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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 104 THURSDAY 4/11/24 smdp.com

Children's choral phenomenon powered by local voice

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A global movement in choral music began with a simple request from a Santa Monica-born maestro.

This year, Luke McEndarfer is celebrating his 20th year with the National Children's Chorus, one of the world's top children's choirs that boasts a roster of over 1,200 students across eight global chapters. McEndarfer's role as Artistic Director, President and CEO of the organization has given him a legendary journey, one that started in his Los Angeles area youth.

"At the age of six, I had a long list of toys that I wanted to have a few days before Christmas, (but) I had crossed out all of the items and just (wrote) 'piano,'" McEndarfer said. "So (my parents) felt kind of moved by that and they got me started with lessons, and ever since then, music has just been a really big part of my life."

Forgoing a career option in medicine because he "didn't really like blood," McEndarfer began his education at UCLA as an English major before becoming involved in the music department, picking up the conducting trade with some private lessons. Asked to send a conducting tape to music higher-ups at the college, he was invited to earn a Master's Degree in conducting, learning "all the mathematics" that came with the art form as well as the professionalism required to excel in the industry.

He added that starting to conduct at a young age was a "very scary thing" due to being in charge of those with more age and experience. He felt "slightly awkward" about the proposition, but said that it was a "good lesson" in honing his instincts.



Courtesy Photo
CHORUS: Born in Santa Monica, Luke McEndarfer has grown the National Children's Chorus into a top global vocal unit, winning a Grammy Award in 2022 for his work along with countless other performances.

"Conducting is difficult to practice because a lot of it is mental ... you practice in the mirror, or in visualization, and then you get in front of a group and you have to put all of that into practice," McEndarfer said. "When you've been preparing for months in your mind, it's difficult because everything that you prepare might actually be wrong. And you're going to have to switch it (up) ... pull it together ... so it definitely is something I feel that took many years and many performances to gain a sense of mastery."

Fresh out of school, McEndarfer was appointed as the fourth Artistic Director for the California Paulist

SEE **CHORUS** PAGE 8

Nearly three decades of musical success honored at state level

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

One of the driving forces behind the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) top-notch musical program was recently honored on the state level.

In February, John Adams Middle School Director of Instrumental Music Angela Woo was presented with the prestigious 2024 California Music Educators Association Middle School Music Educator Award. Woo, who has worked at JAMS for 29 years, was commended for her contributions at the middle school level during the 2024 California All-State Music Education Conference in Sacramento.

Initially nominated for the award in September 2023 and selected as the recipient two months later, Woo initially didn't have the words to describe her elation.

"I was shocked, because I know who all the past recipients have been, and I've always held those colleagues up on a pedestal ... they're amazing educators, to be a

SEE **MUSIC AWARD** PAGE 11

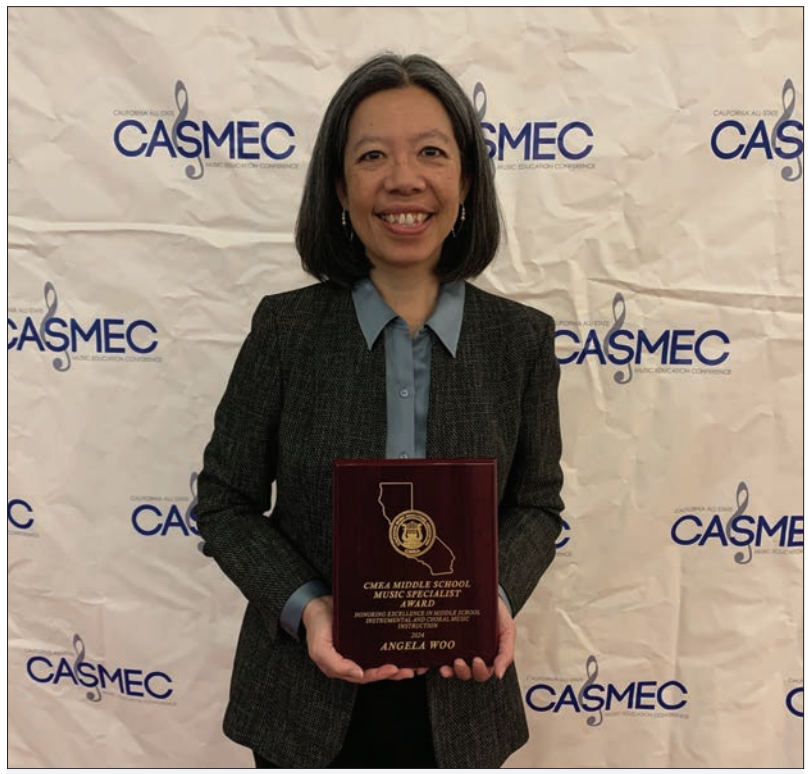


Photo Courtesy SMMUSD
MUSIC AWARD: John Adams Middle School (JAMS) Director of Instrumental Music Angela Woo was recently presented with the 2024 California Music Educators Association Middle School Music Educator Award.

Popular Broadway Baker shuts on Saturday, will be replaced with brand new bakery

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Broadway Baker, the extremely popular pastry store on Wilshire Blvd is set to close this Saturday, April 13 at 1pm. However, it's going to be replaced with a brand new bakery that will "focus on French and Mexican inspired pastries."

The talented chefs behind Broadway Baker, Jim Orsorno and his partner Tom Mueller, have decided to retire, but two more incredibly talented bakers, Clémence de Lutz (co-owner of The Gourmandise School) and her partner, Tony Hernandez (Bread Lounge, Friends & Family) are taking over the space at 1209 Wilshire Blvd.

The new establishment, called Petit Grain Boulangerie, is set to debut in just two and a half weeks, on Wednesday, May 1.

The name Broadway Baker came from "the colliding of my two favorite worlds, baking and Broadway," Orsorno said. The concept originated in the upper east side of Manhattan at 115th St

SEE **BROADWAY BAKER** PAGE 3





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California clinics brace for fallout from Arizona abortion ban



Photo by Matt York, AP Photo

ABORTION: An unoccupied recovery area and an abortion procedure room at a Planned Parenthood Arizona facility in Tempe on June 30, 2022.

DEBORAH BRENNAN
Special to the Daily Press

Planned Parenthood clinics in California are bracing for an uptick in patients crossing the state line for abortions, after the Arizona Supreme Court upheld a nearly total prohibition on the procedure.

On Tuesday the court effectively banned abortion by reinstating an 1864 law that forbids the procedure except to save a mother's life, without exemptions for rape or incest.

"We were all saddened by the decision, and one of my colleagues at a different clinic said 'Wow, we're going to get slammed,'" said Mia Neustein, a nurse practitioner with Planned Parenthood clinics in the Coachella Valley.

Health care providers said the Arizona decision complicates the chaotic national women's health environment that has prevailed since 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down its 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that guaranteed abortion rights.

Later in 2022, Arizona banned abortions after 15 weeks, leading to confusion among patients and providers about what was allowed. The new decision deepens that uncertainty.

The ban is set to take effect in two weeks. Although the ruling calls for prison time for abortion providers, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes said in a statement her office won't prosecute any women or doctors for abortions.

"By effectively striking down a law passed this century and replacing it with one from 160 years ago, the court has risked the health and lives of Arizonans," she said.

ABORTION BAN CONFUSION

Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties saw a slight increase, 13 more abortion patients a month, from Arizona in its nine clinics in 2022, said Nichole Ramirez, a spokesperson for the regional organization. That accounted for almost a third of out-of-state visits, she said, second only to Texas.

