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COMICS & STUFF .....PAGE 10

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

It's Make Music Day Today!

GRAB YOUR HARP, BOBBY MCGEE, HIT THE STREET CORNER

That is the spirit of Make Music Day, one of the best gifts from the French since the Statue of Liberty. Vive La France!

NOTEWORTHY is mostly a music column but I do stake out the entire arts world (I consistently recommend the "Library Girl" series of poetry and spoken word at the Ruskin Theatre, the second Sunday of every month) -- so, considering the French connection, injecting

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 4

The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Orto

("vegetable garden")

WHAT? ANOTHER SANTA MONICA corner taken up by an Italian restaurant? When Elon Musk finally gets to Mars no doubt he will find an Italian restaurant on the nearest corner and a Starbucks nearby.

But wait! This one is a step ahead

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 6

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Summer Soulstice returns to heat up Main Street with music and more



K.R. Photography

MUSIC: The Main Street concert event, Soulstice, returns on Sunday, June 24.

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

The popular Summer Soulstice concert returns to Main street this Sunday, bringing live music, shopping, and beer and wine gardens. This event will be the Soulstice's largest, closing down a large chunk of the street for the first time in its history.

Hunter Hall, executive director of the Main Street Business Improvement Association, said this year will be "a whole different dynamic."

"It's just awesome," Hall said. "It's a great block party is what it is. We have more stages, more bands, a lot more booths — it's a pumped up version of the same event that everyone's known to come and love. There's something for everyone."



This year's event will feature five live music stages, over 100 local vendors, and new this year, four beer and wine gardens and a nearly one-mile long car-free zone, stretching from Pico to Ocean Park.

Hall said safety was the utmost concern in making space for a car-free zone. Soulstice partnered with Bird scooters and the City of Santa Monica to provide scooters, bike valet, and a $15 credit Uber credit to commuters via Freebird Rides to ensure safety and comfort for all, no matter how they choose to travel to and trek the event.

"We worked diligently with the city and traffic engineering to make sure its a safe event for us and to make sure we have confidence of our community," he said. "We want that layer of security."

If bands, beer, and music aren't exactly your thing, businesses along Main street will all be

SEE **SOULSTICE** PAGE 5

Tourism Talks

By Misti Kerns

Five important tips for safety while traveling

Summer is here! Our blue skies, warm rays of sun and endless days at the beach await us in Santa Monica. Many of us will soon find ourselves traveling near and far as we take advantage of school holidays and warm weather to vacation with loved ones. No matter where your destination may be, Santa Monica Travel & Tourism encourages you to keep your personal safety top of mind with these five important tips for vacation safety.

SEE **TOURISM** PAGE 4

Play Time

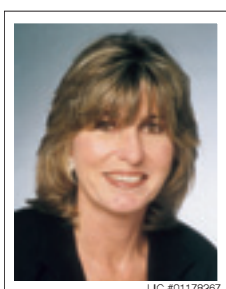
By Cynthia Citron

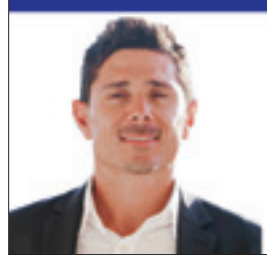
American Animals

In another era the film "American Animals" might have been booked as a comedy. Maybe with Jerry Lewis leading his bumbling crew through an ill-conceived adventure at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. (This is not part of the "comedy", there really is such a place.)

Oh, where is George Clooney when we need him? Although he's too old for this gig, his bold persona is captured by the four young men who set out to steal some valuable art and books from the Special Collections section of their university's library. Especially the original bird paintings by James

SEE **PLAY** PAGE 11


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, June 21

Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting
Canceled.

World's Largest Swim Lesson
Free swimming lesson for ages 6 - 10 years of age. RSVP required. Visit www.annenbergbeachhouse.com for details. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 7 – 8 p.m.

LGBTQ Pride Month Movie: God's Own Country (2017)
The Library celebrates LGBTQ+ Pride Month with this award-winning British film about a young Yorkshire sheep farmer whose life is changed when his family hires a Romanian migrant worker. Imperfectly described as a British Brokeback Mountain, this lushly-photographed film is a potent and unexpected love story. (104 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Housing Commission Meeting
Regular meeting of the Housing Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street, 1st Floor. 4:30 p.m.

