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Santa Monica Daily Press



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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Get Kinky And Smalls This Sat

JUST FOR MOI?

Well, I suppose this event was not put on just for me, but it sure seems that way.

I discovered Dawes a while back listening to 88.5, a great station out of CSUN. They're one of my favorite new LA bands.

And they'll be playing at the inaugural (annual, I hope!) Los Angeles WhiskyX, held right here in town. Y'all can sample great whiskeys to your heart's content and just walk home! Look who else they have playing at this incredible event —

Knob Creek, Basil Hayden, Whistle Pig, the Macallan, Compass Box, Red Breast, Russell's Reserve, Bulleit, Aberlour, the Sexton, Ardbeg, the Singleton, Glenmorangie, Bruichladdich and of course, Hall of Fame bluesman Johnnie Walker. And that's only part of the lineup! There will be more than 60!

SEE MUSIC PAGE 7

The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Thai Food

I LOVE THAI CUISINE. AND I'VE eaten at more than one dozen Thai restaurants in this area (and also at a number of them in Thailand itself). But what is it about Thai food that makes it so distinctive?

One is the mix of herbs. There is cilantro, lemongrass, basil, and mint. Sometimes there is ginger, galangal, tamarind, turmeric, gar-

SEE FOOD PAGE 4

Knitters weave through local shops this weekend



Courtesy photo

TEXTILE: The annual Yarn Crawl will make its way through Santa Monica this weekend.

KATE CAGLE

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Los Angeles area knitting community will stitch itself together once again this weekend as thousands of knitters, crocheters and weavers hit up dozens of locally owned shops for the 2018 Yarn Crawl.

As they fan out throughout the southland to see new stores, pick up patterns and meet artisans they will likely end up at Santa Monica's Compatto Yarn Salon tonight, where owner Bonnie Davidoff holds the popular annual "fastest knitter" contest.

"It's really fun," Davidoff said of the contest that begins at 6 p.m. at the store at 2112 Wilshire. The winner walks away with a beautiful new set of knitting needles.

Compatto is one of twenty-six stores participating in the crawl between April 19 and 22, offering games, snacks, prizes and an opportunity to meet the designers behind patterns and

hand-dyed materials. Knitters print out passports and hope to win prizes while meeting other enthusiasts who've embraced the tactile in the time of tech.

At noon Thursday, Davidoff will host Jeane de Coster from Elemental Affects Yarn and designer Pam Powers. On Saturday, Compatto will host Mira Cole of Baah! Yarn at 10 a.m.

"People love her. She's one of the gurus," Davidoff said. The shop stocks up on bagels every year in anticipation of hungry crowds as knitters see how many stores they can visit in one day.

"The event is both an opportunity for discovery and delight, and also a resilient hurrah against the onslaught of e-commerce activity that is crushing small businesses, in particular brick and mortar retail," said Lesley Roberts, with Ocean Park Studio marketing and strategy. Santa Monica-based Wildfiber Studio is also par-

SEE KNITTERS PAGE 4

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Lives Well Lived - And Written

THIS FRIDAY, A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE film, "Lives Well Lived: Celebrating the Secrets, Wit and Wisdom of Age" opens at Laemmle's Monica Film Center (and on other Laemmle screens). And the 27th

SEE CULTURE PAGE 5

Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

BEAUTIFUL BINOCHE: French Femme Fatale

"LET THE SUNSHINE IN" IS A French film apparently created for the sole purpose of glorifying the beautiful face of Juliette Binoche.

But if that were the only thing this film had to offer, it would still be worth seeing.

Binoche plays a divorced Parisian artist looking for a relationship with a partner who is authentic, attentive, supportive, and willing and able to meet her overwhelming need for love.

Instead, she attracts men who are married or men who have emotional fantasies that she cannot anticipate, let alone satisfy.

The film opens, in fact, with a prolonged sexual interlude that runs almost as long as such an act would take in real life.

Her partner is eventually satisfied. She isn't.

To make this introductory scene even more discomforting, the man is a married banker with a personality that is both unpleasant and totally self-involved.

SEE PLAY PAGE 6

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Calendar

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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, April 19

Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors, who help students complete and submit their application, and prepare them to pass the official review. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Center (310) 664-6222. ext. 76203. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Housing Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Housing Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St. 4:30 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7:30 p.m.

Color Me Chill

Unwind and de-stress after tax day with relaxing coloring, and enjoy some coffee, tea, or hot cocoa. All ages. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday, April 20

Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors, who help students complete and submit their application, and prepare them to pass the official review. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Center (310) 664-6222. ext. 76203. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Yoga

All levels. Drop in for \$15/class or sign up for series. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Organizing Your Closets, Drawers, and Space

Get a clean start with this organizational workshop. Esther Simon shows you there's a place for everything, how to throw things out, and techniques for creating more space. Bilingual Spanish. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 5:30 pm. - 6:30 p.m.

Main Library Docent Tours

Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and the library's collection. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 21

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (downtown)

The Organic Market boasts the largest percentage of Certified Organic growers of the City's four markets. 2nd @ Arizona Avenue. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday Certified Farmer's Market (Virginia Ave. Park)

A family market in the heart of the Pico/Cloverfield neighborhood which offers a variety of organic and conventionally-grown produce in addition to several prepared food options and coffee. It is also currently the only Santa Monica Farmers Market offering Market Match incentives for WIC and EBT customers. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Get the Perfect Prom Hair at Home

From timeless classics to this season's hottest looks straight off the runway, an expert stylist on site will give you the how-to for creating your perfect prom look. Space is limited. Call 310-458-8684 to register. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Pico Blvd.
SMC presents
"The Comedy Of Errors"**

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Theatre Arts Department will present William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" April 20-29 at the Theatre Arts Studio Stage on the SMC main campus, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica.