"There was a lot of confusion about which law was actually in place" in Arizona, she said. "They had a tangled web of conflicting laws."

The clinics prepared for an influx by opening more appointment slots and training providers.

Over time the number of Arizona patients dropped to about five per month, but officials assume it may jump back up to about 13 under the more stringent ban, Hicks said. Overall, out-of-state patients account for about 2% of total abortion services at the clinics, she said.

"It is a small amount, but it is an incredibly important amount, because we're so proud that we are able to help out these needy women," Ramirez said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and other political leaders have designated California a sanctuary for abortion rights, and invested more than $200 million for those services, said Brandon Richards, a spokesperson for Newsom. That includes $20 million to cover costs such as travel, meals, hotels and childcare for people seeking abortions in California. A separate fund covers medical costs of the procedure.

INCREASED PRESSURE

California leaders are also coordinating with Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs "to ensure Arizonans know that California has their back and have resources available should they seek care in our state," he said.

Despite the funding bump, some California clinics are coping with increased demand for abortions, coupled with other work stresses and staffing shortages. They expect the Arizona decision to heighten those pressures.

In the Coachella Valley, those pressures led workers to unionize at Planned Parenthood clinics in Rancho Mirage and Coachella last year. Officials with their parent organization, Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, were not available to comment but said in a statement that about 10% of their patients come from other states.

"We really believe in the mission," said Neustein, the nurse practitioner. "We really want patients to be able to access these services, but in this case, they're really restricted. So it really tugs at our heartstrings, but we're already struggling with maintaining patient care that is sustainable, with reasonable wait times, and that doesn't burn out the workers."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Be Careful What You Sign

I'd been hoping for logical arguments for and against, but the Daily Press story "Former Santa Monica mayor proposes initiative to amend Measure GS" (4/5/24) reflects with unfortunate accuracy that what we've gotten instead is dueling ex-Mayors, Pam vs. Sue. Mud-wrestling won't help. We Santa Monicans really need to start defining ourselves by what we stand FOR, not what or whom we oppose.

I am FOR education, resources to combat homelessness, and affordable housing. Therefore, I think the proposed amendment to Measure GS is a bad idea.

Measure GS already exempts fully affordable housing projects, and that is enough. For me to support the proposed exemption for all multi-family projects, I'd need to be convinced a possible GS disincentive was so burdensome as to cut off market-rate rental unit production. If that happened to the extent that we'd become unable to fulfill our RHNA obligations for market-rate housing, it might make us subject to more "builders remedy" projects or other penalties. I'm sorry, I don't see that magnitude of market-rate shortfall as even possible, let alone likely. We will hit our market-rate RHNA, and beyond, without a doubt.

We are far more challenged to subsidize enough affordable housing to meet the larger RHNA affordable housing target. That is the reason we voters supported and passed Measure GS less than two years ago. Why would we now willingly abandon the revenue from unaffordable multi-family developments? Remember, even with our inclusionary zoning, those profit-driven projects are 85% or 90% non-affordable, renting for exorbitant market rate.

Measure GS appropriately captures a small part of the money flowing into local real estate value appreciation, and for very good purposes. As the original ballot argument in favor said, "If you value our children and public schools, helping severely rent-burdened seniors age in place with dignity, and keeping Santa Monica economically diverse rather than a community where only the wealthy live, vote for Measure GS."

I oppose amending Measure GS by the ballot measure filed on March 29th. Such an amendment might favor certain interests, but not the interests of our community.

Paid circulators may appear on our streets looking for voter signatures to put the proposed amendment on the November ballot. Santa Monica voters should consider the issue and be very careful what they sign.

Kevin McKeown, Retired former Mayor

BROADWAY BAKER

FROM PAGE 1

and Park Ave. While Orsorno was singing and dancing on Broadway, he used to bake cookies, bread and cake for opening night celebrations and dreamed of baking full-time.

"[We used] an incubator kitchen there and then baked overnight. And we had a great delivery service that came in the morning and delivered to Midtown to all the firms, law firms, financial firms, all the theaters," he said.

The two moved out to the West Coast in 2015 and worked in commercial kitchens. "Our salted caramel brownie was featured in Oprah's magazine," Orsorno beams. They began looking for a space of their own and in 2019 they secured the 900-square-foot Wilshire location and opened 11 months later. And six weeks after that, the pandemic began. But they endured.

"The support has been absolutely amazing and we're just so thankful and grateful. And so as it turns out, we were nine years in New York and nine years here," laughs Orsorno.

Osorno said the bakery's top-selling sweet is grandma's mix-up bars, which is based on a recipe his Grandma used to make. They're made with bittersweet chocolate chunks, coconut and crushed pecans drizzled with sweet cream atop a homemade graham cracker crust.

But any chef worth their toque is looking to broaden their talents and not long after Orsorno and Mueller arrived in Southern California they tried some of the classes at The Gourmandise School in Santa Monica Place. And that's how they met De Lutz.

"A couple of months ago he (Orsorno) called me and was like, 'I'm retiring. Are you interested in taking this space over?' and my boyfriend (Hernandez) had been looking for a space for a really long time. So here we are," De Lutz said.

De Lutz was born in Paris and quickly developed a palate for all things flaky, buttery, sweet and chocolatey. At age eight, she moved with her family to Washington, DC, where she spent a year perfecting her croquembouche and chocolate chip cookies. After years of baking, she took a break and went off to Syracuse to study film and anthropology. She later moved to Los Angeles where she was encouraged to start a dessert company. Gourmandise was born out of a kitchen in Venice and The Gourmandise School grew out of a passion for teaching the company's favorite recipes. Over a decade — and many satellite kitchen classrooms later —she opened The Gourmandise School in Santa Monica.

She says that they're going to keep some of Orsorno and Mueller's most popular items. "We're keeping those because we know customers will be upset if they can't get the blueberry scones or the granola," De Lutz said, adding, "You'll smell some really amazing things coming from here in the next two weeks, 'cause this will be our R&D time."

Petit Grain Boulangerie will offer laminated pastries, including croissants, pain au chocolate and Danishes, plus pies, cookies, quiches, sandwiches and pan loaves. There are even plans to offer sourdough-style bread and New York-style pizzas. Opening hours are planned to be Wednesday through Sundays, from 7:30am to 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.1**

THURSDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist
Little SSW swell stays rideable at the summer points. Small, steep-angled NW swell mix. A few little peaks for combo breaks west of Dume.

FRIDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3f Thigh to waist
Models showing potential for another late season coastal low and rise in steep-angled NW swell mix -- stay tuned, we'll see how the trend evolves in the next few days. Modest new SSW swell builds in but summer points may have wind issues.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 68.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 54.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. South wind 5 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/04/11	Thu	06:09 AM	-0.97	L
2024/04/11	Thu	12:33 PM	3.48	H
2024/04/11	Thu	5:18 PM	1.70	L
2024/04/11	Thu	11:41 PM	5.80	H
2024/04/12	Fri	07:07 AM	-0.66	L
2024/04/12	Fri	1:51 PM	3.03	H
2024/04/12	Fri	5:51 PM	2.25	L
2024/04/13	Sat	12:26 AM	5.33	H
2024/04/13	Sat	08:16 AM	-0.28	L
2024/04/13	Sat	3:53 PM	2.87	H
2024/04/13	Sat	6:27 PM	2.73	L
2024/04/14	Sun	01:22 AM	4.78	H
2024/04/14	Sun	09:46 AM	0.00	L
2024/04/15	Mon	02:45 AM	4.29	H
2024/04/15	Mon	11:12 AM	0.06	L
2024/04/15	Mon	7:01 PM	3.47	H
2024/04/15	Mon	11:13 PM	2.98	L
2024/04/16	Tue	04:30 AM	4.08	H

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL — Draw Date: 4/8
6 21 23 39 54
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 31 M

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 4/9
34 43 51 52 69
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 120 M

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 4/6
2 25 26 30 32
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 25 M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 4/9
1 7 12 24 29

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 4/9
EVENING: 8 6 6
Draw Date: 4/9
MIDDAY: 1 7 9

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 4/9
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.32

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

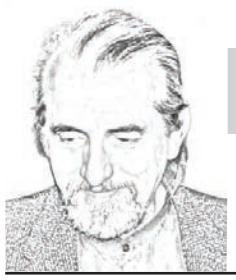
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Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Fresh Set of Ears

NICOLE IS BACK!!