"Special Day" Story Times: National Pink Day
Come celebrate National Pink Day with a themed story time followed by a craft! Ages 2-5. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Classic Movie & Discussion: A New Leaf (1971)
Film scholar Vivian Rosenberg screens and discusses this classic directed by Elaine May. An heiress, formerly a frumpy botany teacher (Elaine May), is pursued by a broke middle-aged playboy (Walter Matthau). (Film runtime: 102 min.) Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Make Music Los Angeles
Santa Monica celebrates the summer solstice and music-making on with a variety of free performances citywide. This is the seventh year the city has participated in Make Music Los Angeles/MMLA, a countywide celebration of music. The event is based on France's Fête de la Musique, a national musical holiday inaugurated in 1982 and celebrated on the same day in more than 800 cities in 110 countries.

Friday, June 22

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.

Annenberg Pool
The pool will be open from 10 a.0.m to 7 p.m. Passes go on sale at 9 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 23

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (downtown - Saturday)
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 that 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. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Santa Monica Rep Play Reading: God of Carnage
Santa Monica Rep performs Yasmina Reza's Tony Award winning drama God of Carnage, the story of two couples meeting to discuss a playground incident involving their sons. Seating is limited, and on a first arrival basis. Late seating is not permitted until a suitable break in the performance. Early arrival is recommended. Play titles are subject to change. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

LA Metro Delivers Annual State of the Agency Report

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) CEO Phillip A. Washington joined Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti and incoming new Metro Board Chair, Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl in delivering the annual State of the Agency report today to Metro Board Members, community leaders and stakeholders at Union Station.

"Metro doesn't just move this city, it connects our communities, powers our economy forward, and gives our region a shared sense of identity," said Metro Board Chair and Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti. "Thanks to Measure M, the future of transportation in Los Angeles has never been brighter. I'm excited to continue our work to ease congestion and deliver the world-class transportation network our region deserves."

During his term as Board Chair, Mayor Garcetti helped use the momentum of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games to adopt 28 by '28, an initiative to build and accelerate 28 major transportation projects by 2028. Mayor Garcetti also oversaw several groundbreakings, including the Purple Line Extension Section 2 to Century City and Gold Line Foothill Extension to Claremont, and helped Metro adopt the most aggressive electric bus goal of any large transit agency in America, pledging to make its bus fleet 100% zero emissions by 2030.

Metro Vice Chair Supervisor Kuehl discussed a number of exciting projects happening at Metro. She is looking forward to continuing to work with the Board and Metro CEO Phil Washington on improving the experience of those riding the Metro system. In addition, she plans on working with Metro's Women and Girls Council to continue to focus on training and hiring more women in non-traditional career positions. Supervisor Kuehl expressed her enthusiasm for Metro's undertaking of the NextGen Bus Study, which will reevaluate the bus routes that carry over 70% of our ridership.

"I am really looking forward to becoming Metro Chair next month" said Metro Vice Chair Kuehl. "We have a great number of exciting projects and initiatives coming to fruition and I look forward to continuing to focus on our riders and employees, especially as our programs impact women, and their unique experiences and needs, in the year to come."

Washington unveiled his Five-Point-Plan for the agency, with the first point addressing the need to implement mobility innovation calling for high-quality options that enable people to spend less time traveling and noting that Measure M is the most ambitious and comprehensive voter-approved transportation program in America.

"This is why we are waging a transportation revolution," said Washington. "It's about developing a variety of choices that will make it easier to ride Metro or to get around by combining transit with travel via cars, bikes, rideshare, walking or options not yet developed."

He noted that partnering with the private sector is an important tool and added that Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation has now evaluated 100 unsolicited proposals received through the agency's unsolicited proposals policy and as a result Metro is pursuing public-private partnerships on two major project that include the West Santa Ana Branch and the Sepulveda Transit Corridor projects.

POINT 2: CAPTURE THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE PEOPLE

Washington stressed the need to enhance the rider experience, with the goal of increasing ridership, a major priority for the agency. Metro is reimagining its bus service with the ongoing NextGen Bus Service Study that will evaluate Metro's current system and determine ways to redesign it to meet the needs of the community now and well into the 21st century.

Also noted was through the agency's new advertising contract, Metro will be converting to digital information displays at all Metro rail stations and provide amenities including free WiFi, charging stations, interactive tablets to search for community information, and the ability to make free phone calls, right from the panels on digital kiosks.

POINT 3: EMBRACE EQUITY

The Metro Board of Directors recently approved an Equity Platform, a guide to ensure that Metro is considering all people as it plans, builds and operates transportation, the agency wants to enhance communities and lives through mobility and access to opportunity.

The Equity Platform will be a key component of Metro's Long-Range Transportation Plan, currently underway at the agency. He stressed that Metro wants to influence the development of transit-oriented communities that help the indigenous people of a neighborhood to thrive and prevent their displacement.

POINT 4: BUILD THE INDUSTRY

Metro is building the workforce of the future with a career pathway that provides opportunities for people to move into transportation jobs and move up through the ranks.