"The Comedy of Errors" is a classic Shakespearean farce in which two sets of identical twins are accidentally separated at birth, leading to comical dilemmas created by mistaken identities and numerous mishaps. The SMC production is directed by SMC adjunct instructor Mikael Mattsson.

Show times are 8 p.m. on Friday, April 20 and April 27, and Saturday, April 21 and April 28, and 7 p.m. Thursday, April 26, and Sunday, April 29. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, and on Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29.

Advance tickets are \$10, plus a service charge, and can be purchased by going to smc.edu/studiostage or by calling (310) 434-4319 or (310) 434-3005 Monday through Friday. Tickets are \$3 higher at the door during performance weekends. Parking is free on Friday evenings and weekends.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH, SMC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



Courtesy photo

ERRORS: The famous play will be performed at Santa Monica College.

**Downtown
Train / Vehicle Collision**

On April 18 at about 12:23 a.m., the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) responded to a radio call for service regarding a traffic collision involving a vehicle and Metro Expo Line Train at Lincoln Blvd and Colorado Avenue.

Upon arrival, officers discovered several occupants of the vehicle suffering from significant injuries. Santa Monica Fire Department Paramedics responded and treated the injured persons at the scene. All vehicle occupants were transported to a local hospital for treatment. The injured persons remain hospitalized. No additional injuries were reported.

SMPD's Major Accident Response Team responded to conduct a collision investigation. A preliminary investigation revealed the train was travelling west approaching Lincoln Blvd as a vehicle travelling north on Lincoln Blvd ran a red light causing the collision. Additionally, a contributing factor to the collision appears to be that the driver of the vehicle was driving under the influence of alcohol. SMPD Traffic Investigators will be conducting a thorough investigation into the collision.

The investigation is ongoing and investigators are interested in speaking with anyone who was in the area at the time of the collision. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Investigator Pace at (310) 458-8488; or the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT SAUL RODRIGUEZ.

**Virginia Ave.
Bees, butterflies and flowers for your eyes!**

On April 21, from 9:30 till noon, bring the kids and join the LA County Master Gardeners at Virginia Ave Farmers Market to make SEED BALLS in honor of Earth Day!

What is a seed ball? It's a packet of seeds wrapped in soil materials (clay, compost) then dried, keeping the seeds safe till it's time to plant them. Then just throw 'em and watch 'em grow! Seed balls are an easy and sustainable way to cultivate plants and a simple way to disperse them.

The Master Gardeners will bring everything you need. Their booth is located at the end of the parking at Pico and 23rd Street, next to Gloria's Produce. It's a hands-on project for kids and parents alike.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH SPITZ



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LEMLE LAW GROUP, PC

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Kate Cagle
kate@smdp.com

Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Robbie Piubeni
robbie@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401

OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913



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Local

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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

Santa Monica Daily Press

Visit us online at www.smdp.com

KNITTERS

FROM PAGE 1

ticipating in the Yarn Crawl. Today Heather of Ewe Ewe yarns will be demonstrating brioche knitting and showcasing a shawl.

While the annual Yarn Crawl is a great way to meet new knitters, Davidoff says a steady schedule of classes has her committed clients coming back every week. The word Compatto is Italian for close-knit. The shop is known for its monthly "block parties" where a group of knitters or crocheters meets to learn a new stitch for a blanket square. Over the course of nine months, the group makes an entire blanket, which is finished in the last class.

Davidoff and her associates are always willing to help customers with any issues they have along the way.

"If you buy our yarn we're going to see

you through your project," Davidoff said. Still, she says her business has struggled to compete with cheap yarns sold on the internet. "You gotta be smarter all the time. All of us do."

On a recent morning in the shop, knitters waited for the doors to open to ensure their favorite spot on the couch as they worked on their blankets and scarves.

"I'm not an amazing knitter but I always have to do something with my hands," said a customer from Brentwood named Ellen who walked inside to pick up her loom. Ellen had recently taken a weaving class with her mother-in-law and decided to pick it up as another hobby. "I have a ton of projects. It's so much fun."

Crawlers can print out passports and learn more about special events at shops around Los Angeles at layarncrawl.org.

kate@smdp.com

FOOD

FROM PAGE 1

lic, lime — and, best of all, several types of chilies. And many dishes have nam pla, a strong-tasting fish sauce, which gives a salty flavor to the cuisine. In fact, there are a lot of fish-based sauces and pastes, and lots of spice mixes. Thai food is a mix of foods from adjacent countries plus Persia. There is often a touch of sweetness in the sauces.

We don't get as much regional variation in local restaurants as one might hope for. Most of our local restaurants offer the same dishes, at least by name. But the taste and preparation do vary.

I had a dish at the top-rated Thai restaurant in Las Vegas this month that was spectacular. It was a whole red sea bass served in a metal serving dish with fire underneath to keep the contents warm. The fish was swimming in a ginger broth. On the side was a Very spicy complex sauce with bits of different kinds of peppers floating in it. A separate bowl was served to spoon out the ginger broth, and with a small spoon, I titrated the amount of hot sauce for both the fish and the broth. I've never had such a great dish at any of the many of the Thai restaurants in this area.

I divide Thai restaurants into two categories: Vegetarian and not.

I think there is some unanimity that the best vegetarian Thai in this area is Sudha. But my personal preference is to the non-vegetarian group because I love chicken, fish, squid, and sometimes meat dishes. I've eaten in maybe 10 of the Thai restaurants in this area over the past 40 years or so, so this is just a sampling of the ones I know best:

One of my favorite local Thai restaurants is Thai Dishes. It has been around a long time. We had a family meal there recently. There was an excellent papaya salad, and as usual, we had the delicious "chicken on fire" appetizer, served with garlic sauce. We moved on to sharing a coconut chicken soup, with those special galangal and coconut flavors, pieces of chicken and little mushrooms. And it's so nice that they serve the soups in a metal pot with a flame under it to keep the soup hot.

