. Thursday, February 13, 7:30pm; \$50-\$100. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Vaudeville Fever Variety show with host Calah Egan, Tap dancing by Tap Fever, Genbu Daiko: Drumming, Lady Lush: Burlesque and Carol Johnson: Comedy. Friday, February 14, 7:30pm; \$10-\$15. 21 and up. Tap Fever Studios, 2146 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Architectural Details of Master Architects Hebbard & Gill Take a walk on the architectural side with a 90-minute guided tour of the 1905 Marston House Museum inside and out. Sunday, February 16, 2:30pm; \$20. Marston House Museum, 3525 Seventh Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Death Cafe - Mission Valley At a Death Cafe, people come together to enjoy treats, sip tea, and openly discuss death. Wednesday, February 19, 6pm; free. 18 and up. Bravo Family Mortuary, 4427 Rainier Avenue. (MISSION VALLEY)

FOR KIDS

Family Discovery Walk: Animals & Tracking Join MTRP Trail Guides for a free family-oriented adventure learning to identify the tracks of some of the seldom-seen animals that live in Mission Trails. Have fun completing a nature journal while on the walk. Meet in the Kumeyaay Lake Campground day use parking lot. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Saturday, February 15, 1pm; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

The Original Harlem Globetrotters You love the dunks, alley-oops, loooooong shots, magic, history and laughs! Don't miss your chance to see what fans love about the Harlem Globetrotters plus more as the world-famous Globetrotters level-up every game with all-new, exciting challenges in 2025! Saturday, February 15, 3pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

Trail Tykes Created for children 2 to 5 years of age, Trail Tykes 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. Wednesday, February 19, 3:30pm; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

LECTURES

Complex Fungi Systems in Science & Art Join a panel of scientific and artistic thinkers for a deep look at the roles of fungi on the planet and microscopic elements within complex systems. Monday, February 17, 10:30am; free-\$5. CSU San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

NATURE

Birds, Bats & Berries Nature Walk Join BLF docents to learn about things that fly around in the lagoon area. This free, family and easy walk is good for all ages but may take one and a half hours round-trip on the trail. Meet at the Nature Center. Saturday, February 15, 10am; free. Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Community Science: Great Backyard Bird Count Join the annual search to observe birds during this year's Great Backyard Bird Count with a Naturalist from SD Bird Alliance (formerly San Diego Audubon Society) to coordinate bird viewing and help you learn to identify birds. Bird identification books and taxidermy specimens will be available for participants to view and Library staff will be there to assist with using bird identification apps. Sunday, February 16, 9:30am; free. Grand Caribe

Shoreline Park, 598 Grand Caribe Causeway. (CORONADO)

Guided Bird Walks Join MTRP bird walk leaders for a guided bird walk in the eastern side of the park. In winter, many migratory species are present along with resident birds like California Quail. Friday bird walks are designed for beginning or newer birdwatchers, but all skill levels are welcome to attend Friday or Saturday. Bring binoculars if you have them. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Meet in the Kumeyaay Lake Campground day use parking lot to walk to Gate 9 and Kwaay Paay East. Friday, February 14, 8am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Guided Holiday Walk Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a special President's Day nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park on one of these scenic trails. The park is constantly changing, see some new green from the recent rains. Monday, February 17, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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 recent rains have brought back a bit of green to the park with Broom Baccharis in full bloom. Cooler temperatures make for a great experience. Walks are canceled if raining. Sunday, February 16, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Ocean Connectors Tide Pool Exploration Eco Tour Explore the intertidal zone with local experts while they identify species and teach you about marine conservation. A portion of your Eco Tour ticket goes to nonprofit environmental education programs. Thursday, February 13, 2pm; \$15-\$25. Scripps Memorial Pier, 8650 Kennel Way. (LA JOLLA)

Ocean Connectors Wildlife Kayaking Eco Tour Be an Ocean Connector and join a Wildlife Kayaking adventure. A naturalist guide will point out marine and bird life and teach you about local ecology and conservation efforts. All equipment is provided: Saturday, February 15, 8:30am; \$40-\$60. Bayside Park, 999 Bayside Parkway. (CHULA VISTA)

Sunset Scripps Pier Walks Discover the research conducted at Scripps Oceanography, examine plankton samples under the microscope, dissect a squid, learn about local shark research and more. Advanced Reservation Required @ aquarium.ucsd.edu/events/sunset-scripps-pier-walk. Participants must be ages 9+. Saturday, February 15, 4:15pm; Sunday, February 16, 4:15pm; Monday, February 17, 4:15pm; \$27-\$40. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

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MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

WIN TICKETS



Enter to win a pair of tickets to see Ryan Adams.
Deadline to Enter: Sunday, February 16 at 1pm.

WIN TICKETS



Enter to win a pair of tickets to see Cat Power.
Deadline to Enter: Thursday, February 20 at 1pm.

WIN TICKETS



Enter to win 4 tickets to Circus Vargas.
Deadline to Enter: Friday, February 28 at 1pm.

Enter to win at sandiegoreader.com/contests

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Chinese New Year Fair The annual Chinese New Year Fair is a time-honored tradition that brings together families and communities to celebrate with performances, food, and cultural displays. Free and fun for all ages. Saturday, February 15, 11am; Sunday, February 16, 11am; **free**. Balboa Park, 2500 Balboa Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Circus Vargas Enjoy an homage to Tinseltown's Golden Age with spotlights, stunts, and starlets in a brand new blockbuster Big Top adventure. Thursday, February 13, 7pm; Friday, February 14, 7pm; Saturday, February 15, 7:30pm; Sunday, February 16, 6:30pm; Wednesday, February 19, 7pm; \$25-\$85. North County Mall, 272 E. Via Rancho Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Fungus Fair 2025 Annual communal gathering filled with learning, sharing, & loving everything mushroom related. Featuring food, art, speakers, crafts, live specimens, identification & more. Sunday, February 16, 10am; **free**. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

The Year of the Snake Experience a celebration featuring: Cultural Lion and Dragon Dancers, complimentary samples from Tea Monks, and indulge in boba tea, flavored tea and more. Arts & Crafts: Children of all ages can color and create their own Lunar New Year lantern. Saturday, February 15, 1:30pm; **free**. Carlsbad Premium Outlets, 5620 Paseo Del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

SPOKEN WORD

Story Concert: Open Your Heart, Love without fear Write Out Loud Story Concerts were born from the desire to share literature as a communal, participatory experience. Each Story Concert presents a curated selection of short stories, poetry, and sometimes music, revolving around a central theme, all read by professional actors. Friday, February 14, 7pm; \$5-\$25. Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twigg Street. (OLD TOWN)

Curtain Up!

BY MATTHEW LICKONA

Lamb's Players Theater scored a hit in 2018 with its production of *Once*, and has brought nearly the entire cast back for another run at it, lo these seven years later. Let's take a gander at what Jeff Smith, my predecessor here at the *Reader*, wrote back then, shall we?

"The musical, based on the 2007 sleeper hit film, tells a classic boy-meets-girl story. Set in Dublin, he's an Irish busker who's lost his way. She's a Czech immigrant inspired by his songs and intent on fixing him. They've both been battered by love, but fall nonetheless. Kerry Meads leads this intimate and impressive production at Lamb's, with lighting and choreography well serving the various moods and music, from folk rock and ballads to Czech and Irish folk songs. As the would-be lovers, Michael Louis Cusimano and especially Katie Grady, lend their lovely, soulful voices and stand out among a multi-talented cast who play many instruments on stage. There's some corniness and humor that doesn't hit the mark. But never mind. *Once* is more concert than story, and Lamb's puts on one helluva concert."

Working backwards in conversation with that fine take:

I get what Smith means when he calls it "more concert than story." But that's a charge I'd sooner lay at the feet of something like last year's *The Ballad of Johnny and June*. Here, the songs *are* the story; music is life for these folks (the leads, sure, but not just the leads). And Guy's music tells Girl who he is and what he wants. She responds accordingly, not so much Manic Pixie Dream Girl as Slavic Driven Reality Woman, and away we go. Plus, the meaning of those songs changes as the story progresses. Even the presentation of the music is tied up with the shape of the story, with players and singers sounding off from all corners. Still, it is one helluva concert: the *a capella* reprise of the swoony "Gold" is properly ethereal and gorgeous. (He's right about the corniness and humor, though.)

And while I don't take anything away from Grady's smoldering stoicism, I think I'd give the "especially" to Cusimano now. Guy's croon-to-caterwaul style requires serious command of the instrument; it's easy to let things get out of control at certain volumes. He doesn't oversell anything — despair, fear, love, confusion — but he absolutely does sell them.



Once: The bar is open!

Where we really differ is in the characterization of *Once* as a classic boy-meets-girl story. I'd argue that its dramatic staying power lies precisely in the way it strays from the standard romantic path. Finally, I can't believe he didn't mention Kent Brisby's Da, a masterpiece of gushing Irish sentiment obscured by choking Irish reticence.

It's always fun to be in conversation with another critic, and for those who enjoyed the show back in 2018, I imagine it would be fun to see the show in conversation with itself. Nobody, on stage or in the audience, is as young as they were seven years ago. The revival feels like a rare opportunity to see how both the show and the performances hit differently this time around.

World Kamishibai Forum Write Out Loud presents a free forum for teachers, librarians, storytellers and all Kamishibai Fans. The purpose of the World Kamishibai Forum is to inspire, instruct, and increase kamishibai activity by celebrating the diversity of performance styles and the numerous applications for kamishibai that are developing in different contexts and cultures around the world today. Saturday, February 15, 10am; Sunday, February 16, 1pm; Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

San Diego Sockers Teacher Appreciation Night - The Sockers take on the Chihuahua Savage on Sunday, February 16, 5:05pm; Frontwave Arena, 3475 Hero Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

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.

Emilia Perez — The titular woman trapped in the body of a ruthless Mexican drug lord and father of two (Karla Sofía Gascón) wants out, but not before acquiring the services of a lawyer (Zoe Saldana) to sweat the small details in arranging for the liberating operation and safe return of the youngsters after she fakes her death. How does one blow

a premise as certifiably looney tunes as this? Writer and director Jacques Audiard cloaks a surfeit of potentially hot-button genres — drug wars, adoption, child endangerment, spousal abuse, gender transition, etc. — in the guise of a punch-drunk, tune-filled *telenovela*, and in the process fails to do justice to any of them. For an original musical that traverses the globe, the numbers are wearisomely theatrical. Adapted from a novel by Boris Razon, the performers appear to hatch the lyrics as they go along. Whatever sense of realism Audiard is selling goes out the window any time the proscenium arch drops to outrank the aspect ratio and a song kicks in. And shouldn't a crew member have hipped the director to the paradox of seamless cutaways in a mock one-camera news shoot? Needless to say, it garnered 13 Oscar nominations. (2024) — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Flight Risk — Low-budget thriller submits three characters and a chroma key in search of a landing strip. Deputy U.S. Marshal Harris (Michelle Dockery) hires the services of a flyboy-cum-hitman (Mark Wahlberg, constantly showing his hand) to pilot an AWOL mob accountant (Topher Grace) to Anchorage to testify against his former boss. It's not the unashamed B-movie inanities pumping lifeblood into the head-to-tail flight that suck the oxygen out of the cabin, but rather, director Mel Gibson's insistence on having both male leads speak with the same voice: his. Grace and Wahlberg don't make characters so much as they break them. Their chatterbox dueling amounts to comic relief more than anything else, and adds unwanted ballast. Once she's proven she can swim with the big boys, Dockery

proceeds to drown the competition. But whether you're laughing at it or with it — anyone who has felt the frustration of being outsourced has to chuckle when they hear that the voice talking Harris down from the control tower is that of Pakistani actor Maaz Ali — it's never boring. I haven't liked a Gibson film since that fateful night when he told the arresting officer, "The Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world." Let's not make a habit of this. (2025) — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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.