One time only, so don't miss it. Offering a younger but very well informed opinion on what great shows to see this week.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS - LA Opera presents Huang Ro's modern day adaptation of Chinese myths from the 4th century B.C., as seen through the eyes of our current relationship with the natural world. The performance features 12 singers, two percussionists, six puppet masters, and what looks to be a pretty amazing and poetic stage production... but don't take my word for it, watch the trailer here. Fri, Sat, 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., The Ely and Edythe Broad Stage, Santa Monica, $59-169.

"GIMME SHELTER" SCREENING - American Cinematheque writes: Called the greatest rock film ever made, this landmark documentary follows the Rolling Stones on their notorious 1969 U.S. tour. When three hundred thousand members of the Love Generation collided with a few dozen Hells Angels at San Francisco's Altamont Speedway, David and Albert Maysles and Charlotte Zwerin were there to immortalize the bloody clash that transformed a decade's dreams into disillusionment. Sat 10 p.m., Egyptian Theatre, $15.

LIBRARY GIRL - Although I don't make it over to the west side as often as I'd like for these, I've been to a few Library Girls by now, and every one of them has been memorable. Hand to my heart, the program for January's event I Was a Late Bloomer, A Tribute to Sharon Olds is still sitting on my bedside table, which serves as a nice reminder for the great time I had that night. This month: poetry, music and conversation with poet Matt Sedillo and singer-songwriter Dan Navarro, moderated by poet and publisher David A. Romero. Special guests TBA. Sun 7 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, $20 (includes free parking and dessert).

COAXIAL ARTS FOUNDATION 9TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER - It can be hard to find a consistently trustworthy space for experimental music in LA that hosts not only bigger acts but also countless new artists. Coaxial Arts Foundation has been a home for experimental music and performance art for nearly a decade now. I've been turned on to so many outrageous, creative and talented artists through Coaxial, the least I could do would be to promote their anniversary fundraiser show. Headlining will be LA-based Maral, blending Iranian folk, electronic sampling, dub influences (she's collabed with Lee "Scratch" Perry) and more to create a sound difficult to describe in one sentence. Also headlining are LA-based experimental horror hip-hop group clipping, which one might similarly have to see/listen to fully understand, but I will say I have heard great things about their live performances. Get your freak on.. Sun 8 p.m., Zebulon, LA. $32.

"RYUICHI SAKAMOTO | OPUS" film — LA Premier. American Cinematheque writes: A celebration of an artist's life in the purest sense, this film is the definitive swan song of one of the world's greatest musicians. In late 2022, as a parting gift, Sakamoto mustered all of his energy to leave us with one final performance: a concert film featuring just him and his piano. Curated and sequenced by Sakamoto himself, the 20 pieces wordlessly narrate his life through his wide-ranging oeuvre. The selection spans his entire career, from his pop-star period with Yellow Magic Orchestra and his magnificent scores for filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci to his meditative final album. Sun 5 p.m., Egyptian Theatre, $15.

"KURT COBAIN: MONTAGE OF HECK" film — Screening plus Q&A with filmmaker Brett Morgen. Last Friday marked 30 years since grunge god Kurt Cobain's tragic death, and from what I've read of the reviews for this film, "Montage of Heck" seems to leave a lasting impression on the viewer as an incredibly intimate, sensitive and stimulating portrait of one of the most influential musicians in recent history. The film features never before seen home movies, animations, and interviews from his family and closest friends. What better way to remember this talented, complicated icon than with a film like this? Mon 7:30 p.m., Aero Theatre, Santa Monica, $15.

COMING ATTRACTIONS (all recommended by Nicole): SHE PAST AWAY, The Vermont Hollywood, 4/30; JOHN DOE, EXENE CERVENKA and SUNNY WAR, The Belasco, 5/12; ACETONE and NORTH AMERICANS, Garibaldina MB Society, 5/17; SWAMP DOGG, Zebulon

Nicole Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including thousands of live shows. She lives in Highland Park now, but was born and raised in Santa Monica, and wouldn't have it any other way.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

SAINT-SAENS, ORGAN SYMPHONY, LA PHIL — I know nothing about anything else that Camille Saint-Saëns wrote, but this, his last symphony, is so well known it is almost always referred to as the "Organ Symphony" rather than the 3rd Symphony. Everyone should experience this at least once in their life, and thundering forth from the mighty french fries pipes at Disney Hall will likely be something you tell your grandchildren about. Fri 8 p.m., Sat, Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $20-216.

"LA TRAVIATA," LA Opera — This is one of the most enduring tragedies, a new production, with star soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen. What's Violetta to do, when she wants to settle down but her following won't let her, even for True Love. This is one of those operas everyone has heard of, for a reason. Sun 2 p.m.,next Thurs 7:30 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA, $54-399.



Courtesy Photo

OPERA: "La Traviata" comes to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Sunday.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES — You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday, 9 - 11:30, for more than a decade now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. This amazing ensemble is a treasure, just over the border from SM. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

Next Thurs: MAVIS STAPLES 85TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION — She's a legend, yes, of music and civil rights history, but she is also still a riveting, transcendent performer, and she will be performing this concert with a jaw-dropping roster of musicians, many legends in their own right. YouTube Theater, Inglewood, $29-2,719.

RECOMMENDED:

TOLEDO DIAMOND — Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great decadent fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. And the band is smokin'! Don't. Miss. Toledo Diamond. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS (all recommended): TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 4/14, 21, 28; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 4/15, 22, 29; "LA TRAVIATA," LA Opera, 4/14, 18, 21, 24, 27; SAINT-SAENS, ORGAN SYMPHONY, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 4/12, 13, 14; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 4/14; MAVIS STAPLES 85TH BD, YouTube Theater, 4/18; ALBERT LEE, McCabe's, 4/19; HERBIE HANCOCK, Disney Hall, 4/20; ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, The Soraya, 4/21; RHIANNON GIDDENS, Theatre at Ace Hotel, 4/25; JACKY TERRASSON TRIO, Jazz Bakery, 5/5; KRAFTWERK, Disney Hall, 5/21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30; JOHN MCEUEN, McCabe's, 5/24; CHRIS STAPLETON, Hollywood Bowl, 6/26, 27; ROLLING STONES, SoFi Stadium, 7/10, 13.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 38 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Outdoor Movies and 626 Night Market Return

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the return of Outdoor Movies on the Promenade and 626 Night Market, and much more!

Neutrogena Pop Up: Neutrogena is hosting a pop-up event on the Promenade to promote sun protection. Get ready for freebies and learn about skincare. Thursday, Apr. 11th, 12 - 4 p.m.