Then came one of my favorite Thai dishes, the red squid curry, with shrimp and cashew fried rice. The curry consists of squid pieces and many sliced vegetables in a rich sauce filled with flavors of coconut and spices. The fried rice comes in a pineapple, a nice touch. The two dishes together seem

RIZE Thai Sushi

2906 Lincoln Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90405
(310) 581-7945

Thai Dishes Santa Monica

1910 Wilshire Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 828-5634
thaidisheswilshire.com

Cholada Thai Beach Cuisine

18763 Pacific Coast Hwy
Malibu, CA 90265
(310) 317-0025
choladathaicuisine.com

perfect, and so different from Indian curries, which I also love.

The Cholada Thai Beach Cuisine on the Pacific Coast Hwy in Malibu gets good ratings on the internet. I eat there sometimes because we have friends that live nearby who like to meet there. It's very small and usually crowded. The food seems very authentic, and certainly the people serving it are.

Our family had a wonderful Thai meal this month at RIZE Thai Sushi on Lincoln. I was not optimistic since it seems half Japanese and half Thai, but it turns out to be a good mix of food cultures. The "uni shooter" was terrific! A glass of sake with two good-sized pieces of sea urchin in it, along with a small oyster and ikura caviar. Another appetizer was a Larb tuna tartare with good lime flavor. Then we had the tamarind Cod, which was very flavorful and allegedly very healthy. The star was a pad thai with lobster. Finally, we shared a massaman curry, a rich spicy beef dish served with sticky black rice, which is hard to find. At a neighboring table, we saw stuffed peppers, which looked delicious.

All said Thai food is wonderful, and we are fortunate to have so many delicious Thai restaurants all over the Westside. Hopefully someday we will begin to see regional Thai specialties promoted.

MERV HECHT, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur, 3d edition" available on Amazon. He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

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CULTURE

FROM PAGE 1

edition of "The Emeritus Chronicles," featuring writing by Santa Monica College Emeritus College students, has been published and is available for very inexpensive purchase. If you're in need of a little boost, some inspiration, a life lesson or two, you could save yourself thousands of dollars on self-improvement workshops just by paying attention to these elders.

Sky Bergman has documented, through one-on-one interviews, historic and personal images and footage, the lives of 40 people, aged 75 to 103, with a deep focus on a dozen individuals. Painters, poets, photographers, dancers, cooks, a yogini: their singular histories, the lessons they learned and the lives they've lived demonstrate profound examples of how to be successfully present in one's life.

You'll meet people who grew up in the Japanese internment camps, experienced the Great Depression, who were carried to safety from Germany to England by the Kindertransport and so much more, all of whom came out the other side wiser and grateful to be alive.

Bergman opens with her beloved Italian grandmother, whose kitchen she grew up in. She began filming her grandmother exercising at the gym at age 99. With her 100th birthday looming, Sky decided to ask what wisdom she might impart. It was the spark that inspired the movie. She lived to see her 103rd birthday...and passed a few weeks after.

Take Lou Tedone, a retired pediatrician in San Luis Obispo who goes by the nickname Lucky Louie, 92 at the time of the movie. Nowadays, after rising at dawn to clean the house and taking a walk, he goes into his kitchen to make fresh mozzarella cheese for his daughter's deli every day.

HAPPINESS IS UP TO YOU

I spent four figures on a six-week workshop, whose message was the same one that Lou shares: "Happiness is a state of mind. You can be happy with what you have or miserable with what you don't have. You decide."

95-year old Susy Eto Baumann (who really does not look her age) grew up in Manzanar, the Japanese internment camp. Her father nevertheless volunteered to fight for the US in World War II (the Japanese infantry regiment), and died for this country. With every excuse to be bitter, Susy chose positivity to guide her life.

Dancer Blanche Brown, 78 years old in the film, was a civil rights activist and is a literal mover and shaker, who loves to dance and teaches dance to others. To see her moves is like watching a woman one-third her age.

Emmy Cleaves, an 86-year old yogini, was born in Latvia, and following successive occupations of her country by Russia and Germany, escaped with her mother, only to be placed in a Polish labor camp. When that was bombed, they tried to leave, but were

separated at the train station. Neither knew whether the other still lived (finally reconnecting in the 1960s). She met her husband, a pilot, at Santa Monica's Miramar Hotel. She is still teaching yoga.

This movie will give you hope and perspective, things in short supply these days. "Lives Well Lived" opens tomorrow at Laemmle's Monica Film Center. Find out more at <https://www.lives-well-lived.com> and get tickets here: <https://www.laemmle.com/films/?title=Live%20well%20lived&sort=title&limit=40>

EMERITUS CHRONICLES

I recently attended a reading by Santa Monica College's Emeritus College writing students. It's a diverse group of older writers, poets and even a painter or two, who gather weekly in four different classes. Interestingly, the volume was produced for the first time by the students in the "Writing for Publication" class.

Ruth Lercher Bornstein not only writes but paints, and her image graces the cover. Her story "The Rage to Paint" is about a dream in which she needs to "Get it Out," that urge to say things in colors and shapes, that she can't say in words. She read it well, too.

Edna Erspamer had me hanging by a thread with her harrowing but hilarious story "Black Rock Mountain," about an adventure gone awry, being snowbound along the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

And husband and wife team Helen and Ron Telanoff both read their pieces, hers about her breast cancer surgery, and the support of her "friendly gargoyle," a stuffed character named Max, gifted to her by a friend who'd gotten through the same surgery with Max's help. Ron wrote philosophically about his love of science, the size of the universe and all its empty spaces, both macro and micro, as it relates to the truth of our lives.

While supplies last, pick up of The Emeritus Chronicles at 1227 2nd Street.

LAST STAND FOR THE ALAMO

Once again, The Ruskin Group Theatre is premiering a new play, this time "The Alamo," about the blue collar inhabitants of an old school neighborhood bar in Brooklyn, facing the winds of change and gentrification. Lots of class, cultural and romantic clashes and entanglements.