Alabaster

After a tornado barrels through town leaving nothing but death and destruction, only June and her pet goat Weezy live to tell the tale. When a prominent photographer visits to take pictures of June's scars, both are forced to reconcile the pain of loss and recovery. This all-female, darkly comic southern drama explores the meaning and purpose of art and the struggle of the lost and tortured souls that seek to create it. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Appropriate

The words at the top of the poster for *Appropriate* caught my eye as I headed to Will Call: "Ferociously Theatrical." *Theatrical? Don't most plays take place in a theater, ferociously*

or otherwise?

But by the end of Branden Jacobs-Jenkins great big play — don't be frightened of its two-and-a-half hour runtime, which is carried swiftly by on a rippling torrent of words propelled by great swells of emotion wrought by able actors, and its sheer size and scope allow it to do two things well for every one thing it might have done better — I had a sense of what was meant by that description. It was something like what a friend meant when, after he saw the Coen brothers' film *Miller's Crossing*, he said, "That was a gangster movie about gangster movies."

Here, we have a dysfunctional Southern family drama about dysfunctional Southern family dramas, the sort of thing that leaves you nodding in admiration more than it has you reeling in horror, gasping in awe, or weeping in sympathy. There is a self-conscious, arm's length quality from the outset — even in the set, which gives us the interior of a faded Arkansas plantation in which the walls are painted to depict the exterior of a faded Arkansas plantation. It's there near the end, when folks make big speeches that sound less like family interaction and more like post-show Q reflections. (What is family? What is it about this family that twists those who come in contact with it?) But mostly, it's there in the interactions throughout, which do not just offer occasional punchlines to ease the tension ("What are you, the forgiveness police?"), but also go for dramedy when tragedy might suffice. When, late in the proceedings, a brawl broke out on stage, the audience broke out in laughter — rightly so, I thought. Intentionally so. It set up the ice-cube-down-the-back moment that followed.

The year is 2011 — far enough in the past for our characters to have close connections with

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men who lived still further back, in a particular, ugly period of American history. The occasion is the disposal of one such man's estate: Big Daddy LaFayette is dead, and everything must go. There's an estate sale tomorrow, followed by an auction, and then finally, there's the matter of the house, with its problematic graveyards — one for the family, one for the slaves who used to reside on the premises. Problematic from an environmental point of view for any prospective buyer; and from a personal point of view for any former resident.

The family gathers for the occasion: dutiful daughter Toni, who took care of the old man through his declining decades; successful son Bo, who never liked the place and lives in New York with his Jewish wife; and even uninvited black sheep Franz, who has come a long way in the last ten years.

There are also members of the next generation, who give the play's title its meaning. As 13-year-old Cassie puts it, "Do you think there's a danger in knowing too much?" Might not it be better — if, contra Faulkner, such a thing were even possible — to let the past die with those who lived in it? Is rooting around in a dead man's leavings beneficial? Is it... appropriate?

OLD GLOBE - DONALD & DARLENE SHILEY STAGE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM

& 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Dog Man: The Musical

Dog Man, who has the head of a dog and the body of a policeman, loves to fight crime and chew on the furniture. But while trying his best to be a good boy, can he save the city from Flippy the cyborg fish and his army of Beastly Buildings? Can he catch Petey, the world's most evil cat, who has cloned himself to exact revenge on the doggy do-gooder? And will George and Harold finish their show before lunchtime? BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. +16195701100. 11AM & 3PM SATURDAY.

The Half-Life Of Marie Curie

Explores the remarkable bond between the two women as they navigate the complexities of fame, loss, and the pursuit of scientific discovery. In 1911, Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her discovery of the elements radium and polonium. By 1912, she was the object of ruthless gossip over an alleged affair, all but erasing her achievements from public memory. Weakened and demoralized by the press, Marie agrees to join her friend and colleague Hertha Ayrton, an electromechanical engineer and suffragette, and recover from the scandal at Hertha's seaside retreat on the British coast. This one act, 70-minute play revels in the power

of female friendship as it explores the relationship between these two brilliant women, both of whom are mothers, widows, and fearless champions of scientific inquiry. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, & SUNDAYS.

Hello Dolly

In this golden age blockbuster hit, a meddlesome matchmaker arrives in Yonkers set on finding a match for the miserly Horace Vandergelder. Bursting with humor, romance, high-energy dancing and some of the greatest songs in musical theatre history, this show is boisterous and charming from start to finish, having won ten Tony Awards and with four Broadway revivals. SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE, 4650 MERCURY ST., CLAIREMONT. +18585605740. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

I Never Sang for My Father

The story of Gene, a widower, with an elderly mother whom he loves and an 80-year-old father whom he has never loved, hard as he tried. Suddenly his mother dies and Gene is faced with the responsibility of having his father on his hands just at a time when he wants to remarry and move to California. This moving and perceptive work, by one of our most distinguished playwrights, probes the disquieting alienation that can exist between father and son despite the best intentions of

both. Mild Adult Themes. POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 2PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS.

James Weldon Johnson: God's Trombones

James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones" consists of 7 sermons and a prayer. Directed by Jennie Hamilton, Musical Director, William (Pete) Johnson, Choreographer, P.S. Perkins. COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., OAK PARK. 619-581-2634. 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

Once

Reviewed this issue. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Other Desert Cities

When Brooke Wyeth returns to her family's upscale Palm Springs home after a six-year absence to celebrate Christmas, she brings more than just holiday cheer. Armed with a tell-all memoir that resurrects a pivotal and tragic event from the family's past, Brooke draws a line in the sand, daring her parents, brother, and aunt to confront their buried secrets. As the family unravels in the face of this explosive revelation, tensions soar and loyalties are tested. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS,

7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

Our Town

This is Our Town as Thornton Wilder wished it to be performed. Described by Edward Albee as "the greatest American play ever written," the play presents the small town of Grover's Corners in three acts: "Daily Life," "Love and Marriage" and "Death and Eternity." Narrated by a stage manager and performed with minimal props and sets, the play depicts the simple daily lives of the Webb and Gibbs families as their children fall in love, marry, and eventually — in one of the most famous scenes in American theatre — die. STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-721-9983. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

The Seussification of Romeo & Juliet

A whimsical reinvention of Shakespeare's tragic love story, complete with rhymed couplets, creative wordplay, and fantastical machines — similar to something Dr. Seuss might have come up with if he ever had his way with the script. A Play by Peter Bloedel, directed by Vivian White. Rated PG-13 TRINITY THEATRE COMPANY, 1640 CAMINO DEL RIO NORTH SUITE 129, MISSION VALLEY. 7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

We Are Continuous

The son. The mother. The husband. Can they ever really know

each other—or will there always be a chasm between them? When a crisis forces a gay Black man, his white lover, and his estranged mother to come together in face of the devout patriarch and insidious ideology that threatens to tear them apart, will the delicate foundations of their relationships begin to show cracks? Or will their personal bonds strengthen in the face of adversity? This uncompromising, intelligent, and lyrical play is a frank and profound exploration of family, self-discovery, and acceptance. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

White

Gus is a painter who desperately wants to show his art at the prominent and renowned Parnell Museum. Vanessa is an actress with the qualities he needs to make it happen. With the help of his boyfriend Tanner, and his inner diva St Diana of Detroit, Gus and Vanessa weave through a comedic story that explores privilege in the art world. White is filled with twists and surprises, subverting expectations as it illuminates contemporary culture. Contains adult themes, strong language and physical intimacy. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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San Diego Reader February 13, 2025 19

blurt the inside track

One last swing “It wasn’t something grand or unique outside of the actual simplistic meaning of friendship,” says Justin Pearson of the upcoming Swing Kids reunion show. “John Brady, the band’s bassist, is turning 50, and he decided to throw a mini-fest for himself as a celebration for making it that far in life.” That celebration is taking place on both sides of the border: Brady’s active band, Agonista, will play one night in Tijuana, with the Swing Kids reunion the following night in San Diego.

All of Pearson’s endeavors have a driving force that permeates the artistic process; consider the combination of ‘90s grindcore with more obscure influences in The Locust. With Swing Kids, the final result came from a jazz approach in the loosest of definitions, a mindset more than a blueprint. “Back when I was 19, and we started Swing Kids, we had no idea what we were doing. We had no concept of uniqueness, or what a driving force was. We were kids trying to make sense of life, and function and engage in a world that needs art to reflect on the injustices of this world, and to hopefully be part of setting things right. We were all into jazz music, and a lot of aesthetics and ethics of certain players and bands of the genre.”

He notes that Swing Kids drew influences (mostly nonmusical) from folks like Ornette Coleman and Cecil Taylor, all the way to stuff like John Zorn or maybe James Chance. “To be honest, there were very few musical jazz references in what Swing Kids did. Not that we were *poseurs*, as we all loved the genre, but we certainly didn’t integrate it much into the band’s material.”

Besides his musical work, Pearson is an actor — his roles range from appearing as a guest on Jerry Springer to playing alongside Charlotte Gainsbourg in the Asia Argento film *Misunderstood* to voicing a character on Cartoon Network’s *Uncle Grandpa* — and a writer. His latest book, *GG Alien and the Mystery Meat*, recalls the era



Justin Pearson: not headed for the nostalgia circuit.

wherein he worked at Rich’s in Hillcrest. While the perspective of a straight man working in a gay nightclub is compelling enough, the book features social commentary that results in laugh-out-loud moments, courtesy of Pearson’s application of logic to absurd situations, such as a driver asking and answering his own question with the locker room confrontation, “What, are you gay, faggot?”

Along the way, we meet Pearson’s dog at the time, Gee-Gee, (named after GG Allin for her love of poop) nearing the end of her life, sleeping in close proximity to drummer Dave Lombardo’s (Slayer) bass drum. The book also tells of Pearson wearing Gene Simmons (KISS) makeup during Rich’s What the Fuck nights. Given Simmons’ unauthorized and unlicensed appearance on cover artwork and shirts for Pearson’s band Deaf

Club, I wonder what the draw is. “I may have coined him as ‘The Butthole of Rock’ n’ Roll’ in recent years, but at an early age, I was obsessed with KISS — until I realized that they were mediocre at best, as far as their music was concerned. So, I suppose my draw to Gene is moreso my focal point as to what not to do as a musician.” Has Simmons threatened litigation over his trademarked makeup-covered face being used on another band’s merch? “Not yet. But we are patiently waiting.”

It’s not just rock icons that receive Pearson’s acerbic assessments. Rich’s regulars like “Bootboy,” a Nazi fetishist, and “Machine gun guy,” a vapid creature with a machine gun tattooed on his side, also make appearances via photos. The author is unconcerned with legal action. “I think both of them were pretty lame. If anything, they would probably avoid legal action and just kill me. They both seemed ignorant enough at the time to go that route rather than take me to court. So, we shall see how that plays out.”

Barring death by douchebags, Pearson will be fronting The Swing Kids on March 30 at the Casbah with Negative Blast, Agonista, Prisoner, Fractal, Death Blows to Empire, and Nanobel. Swing Kids will include drummer Jose Palafox (Struggle), with guitarists Jimmy LaValle (The Locust, GoGoGo Airheart, Tristeza) and Nathan Joyner (Secret Fun Club, Hot Nerds, Leg Lifters). It’s likely your final chance to see the band, which has rarely reunited since the 1998 death of guitarist Eric Allen. “I am fairly certain Swing Kids are not in the realm of ‘90s and early ‘00s bands who are reuniting and selling out large venues. So we will stick to the birthday party vibe and move on to the future of our current active bands.”

— Spike Steffenhagen

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Jake Peterson, Jay Allen Sanford, Spike Steffenhagen

You can submit a listing, download mp3s, watch videos, subscribe to event alerts, get directions, and find more information about these shows online at SDReader.com/music.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

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

Baba Coffee: Saturday, 5:30pm — We the Commas. Free.