Breaking Fast: Screening and Panel Discussion Featuring Mike Mosallam: Celebrate Arab American Heritage Month with a FREE screening of the romantic comedy, Breaking Fast, followed by a panel discussion followed by a panel discussion follows with director Mike Mosallam, Producer Seth Hauer, and Actor Amin El Gamal. Thursday, April 11, 5 p.m. @ Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Movie Fridays on 3rd St. Promenade - High School Musical: FREE outdoor movies are back on Third Street Promenade on the second Friday of each month! Bring your pompoms and get ready to sing along with the Wildcats. Join for a family- and pet-friendly outdoor movie experience like no other in Downtown Santa Monica. Get ready for themed photo ops, snacks and giveaways, and the best sing-along session of your life. Friday, April 12, doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7:30 p.m. @ 1200 Block, Third Street Promenade 1200 Block of Third Street Promenade (between Arizona & Wilshire).

Fight the Cis-Tem: Drag Spectacular - Fundraiser for the LA LGBT Center: Join for a fabulous night of drag performances! All proceeds raised will go towards supporting the Center's work in the LA community. Friday, April 12, 8 - 11 p.m. @ Sorry, Not Sorry, 11520 W. Pico Blvd.

SaMo Pier Pressure Scavenger Hunt: The legendary Santa Monica Pier and the lively Third Street Promenade are the twin anchors of a hunt that reveals history, movie locations, fun stores, and, of course, great views of the beach and beyond. You and your team will follow a trail of clues and answer fun, funny questions that uncover the secrets and quirks of the area. Saturday, April 13, 2 p.m. https://watsonadventures.com/hunt/the-pier-pressure-santa-monica-scavenger-hunt/

Sound Bath at the Church in Ocean Park: "Join us inside the historic sanctuary of the Church in Ocean Park for a restorative and relaxing Sound Bath! The beautifully restored space has offered people of various or no faith traditions restoration of their own for over one hundred years." Admission is $10 but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Sunday, April 14, 1:30 p.m. @ 235 Hill St. https://smc.givecloud.co/items/2024PNSB

Big Band Bonanza: Popular songs and classic big band tunes will be featured at this Big Band Bonanza concert where lawyers and judges come together in harmony. Sunday, April 14, 4 - 6 p.m. @ Moss Theater 3131 Olympic Blvd.

Ocean Park Branch Library Open House: The Open Park Branch Library will make a “splash” with an ocean-themed Open House. They’re also celebrating the 105th year of this landmark historic Carnegie library. Patrons can learn the history of the branch during their visit, check out books and other materials, enjoy crafts and games with the kids, as well as partake in a few light refreshments. For children and families, the Library will also feature two special children’s programs during the day, starting with a storytime at 11:30 a.m. for children aged 2 to 5 and their guardians. Later in the afternoon, the Library presents an after-school event at 4:00 p.m. with ventriloquist and puppeteer Marc Griffiths. Wednesday, April 17, 12 - 8 p.m. @ 2601 Main St.

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

626 Night Market Pop-Up Returns: It features a variety of Vietnamese food vendors, including All Dat Dumpling, All Dat Noodle, Café 949, Ridges Churro Bar, and The Ugly Bao, as well as merchandise vendors such as Steve Minty. This one is sponsored the new HBO show “The Sympathyzer” so expect “branded elements and photo opportunities inspired by the series and traditional night markets in Asia.” Saturday, April 13, & Sunday, April 14, 1 - 10 p.m.

Esters Grilled Cheese & Champagne Party: Yes, National Grilled Cheese Day is a THING, and since Esters has one of the best in town, that's a reason to celebrate... with Champagne. They are “jazzing up our classic Grilled Cheese with fun add-ons—tomatoes, caramelized onions, prosciutto, 'nduja and a truffle version with Point Reyes' TomaTruffle Cheese. Plus, we're pouring a variety of certified organic or biodynamic Champagnes by-the-glass or as a flight of 3 for $50.” Friday, April 12, 5 p.m.

Crudo e Nudo 3rd Anniversary Celebration: "We are over the moon to mark three wonderful years at our Main Street outpost, and what better way to celebrate than with a daytime soiree for our cherished regulars and friends?! The support we have received from everyone who has graced our doors has truly made Crudo e Nudo what it is. We are immensely grateful for the community that has embraced us, making Crudo e Nudo a home for unforgettable memories and bringing us through turbulent times with creativity and community." The event that costs $40 and includes oysters, crudos, & wine. Sunday, April 14, 12 - 4 p.m. @ 2724 Main St. I will be there at 12:30pm.



Courtesy Graphic

MOVIES: “High School Musical” will be shown at the Third Street Promenade Friday evening as part of the “Movie Fridays” series.

Burgette is a new French wine bar featuring Parisian inspired burgers, cheeses, cured meats and small plates, next door to Bar Monette in downtown SaMo. Opening day is April 13.

Jane Goodall Celebrates Her 90th Birthday with Urth Cafe's Vegan Chocolate Cake: Urth and the famous primatologist and anthropologist have some shared gorilla history.

Further Afield - PaleyFest: Geek out with fellow TV nerds, the annual weeklong festival of exclusive episodes, clips and panel discussions with the cast and creators of the hottest TV shows. Now in its 41st year, the Paley Center for Media-hosted festival is headed back to the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood from April 12 to 21.

Looking Ahead Around Town: CicLAvia West LA (4/21), Santa Monica Wine Auction (4/21), KCRW’s “Good Food” PieFest (4/28), MAINopoly (5/19), Make Music Day (6/21)

If there’s something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Outdoor Movies and 626 Night Market Return