This theatre company makes optimal use of its space, the stage sets and quick changes scene changes continue to amaze, and the actors are really good; it's another solid production from one of LA's hardest working small theatres. "The Alamo" was extended through May 13 so catch it soon. The Ruskin Group Theatre is located at Santa Monica Airport. <http://www.ruskingrouptheatre.com/the-alamo/>

SARAH A. SPITZ is an award-winning public radio producer, now retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4307 FURNISH AND DELIVER A BROAD VARIETY OF CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES, SAFETY/PROTECTIVE GEAR, TOOLS, HARDWARE AND EQUIPMENT.

Submission Deadline is May 4, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: [Planet Bids](http://PlanetBids.com) or <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm>. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



CITY OF SANTA MONICA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #170 PROPERTY AND RENT TRACKING SYSTEM

• **Submission Deadline is May 10, 2018, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: [Planet Bids](http://PlanetBids.com) or <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm>. There is no charge for the RFP package.

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Third Street Promenade 3.0

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

In 1989, Third Street Promenade opened its roadway and sidewalks to millions of people who would, over the next 30 years, shop, dine, meet with friends, enjoy live street performances, dance, laugh and make lasting memories on the acclaimed pedestrian mall. There is no doubt that Third Street Promenade is one of the most successful public spaces in the world. After three decades, it's time for an upgrade.

This spring, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. invites you to our Third Street Promenade 3.0 Community Workshops. These fun, interactive meetings are designed to spark conversation as we embark on a capital improvement project that will update promenade infrastructure and design features to reinvigorate the beloved destination. Each workshop will feature guest speakers who are experts in urban design and placemaking. Understand the importance of creating and maintaining vibrant public spaces and learn about new trends in retail and customer engagement. Share your thoughts and help craft what Third Street Promenade will look like and how it will serve residents and visitors for generations to come.

Community Workshops

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

1212 Restaurant
1212 Third Street
Promenade
6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, MAY 1

The Gallery, Third Floor
1315 Third Street
Promenade
6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, MAY 15

1231 Third Street
Promenade
6:30pm-8:30pm

PLEASE RSVP TO

<http://promenadeworkshops.eventbrite.com>



Courtesy photo

BINOCHÉ: Juliette Binoche rests after spending an exhausting day looking for love in the new French film "Let the Sunshine In"

PLAY

FROM PAGE 1

And so she goes from one inappropriate lover to the next. An obsessive actor with dreams and problems of his own, a quirky loner that she meets in a bar, who loves her but is unable to commit, and a black taxi driver that she attempts to seduce. Her relationships end in flaming tirades from her, usually influenced by conversations with friends that leave her confused or doubting her lovers' motivations or sincerity. Or else the relationships end in silence as the men try to figure out what they want and why this relationship isn't providing it. The multitude of male friends and lovers are all thoughtful and convincing actors (Xavier Beauvois, Philippe Katerine, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Paul Blain, et al), but most of them are relatively unknown except to French acting aficionados, of which I am not one.

In the end, the marvelous Gerard Depardieu shows up for a wonderful scene as a psychic who predicts her future and advises her on who to avoid, who will come back into her life, and how she ought to behave. And although you are happy with her smiling acceptance of all he says, you can't help feeling that her attitudes and her life are never going to change. It is necessary to note that this film got multiple raves from reviewers, a score of 88% from the critics at Rotten Tomatoes, and a European Film Award for Juliette Binoche as Best Actress. The film, written and directed by Claire Denis, is billed as a charming romantic comedy. I didn't see it that way, but maybe you will. "Let the Sunshine In" will open in L.A. and New York on April 27th. Look for it soon at theaters near you. **CYNTHIA CITRON** has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.



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PROTECTION**

MUSIC
FROM PAGE 1

Oh, wait — those are whiskeys.
... fine with me! I mean, what on God's green earth goes together better than those two elements. It's the day before Earth Day and I expect the earth to move.
You've got only four hours and all those complex, exotic, flavorful crafted spirits to sample. Best put something in your stomach, eh? Great chefs offering tastings! And food trucks galore! Chinese Laundry, White Rabbit, Peaches' Smokehouse & Southern Kitchen, the Taco Cartel, Baby's Badass Burgers, Street Kitchen LA, for purchase unless you spring for the VIP ticket (\$125, \$100 today only) then it's included. General admission \$75, \$50 for a Designated Driver. Yes, food, good food, is a good thing, but — focus, people.
Rest up for Friday and Saturday...

RECOMMENDED:
TONIGHT! — LAURIE ANDERSON (titled "All the Things I Lost in the Flood" after her new book, this will showcase the multi-media/-genre flair for which she has gained fame since the late '60s; with no knowing what you will experience, it nonetheless promises to be a cutting-edge performance as urgent and relevant as today's headlines), Thurs 7:30 PM, Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Beverly Hills.
COACHELLA (if that suits you), Jean-Michel Jarre and... others, Fri-Sun noon, long ways, hundreds of dollars.
DAWES (see above), Fri 6 PM, Barker Hangar, Santa Monica, \$75 & up.
FUR DIXON's WTFukushima, Missing Persons (I know, Missing Person is the Big Name here and they'll probably be good but I would go just to hear Fur because... she's always really good), Fri 9 PM, Maui Sugar Mill Saloon, Tarzana, \$20 & \$150.
PATRICE RUSHEN (legendary jazz-funk-R&B pioneer), Fri 9 PM, the World Stage, Leimert Park, \$25.
DEREK SMALLS!!, MOON ZAPPA, Rain Phoenix, Colleen Green, Lalah Hathaway (sometimes, really, the free shows are the best ones — Derek Smalls?! how rare is this?! and Moon Unit? Omagaawd! and on Record Store Day!), Sat 12 noon, Amoeba Music, Hollywood, no cover.
MIKE RANDLE (awesome axeman from Baby Lemonade and of course Love, playing their classic stuff note for note, now doing his own thang, you might have been helped by him locally at Trutone Music), Sat 2 PM, Record Surplus, West LA, no cover.
KINKY FRIEDMAN (poet-politician-singer-all-around zinger, don't miss, doesn't perform much outside of TX), Sat 8 PM & 10 PM, McCabe's Guitar Shop, Santa