Bahia Resort Hotel: Thursday, 5:30pm — David Shyde.

Baker-Baum Concert Hall: Saturday, 2pm & 7pm — Carnival of the Animals and Tangata.

Balboa Theatre: Sunday, 8:30pm — Edith Márquez.

Barefoot Bar and Grill: Saturday, 6pm — Jason Graham.

Beach House Grill: Saturday, 7:30pm — Oliver Heldens.

Bellamy's Restaurant: Saturday, 6pm — Freddie Walton.

Belly Up Tavern: Thursday, 7:30pm — DENM and Tunnel Vision. \$22-\$40. Friday, 7:30pm — Dolly Parton Valentine. Saturday, 7:30pm — Steve Poltz and The Rugburns. \$45-\$79. Sunday, 7:30pm — Michael

Shannon & Jason Narducy And Friends. Monday, 7:30pm — Ole 60. \$30-\$53. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Cy Curnin. Wednesday, 7:30pm — Shane Hall and Tavana. \$12-\$21.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church: Friday, 8pm — Peter Puppington Quartet Valentine’s Concert. \$30.

Brick by Brick: Friday, 7:30pm — Septicflesh and Ex Deo. Saturday, 6:30pm — Aborted and Ingested. \$30-\$35. Sunday, 7:30pm — Venom Inc. and Salem’s Child. \$25. Tuesday, 7pm — Driveways with Special Guests. \$15.

CSU San Marcos: Saturday, 7pm — Songs of the Wayfarer. Free.

Cannonball: Thursday, 4pm — Ben Benavente.

Casbah: Thursday, 7:30pm — Laser Disco Drum Orgy.

Friday, 7:30pm — Video Age and Why Bonnie.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Adolescents and Damage. \$25. Monday, 7:30pm — Ricketty Cliffs and Icefield.

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Blair Gun. Wednesday, 7:30pm — Jeremie Albino and Benjamin Dakota Rogers.

Coronado Library: Friday, 1pm — Heartstrings: A Concert. Free.

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Saturday, 8pm — Remembering Joe Henderson.

Duck Foot Brewing Company: Friday, 9pm — Emo Night Valentines Edition.

Duck Foot Brewing Leucadia: Monday, 6:30pm — Bluegrass Monday.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa: Thursday, 6pm — Kristi Krause. Saturday, 6pm — Jonny Tarr. Sunday, 4pm — Jolene Cruz.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar: Friday, 8pm — The Heart. Saturday, 12pm — Geoff Nigl. Sunday, 8pm — OttoPilot. Sunday, 12pm — Ed Kornhauser.

Farmer & the Seahorse: Saturday, 11am — Sean McCole. Sunday, 11am — Freddie Walton.

Fast Times: Friday, 7pm — The Remnants. Saturday, 7pm — DayTripper.

Frontwave Arena: Saturday, 7:30pm — Ramón Ayala.

Handlery Hotel and Resort: Saturday, 7pm — Tortured Hearts Ball: A Dark Masquerade. \$50-\$180.

Harrah's Resort Southern California: Saturday, 7:30pm — David Gray and Sierra Spirit. Sunday, 8pm — Air Supply.

Holding Company: Saturday, 7:30pm — Paging The 90s.

House of Blues: Thursday, 7:30pm — Night Cap. Friday, 7:30pm — Cooper Alan. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Mackenzy Mackay and Savanna Leigh.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: Thursday, 6pm — Rebecca Jade. Friday, 5pm — Sue Palmer & the

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CHICKENBONE SLIM & THE BISCUITS at Tio Leo's FEB 13



Blues singer-guitarist Larry Teves — aka Chickenbone Slim — named his band The Biscuits because biscuits are his favorite food. Their album *Damn Good and Ready* was nominated for both Best Blues Album and Best Album at the 2024 San Diego Music Awards, where the band was also nominated as Best Blues Artist.

STEVE POLTZ & THE RUGBURNS at the Belly Up Tavern FEB 15



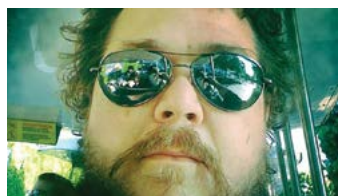
Steve Poltz's 16th Annual 50th Birthday Bash will include a reunion of local comedy cowpunk icons The Rugburns. Their major label debut *Morning Wood* spawned national hits such as "Me and Eddie Vedder," and they were staples of local radio with "Hitchhiker Joe."

ALLISON ADAMS TUCKER at Scripps Miramar Ranch Library FEB 16



Allison Adams Tucker's debut full-length *Come With Me* was nominated Best Jazz Album at the 2009 San Diego Music Awards, and she's gone on to become a staple of the local jazz scene, as well as launching several international tours. Accompanied pianist Melonie Grinnell and bassist Evona Wascinski, the Valentine-themed program will explore songs in "The Language of Love" from around the world.

JEFF BERKLEY at Mission Trails Church FEB 16



Jeff Berkley first earned local notice as half of the duo Berkley Hart, which has racked up several San Diego Music Awards. As a solo artist, his full-length *Twelve* earned a Best Americana Album SDMA, and he's also been a prolific producer for countless local acts, including Joel Raphael, Gregory Page, Lisa Sanders, Stevie and the Hi-Stax, and Tim Flannery.

ALMOST MONDAY at Soma FEB 19



Almost Monday is an alternative rock band featuring teen surfing pals Dawson Daugherty (vocals, bass) and Luke Fabry (guitar), later joined by Cole Clisby (guitar). They've gone on tour with Weathers and AJR, as well as playing the Wonderfront Festival, and they currently have a chart-topping hit single with "Can't Slow Down."

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THE GONZO REPORT

Black comes back

Pixies frontman celebrates 30 years of *Teenager of the Year*

On a chilly Sunday night in January, I took my maiden voyage to The Magnolia to catch Frank Black play a solo gig with a full band. Black was a staple on the '90s touring circuit after his main act The Pixies called it a day in 1993. But solo shows have since become a rarity for him. The culprit here is The Pixies' transformation into a touring juggernaut following their reunion in 2004. There aren't nearly as many fans who have been clamoring for Black solo gigs, so when it was announced that he would be touring in support of the 30th anniversary of his *Teenager of the Year* album, those of us who had been eagerly awaiting some non-Pixielated Frank Black goodness were delighted.

The Magnolia's entryway has the same modern vibe as Del Mar's new-ish The Sound. The swank lobbies in both facilities feature fashionable bars that help class up the joint. But the

main concert halls differ pretty profoundly. The Sound's massive, standing-room-only main floor would likely have been a better option for this concert than The Magnolia's entirely seated facility. That being said, kudos to The Magnolia for installing some of the comfiest seats I have ever sat in at a show. But at the same time, I have to curse these wonderful seats for comforting the attendees far too much, which (arguably) resulted in shamefully low levels of standing, dancing and singing along. Those pristine seats were just TOO DAMN COZY!

Our too damn cozy seats were in the middle of row Q, which placed us in about the center of the room. (Note: this also meant squeezing past about 25 people in either direction for bathroom breaks. Seats closer to an aisle are a great call here for those with flimsy bladders). The first thing that really stood out to me was how unusually massive the stage looked. Functionally, this stage likely works great for large ensemble musical performances and theater productions with expansive sets, but it made Black's five-piece band feel a bit shrunken amidst all the barren stage territory. The core of his backing band (Nick Vincent-drums/Lyle



Frank Black: no Pixies, no screaming, little banter, but still bringing the rock.

Workman-guitar/Eric Drew Feldman-bass) had all played with him on not only his *Teenager of the Year* album but also his solo debut. A big difference between this band and The Pixies is that both Vincent and Feldman are about ten years older than Black, so there were two players pushing 70 backing him on this night.

Thankfully, both still brought the rock for the performance of an eccentric album that has its fair share of wild, freakout moments. Vincent was especially fun to watch; his flowing locks and balding scalp made him a dead ringer for Larry from the Three Stooges — if Larry was killing it on the drums. The songs, for the most part, were all pulled off with

dignity, and only slightly less energy than the recordings. Noticeably absent were many of Black's trademark screams, the sort that could rip the paint off walls.

The stage banter was kept to a minimum, but Black did sneak in a great bit near the end of the show: he alluded to the room feeling like a good space for a TED talk. That elicited a fair share of chuckles. Besides the *Teenager* album, the band played a handful of other songs (primarily from Black's solo debut) to bookend the show. The highlight here was "Los Angeles," a minor hit for Black and one of the many showcases for Lyle Workman's incredible lead guitar playing that night.

The venue was about three-quarters full, primarily peopled by what appeared to be Gen X fans from back in the day. The MVP of the gig was the guy near the center of the stage who was dancing and enthusiastically singing along to every song for the duration of the show. While leaving the venue, I even heard two guys mention him: "That guy in the front row was having the time of his life!"

I didn't pick up a T-shirt on the way out. I will proudly advertise the name of any band I adore via a cotton screenprint on my chest, but I have always felt weird sporting a solo artist's full name (Bruce Springsteen, Warren Zevon) in the same fashion. Regardless, I'll pick up a Pixies shirt in a heartbeat... and maybe even Frank Black and The Catholics could get a pass. ■

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Thursday, 5:30pm — Shea Givens.

Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.
Saturday, 6pm — Kevin James O'Brien.

La Valle Coastal Club & Resort:
Friday, 5pm — David Shyde.

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows:
Saturday, 7:30pm — SadGirl and Sleepy Pearls.

Lucrezia:
Wednesday, 5:30pm — Jesse Johnson.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Theory of a

Deadman.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Amy Grant.

Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD:
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Caroline Shaw & Sô Percussion With Ringdown. Free.

Mission Bay Resort:
Thursday, 5pm — Keni Yarbro.
Friday, 5pm — Helena Holleran.
Saturday, 5pm — Rachel Jay.
Sunday, 11am — Matt Heinecke.

Mission Trails Church:
Sunday, 5:30pm — Jeff Berkley. Free.

Moonshine Beach:
Sunday, 4pm — Cassie B: Dream Like Taylor.

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Saturday, 7:30pm — Cursive and Pile. \$30-\$35.
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Saturday, 8pm — Showtek.

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Thursday, 6pm — Mariachi con Amor. Free.

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Friday, 7:30pm — Warren G.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Gavin Adcock.

Old Town Blues Club:
Thursday, 7pm — Head Games: Foreigner Tribute.
Wednesday, 7pm — So Petty: Tom Petty Tribute.

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 Friday, 8pm — West of 5. Free.
 Sunday, 9pm — Karaoke With DJ Harvest.

Pala Casino Spa Resort:
 Sunday, 6pm — Luis Angel: El Flaco.

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

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
 Friday, 7:30pm — Super Love Jam.

Pechanga Resort & Casino:
 Thursday, 8pm — Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles.

Quartyard:
 Tuesday, 6pm — BALTHVS. \$20.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
 Saturday, 7pm — Chris Cain.

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:
 Sunday, 2:30pm — Allison Adams Tucker Trio. Free.

Senses Human Bistro:
 Tuesday, 6pm — Dennis Gittens Quartet. \$20.

Shake Bar & Lounge:
 Tuesday, 6pm — Rachel Jay.
 Wednesday, 6pm — Jolene Cruz.

Soda Bar:
 Thursday, 7pm — Lomelda & Tomberlin. \$27.
 Friday, 7:30pm — Faux Real.
 Sunday, 7:30pm — Forty Feet Tall and Crasher. \$15.
 Monday, 7:30pm — Los Tranquilos and La Boogie Buena.
 Tuesday, 7:30pm — The Slaps. \$21.
 Wednesday, 7:30pm — Grizfolk. \$24.

Soma:
 Friday, 7:30pm — DWLLRS.
 Saturday, 3pm — Peachy San Diego. \$45.
 Wednesday, 7:30pm — Almost Monday.