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email cindy@smdp.com

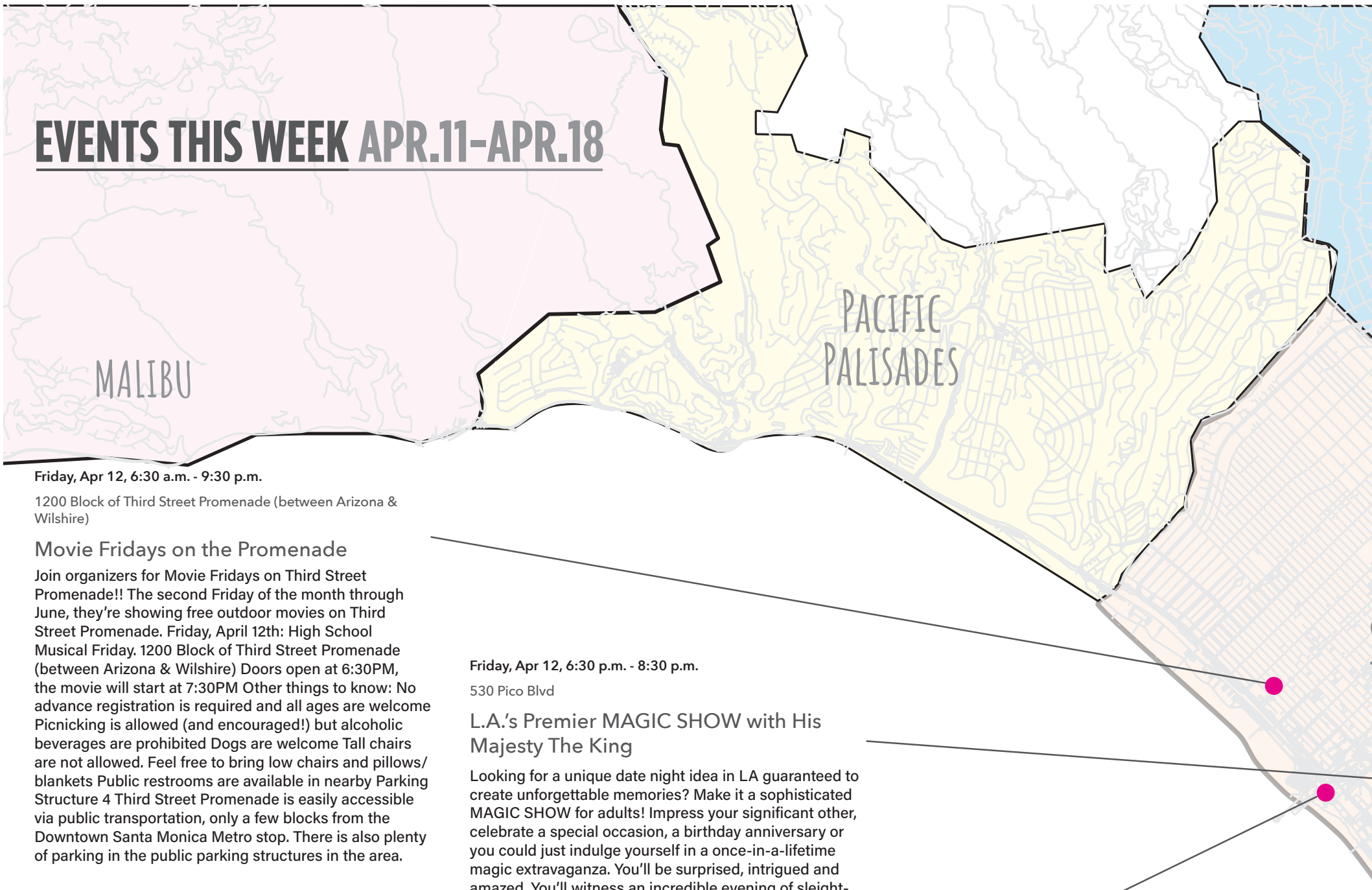
Help Wanted

AR Designer, Studio (3) - Multiple Openings sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a “default together” approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Create AR experiences. Art dir. of studio projects & checking 3D/VFX assets. Base salary: $94,000-$141,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #ARDS3-SM-0324. EOE.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

EVENTS THIS WEEK APR.11-APR.18



Friday, Apr 12, 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

1200 Block of Third Street Promenade (between Arizona & Wilshire)

Movie Fridays on the Promenade

Join organizers for Movie Fridays on Third Street Promenade!! The second Friday of the month through June, they're showing free outdoor movies on Third Street Promenade. Friday, April 12th: High School Musical Friday. 1200 Block of Third Street Promenade (between Arizona & Wilshire) Doors open at 6:30PM, the movie will start at 7:30PM Other things to know: No advance registration is required and all ages are welcome Picnicking is allowed (and encouraged!) but alcoholic beverages are prohibited Dogs are welcome Tall chairs are not allowed. Feel free to bring low chairs and pillows/ blankets Public restrooms are available in nearby Parking Structure 4 Third Street Promenade is easily accessible via public transportation, only a few blocks from the Downtown Santa Monica Metro stop. There is also plenty of parking in the public parking structures in the area.

Friday, Apr 12, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

530 Pico Blvd

L.A.'s Premier MAGIC SHOW with His Majesty The King

Looking for a unique date night idea in LA guaranteed to create unforgettable memories? Make it a sophisticated MAGIC SHOW for adults! Impress your significant other, celebrate a special occasion, a birthday anniversary or you could just indulge yourself in a once-in-a-lifetime magic extravaganza. You'll be surprised, intrigued and amazed. You'll witness an incredible evening of sleight-of-hand artistry by one of magic history's greatest talents. To make your experience special and exclusive space is limited to only 36 seats. $75 to $100. https://allevents.in/santa%20monica/las-premier-magic-show-with-his-majesty-the-king/80002958487257

Saturday, Apr 13, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1600 Ocean Front Walk

Trash Bowl Battle of the Babies @ Heal the Bay Aquarium

Are you feeling competitive this Earth Month? Are you ready to defeat the trash on Santa Monica Beach? Then join the Battle of the Babies all month long at Heal the Bay Aquarium!
Lead your team in a self-guided cleanup of Santa Monica Beach, choose which animal you would like to support, and at the end of the month, we'll tally the total pounds collected by each fandom to see which baby will emerge triumphant!
Stop by Heal the Bay Aquarium to grab a FREE bucket and support your favorite fishy friend: the adorable swell shark pup or the darling California skate baby. This Earth Month, let's see who emerges victorious in the battle against beach pollution!
Questions? Contact Heal the Bay Aquarium https://healthebay.org/event/trash-bowl-battle-of-the-babies/2024-04-13/

Saturday, Apr 13, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St.

EARTH DAY OF SERVICE & Seed Starting Demo

They are celebrating 30 Years of Sustainability in Santa Monica by hosting a Day of Service in honor of Earth Month at the Main Street Community Garden. Spend a few minutes or a couple of hours with our California Climate Action Corps Fellows as they put in some sweat equity at our oldest Community Garden (soon to celebrate its 50th Anniversary). This unique habitat in the heart of Main Street is a great place to spend a morning. Studies show that serving others has a direct link to increasing one's happiness. At 10 a.m. they will have a brief seed starting demonstration.

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Saturday, Apr 13, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Getty Museum, 1200 Getty Center Dr, Los Angeles

Sounds of LA: Sara Curruchich

Free but advance ticket required
There is no better way of introducing Sara Curruchich than to say that being a woman in Guatemala is an act of resistance, and being a Mayan Kaqchikel woman as well as an artist is not only a political statement, but an act of defiance. Sara is the first Indigenous Guatemalan singer and songwriter to sing in Kaqchikel (her mother tongue), as well as Spanish, for an international audience. Her voice and message of love, awareness, respect, and defense of life in all its forms, have led many people to regard her as a beacon of light and hope. Her music blends various genres such as rock, folk and traditional Mayan Kaqchikel music.
https://www.getty.edu/

Saturday, Apr 13, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Crow Comedy Club, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Unit F4

Batteries Included: A Stand Up Show

$20 —Tickets available online and at door
Born of The Crow, Batteries Included is a murderous crew of freshwomen comics who take the stage once a season to share their wildest perspectives and most intimate stories. We start at 6pm so you can enjoy a show, grab dinner and be in bed by 10pm - or not! April's headliner is NTHENYA, a two-time JFL Standup and Pitch winner (2019 & 2022) and NBC's Writers on the Verge nominee (2021). You may have seen her on 'Them' (Amazon), 'Shameless' (Showtime), and 'Loosely, Exactly Nicole' (MTV). Featuring special guests each show, you will be guaranteed long lasting laughs. Make sure you come! More info can be found at: www.CrowComedy.com. Performers subject to change without notice. Adult language and themes discussed.
https://jetbook.co/e/batteries-includedmass



THURSDAY | APRIL 11

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET:
Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. Accepts Cal Fresh EBT and WIC as payment. Runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. between 155-199 Arizona Ave.

ROAST OF ALTCOIN DAILY:
Prepare yourself for an evening where laughter reigns supreme and cryptocurrncy takes the hot seat. The Roast of Altcoin Daily comes to Expert Dojo, 395 Santa Monica Place #308, promising a night filled with hilarious jabs, clever quips and non-stop entertainment. Lineup includes roastmaster Mona Shaikh along with roast battlers seen at the Comedy Store Roast Battle such as Elise Golgowski and Sean Fawaz. Santa Monica Phil Brock will be a special guest. Runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets $40. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/web3-is-a-joke-presents-roast-of-altcoin-daily-in-los-angeles-tickets-845196544617.