Monica, \$35.
ICE CUBE, BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY, METHOD MAN & REDMAN, Warren G DJ Quik, Kuruption, 2nd II None (krush the groove with this hip-hop extravaganza! — so great we have the Forum back), Sat, 7:30 PM, the Forum, \$40-\$175.
NIA ANDREWS, Kenneth Whalum (it's not just her name — these are two rising stars with great voices), Sat 3 PM, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, no cover.
BEBEL GILBERTO (Joao's daughter is a delight, even in a graveyard), Tues 7 PM, Hollywood Forever Cemetery, \$35.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Cradle of Filth, Devin the Dude, Nurse Betty, Guantanamo Baywatch, Moon Boots, Ruby Boots, Altar Egos, Exploding Pintos, Dynasty Handbag, Fancy Space People, Kississippi, Trulio Disgracias.

LYRIC OF THE WEEK: "How many times does an angel fall? How many people lie instead of talking tall? He trod on sacred ground, he cried loud into the crowd (I'm a blackstar, I'm a blackstar, I'm not a gangstar). I can't answer why (I'm a blackstar). Just go with me (I'm not a filmstar). I'm-a take you home (I'm a blackstar). Take your passport and shoes (I'm not a popstar), and your sedatives, boo (I'm a blackstar). You're a flash in the pan (I'm not a marvel star), I'm the Great I Am (I'm a blackstar). I'm a blackstar, way up, on money, I've got game, I see right, so wide, so open-hearted pain. I want eagles in my daydreams, diamonds in my eyes (I'm a blackstar, I'm a blackstar). Something happened on the day he died, spirit rose a metre then stepped aside, somebody else took his place, and bravely cried (I'm a blackstar, I'm a star's star, I'm a blackstar). — David Bowie "Blackstar" was Bowie's last album, released on his 69th birthday in 2016, two days before he died. He had been battling cancer in secret for 18 months and recording this album with his longtime producer Tony Visconti. In an interview for Rolling Stone, Visconti stated that he and Bowie listened to "a lot" of Kendrick Lamar [who Tuesday became the first musician outside classical and jazz to win the Pulitzer Prize], specifically his second LP, "To Pimp a Butterfly," while working on the album. "We wound up with nothing like that, but we loved the fact that Kendrick was so open-minded and he didn't do a straight-up hip-hop record. He threw everything on there, and that's exactly what we wanted to do. The goal, in many, many ways, was to avoid rock and roll."

CHARLES ANDREWS has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com



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WEST END OF THE PIER

Elizabeth Wilsonhoyles

October 31, 1927 – December 22, 2017

Elizabeth Wilsonhoyles was born in Liverpool England on October 31, 1927 to parents Fred and Elizabeth Hoyles and was one of five children. Shortly after the second world war Elizabeth enlisted in the British army and was stationed in Crete, Cypress and Egypt. It was while serving in the Royal Corp of Signals that Elizabeth learned various aspects of British military communication systems, protocols, and switchboard. Upon her return to England she met Arthur Crook an Englishman who had become a naturalized American citizen living in Santa Monica California.



In 1958 the Crook family immigrated to Santa Monica. Elizabeth was quick to be hired at the Miramar Hotel where she answered the switchboard. It was at the Miramar that she became involved with the international PBX club, soon becoming it's president and traveling throughout Europe and the British Isles as a goodwill ambassador. While at the Miramar she met Earl, Gene and Mel Lachman who were the builders of the Huntley House Hotel and the Ocean House senior retirement home. They offered her a managerial position at the Ocean House and a few years later the Lachman's asked her to come to the Huntley House as their assistant manager to help promote their new hotel. She later moved into the position of Director of Guest Services and worked at the Huntley House for nearly 50 years, retiring just 2 1/2 years ago at the young age of 88.



Elizabeth was very active in the tourism and hospitality industry not only in Santa Monica but in Los Angeles, and throughout world. She received awards for her contributions to tourism. Elizabeth loved the Huntley House and the relationships she made over her many years of service there, not only with the people she worked with and for but also the thousands of guests she assisted throughout the years.

Elizabeth passed away on December 22, 2017 at the age of 90. She is sorely missed and has left an indelible impression on all those who have been lucky enough to cross her path. She is survived by her son Adrian, daughter Rhona, four grandchildren, Jordan, Alexandra, Chelsea and Collin, sister Jean in Liverpool England and many cousins, nieces and nephews in the UK.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING HER LIFE,
SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018 AT 2PM
AT THE HUNTLEY HOTEL.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **54.3°**

THURSDAY – POOR – SURF: 2-3 ft Knee to waist high
WNW swell-mix drops out. NW windswell to rebound.

FRIDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft Knee to waist high
May see some small new WNW swell-mix. Forerunners of a new S swell show before dark.



Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) Inviting Bids

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type “B” license, on the following: **Bid #18.25.ES - DSA#03-118774 Santa Monica High School – Olympic Spur Project at Santa Monica High School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **\$1,400,000 and \$1,600,000** and includes: the demolition of a small field building, site paving and fencing, retaining walls and off-site City sidewalks/driveways; the construction of low curb walls, retaining wall and associated, grading; construction of asphalt concrete paving, cast-in-place concrete retaining walls and paving, pre-cast concrete pavers and decomposed granite paving and curb-cuts; the construction of a single floor cmu storage building with metal roof; screen fencing and gates and extension of baseball net system; and other associated improvements. All bids must be filed in the SMMUSD Facility Improvement Office, 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 on or before 5/30/18 at 2:00 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 5/1/18 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission:

All applications are due no later than 5/15/18 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for pre-qualification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at <http://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx>.