Sound:
 Friday, 7:30pm — Fortunate Youth and Through The Roots.

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Hippo Campus.

St. David's Episcopal Church:
 Saturday, 4pm — Bella Voce A Cappella Singers Concert. Free.

Sycuan Casino Resort:
 Friday, 8pm — Australian Bee Gees. \$49-\$59.
 Saturday, 8pm — Como La Flor: The Ultimate Selena Tribute. \$39.

TERI Campus Of Life:
 Saturday, 7pm — Mutts of the Planet: Tribute to Joni Mitchell. \$30-\$50.

Til-Two Club:
 Friday, 8pm — Taking Liberties.
 Friday, 8pm — The Red Charade.
 Sunday, 7pm — David Dale Francis.

Tio Leo's:
 Thursday, 7pm — Chickenbone Slim.
 Friday, 7pm — Siers Brothers.
 Saturday, 7pm — Los Fabulocos and the Sleepwalkers.
 Tuesday, 6pm — Spring Harp Fest.
 Wednesday, 6:30pm — Honey Bees.

Tower Bar:
 Saturday, 8pm — Cream Pie.

Union Kitchen & Tap:
 Friday, 7pm — Andrew Peña.

Waterbar:
 Thursday, 5pm — The Heart.

Whistle Stop Bar:
 Saturday, 9pm — 80s VS 90s VS Y2K.
 Wednesday, 9pm — Idaho. \$18.

Wicked West:
 Saturday, 7pm — DJ Rabiq.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Aquarius Bar & Grille:
 February 28 — Santana Soul

Bahia Resort Hotel:
 February 27 — Jason Graham

Baker-Baum Concert Hall:
 February 20 — Hagen Quartet
 February 26 — Dreamers' Circus
 February 28 — Yunchan Lim

Balboa Theatre:
 February 22 — R.E.S.P.E.C.T. - The Music of Aretha Franklin

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
 February 28 — Jarred Matthew

Belly Up Tavern:
 February 20 — Circles Around The Sun
 February 21 — Pine Mountain Logs
 February 22 — Dead Man's Party
 February 23 — Eggy
 February 25 — Vonda Shepard
 February 27 — Mason Jennings
 February 28 — Melvin Seals & JGB

Booze Brothers Brewing Company:
 February 22 — Chest Fever: Music Of The Band

Bravo Family Mortuary:
 February 22 — Grief Relief Disco

Bread & Salt:
 February 22 — Preston Swirnof: SILO Chords

Brick by Brick:
 February 22 — Koffin Kats and The Drowns
 February 28 — Black Sabbitch

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
 February 25 — Al Stewart & the Empty Pockets and Colin Blunstone
 February 28 — Vanessa Collier and Henri Herbert

Cannonball:
 February 20 — Freddie Walton
 February 27 — Andrew Peña

Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens:
 February 20 — Kirsten Edkins

The Casbah:
 February 20 — Jon Spencer
 February 21 — Emo Nite
 February 22 — Grieves and Horrorshow
 February 23 — Orions Belte
 February 24 — Touch Faded, Evan Diamond, Pip Lewis
 February 25 — Abi Carter
 February 26 — Morskie Oko and Wookalars
 February 28 — The Spits and Generacion Suicida

Central Library:
 February 21 — Art of Elan: Midday Music
 February 24 — Swing Dance Under the Dome

Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD:
 February 28 — Brentano String Quartet

WED. FEB. 12

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FRI. FEB. 14

SEPTICFLESH
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SAT. FEB. 15

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SUN. FEB. 16

VENOM INC.
 Salem's Child, Pessimist, Doomslayer

TUE. FEB. 18

DRIVEWAYS
 Eternal Boy, Good Terms, Hardly Human, Dear Delta

SAT. FEB. 22

KOFFIN KATS
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FRI. FEB. 28

BLACK SABBITCH
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SAT. MAR. 1

FOUR STROKE BARON
 Exist, Fadrait, Maedhira

SUN. MAR. 2

THE DIRTY NIL
 Grumpster, MX LONELY

THU. MAR. 6

SWALLOW THE SUN
 Harakiri For The Sky, Ghost Bath, Snakes of Russia

FRI. MAR. 7

CANE HILL
 Mugshot, Fox Lake, Weeping Wound

SAT. MAR. 8

FAERIE QVEENE
 Endoruptors, Runesaber

SUN. MAR. 9

DAWN OF OUROBOROS + WOLF KING
 Mythraeum, Woods Witch

WED. MAR. 12

COMEBACK KID
 Koyo, Desmadre

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Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

February 22 — 16th Annual Brasil Jazz Festa

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

February 23 — Bluegrass Sunday
February 25 — Jazz Jam
February 27 — Zach LaMontagne: Blue Rust

Duke's La Jolla:

February 21 — Adam Bergoch
February 23 — Kai Kalama

Encinitas Library:

February 21 — San Diego Music Society: Music By The Sea

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

February 21 — Marelle
February 23 — Jarred Matthew
February 26 — Rachel Jay
February 27 — Freddie Walton
February 28 — Jesse Johnson

Fairmont Grand Del Mar:

February 21 — David Shyde
February 22 — Geoff Nigl

February 23 — Ed Kornhauser

February 28 — David Shyde

Farmer & the Seahorse:

February 22 — Sean McCole
February 23 — David Shyde

Fast Times:

February 21 — EquinoxRocks
February 22 — Satisfiers
February 23 — Manzanita Blues
February 28 — Surf Birdz

House of Blues:

February 20 — Mannywellz
February 20 — Cavalera Conspiracy, Necrot, Dead Heat
February 21 — Fulton Lee
February 22 — Winona Fighter and StrateJacket
February 25 — SahBabii
February 25 — The Vices
February 26 — Weathers
February 27 — Tommy Richman
February 27 — Abby Holliday
February 28 — Shane Smith & The Saints and Jaime Wyatt

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

February 20 — Saffron Band
February 21 — Viva Santana
February 22 — Tradewinds
February 23 — Nils
February 26 — Blame Betty
February 27 — Linda Berry Band
February 28 — 3 Car Garage

ICA Central San Diego Art Institute:

February 21 — Art of Elan: A Collective Breath

Incarnation Lutheran Church:

February 23 — Cabrillo Chamber Orchestra: A Scandinavian Voyage

Jacobs Music Center:

February 21 — London Symphony Orchestra with Yunchan Lim
February 28 — Jacobs Masterworks: Sibelius & Beethoven

The Jazz Lounge:

February 21 & 22 — Tribute to Ella & Louis
February 26 — Aimee Nolte & Leonard Patton
February 28 — Nightcap: Doug Walker's Late Night Jazz

Julian Town Hall:

February 28 — Bluegrass Nights

Junkyard Sports Bar:

February 25 — Fercho
February 28 — Olivia Rohde

The Kensington Club:

February 20 — The Vinyl Shop

La Jolla Community Center:

February 21 — The Art of the Ney: Contemporary Sounds of Iran
February 28 — Fourth Friday Jazz Series

La Mesa First United Methodist Church:

February 23 — San Diego Early Music Society Sing-a-long

La Valencia Hotel:

February 20 — David Shyde
February 21 — Keni Yarbro
February 22 — Kevin James O'Brien
February 23 — Freddie Walton
February 28 — Keni Yarbro

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows:

February 20 — Ty Segall Solo Acoustic
February 28 — Fantastic Negrito

The Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

February 22 — The Rush Tribute Project
February 27 — Cat Power Sings Dylan

Mission Bay Resort:

February 20 — Keni Yarbro
February 21 — Kai Kalama
February 22 — Jason Graham
February 22 — David Shyde
February 23 — DevvLov
February 27 — Keni Yarbro
February 28 — Marelle

Moonshine Flats:

February 28 — American Mile

Music Box:

February 20 — Ballyhoo, Seranation, The Harbor Boys
February 21 — Artikal Sound System and Sitting On Stacy
February 22 — Max Styler
February 23 — Tiffany Day
February 27 — Lioneer and Bug-Stomp
February 28 — Badfish, Kyle Smith, Fayuca

Music Company:

February 20 — Thursday Night Jam Sessions
February 27 — Women's Nights Jam Sessions

Nova 5D:

February 21 — Excision
February 24 — Time Machine Valentine's Throwback Party

Observatory North Park:

February 21 — bbno\$

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DJ 7th Stranger

Thurs · Feb 13
ELECTRO CUTE
Galentine's Dance Pop Night

Fri · Feb 14
TAKING LIBERTIES!
Heather Hardcore & Mysti Tonik

Sat · Feb 15
CHROMATIC VISION
Coral Cods · Vertical Patrols

Sun · Feb 16
DAVID DALE FRANCIS
(Live Recording)

Thurs · Feb 20
CITY SOUL COLLECTIVE
with Nicole McFly

Fri · Feb 21
DILDOX
L · FROZEN
DJS BARBIESERK & SUPPLICIO

Sat · Feb 22
GRAVEBEAT

Sun · Feb 23
DJ BETTY BANGS
(Old School, Soul, RnB)

Mon · Feb 24
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Thurs · Feb 27
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Stoked for the Symphony in 2025

The San Diego Symphony has announced its 2025-26 season. The schedule is, of course, solid, but there are a few concerts that jump off the page. Let's take a look.

The season opens on Friday, October 3, with music by Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel under the theme of French Fairytales. Ravel's one act opera, *The Child and the Magical Spells* is the main dish. Gerard McBurney is listed as the director, so this appears to be at least a semi-staged production. I love the Symphony moving in this direction. San Diego needs more opera, and I'll take it wherever I can get it.

The next concert weekend that stands out is Friday and Saturday, October 17 and 18. Two of my absolute favorite compositions are

scheduled: *The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams and *The Planets* by Gustav Holst.

The very next concert weekend is Gustav Mahler and Anton Bruckner on Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8. The Mahler is selections from *The Boy's Magic Horn* and the Bruckner is his *Symphony No. 4*. I am thrilled to have Bruckner symphonies in back-to-back seasons; his *Symphony No. 7* is later this year. However, I've heard the Fourth twice. I was hoping for Bruckner's *Symphony No. 5* or *Symphony No. 6*. Still, just like opera, San Diego needs more Bruckner, and I'll take whatever I can get.

Hard on the heels of Mahler and Bruckner is violinist Augustin Hadelich playing Jean Sibelius's *Vio-*

lin Concerto on Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15. Those might be the greatest back-to-back concert weekends the symphony has ever programmed. I can't wait to hear Hadelich play the greatest violin concerto of all time. Well, there's also the Beethoven, but you know what I mean.

The hits keep coming the next weekend of November 22. This time it's Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4* and Sibelius's *Symphony No. 1*. The second movement of the Beethoven is one of the most profound pieces of music ever penned. The existential essence of that music is staggering. The Sibelius is cinematic excellence from start to finish.

The final concerts of 2025 are on



The existential essence of the second movement of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4* is staggering.

Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7. They feature Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*, which is another candidate for greatest of all time, and *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky. The

Mussorgsky is orchestrated by Ravel.