DISCO QUEEN:
LouLou Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge, 395 Santa Monica Place #300, hosts the weekly Thursday party series Disco Queen, paying homage to the (in)famous Disco Queen nights in Paris, and is filled with disco balls, smooth grooves and over-the-top talent. Special performance by RuPaul's Drag Race contestant and Emmy-nominated actor Willam. Starts at 6 p.m.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF HOUSING:
The Santa Monica History Museum presents a dynamic panel discussion delving into modern housing solutions and the future of housing in Santa Monica. Moderating will be Frances Anderton, former NPR journalist and author of Common Ground: Multifamily Housing in Los Angeles. The evening's panelists bring a wealth of expertise and insight to the discussion. They include former Santa Monica Mayor, policy expert Denny Zane from Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, Bruce Fairty representing Cypress Equity, Jesús Hernández from Community Corporation of Santa Monica, and Jing Yeo of the City of Santa Monica Planning Commission. Begins at 6 p.m. at the Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 7th St. Admission is free.

AN EVENING WITH DON WINSLOW:
The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater at New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd., hosts An Evening with Don Winslow at 8 p.m., discussing his writing life and his new novel "City in Ruins." Following "City on Fire" and "City of Dreams," "City of Ruins" is the conclusion to Winslow's genre-defining crime trilogy. This is the book Winslow has announced will be the final one of his extraordinary career. General admission $20, general admission plus a signed book $48. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-don-winslow-tickets-780199526787.

FRIDAY | APRIL 12

MOVIE FRIDAYS ON THE PROMENADE:
The second Friday of the month through June, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. will be showing free outdoor movies on the 1200 Block of Third Street Promenade, between Arizona and Wilshire. This month's movie is "High School Musical." Movie begins at 7:30 p.m. No advance registration required, all ages welcome. Picnicking allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Dogs welcome. Tall chairs not allowed, feel free to bring low chairs and pillows/blankets.

SATURDAY | APRIL 13

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD FARMERS MARKET:
The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Widely considered to be among the best markets on the west coast, featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. For more information, call 310-458-8688.

USED OIL RECYCLING EVENT:
Join the City of Santa Monica's Oil Recycling and Filter Exchange event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at O'Reilly Auto Parts, 2018 Lincoln Blvd. Santa Monica residents may bring their used oil and oil filter and exchange it for a new filter for free. Exclusions apply. Used oil filters are hazardous waste that cannot be thrown into the trash. Both the oil and steel are valuable nonrenewable resources that can be recycled. For more visit santamonica.gov.

EARTH DAY OF SERVICE:
Celebrate 30 years of sustainability in Santa Monica with the Day of Service in honor of Earth Month at the Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St., starting at 9 a.m. Spend time with the California Climate Action Corps Fellows putting in sweat equity at the city's oldest community garden. This unique habitat in the heart of Main Street is a great place to spend a morning. At 10 a.m. there will be a brief seed starting demonstration. Tools, gloves and water will be provided. Please wear closed-toed shoes. Hat and sunscreen recommended. To register, visit: https://portal.caclimateactioncorps.org/opportunities/bRthAAVcAw?%24.

PROM DRESS & SUIT GIVEAWAY:
Join Guidance To The Future's annual Prom Dress & Suit giveaway from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. It's your chance to choose from a dazzling array of dresses, suits, shoes, accessories and more. Guest speakers, music, photography and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Free complimentary services from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. include basic alterations, notarization, make-up demo, barber and hairstylists.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM FAIR:
Advance your personal financial journey with workshops (in English and Spanish) on credit, budgeting and the CalKIDS savings program, plus free tax services for state and federal filing (by appointment) and free credit report retrieval and analysis by financial coaches provided by Haven Neighborhood Services. Lunch is provided. Runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., Annex & Virginia Avenue Park Campus.

CHORUS

FROM PAGE 1

Choristers, quickly picking up momentum with a performance at St. Timothy Catholic Church and a featured spot on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." Four years after the appointment, in 2008, McEndarfer and Cristina Demainy founded the National Children's Chorus, transforming the Paulist Choristers into a new identity and vision to expand the choral mission into other cities.

Taking on conducting choral music, he added, was unique because of the added words that "are telling you directly what the piece is talking about," rather than a more open to interpretation orchestral piece. McEndarfer said that the utilization of "the human voice" is a worthy challenge because it is "the most vulnerable" instrument.

"There's something very special about vocal ensembles because it utilizes actual (instrumentation) from a human being as opposed to (an) instrument outside of yourself," he said.

The other part of the opportunity was starting to work with children from ages 5-18, something he had zero prior training on. His first class was 18 students, choosing to treat them as he would anyone else.

"(I expected) all of the same elements of quality and the commitment to excellence that adults do, and (what I) found was that the students loved (that), they found it thrilling and they often exceeded my expectations in terms of what's possible ... the level of difficulty of what the children were able to accomplish was just crucial," McEndarfer said.

The young maestro kept his kids local, as their first concert in 2009 was at the then-newly constructed BroadStage in Santa Monica. Since that time, the chorus has expanded to include chapters in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, Dallas and Austin; as well as a global chapter.

Accolades have coincided with the growth, cresting with winning a Grammy Award in 2022 for Best Choral Performance for "Mahler: Symphony No. 8, 'Symphony Of A Thousand.'" Other notable experiences for McEndarfer himself include conducting performances for Josh Groban, opening for John Legend and being featured on "Entertainment Tonight" during 2014 Academy Awards coverage.

Through both personal praise and lauded performances from his students, the conductor evolved his thinking from quality music being the goal, to the music being a byproduct of a healthy learning environment.

"Students were gaining a strong sense of themselves, gaining independence and a sense of knowing that they could achieve whatever they wanted to achieve if they were willing to put the work behind it and stay true to their vision," McEndarfer said. "So when I realized that was really what we were doing, the music (and) artistry was a byproduct of that. It was a humbling realization, but I think collectively in our team, (we knew) that's the greater goal, which is something (that) stands to benefit society as a whole."

> (I expected) all of the same elements of quality and the commitment to excellence that adults do, and (what I) found was that the students loved (that), they found it thrilling and they often exceeded my expectations in terms of what's possible ... the level of difficulty of what the children were able to accomplish was just crucial
> - Luke McEndarfer

The 20th year for the Chorus includes a Spring Showcase concert at Bel Air Church on May 4, as well as a return to Carnegie Hall in New York City the same month. After growing such a strong choral program globally, McEndarfer has no plans on stopping, and is "doubling down" for the future to show how music can be "such a powerful source of support" for well-being.

"Our goal is to make sure that music is a component of the lives of families (and) enriches their experience ... we believe strongly that music contributes to a sense of wellness, and I think that's what we want most for our students beyond all of our success and accolades," he said.