Mandatory Job Walk:

Tuesday, 5/1/18 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location:

Santa Monica High School – All Attending Contractors MUST meet representatives at the school access gate which is located on Olympic Blvd. at 6th Street, to be directed to a meeting room.

Bid Opening:

Wednesday , 5/30/18 at 2:00PM

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualitybidders.com directly.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The Beach

Santa Monica Footbridge Project Wins ASCE Award

TRC Companies Inc., a leader in engineering, environmental consulting and construction-management services, is pleased to announce the Idaho Avenue Pedestrian Overcrossing Bridge in Santa Monica has been named California's Outstanding Bikeway and Trails Project for 2017.

The award for the spiraling footbridge, which takes people from the cliffs of Palisades Park down to the Pacific Ocean, was given by the American Society of Civil Engineers. TRC served as construction manager on the project.

“The Idaho Avenue Overcrossing is a striking new addition to Santa Monica’s beautiful waterfront, and TRC is thrilled to share in this prestigious award,” said Doug Massih, president of TRC’s infrastructure sector.

The new overcrossing replaced the original 1957 structure, which was starting to deteriorate. The project included the construction of a 1.2 mile bike path and jogging trail.

The work was part of a larger \$20 million project in which TRC assisted the City of Santa Monica in rebuilding the California Incline Bridge, which connects Santa Monica to the Pacific Coast Highway. The original 750-foot bridge was constructed in the 1930s and needed to be brought up to current seismic standards.

For motorists driving up the California Incline, the V-shaped pier of the overcrossing frames stunning views of the Santa Monica Pier, the beach and the Pacific Ocean.

The Idaho Avenue Pedestrian Overcrossing has received numerous awards, including a 2018 Engineering Excellence Honor Award from the American Council on Engineering Companies of California and the 2017 International Bridge Conference Arthur G. Hayden Medal.

For more information, visit TRC's website at www.TRCsolutions.com and follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY DOUG HANCHETT, TRC SOLUTIONS COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 324 Calls For Service On Apr. 17.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE
CALLS CHOSEN BY THE
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Armed robbery 900 block California 1:03 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1600 block Euclid 1:43 a.m.
Traffic collision 200 block Santa Monica Pier 2:01 a.m.
Loitering 2700 block Barnard 4:40 a.m.
Petty theft 1300 block 20th 5:35 a.m.
Fight 2900 block 31st 6:16 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1600 block 17th 6:22 a.m.
Trespassing 1000 block 3rd 6:28 a.m.
Bike theft 2100 block 4th 6:59 a.m.
Trespassing 2500 block Beverley 8:42 a.m.
Battery 26th / Santa Monica 8:50 a.m.
Traffic collision 12th / Washington 9:13 a.m.
Trespassing 1500 block 12th 9:31 a.m.
Trespassing 100 block Broadway 9:45 a.m.
Burglary 1200 block 9th 10:11 a.m.
Traffic collision 700 block Wilshire 10:47 a.m.
Hit and run 23rd/ Pico 11:38 a.m.
Petty theft 1800 block Wilshire 11:45 a.m.
Burglary 3100 block Wilshire 11:59 a.m.
Person down 2ND ST / Broadway 12:40 p.m.
Traffic collision 18th / Pico 12:51 p.m.

Auto burglary 1400 block 2nd 12:54 p.m.
Restraining order 2200 block Colorado 1:13 p.m.
Grand theft 1900 block Santa Monica 1:15 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 4th 1:40 p.m.
Battery 1400 block 3rd St Prom 1:58 p.m.
Battery 900 block Wilshire 2:45 p.m.
Grand theft auto 300 block Georgina 3:03 p.m.
Fraud 400 block Georgina 3:15 p.m.
Lewd activity 400 block Broadway 3:24 p.m.
Sexual assault 500 block Olympic 4:00 p.m.
Burglar alarm 2900 block Highland 4:52 p.m.
Petty theft 500 block Santa Monica 5:11 p.m.
Burglar alarm 1400 block Ocean 5:11 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 1500 block 2nd 5:15 p.m.
Fire 200 block Santa Monica Pier 6:02 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1300 block 15th 6:44 p.m.
Trespassing 1800 block 12th 6:47 p.m.
Hit and run 2600 block 28th 7:20 p.m.
Petty theft 200 block Santa Monica 7:28 p.m.
Bike theft 1300 block Grant 8:12 p.m.
Hit and run 2200 block Lincoln 9:19 p.m.
Battery 300 block Olympic 9:20 p.m.
Traffic collision 1500 block PCH 9:28 p.m.
Grand theft auto 2800 block Donald Douglas 10:00 p.m.
Panic alarm 1100 block 20th 10:14 p.m.
Auto burglary 2900 block Lincoln 10:56 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 600 block Wilshire 11:34 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 16 Calls For Service On Apr. 17.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE
CALLS CHOSEN BY THE
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Emergency medical service 1200 block 17th 2:59 a.m.
EMS 400 block 18th 6:35 a.m.

Automatic alarm 1600 block Olympic 8:59 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 11:59 a.m.
EMS 2500 block Ocean Front 12:19 p.m.
EMS 4th / Broadway 12:30 p.m.
Public assist 11th / Ocean Park 12:48 p.m.
EMS 700 block Pico 1:23 p.m.
Automatic alarm 3300 block Barnard 1:38 p.m.
EMS 1400 block Olympic 3:55 p.m.
Structure fire 1500 block Stanford 5:41 p.m.
EMS 2800 block Colorado 5:42 p.m.
Elevator rescue 2800 block Neilson 6:50 p.m.
EMS 28th / Pico 8:12 p.m.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 4/14
17 19 26 61 62
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 122M



Draw Date: 4/17
12 34 44 47 65
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 80M



Draw Date: 4/14
5 14 27 31 39
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 27M



Draw Date: 4/17
7 10 13 20 21



Draw Date: 4/17
MIDDAY: 1 2 7
Draw Date: 4/17
EVENING: 2 2 0



Draw Date: 4/17
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:46.74

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>

WORD UP!

omnishambles

1. Chiefly British Informal. a situation, especially in politics, in which poor judgment results in disorder or chaos with potentially disastrous consequences.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LALEE

Stories for the Waiting Room

■ In the 1800s, a German surgeon named Johan Friedrich Dieffenbach thought he had a solution for stuttering. It involved slicing into the patient's tongue and excising a triangular wedge. Later surgeons would also remove the adenoids and occasionally drill into the skull. Remarkably, Dieffenbach found patients willing to endure his procedure to eliminate their speech impediments, though there is no record of what they said post-operation, stuttering or not.