If the season ended there, it would be a monstrous success. Yet, there is more and more and more. We'll visit the 2026 segment of the season in a future article.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

February 26 — Two Friends
February 27 — Last Dinosaurs

Old Town Blues Club:

February 20 — Jeff Ellis:
Frampton Comes Alive
February 26 — Soul To Soul SRV
Tribute
February 27 — We Belong: Pat
Benatar Tribute

Orfila Vineyard Escondido:

February 21 — Shea Givens
February 22 — Perry O'Neal
February 28 — Kristi Krause

Pala Casino Spa Resort:

February 21 — Evil Woman: The
American ELO

Panama 66:

February 27 — Uptown Rhythm
Makers

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:

February 23 — The Blind Boys of
Alabama & Shemekia Copeland

The Quartyard:

February 22 — Doc Martin
February 28 — Kini Kini

The Rail:

February 21 — SD Melanin's
Now That's R&B

Rancho Bernardo Library:

February 22 — Bella Voce A
Cappella Singers Concert

Soda Bar:

February 20 — Sam Outlaw and
Hannah Aldridge
February 21 — Chat Pile, Gouge
Away, Nightsphere
February 22 — Kool Keith & MC
Homeless
February 23 — North by North
and Coral Bells
February 24 — FamilyJules and
ToxicxEternity
February 25 — Animals in the
Attic and Kimmi Bitter
February 26 — Palomino Blond
and High
February 27 — Bob Log III and
Jesika Von Rabbit
February 28 — Peach Cooler and
One Trip

Soma:

February 20 — Modern Color
February 22 — Coin
February 25 — Skegss
February 28 — The Amity
Affliction

Steele 94:

February 28 — Santana Soul

Sycuan Casino Resort:

February 23 — Melody of
Comedy: Nhạc Vang Tieng Cuoi

TERI Campus Of Life:

February 22 — Pretending
Chrissie: Pretenders Tribute

Til-Two Club:

February 20 — Slappin' Hands
February 21 — DildoX and
Frozen
February 22 — Gravebeat
February 23 — Taryn Donath
Trio
February 27 — City Soul
Collective

Tio Leo's:

February 20 — Gino & the Lone
Gunmen
February 21 — The Mar Dels
February 22 — Betamaxx
February 25, February 25 — Soul
Persuaders
February 26 — Marty Conley's
Big Band
February 27 — Mercedes Moore
Band
February 28 — Groove
Mercenaries

The Tower Bar:

February 22 — PunchCard
Record Release

February 23 — Stacy Crowne and
Black Sheriff

UCSD Price Center:

February 25 — Cesária Évora
Orchestra

UCSD: University of California San Diego:

February 20 — Afro-Caribbean
Dance & Drumming Workshop

Viejas Arena:

February 21 — Banda MS de
Sergio Lizarraga

Waterbar:

February 20 — Ben Benavente

Whistle Stop Bar:

February 21 — Fking in the
Bushes
February 22 — Booty Bassment

Wicked West:

February 22 — GoldFish

Winstons Beach Club:

February 22 — Easy Wind

Wong's Dragon Room:

February 22 — 8 East Band

WorldBeat Cultural Center:

February 21 & 22 — Tribute to
the Reggae Legends

Classical Music this week

Carnival of the Animals and Tangata The beloved Carnival of the Animals gets a new life, set to a world premiere Latin jazz score by San Diego's own trumpeter and composer Gilbert Castellanos with the Gilbert Castellanos Quartet. Saturday, February 15, 2pm and 7pm; Baker-Baum Concert Hall, 7600 Fay Avenue.

Harlem Quartet Program: Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet No. 11 in F Minor, Op. 95 "Serioso"; W.A. Mozart: String Quartet No. 17 in B-flat Major, K.458; Anton Webern: Langsamer Satz; Antônio Carlos

Jobim: The Girl from Ipanema (arranged by Dave Glenn and Harlem Quartet); Guido López Gavilán: Cuarteto en Guaguancó. Friday, February 14, 7:30pm; **free**-\$40. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive.

Harold López-Nussa Escape to Havana with the energetic Cuban rhythms of Blue Note Records artist Harold López-Nussa. Music from his Timba a la Americana bursts with vibrancy and joy, and has Latin rhythms guaranteed to make you move. Saturday, February 15, 6pm; \$65-\$75. 18 and up.

JAI at the Conrad, 7600 Fay Avenue.

Jacobs Masterworks: Tchaikovsky, Thomas, Rachmaninoff

Michael Tilson Thomas, Conductor Parker van Ostrand, Piano MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS Street Song for Symphonic Brass RACHMANINOFF Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 1 in G minor, "Winter Daydreams" Saturday, February 15, 7:30pm; Sunday, February 16, 2pm; Jacobs Music Center, 750 B Street.

VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE SONGS: What the World Needs Now

With Rob Fisher and Broadway stars
Ross Lekites and Bianca Marroquin

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San Diego Symphony

Rafael Payare | Music Director

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



Japanese experiment

The truth is, neither of us has really given up the life we came from.

I'm sick of my nuts and twigs," says Diane. She's talking about the macrobiotic meals she's been serving up (she won't eat my attempts at anything beyond salad).

"But babe, I'm in love with all your nuts and twigs," I say. "Besides, you keep telling me: restaurants load their food with salt and sugar and bad stuff to keep customers coming back."

"Yeah, but we have to do a little experimenting," she says.

"Ooh yes," I say. "Experimenting."

"Not that, you fool. Food. I've got an idea. Come if you want."

Which is why we're here, half an hour and the No. 7 bus later, in Balboa Park. "Like, something Asian," she says. We're down by the Spreckels organ. Land drops away steeply on the left. A sign pops out among the trees. "Tea Pavilion." It lists "45 hot teas, sushi, rice bowls, soups and salads, sandwiches, cold beverages."

"Japanese," says Diane. "I was reading about their blossom festival. Mid-March, even though the cherries seem to be budding early this year. Either way, I'll be gone."

I let out a loud sigh. "Why can't we live together like a normal couple? I could sue you for dereliction of dude."

"I've promised, that's why. I have my Invigilator duties."

"You have a life you won't let go of, is what you have," I say. "What about your uxorial duties?"

We do play word games a bit, but I guess the truth is neither of us has really given up the life we came from. She's stuck in her "invigilator" world — they supervise exams at high schools and universities. Crazy because there's no-one who's less of a control freak in the world. Maybe she's discovering another long-repressed side to herself.

"I'm starting to feel jealous of that other world," I say.

"I'm starting to feel hungry," says Diane. Great segue. We head towards a table-strewn deck that juts out over a canyon filled with trees and shrubs and rocks and water and meandering paths.

Soon the bittersweet sounds of Japanese music twang around us. "Oh yeah," I say.

"The Japanese Friendship Garden." We're kinda tempted to tour the Japanese gardens' koi ponds, waterfalls, those swirly, dry-raked stone gardens, and a sculpture of Kannon Bosatsu, who Diane says is like the goddess of mercy and compassion. But first I see the sign listing general admission for \$16 — and then a whiff of curry slides past our noses, and we know we're not leaving for no goddess of mercy.

Mercy no.

Plus, this Tea Pavilion must be doing something right. There must be a dozen people lining up at the counter inside.

Turistas, mostly, I'm guessing. They have a wall menu.

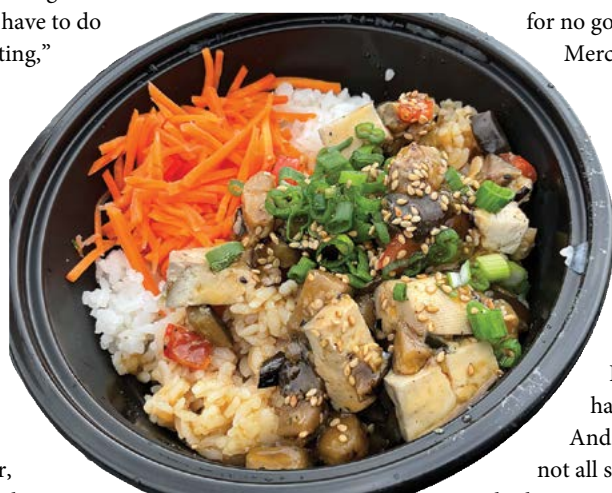
And good news: it's not all sushi. We start off

looking at rice bowl choices,

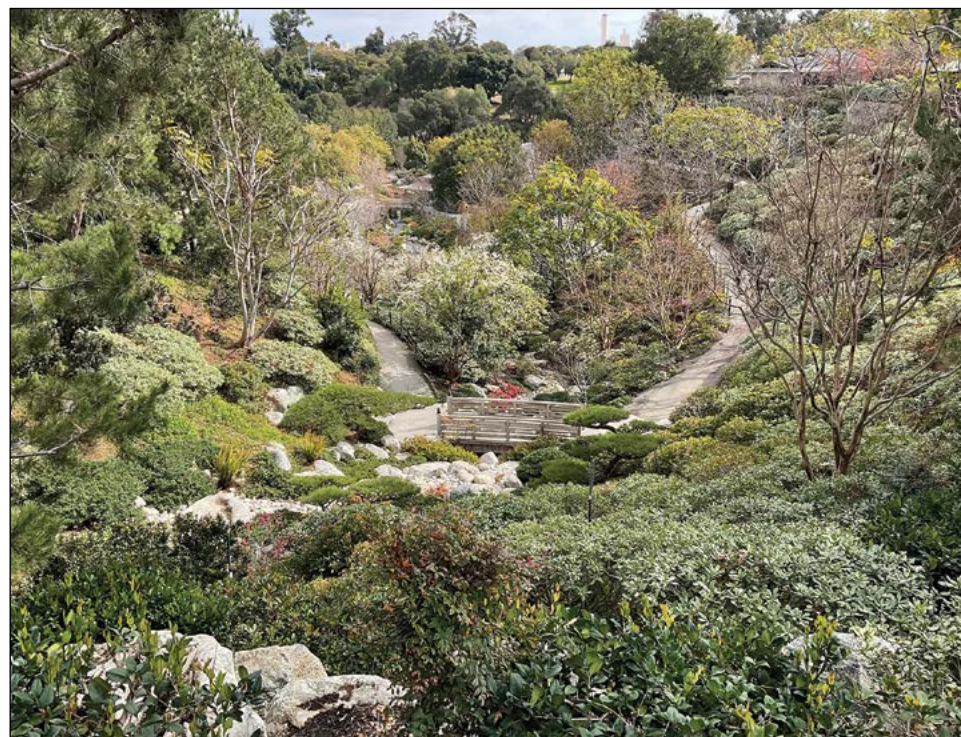
natch. A teriyaki rice bowl comes with sesame seeds, steamed carrots and green onion. Add more veggies

and tofu and you pay \$12.75. With grilled chicken or beef, \$14.75. Grilled salmon, \$15.75. The curry connection promises red Japanese pickles, and then the same choices of protein, same prices.

They also have a miso soup for \$4.50, and in the udon or soba noodle soup, you can get *kitsune* sweet fried tofu, a kind that Diane says people would traditionally offer up to a pair of



Diane's teriyaki rice bowl. Sesame gives that taste twist



The Japanese Friendship Garden, seen from Tea Pavilion

The Place: 2215 Panamerican Road East, Balboa Park, 619-231-0048

Hours: 10.30am-4pm daily

Prices: teriyaki rice bowl, \$12.75; rice bowl with grilled chicken or beef, \$14.75; grilled salmon, \$15.75. miso soup, \$4.50, udon or soba noodle soup with kitsune sweet fried tofu curry vegetable soup (\$11); chicken, \$13.25, curry chicken, \$13.75; shrimp tempura (\$13.75); kitsune soup, \$10.50; ginger and walnut soba noodle salad, \$11.50; California Krab sandwich, \$14.50 with Japanese potato salad (standard potato salad plus carrots, corn, cucumber, ham)

Buses: 3, 7, 120, 215

Nearest Bus Stop: Zoo Place (#7, 215); Laurel Street West side (#3)

stone-carved foxes — *kitsune* — who guard an Inari shrine back in Japan, believing it was the foxes' favorite food. Inari is the Shinto god of rice. And — hey! — young foxes are called kits right here in the States. A Trans-Pacific language connection? But tongues taste as well as talk, so let's get back to the food: there's curry vegetable soup (\$11); chicken (\$13.25), curry chicken (\$13.75); shrimp tempura (\$13.75); and the *kitsune* soup, which costs 10.50.

Salads, like the ginger and walnut soba noodle salad, run around \$11.50. Sandwiches, like the California Krab, are \$14.50 and come with

Japanese potato salad (standard potato salad plus adds like carrots, corn, cucumber, ham).