To learn more about the National Children's Chorus and to apply a child for the program, visit nationalchildrenschorus.com.

thomas@smdp.com





Courtesy Photos

CHORUS: The National Children's Chorus has performed across the globe under the artistic direction of Santa Monica-born Luke McEndarfer.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

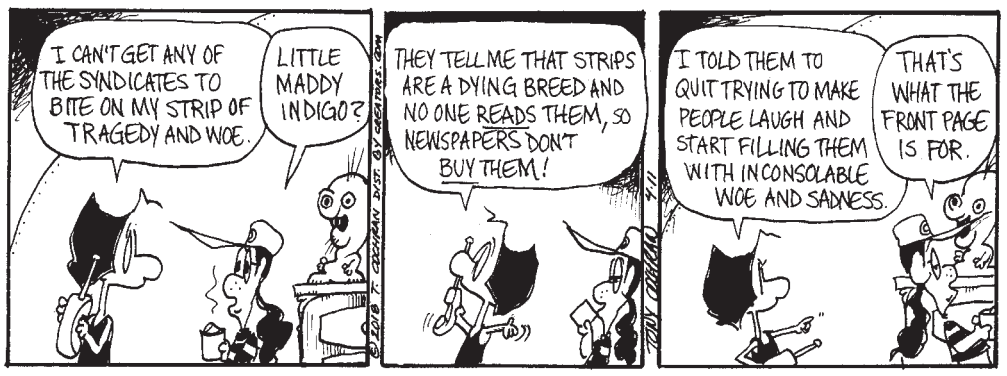
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

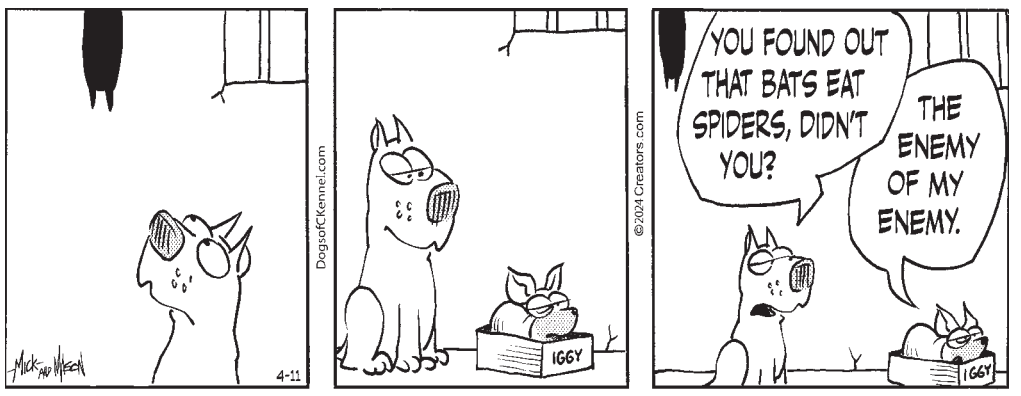
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6177

A big undertaking

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

Abode	Drying	Oven	Settee
Abut	Fascia	Owner	Sill
Arches	Fences	Patio	Slate
Artwork	Gauge	Printer	Smoko
Beam	Glue	Refrigerator	Snug
Cedar	Grand	Reserve	Soap
Column	Jamb	Rooms	Sofa
Deck	Knick-knacks	Rugs	Solar
Dirty	Lamp	Rural	Space
Divan	Lock	Safety	Tidy
Dome	Mitre	Sale	Timber
Drains	Neighbours	Sash	Units
Drier	New	Semi	View

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Into the rough again

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 11)

Get ready for a year of adventurous exploration, driven by intuition and curiosity, of which you have plenty. New destinations and uncharted intellectual territory will be sources of exhilaration, discovery and change. More highlights: brushes with fame, intensive study, invites that expand your network, family or point of view. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 14, 3, 28 and 39.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your search for grace and transcendence will lead you to others who are searching, too. With so many eyes on the situation, the spiritual treasure will be found. You'll feel it before you see it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you are asleep or awake, you are still you, proving that it takes no effort for you to be yourself. What does take work is enacting the various roles and fulfilling the responsibilities you have taken on. Don't confuse the true self with its roles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's good to make a big deal over the little things you enjoy. You'll get even more delight when you look back on them. These are the textures that make the story interesting, the spices that give your memories their kick.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When your people are having fun, so are you. When they aren't, it's hard for you to enjoy yourself. You can't control the enjoyment of others, but if it's your party, you can control the guest list. So, think of your life as your party.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some wax poetic about how every rose has its thorns. You're in the mood to see this as a rather dramatic stance considering the number of lovely blossoms out there with absolutely smooth stems. Love and beauty don't have to hurt.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no reason to wait around to make your vision happen. Start tweaking elements of the current design for comfort, style and efficiency. In activating these changes, you'll make happiness accessible for now and for later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You strive to give your best to all and treat everyone with a quality of attention intended to convey respect. The most telling mark of character is how a person treats those who they perceive as having less power or status.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Success will depend on whether you can bridge a gap between you and the other person. Understanding where the other person is at is crucial information to get before the construction of said bridge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). With work, raw talents and half-baked notions will come together to create something remarkable. These things take time. The daily results may not look like much, but it all adds up rather quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You won't wait until you have a reason to diversify. You'll do it now. By seeking advice, friendship and news from a variety of sources, you increase your knowledge of the world, make more accurate predictions and thus, grow your power.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Stress can interfere with performance or it can enhance it. It's all about the level. Say yes to things that are a little bit much and decline the propositions that present enormous challenge or none at all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have made connections in life transcend time and space. Today you will send and receive messages to someone regardless of where the other person is in the world or beyond.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

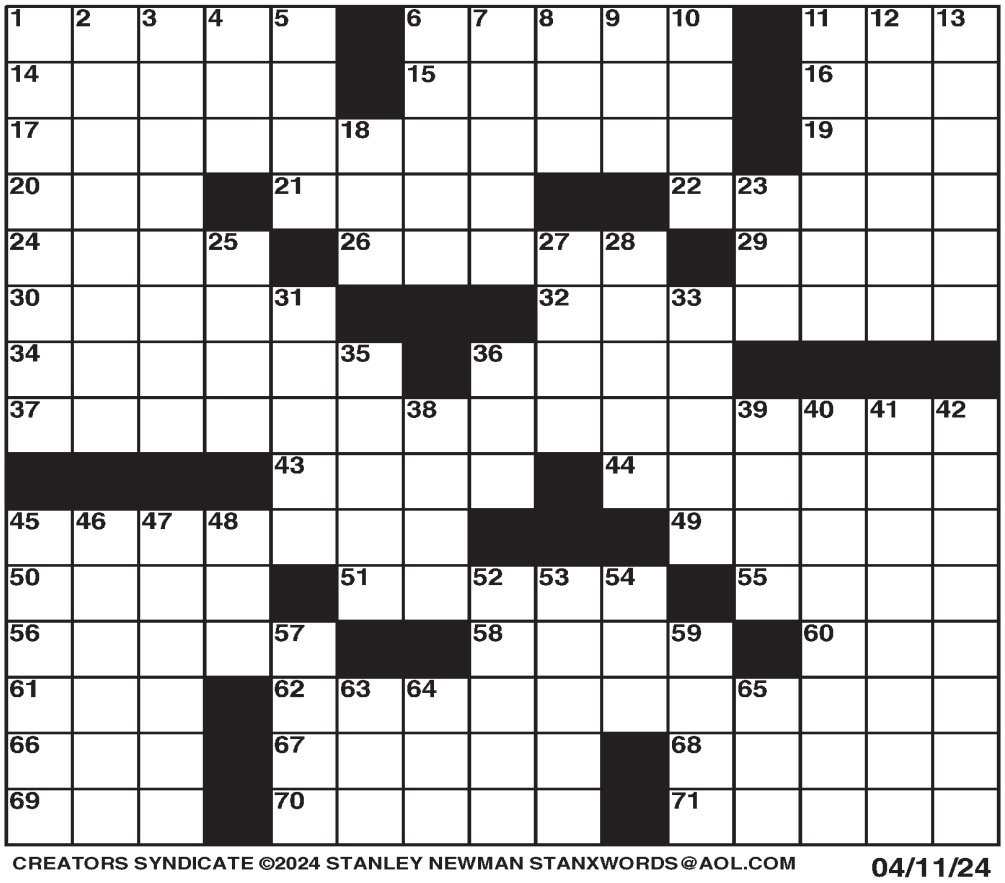
CURIOSITY SEEKER by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS

1 Wrestler in *Rocky III*
6 Inapt rhyme for "work"
11 Mature
14 Optimistic utterance
15 Ol' pal
16 Prom rental
17 With 62-Across, venerable curiosity seeker
19 Word to the wise
20 Alternative wd.
21 Selfie taker
22 Novelist Brookner
24 Kellogg brand
26 Trivial things
29 Milne's first name
30 White Italian wine
32 All Access Pass holder
34 Poplar cousins
36 Catty comment
37 Nickname for 17/62-Across
43 Euro fraction
44 Odysseus' hometown
45 Chamber music
49 Immunizations, these days
50 Rag doll's name
51 Coolheadedness
55 Get clean
56 "No way!"
58 Poet fond of outlandish rhymes
60 However, for short
61 __ chi
62 See 17-Across
66 Nativity scene beast
67 Porous gem
68 Express anger
69 Ascertain
70 Aerial milestones
71 Wee

DOWN

1 Protests, perhaps
2 "Holy cow!"
3 Ranting and raving
4 On target
5 Soda that sounds short
6 Swedish toast
7 Typical Delhian
8 Notorious Amin
9 NIH nutrient suggestion
10 Coffee grown in America
11 5th-century conqueror
12 Rock band staple
13 Add more branches
18 UV-protection measure
23 Vote against
25 Hot spot
27 Creamy dessert
28 Tongue in Teheran
31 Make official
33 *Shaqtin' a Fool* airer
35 Highly inclined
36 Automated browser
38 Fond of
39 Unfreeze
40 Levy's purpose
41 Skaters' gigs
42 Checkout counter sign
45 "The Flying Kangaroo" company
46 Nervousness
47 Give guidance to
48 What some loaves are made of
52 First words
53 Shoves off
54 Nonverified no.
57 Criticizes
59 Extremely popular
63 "Innovative" prefix
64 Common Little Italy nickname
65 *Sei diviso due*



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MUSIC AWARD

FROM PAGE 1

part of that group is deeply, deeply humbling, (I'm) so honored to be recognized for the work that I take great joy (in) every day," Woo said.

In addition to the state award, the Sacramento conference held what Woo called a "tremendous surprise," an election as a guest conductor for the 2026 California All-State High School Concert Band. Recognized by the California Band Directors Association for her leadership skills, Woo previously worked as an All-State conductor in the middle school field, and will now be tasked with guiding the next step up.

"I'm a little nervous, but super excited about working with the high school students ... it's such a humbling experience to be nominated and voted upon by my peers throughout the state of California," she added. "I'm very excited about it, (and) it's just such a deep honor."

Before embarking on her decades-long career, Woo knew about the power of music as a child, crediting her parents for seeing the "value of music" and exposing her to piano lessons at an early age.

"I was very shy as a kid, and I wasn't comfortable in conversation with people, but I would be very happy sitting at the piano for hours or taking up my violin, and I think they recognized that was a way for me to get socialization in school."

Woo had her first taste of SMMUSD's program while student teaching at UCLA, spending time at both Lincoln Middle School and Santa Monica High School, observing the connection between educators and students through the power of music, which resonated with the young teacher. After three years of teaching, she moved to JAMS, where she has stayed ever since.

She remarked that her teaching style she's learned over the years would not have changed if she was an educator of any other subject, but is grateful to be a part of something "that connects and resonates with the human spirit."

"I saw a lot of students who I really connected with who were very shy (and) may have been awkward socially," Woo said. "But music seemed to be the magic key that really unlocked something inside them ... what's great about music is, it's like golf, you can be recreational with it, you can be serious with it, you can play by yourself, you can play with other people. It's something that makes school fun ... music seems to be that wonderful element in their lives."

She stated that the district has always recognized music as a "core academic," and has been fortunate to "be part of this learning community." District leadership, including those at JAMS, are just as grateful for Woo's consistent presence.

"JAMS is fortunate to have Angela Woo as part of our faculty and school community," said JAMS Principal Martha Chacon. "Her recognition as the 2024 California Music Educators Association Middle School Music Educator Award highlights the exceptional opportunities she provides our students in music education."

The school's program has evolved over Woo's tenure, growing in part due to the elementary level buffing up its music opportunities. JAMS now includes three levels of band and orchestra, as well as a jazz band club and opportunities for students to engage in small chamber music. Woo said she's "very excited on what's to come," including the ability to use California Proposition 28 funding for arts and music education.

> "I'm a little nervous, but super excited about working with the high school students ... it's such a humbling experience to be nominated and voted upon by my peers throughout the state of California
> - Angela Woo

In the latter half of May, JAMS will be presenting its spring concerts, a final chance to say goodbye to eighth-graders before they move onto Samohi. Though she notes some of her peers may not enjoy teaching middle school, it's an age group where Woo thrives.

"It's so magical to see from sixth grade to eighth grade, the transformation of who they're becoming, and you can really help kind of influence their thinking about making good judgements and decisions," she said. "Middle school music is in its own, just a real unique privilege ... to be able to work with (these) kids."

thomas@smdp.com



Photo by Nico Salum Photography

MUSIC AWARD: (L-R) John Adams Middle School Director of Instrumental Music Angela Woo was presented with the 2024 California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Middle School Music Educator Award by Holly MacDonell, Vice President of the CMEA.

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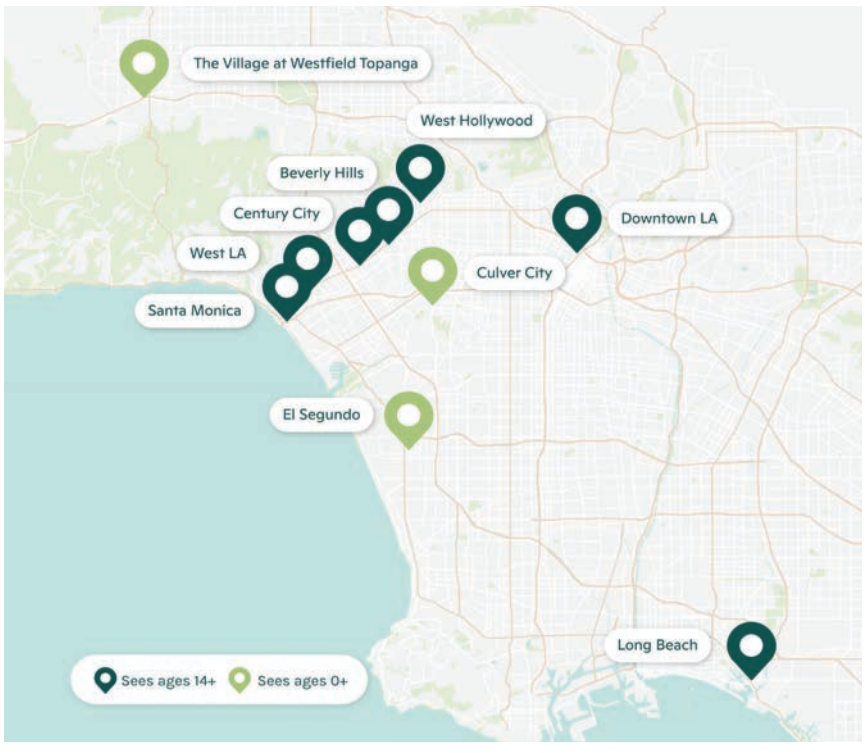
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