Washington said the agency is on track to face a huge challenge in the coming years – with the transportation industry needing an influx of qualified workers. He noted the launch of the Workforce Initiative Now-LA (WIN-LA) as a groundbreaking program focused on creating career pathways in the transportation industry. Since its launch last summer, the WIN-LA has been introduced to prime contractors, small businesses and other potential partners to encourage their participation.

POINT 5: STEP INTO LEADERSHIP VOIDS

To this effort Washington noted that transportation is the instigator of so many things. It's a socio-economic enabler, and said we are here to instigate. He concluded by saying he wanted to lay the ground work in bringing a major rail car manufacturer to Los Angeles County and announce the convening of a roundtable soon with the rail car industry.

SUBMITTED BY RICK JAGER/JONI GOHEEN, METRO MEDIA RELATIONS

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MUSIC

FROM PAGE 1

just a smooch of current events, let us revisit Emily Lazarus' poem written in 1883 for fundraising for the installation of our Statue of Liberty, titled "The New Colossus":

"Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, with conquering limbs astride from land to land; here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand a mighty woman with a torch, whose flame is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles.

"From her beacon-hand glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command the air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"'Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!' cries she with silent lips. 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!'"

For some perspective, this sonnet was written in 1883 and, according to Walt Hunter in The Atlantic, "The year before Lazarus's poem was read… in New York in 1883, the Chinese Exclusion Act became the first federal law that limited immigration from a particular group. Though set to last for 10 years, various extensions and additions made the law permanent until 1943. The year after Lazarus's poem was read, the European countries met in Berlin to divide up the African continent into colonies."

(Belgium's -- yes, Belgium's -- King Leopold II made Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot look like amateurs for what he did in the Congo.)

Hunter continues, "'The New Colossus' stands at the intersection of U.S. immigration policy and European colonialism, well before the physical Statue of Liberty was dedicated. The liberal sentiments of Lazarus's sonnet cannot be separated from these developments in geopolitics and capitalism."

THESE DEFINING WORDS

Are both an ideal of this country's soul, and an indictment of our history. It is for many a statement of the values of our nation. It's a recognition that our strength is in our diversity, that the revitalization of America comes from our immigrant population. Nationalism, populism and exclusion are just so … 19th century.

We sometimes make fun of the French but we probably would not exist as a nation if it were not for their backing during our fight for independence. 200 years later they came up with another good idea, Make Music Day, Fete de la Musique, now active in more than 800 cities in more than 120 countries, every June 21. Independence, diversity, music, sounds great to me.

The philosophy is to promote music two ways: amateur and professional musicians are encouraged to perform in the streets that day, and many free concerts are organized, making all genres of music accessible to the public.

It's a little tricky to find the schedule for Santa Monica. The one at the Make Music Day LA is very incomplete. So, here ya go:

SEE NOTEWORTHY PAGE 5

TOURISM

FROM PAGE 1

1. Before you leave, inform your neighbors of how long you expect to be away and arrange for a friend to pick up mail and/or deliveries.
2. Never carry large amounts of cash when you travel. If you must carry a large sum of money, do not display it openly and take only the credit cards that you actually plan to use.
3. Always lock your car when entering or leaving it and park in well-lighted, busy areas. Store valuables and shopping bags out of sight.
4. When visiting a new place, ask a local expert if there are any areas in town that you should avoid. Stick to well-lighted main streets and public areas and be aware of your surroundings. If you feel threatened or uncomfortable, seek help.
5. When staying overnight at a hotel or motel, determine the most direct route to and from your room, to the fire escapes, elevators, and nearest phone. When occupying or leaving your room, use all auxiliary locking devices on doors and windows.
6. Always keep a copy of your travel documents and passport in a separate area from your main luggage, in case your luggage is lost.
7. In advance of your visit locate the hospitals and doctors in your vacation destination that will accept your insurance.

Those of us lucky enough to call this beautiful place home will undoubtedly welcome visitors this summer. If you need any resources, please visit santamonica.com for itinerary tips and experience ideas. Or, stop in at one of our Santa Monica Visitor Information Centers – your source for all things Santa Monica. All of our Visitor Centers provide friendly, trained and knowledgeable travel counselors, Visitor Guides and Maps, and information on attractions, hotels, dining, museums, galleries and entertainment as well as gifts to welcome your guests. We're here to help!

To learn more about SMTT and how you can be a tourist in your own back yard, visit www.santamonica.com

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Notice Inviting Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed Bids for the:

FY2017-18 Annual Water Main Replacement Project (SP2464)

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 not later than 3:00 p.m. on **July 3, 2018**. Each bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids (RFB).