So, pretty good deals. Diane resists the salad and goes for the teriyaki rice bowl, and I ask for the curry rice bowl. We split a miso soup. I look at the beers and sakes...but not now, middle of the day. We take our plates out onto the deck. I grab chopsticks. Diane, spoon and fork. "But why teriyaki?" I ask Diane. "Just because that marinade is the classic Japanese dish?"

"Well, it was Chinese before it was Japanese," she says. "I happen to know, I've been looking it up. Teriyaki was created in... Hawaii. 'Teriyaki' means 'shiny-grilled.' Like grilled meat that has a sheen of marination. Lemme see. Teriyaki, mainly soy. Soy used to be called 'chiang.' The Chinese have been using it for 3000 years. These days, you can make it from chemicals, but the natural form is fermented soybeans and maybe wheat. And salt. I can't resist the umami of it. And some of it is actually good for you: antioxidants, and they say it helps digestion."

I'm taking this all in while I lunge into my curry. A stew, basically, but just enough of the curry flavor to make it addictive, and with those Japanese pickles making a nice red caldera in the middle, what's not to like? You do start to get a feeling for the Japanese world here.

"We're coming back," says Diane.

"For the saké?"

"No, for the blossoms, if they're out before I go."

Oh yeah. She's going.

The restaurant's bittersweet Japanese zither music plays on. It sounds just how I feel. ■



Eating deck looks over canyon of the Friendship Gardens

The view makes it

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

Cocina 35 Brunch: chilaquiles, bougainvillea, and a view

Cocina 35 Brunch; 1201 1st St., Coronado; Pickled red onions, sliced avocados, and crispy tortillas smothered in spicy salsa. These are the images that used to pop into my head when I thought of the family of Mexican brunch restaurants known as Cocina 35.



A sampler platter with chilaquiles, frioles, sunny side up eggs, and Cajeta French toast.

I recall the first time I encountered their *chilaquiles*, down by the Otay Border crossing, at a location they were still calling La Loteria at the time. Eventually, they would settle on the Cocina 35 branding established in Cortez Hill ten years ago, and use it to open several locations. By 2017, they were calling their *chilaquiles* the best in San Diego, and you could see the makings of a colorful aesthetic at work, both in the presentation of their food, and in the decor of an otherwise humble cafeteria setting.

Calling anything "the best" invites debate. However memorable, I don't necessarily agree that their *chilaquiles* are the city's best, mostly because I prefer a denser corn tortilla under all the salsa, eggs, and other *chilaquiles* pile-ons.

However, with their newest location, I don't think there's a better place in all of So Cal to enjoy *chilaquiles* with a view.

From the dining room of Cocina 35 Brunch, freshly opened in Coronado, diners enjoy a sweeping look across San Diego Bay at downtown in all its skyscraping glory. That's because the Cocina 35 team is now in possession of the magnificent picture window view previously beheld by Coronado institution Costa Azul, which ended its long run in September.

Immediately outside the window pass pedestrians, dogs, and bikes enjoying a bayside walk beside the Coronado Ferry Landing, but the sky, the ocean, and the city skyline fill the viewer's eyes in ways one might never expect when enjoying a Mexican breakfast dish originally conceived to make use of day-old corn tortillas.

And while most restaurants might be content to let that majestic view dominate, Cocina 35

has seen fit to counter it with a whimsical twist, outfitting the space with pink Bougainvillea, twisted into tree shapes that inject vibrant color regardless of what the weather is doing outside. Color that matches the food, you might say.

Chilaquiles don't make up the entire Cocina 35 menu, just most of it. They offer five different salsas of varying spice levels, plus a sixth "secreto" salsa that combines the serrano chili verde salsa with the creamy habanero. To that you can opt to add any of nine proteins, rang-



A new restaurant at this Coronado Ferry Landing location.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Dine Your Heart Out Enjoy a four-course Valentine's Menu with specials. Friday, February 14, 4:30pm; \$25-\$75. Cafe Sevilla Tapas Bar, 353 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Escondido Chocolate Festival Stroll down Historic Grand Avenue and explore various restaurants, shops, and art galleries while sampling a variety of chocolates paired with local fine wines, champagne, craft beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. Saturday, February 15, 12pm; \$45-\$65. 21 and up. Maple Street Plaza, On Maple Street between Grand Avenue and Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Fall in Love With VUE Cozy up with the one you love with an intimate dinner at VUE on Valentine's Day. Executive Chef Cameron Dixon has prepared special seasonal offerings, available for a limited time. Friday, February 14, 5pm; \$150-\$200. 21 and up. Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

Love by the Sea Indulge in a specially curated four-course prix fixe menu. Friday, February 14, 4:30pm; \$165. Marine Room, 2000 Spindrift Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Valentine's Day Dinner Chef Roberto Alcocer has prepared a special 6-course tasting menu to make the evening truly unforgettable. Enhance the experience with optional wine pairings, thoughtfully curated to complement each dish and elevate the celebration. Friday, February 14, 5pm; \$195. Valle Oceanside, 222 North Pacific Street. (OCEANSIDE)

ing from carnitas, to carne asada to grilled mushrooms. Expect to pay \$18-23.

Elsewhere on the menu are egg dishes (*huevos rancheros* or *divorciados*, for example, \$18), breakfast enchiladas (\$17), pancakes, and assorted riffs on flautas, tacos, and burritos, typically involving heavy use of one of those salsas (\$15-19). I took advantage of one of the Cocina 35 samplers — \$24 platters that pair the house specialty with other dishes — to try my preferred creamy chipotle *chilaquiles* along with the *cajeta* French toast (topped with a drizzle of the goat's milk caramel).

But it was a sandwich that especially caught my attention, because it was served with a pastel pink teapot. The *torta ahogada* (\$22) can be made with any of the house proteins (I went with machaca). *Ahogada* means *drowned*: the teapot is filled with a tomato-chipotle broth meant to be poured all over the sandwich.

Like most of Cocina 35's dishes, it's lighter than expected, in this case owing less to the large bolillo roll it's made on, than to a light touch with the meat. But I'll admit to having fun with the teapot. Meanwhile, celebrations were taking place all around me, led by an enthusiastic, waitstaff. A young family celebrated with flan, a birthday candle, and song. A group of four young ladies celebrated with shots, paired with a chant that caught on around the whole dining room, including the kids: "Shots! Shots! Shots!"

It's hard to imagine this vibe catching on down at the Otay border. But that and pricier-than-usual *chilaquiles* are what a million-dollar view might get you.

-Ian Anderson

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FINALIST

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LEGAL NOTICES

We are a fully adjudicated publication for San Diego County.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2025-9000945

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
01/15/2025

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Bougie Beauty Salon
b. Bougie Beauty Salon and Training

Located at: **3665 Avocado Village Ct, La Mesa, CA 91941, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 3665
Avocado Village Ct, La Mesa,
CA 91941

Registered Owners Name(s):
Christina My

This business is conducted by:
An Individual. The first day of business was 12/02/2024.

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

Registrant Name /s/
Christina My
1/23/25, 1/30/25,
2/06/25, 2/13/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2025-9000896

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
01/15/2025

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Mind Menders
Located at: **2644 Polk Ave, San Diego, CA 92104, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 2358 University Ave #2075, San Diego, CA 92104

Registered Owners Name(s):
Kuhn Nursing Inc.

This business is conducted by:
A Corporation. The first day of business was N/A.

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

Registrant Name /s/
Kirsten Jane Kuhn
Corporation/LLC Name
Kuhn Nursing Inc.
1/23/25, 1/30/25,
2/06/25, 2/13/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2025-9001069

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
01/16/2025

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Annterior Design
Located at: **1011 Union St Apt 2415, San Diego, CA 92101, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 1011 Union St Apt 2415, San Diego, CA 92101

Registered Owners Name(s):
Annterior Design LLC

This business is conducted by:
A Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was 01/01/2021.

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

Registrant Name /s/
Annabelle Young, CEO
Corporation/LLC Name
Annterior Design LLC
1/30/25, 2/06/25,
2/13/25, 2/20/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2025-900511

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
01/09/2025

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. GVSPRR INK
Located at: **4854 Lotus Street, San Diego, CA 92107, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 4854 Lotus Street, San Diego, CA 92107

Registered Owners Name(s):
Aide Gaspar Gonzalez

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

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

Registrant Name /s/
Aide Gaspar Gonzalez
1/23/25, 1/30/25,
2/06/25, 2/13/25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE-CHANGE OF NAME Case No.: 25CU003293C SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego 330 W. BROADWAY, San Diego 92101

Petition Of: **Adrian Mikhail Honor; Yasmin Honor on behalf of minor FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

To all Interested Persons: Petitioner: **Adrian Mikhail Honor; Yasmin Honor on behalf of minor** filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. **Mika Honor to Mikael Honor**

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: **03/10/2025**
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: **01/21/2025** **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 identification, a certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be required. Contact the agency(ies) who issues the legal document that needs to be changed, to determine if a certified copy is required. A certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be obtained from the Civil Business Office for a fee. Petitioners who are seeking a change of name under the Safe at Home program may contact the assigned department for information on obtaining certified copies. If all the requirements have not been met as of the date specified, the court will mail the petitioner a written order with further directions. If a timely objection is filed, the court will set a hearing date and contact the parties by mail with further directions. A RESPONSE OBJECTING TO THE NAME CHANGE MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION AT LEAST TWO COURT DAYS (excluding weekends and holidays) BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED. Do not come to court on the specified date. The court will notify the parties by mail of a future hearing date. Any Petition for the name change of a minor that is signed by only one parent must have this Attachment served along with the Petition and Order to Show Cause, on the other non-signing parent, and proof of service must be filed with the court.

Published: 1/30/25, 2/06/25, 2/13/25, 2/20/25

PUBLIC NOTICE SUMMONS

CASE NO: 24CU003707C

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Brenda E. Corona Torres, an individual

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
500 Third Avenue
Chula Visata, CA 91910
South County Division

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

Nathan F. Smith, #264635
Malcolm Cisneros, A Law Corporation
2112 Business Center Drive, 2nd Floor
Irvine, CA 92612

Published: 1/23/25, 1/30/25, 2/06/25, 2/13/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2025-9000547

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
01/09/2025

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Working For Peanuts

Located at: **13844 Savage Way, Poway, CA 92064, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: PO Box
500606, San Diego, CA 92150

Registered Owners Name(s):
Ave Marie Herndon

This business is conducted by:
An Individual. The first day of business was 01/06/2025.

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

Registrant Name /s/
Ave Marie Herndon
1/23/25, 1/30/25,
2/06/25, 2/13/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2024-9024810

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
12/18/2024

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Hair Cut Salon Caro

Located at: **2361 Ulric St, San Diego, CA 92111, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 2850 Comstock St, San Diego, CA 92111

Registered Owners Name(s):
Carolina de la Cruz del Carmen

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

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

Registrant Name /s/
Carolina de la Cruz del Carmen
1/23/25, 1/30/25,
2/06/25, 2/13/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2025-9001194

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
01/17/2025

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. Easy Mobile Grooming

Located at: **4306 W Point Loma Blvd Apt O, Ocean Beach, CA 92107, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 4306 W Point Loma Blvd Apt O, Ocean Beach, CA 92107

Registered Owners Name(s):
Luiza Bacelar Ugarte

This business is conducted by:
An Individual. The first day of business was 01/14/2025.