Best Medicine

■ A guy goes to the doctor's office, and the doctor says, "I haven't seen you for a while."

■ The guy replies, "I know. I've been sick."

MYSTERY PHOTO

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The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

COMPANY MERGERS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

69 Turban wearer

70 Small plane of a sort

71 Fleet-of-foot forest creature

1 Close one

5 Wipes off, perhaps

10 Ending like -ling

14 Emperor after Claudius

15 Nonreactive

16 Look good on

17 Certain wurst

18 Locale with landings

19 Folks in general

20 Sportscaster specialty

23 Try to win over

24 Hardship

25 Roman hunt goddess

28 Family nickname

31 Speak ill of

35 Mag for entrepreneurs

36 Viewpoints

39 Texter's "It seems to me . . ."

40 Slug in a meter, maybe

43 Limerick land

44 Mexican lizard

45 Small *número*

46 Mattress supports

48 Culminate

49 Crop pest

51 Clever nature

53 AL cap insignia

54 South American export

63 Not quite shut

64 House of ice

65 Norway's patron saint

66 Scamper

67 Turbine spinner

68 Red herring

DOWN

11 Cat food flavor

12 Echelon

13 Online crafts site

21 Barbecue, for example

22 Commandments qualifier

25 Cuts up finely

26 Way to fry

27 Lexus competitor

28 Boot camp nickname

29 Playfully

30 Suffix for home

32 Love around the Louvre

33 Excel

34 Coveted distinction

37 Floral wreath

38 Fall from grace

41 Measure of financial health

42 Out of bounds

47 Computer model, for short

50 Tony Blair went there

52 American Graffiti car

53 Oscar category

54 Bad lads

55 City east of Santa Barbara

56 Innocent mischief

57 Inventor Sikorsky

58 Glee club member

59 Morning ender

60 Smoke conduit

61 Mitigate

62 At all times

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
				23						24				
25	26	27				28	29	30		31		32	33	34
35				36	37				38		39			
40				41						42				
43					44							45		
46					47		48				49	50		
				51		52				53				
54	55	56					57	58	59			60	61	62
63						64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/19/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 19)

A job you've been at for a while will fascinate you further as you give it even more of your attention. And this isn't the only thing being revealed to you on deeper levels this year. The details of a special relationship will be glorious and captivating. And there's an enthralling venture in October that brings money for years. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 45, 21, 7 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Whether or not you consciously seek the company of kindred spirits, as you spend more time with the things that matter to you, they come out of the woodwork, interested in what you're doing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You can feel better by concentrating your effort on looking better, and you can look better by concentrating your effort on feeling better. No matter how you approach it today, you are on the up and up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You don't always claim credit for the marvelous outcomes you create. Today you'll likely give others a little more credit than they deserve, which will be a morale raiser.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your guiding luminary, the moon, doesn't prefer one state to the other. Whether in shadows or fully seen, the moon's allure will still pull the tides. Your magnetism will work in similarly powerful ways, however you show up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

When you come to the intersection, look both ways no matter what color the lights are. Junctures of all kinds are best handled with pause. The breath you take between things will cleanse and renew you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You may have entrusted someone with a job they weren't quite ready for. Now it's time to reassess whether a cast change is needed, or perhaps there's a way to adjust the situation to better fit the available talent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

As the sign of the scales, you can often speak to the justice of a situation. However, today it's about measuring, not commenting on the measurement. In judging we become as bad as, if not worse than, that which we judge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

In a gold rush, the miners risk a lot to get rich. You know who gets rich without the risk? Those in the business of selling shovels. There's something desperately needed by the people around you that you can provide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Because the mere idea of being bored stresses you out, you'll make exciting plans – and just in time! Monotony is so loathsome to you that it could actually weaken your immune system.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Are you really in a game that only one team can win, or is this more like a journey in which people can help each other move forward? Competition has its place, and that place is not called Everywhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're not trying to control anyone; you're just making sure that others aren't controlling you. Even though setting a boundary isn't an offensive move, if it's taken that way, the result is the same. Use diplomacy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

People won't agree on what's real, how it happened, what's important or how best to proceed. But they will agree that something has to be done, and many are ready to listen to each other to begin to sort it out.

Final Hours of Solar Sojourn in Aries

People avoid approaching strangers, for fear of being dismissed, dissed or worse. However, in civilized society, strangers are often cordially received. Since meeting more people means more information and options for friendship, love, business and beyond, the fear to approach is one worth getting past. Let these final hours of the Aries sun embolden you.