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

Registrant Name /s/
Luiza Bacelar Ugarte
1/23/25, 1/30/25,
2/06/25, 2/13/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.:
2025-9001042

Filed with Jordan Z. Marks
Recorder/County Clerk County
of San Diego:
01/16/2025

Fictitious Business Name(s):
a. SDL Self Determined Life

Located at: **8996 Haveteur Way, San Diego, CA 92123, San Diego County**

Mailing Address: 8996 Haveteur Way, San Diego, CA 92123

Registered Owners Name(s):
Maleia Jane Christian

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

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

Registrant Name /s/
Maleia Jane Christian
1/23/25, 1/30/25,
2/06/25, 2/13/25

It's like cowtown down south – Fat flatty caught aboard the *Dolphin*

Dock Totals 2/2 – 2/8:

426 anglers aboard
22 half-day to 3-day
trips out of San Diego
landings over the past
week caught 3 calico
bass, 6 halibut (to 34
pounds), 12 rock crab,
390 rockfish, 73 sand
bass, 55 sanddab, 281
sculpin, 21 spiny lobster
(36 released), and
370 whitefish.

Saltwater: Local half-
day boats are having
success picking away at
whitefish, sculpin, sand
bass, and a few halibut
in U.S. waters, while
three-quarter to full-day
trips into northern Baja
waters have been mostly
producing rockfish.
Spotted bay bass and
halibut have been biting
in San Diego Bay; the
bass mostly come from
the eelgrass edges on
the deep side of cuts in 8 to 15 feet of water, while the better halibut have been coming from the channel edges in 25 to 35 feet of water.

Jason Coz, owner/operator of the *Dolphin*, reported 5 legal halibut caught and another 18 shorts released on Wednesday during their weekly Halibut Derby outing, one whopper and current leader weighing in at 34.6-pounds. To top it off, the slab of a halibut was caught on a light spinning outfit with a dropper-looped live sardine for bait. Now that's a nice 'but from the Bay. This is the *Dolphin's* eighth year of holding the four-month derby, which provides a nice distraction while rockfish is closed in US waters. It is also a good opportunity to fish the bay on a comfy 85-foot by 24-foot sportboat that has a full-service galley, cold beer and soft drinks, and the bomb "Dolphinburgers" served fresh off the grill.

Fishing in the bay on a sportboat is rare other than the occasional fish caught while loading up bait at the receivers before heading outside to fish. There is a lot less time spent traveling and more time at the rail, though they will often go outside to the Imperial Beach flats on the Halibut Derby trips, which is a short run from their berth at Fisherman's Landing. The *Dolphin* Halibut Derby trips run from 7 am to 3 pm every Wednesday and cost \$95, with \$10 from each ticket going into the jackpot. The anglers who catch the top three halibut caught between January 1st and April 30th on the Wednesday trips will take the cash.

The yellowtail and bluefin bite that has been hit or miss from off Ensenada to San Quintin died down, but maybe that was due to wind keeping the local boats off the water a good part of the week. I have a feeling the fish are still around, given a report of fish lost by a friend who was targeting whitefish commercially in rough whitecap conditions off the 240 Bank ten miles west of San Quintin. He said a big fish grabbed a bait as it was descending and pulled line until it broke off. Had it been a bite while reeling up a whitefish, I would guess a black seabass, as they love to eat whitefish.

I've seen black seabass follow a whitefish all the way to near the surface before committing,



Nice lineup of cow yellowfin tuna caught aboard the *Intrepid* during a 15-day trip to the southern end of the Baja Peninsula.



Happy angler with his 34.6-pound halibut caught while fishing aboard the *Dolphin* during their Wednesday Halibut Derby outing.

but this bite was on the drop halfway down in 200 feet of water, so more than likely either a large yellowtail or tuna, and given the straight run spooling his reel full of 40-pound line, I would guess bluefin. But, really, it's all just a guess until it lays down enough for more recreational boats to get out there and put some time in. The commercial guys here, if they're not working lobster through one of the co-ops, are focused on whitefish and vermilion rockfish and won't be looking for the pelagic species most recreational anglers prefer to target.

There have been a few yellowfin and bluefin caught further south off the Vizcaino Peninsula halfway down Baja's Pacific side, but the real story is further south from the Ridge off Bahia Magdalena to the Jaime Bank off Cabo San Lucas. Puerto Vallarta, in the fishing world, has been known as "Cowtown" for the plethora of large 200-pound-plus tuna that are caught there from near the Tres Marias Islands south to La Corbetena. But this past couple weeks, that southern stretch of high spots near the south end of the Baja Peninsula that San Diego's long-range fleet likes to target has been producing quite a few cow tuna and even a few supercows. What is a cow tuna, you ask? That title has been applied to any yellowfin tuna that weighs 200 pounds or more. A supercow is any yellowfin 300 pounds or more.

The *Intrepid* reported that fully 13 of the fish caught on their Electric Tuna 15-day trip were over 200 pounds, with the top three weighing in at 325, 292, and 260 pounds. Most of the fish caught on the trip ran from 60 to 150 pounds, which in itself is a nice size slot to be catching. That said, trips resulting in double-digits of cow yellowfin are not that common, but the past couple weeks the big fish showed up in good numbers. The *Independence*, fishing in the same zone during their Roger Eckhardt 16-day trip, wrapped up their fishing and headed back up the line with nine cows and a supercow among the hold full of tuna and wahoo, their three largest yellowfin weighing in at 305, 285, and 275 pounds.

DANIEL POWELL

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WILL PAY CASH.... \$2 Sale on all Records, DVDs, CDs, and Clothing. Thousands of each are in stock. Will also buy Records, DVDs, CDs, and Clothing. North Park. 3939 Iowa Street #2 92104, (858) 382-7396 Thur-Sun 8 am - 6 pm

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

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WANTED BOOMBOX AND VCR'S call Gary, (858) 262-1171, leave phone number.

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GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE Sunday, February 16. No Early Birds, Fishy Cackle, Rods, Reels, Historic Hawaii and Records. 693 Calypso Place, Encinitas

FREE FURNITURE TO GIVE AWAY We are giving away totally free of any cost these 4 comfortable pieces of furniture in good condition; 2 big overstuffed sofa chairs and a large 2-piece

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4 BEAUTIFUL NEW INTERIOR DOORS Premium knotty alder, solid wood, mfg. by Craftsman In Wood in Arizona, 1-3/4" x 3" x 8", no hinges or handles, they are extra doors from my remodel. I paid \$1,500. each. Selling for \$750/each. Call (760) 746-7209.

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steel grab bar (300 lbs. capacity) provides support when using the shower, tub or toilet. It can be mounted directly into wood studs or other wall materials. New in box w/instructions & 6 stainless screws. \$18. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

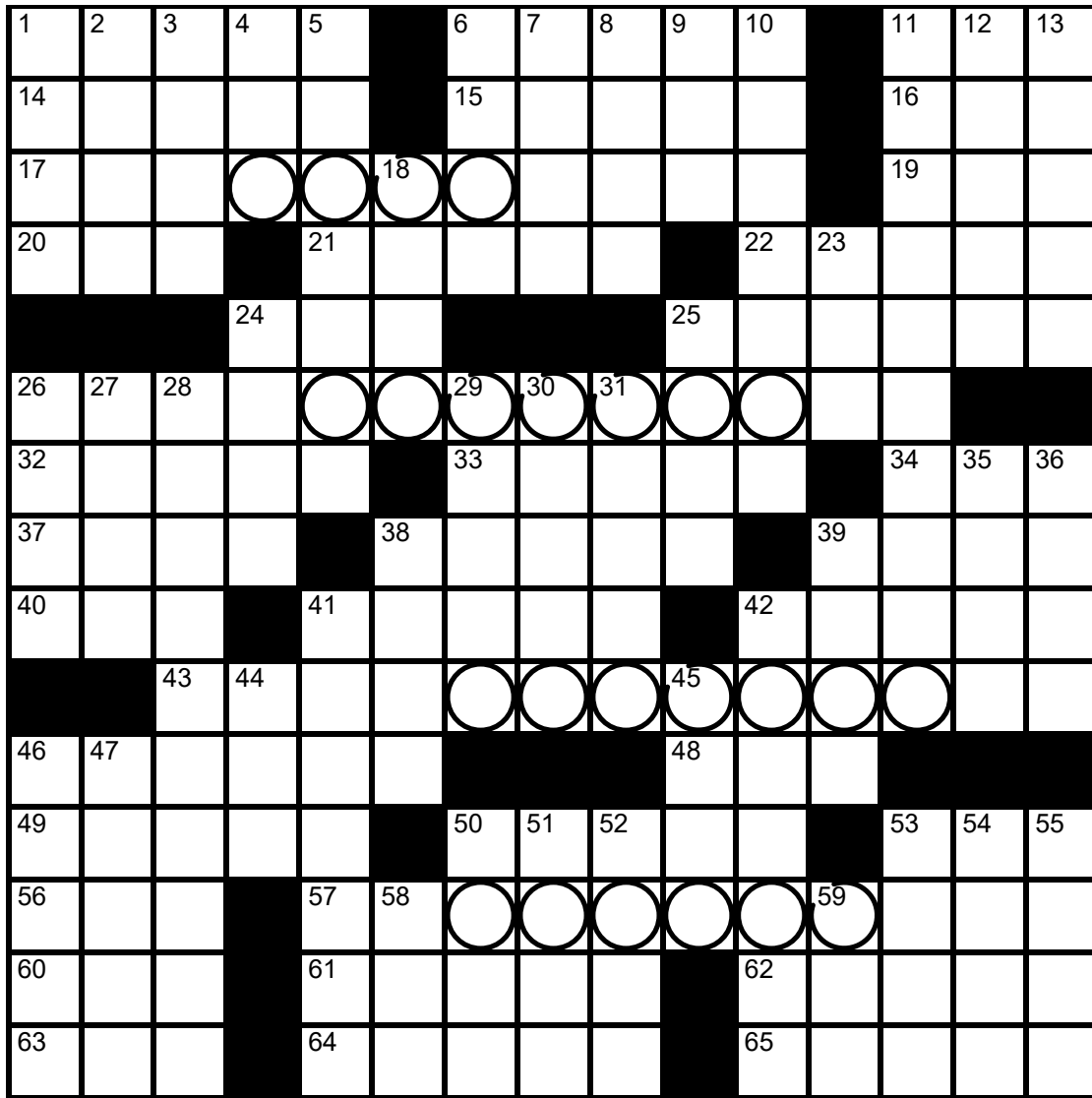
OSCILLOSCOPES Hickok model 5002A, three oscilloscopes, I don't have probes, all three for only \$150., total price, call (760) 746-7209.