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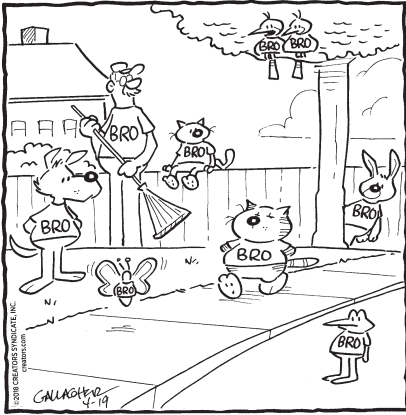
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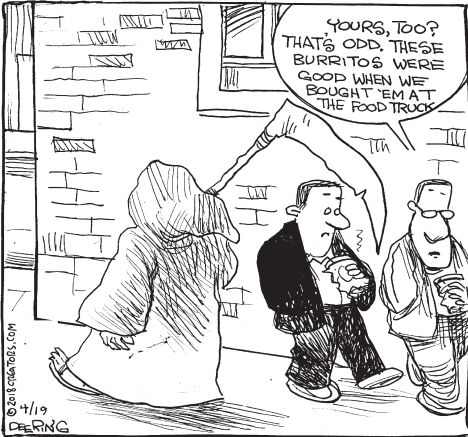
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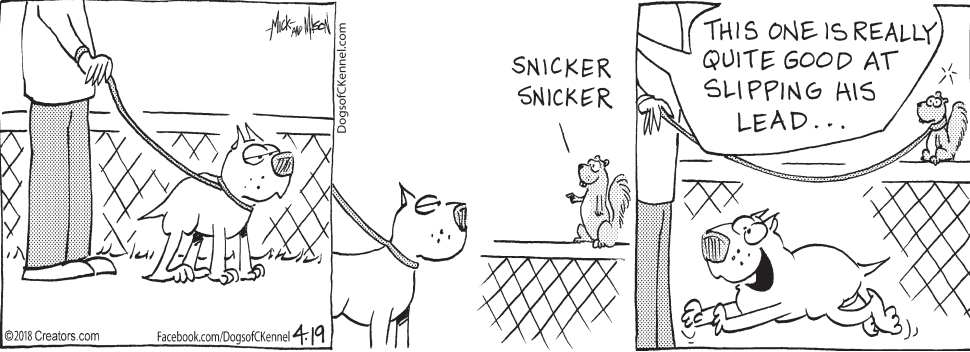
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Review: Amy Schumer tackles body image, and it's complicated

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

If you've ever walked into a store and were embarrassed to tell the salesperson your real size, or entered the gym locker room and wanted to hide, you're part of the target audience for Amy Schumer's "I Feel Pretty." Whatever age or gender you happen to be.

Self-esteem issues related to body image are, without doubt, a social epidemic — a painful and dangerous one, for many girls and young women. And there's nothing controversial about that message, though judging by some of the heated online reaction to the trailer for "I Feel Pretty," you'd think the film was proposing a new conspiracy theory about JFK's assassination.

The real problem with "I Feel Pretty," written and directed by Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein, is not in its message or conception, but in its ragtag execution. On the plus side, it's often a pleasantly entertaining ride with the always appealing Schumer, and its heart is in the right place. It also features a truly terrific comic turn by Michelle Williams (drama, musicals, now comedy — is there anything she can't do?) On the minus side, it muddles its message with an overstuffed script, choppy editing, and some unnecessarily over-the-top moments. Not to

mention a sappy ending that actually comes close to contradicting its own premise.

Schumer is Renee Bennett, a young woman who looks in the mirror and doesn't like what she sees. What she sees, is, well, Amy Schumer — and that's one of the things that has annoyed some people, who say that if Schumer epitomizes unattractiveness, what about the rest of us? Still, the actress is plenty believable as an average-looking, Spanx-wearing woman who aspires to look more like the Amazonian supermodels she runs into at SoulCycle, and at the cosmetics company where she works, relegated to an offsite basement in Chinatown.

What's less believable is the overly negative reaction of some of those around her. A pretty saleswoman immediately approaches Renee in a chic clothing store and says, "You can probably find your size online." A baby even breaks into tears at the sight of her. OK, that's a little much.

In any case, one day at SoulCycle, Renee has an accident. She hits her head — three times! — falls unconscious, and wakes up thinking she's beautiful.

And therein lies another objection from critics of the trailer: Does a woman have to be knocked unconscious to think she's beautiful? OK, but the movie is using that as a vehicle to show how low self-esteem

clouds our vision of ourselves. Also, Renee doesn't see some other, glamorous face in the mirror; she sees herself. And it's fun to see Renee suddenly confident enough to go for that plum promotion at Lily LeClair headquarters, working alongside snooty CEO Avery LeClair herself (Williams, with long blonde hair and a hysterically breathy voice, perhaps a throwback to her Marilyn Monroe days.)

She gets the job. She also gets Ethan, the cute guy in line at the dry cleaners (a wry and appealing Rory Scovel). On their first date, engineered by Renee of course, they wind up at a bikini contest filled with supermodel types where Renee fearlessly flaunts her stuff. Afraid for her at first, Ethan quickly admires how comfortable she is in her own skin, and falls for her. Their relationship alone is a nice, simple lesson in trusting one's own attributes.

But this film doesn't stick with simple. It finds multiple ways to say the same thing. Another apparently budding relationship, between Renee and Avery's rich and coddled brother, Grant (Tom Hopper), is toyed with and then seemingly dropped, as if the movie was just getting too long (which it is.)

Inevitably, things go astray. Renee offends her two buddies, Jane (Busy Philipps) and Vivian (an underused Aidy Bryant), by getting

too big for her britches, metaphorically. And then, just when she's about to hit real success on the job, something happens to make her see herself in the old way, once again.

But, as they do in romantic comedies, things have a way of working out. At least, for Renee. As for us, we're left with one of those let's-wrap-it-all-up scenes that reaffirms Renee's special qualities — so far, so good — and then spills over into unmitigated sap. "What I am is ME," she declares. (You half expect her to break out into that empowerment anthem of the moment, "This is Me" from "The Greatest Showman.") What, she asks, would it be like if nobody cared how they looked?

Well, it would be great. But it's hard to ignore that Renee is, at that moment, hawking a cosmetics line. And so IS it all about acceptance and loving one's true self? Or is it about finding the right concealer?

It's complicated.

"I Feel Pretty," an STX Entertainment release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for sexual content, some partial nudity, and language." Running time: 110 minutes. Two stars out of four.

MPAA definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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