REMINGTON DIGITAL FLAT IRON This is a high quality ceramic flat iron that straightens your hair while preventing knots and split ends. It has 2.25" wide & 4.25" long plates, 9 heat settings & 30 second heat up w/ auto shutoff. Very good condition. \$25. Text for more info/pics (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

CROSSWORD

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Across

- 1. Classic auto, for short
- 6. Pancake order
- 11. Keeps in the loop, in a way
- 14. In ___ fertilization
- 15. Ali's boxing daughter
- 16. Panama, e.g.
- 17. Easter egg found within a subway system?
- 19. Former Notre Dame coach Parseghian
- 20. Nonspecific number
- 21. Mauritian of long ago
- 22. Bashful coworker?
- 24. Sidekick
- 25. Puts down on paper
- 26. Herb specifically designated for a tomato sauce?
- 32. Makes level
- 33. 2000s corporate scandal subject
- 34. Spit some bars
- 37. Scan the print
- 38. Notions
- 39. Circle dance at some weddings
- 40. Onetime Dirk Benedict costar
- 41. Ordinary
- 42. Ring-collecting Sega character
- 43. Atypically sunny weather at the highest peak of the Alps?
- 46. Donnie ___, 1997 Johnny Depp role
- 48. Surprised cry
- 49. Not as frequent
- 50. "Let's Make ___"
- 53. ___ Lankan
- 56. Media attention
- 57. Short break from reading fables?
- 60. Bronze, for one
- 61. Cliched
- 62. Adjusts accurately
- 63. Badminton divider
- 64. Clear, as a whiteboard
- 65. Striped equine

Down

- 1. "Severance" rating
- 2. "Muy ___"
- 3. Teensy
- 4. Telugu-language 2022 movie that was big in the U.S.
- 5. Thingamabobs
- 6. Wheelless vehicle
- 7. Salsa holder
- 8. Pretentious manner
- 9. Progressive Field team, on scoreboards
- 10. "Agatha All Along" star Hahn
- 11. Book opener?
- 12. "___ diem"
- 13. Lingers
- 18. Without help
- 23. Goal
- 24. Fishing hole
- 25. "___ gonna tell them?"
- 26. Long-lasting hairstyle
- 27. Walkie-talkie signoff
- 28. Place to stake out some steaks
- 29. Do the audio again
- 30. Shaq's surname
- 31. Cheery refrain
- 35. Operatic performance
- 36. Agreement
- 38. "It ___ laugh"
- 39. Ding Dong alternative
- 41. Remove from a large container
- 42. "The beer that made Milwaukee famous"
- 44. Sugary suffix
- 45. Baumbach who frequently works with Adam Driver
- 46. "Family Guy" dog
- 47. Grazing area
- 50. Continent with the longest coastline
- 51. They may get connected
- 52. Fencing sword
- 53. Concertgoer's souvenir
- 54. Someone sorry
- 55. "Insecure" actress Rae
- 58. Need correction
- 59. Thin Lizzy's "The Boys ___ Back in Town"

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

MEDIUM:

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

The Neighbors

— In Seminole County, Florida, Alan Davis, 69, is famous for all the wrong reasons, *ClickOrlando* reported. Davis' unsightly property has been the bane of his neighbors' existence for 25 years, and this year, as he celebrates the anniversary of his first county code violation, he's added another element: a six-foot-tall fiberglass representation of a human butt. Also in his yard: stacks of scrap metal, steel drums, rusted appliances, tarps, junked vehicles and towering weeds. Davis calls the yard a "political protest" against the county government. "I pile it up intentionally to aggravate them," he said. As of mid-January, Davis owed the county \$5.4 million in fines, with more accruing every day. "I'm not going to pay it," Davis said. "I do what I want on my property." Twice, the county has paid to haul away thousands of pounds of junk, but Davis just starts collecting again. "Freedom has a look. This is what it looks like," he said.

Smooth Reaction

— Things got heated at a Wingstop restaurant in Port St. Lucie, Florida, on Jan. 28, *The Smoking Gun* reported. Carnael Irene, 19, who worked at the location, told police that two customers -- one a minor -- became "loud and disruptive," and one of them pushed a container of straws off the counter. Irene responded by throwing ranch dressing at them before she went to the kitchen and returned with a bucket of hot grease, which she also threw at the vic-

tims. She was charged with aggravated battery and aggravated child abuse, both felonies.

Suspicious Confirmed

— In Douglasville, Georgia, a routine traffic stop on Jan. 29 resulted in a perplexing mystery, *Atlanta News First* reported. Douglas County Sheriff's officers pulled over an unidentified driver who had a dead body in the passenger seat. The deceased, 21-year-old Malachi A. Mitchell, was allegedly meeting the driver to sell him a gun, Mitchell's mother said, although police say the investigation is ongoing. After questioning the driver, who was cooperative, detectives let him go.

Unclear on the Concept

— Ashton Mann, 23, of Kearns, Utah, was arrested after shooting his unnamed friend in the chest, *WAFB-TV* reported on Feb. 4. On Feb. 2, police were called to a home where they found an unresponsive male. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. Mann told detectives that he and his friend had smoked weed earlier in the evening and started talking about and handling two handguns. The victim told Mann that he could dodge a bullet; while Mann said the guns were unloaded, after about six rounds of the "game," one discharged and struck the victim as he tried to "jump out of the way." Mann was expected to be charged with felony manslaughter.

Inexplicable

— A man was captured on video in Palmerston

North, New Zealand, using a busy kiddie pool to give himself a bath, *News.au.com* reported on Feb. 6. The man, who wore swim trunks, had a bar of soap and lathered up his arms and legs before putting his hand down his shorts and vigorously washing his hindquarters. Facebook user Luminus DaGawd let his camera roll as everyone around the pool looked on, commenting, "Bro, it's not a bath. ... All right, kids, get out of the pool." People who viewed the video wondered why no one confronted the man, but others defended him, with one noting, "I've heard children laughing about taking a p--s in the same pool I watched another child drink from. Who's really the yuck one?" Another complained, "Whole pool of people and no one there in that video stood up and told him to stop!"

Wait, What?

— Rhiannon Evans, 25, of Caernarfon, Gwynedd, Wales, pleaded guilty to sending a series of nefarious selfies to her boyfriend's ex-partner, the *BBC* reported on Jan. 30. In the first "inappropriate" video, Evans "proceeds to pass gas by placing the camera on her bottom and passing the gas," prosecutors said. She followed the first video with several more to Deborah Prytherch in December and January, "her face smiling at the camera. She was smirking throughout, found it hilarious, but the victim didn't," prosecutor Diane Williams said. Evans will be subject to a two-year restraining order and was ordered to pay 100 pounds compensation.

Sign of the Times

— Pennsylvania State Police are working to track down the perpetrator of a crime that's no yolk ... or joke. The Associated Press reported that on Feb. 1, 100,000 eggs were stolen from the back of a trailer in Antrim Township, and no leads have come in. "In my career, I've never heard of a hundred thousand eggs being stolen," said Trooper Megan Frazer. But then, egg prices have rarely been so high. "We're hoping that somebody knows something," Frazer said. That would be eggs-cellent.

The Passing Parade

— The *Harvard Crimson* reported on Feb. 6 that a man has repeatedly paraded through the Comstock Hall dormitory on campus wearing nothing from the waist down. Students have seen him entering bathrooms and wandering around the floors. Resident dean Monique A. Roy said the half-streaker "did not appear to be a resident." She urged students to keep their room doors closed and locked. "The entire staff is totally doing their best to get to the bottom of this, make sure it stops, make sure we're all safe," said student Chelsea J. Bohn-Pozniak. Totally.

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

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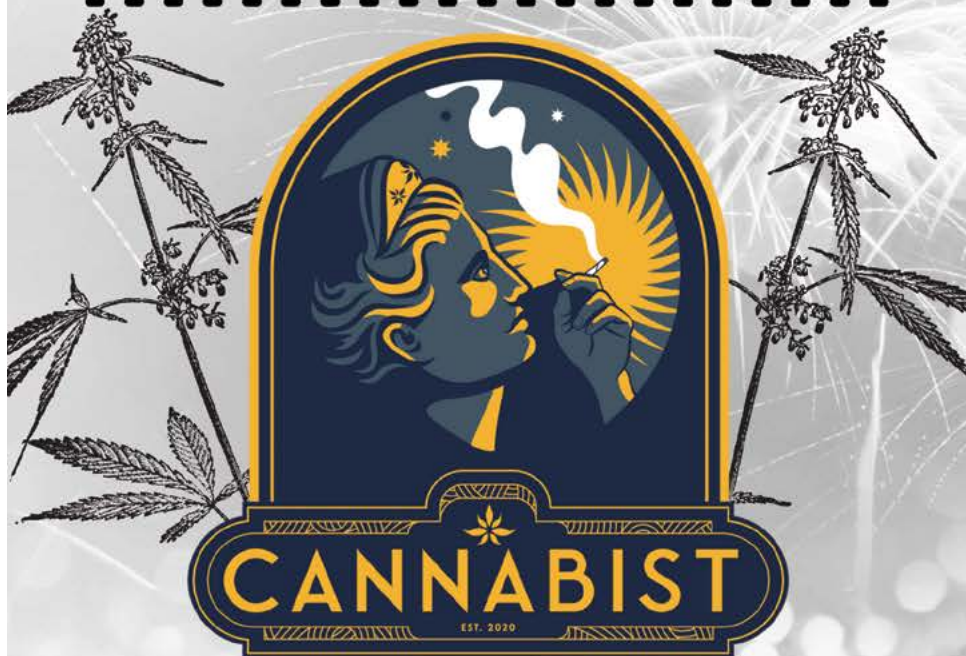
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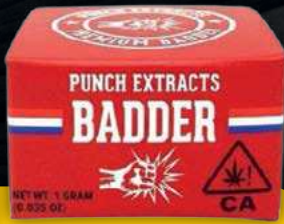
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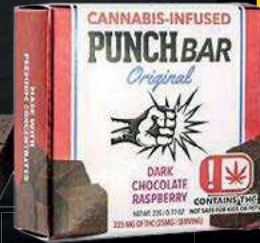
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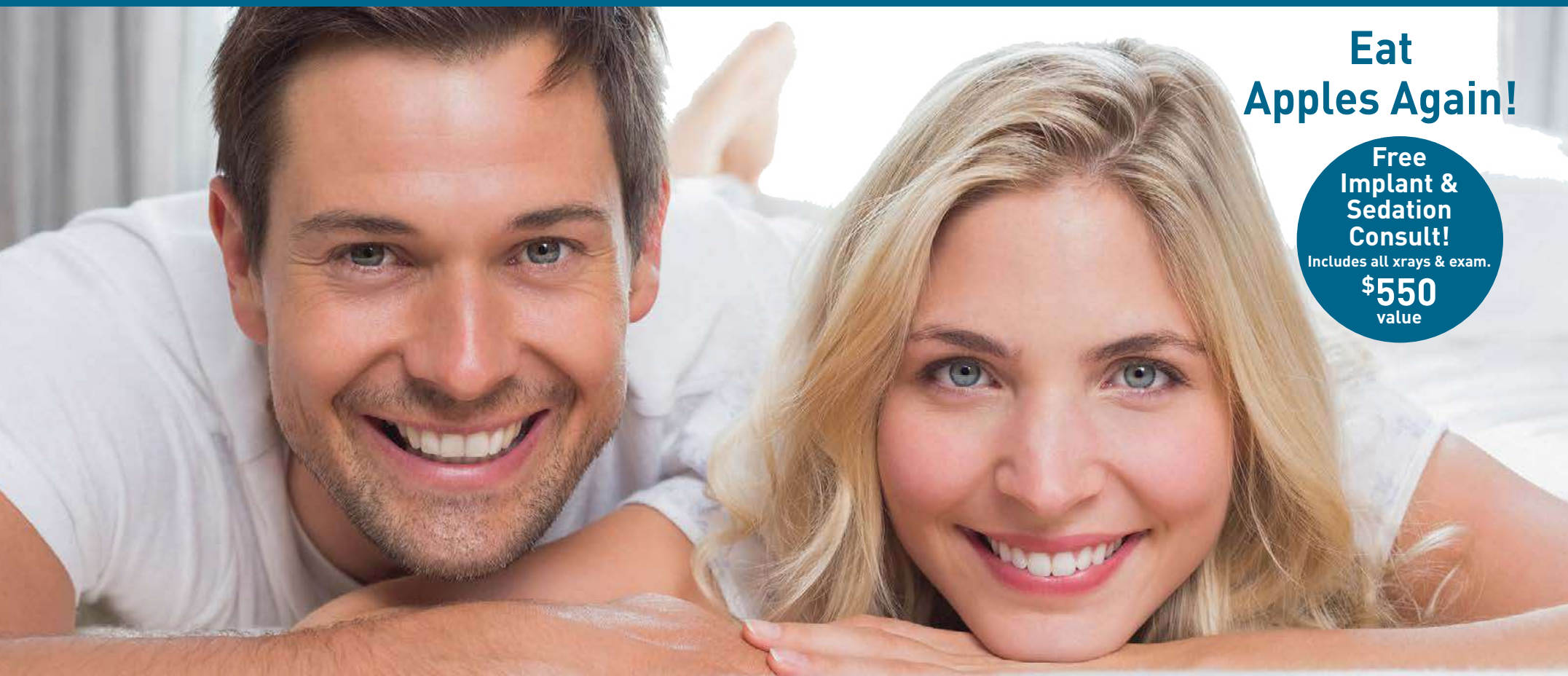


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