The Request for Bids may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167. Consultants wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

MAKE MUSIC DAY SANTA MONICA 2018

HOTCHKISS PARK, 3-7 P.M.
Alice Austin - rockabilly/country swing
Kristin Center - jazz vocalist/keyboardist
Dogtown Originals - alt rock/post pop
The Cheesebergens - hard rock
Presented by Ocean Park Association

PALISADES PARK @ GEORGINA, 5 - 8:30 P.M.
Captain Dan & Friends - children's music, variety jazz
Maurock - classical guitar
ABC's - Beatles sing-along/classic rock
Larry Covin - troubadour/Great American Songbook
The Wilde-Hartmans - classic rock and beyond
Presented by North of Montana Association (NOMA)

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK, 4-8 P.M.
DJ SoulReal - hip hop
Sonora Ultima - Latin
Tom Nolan Harmonicas - blues
Hillel: Mr. Balloon Man - comedian
Presented by Pico Neighborhood Association

COLORADO CENTER, 4-8 P.M.
Edward Yeo - acoustic classical/blues/jazz
West Coast Rhythm & Jews - blues/jazz
Daniel Shust - Americana/bluegrass
Svnzevs - indie/folk
Presented by Mid City Neighbors

REED PARK, 3-7 P.M.
The Wilmonts - acoustic rock 'n roll
David Sparrow - folk singer/rock 'n roll
Folks and Company - rock 'n roll
Presented by Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition (Wilmont)

It would also appear from the Make Music LA website that our ubiquitous local singer-songwriter indie-folk world music guy TEE-M will be performing at the Gelson's on Lincoln, 11 a.m.; not otherwise confirmed.

There's not that much else this coming week that I would (HIGHLY/) RECOMMEND, except this —

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Arroyo Seco Weekend (with LOS LOBOS, JACK WHITE, KAMASI WASHINGTON, THE SPECIALS, NEIL YOUNG, PHAROAH SANDERS, NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL-STARS, THE PRETENDERS, BELLE & SEBASTIAN, SEU JORGE, SHAKEY GRAVES, MARGO PRICE, DWIGHT TWILLEY, GOMEZ, MILK CARTON KIDS, and several more including, well, Jeff Goldblum -- the first day, one of the best lineups I've ever seen anywhere, and Sunday is very good too, LOS LOBOS, GARY CLARK JR., AARON NEVILLE, ROBERT PLANT, IRMA THOMAS, FANTASTIC NEGRITO, KINGS OF LEON, ALANIS MORISSETTE, VIOLENT FEMMES, BANGLES, THIRD EYE BLIND, several more), Sat-Sun, 12 noon, Rose Bowl, Pasadena, $154-$1699.

ALSO RECOMMENDED: but -- same day, Sat, as DON'T MISS at the Rose Bowl, so, whaddaya gonna do? --

Mariachi USA Festival at the Hollywood Bowl; KJAZZ Summer Benefit with Dianne Reeves, Walt Disney Concert Hall, downtown LA; 10 bands extravaganza at the Observatory, Santa Ana; Long Beach Bayou Festival (Sat-Sun), the Queen Mary; 3rd day of 4-day BET Experience, Staples Center, downtown LA.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Every Mother's Nightmare, Kyary Pamyu Pamyu, Panic at the Disco, Carla Bozulich's Bloody Claws, Japanese Breakfast, Violent Femmes, Stellar Corpses, the Casket Lottery, Lydia Lunch, Point Doom, Trampled by Turtles, Third Eye Blind, Sons of an Illustrious Father, Father John Misty, Oh My Muu, Pissed Regardless, It's Butter, Blood Candy, Object as Subject, Trashcan Sinatras, Carothers Brothers (no brothers: Bruce Carothers plus guests, but it sounds good), Surely Lorraine-Earth is a Death Star-Cheekface-Lost Anyway (lineup at The Smell on Sat).

LYRIC OF THE WEEK: "Before you slip into unconsciousness, I'd like to have another kiss, another flashing chance at bliss, another kiss, another kiss." -- James Douglas Morrison, our local poet-filmmaker-rock star, from the Doors' "Crystal Ship" -- is "unconsciousness" sleep or drug stupor, maybe overdose? I heard it on the radio the other day and like many things I've heard 100 times, was struck anew by the power of the poetry, 20 words, such an image to interpret.

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

SOULSTICE

FROM PAGE 1

open for shopping and perusal during the event. The Soulstice will also have a "rockstar pet party" for pets, a petting zoo, and rock climbing wall for kids.

"We worked very hard for the city and the community to make sure we had something for everyone to do," Hall said.

With eyes towards the future, Hall says Summer Soulstice is "only going up from here," planning to close the entirety of Main Street for the Summer Soulstice 20th anniversary in 2020, with bigger bands, brands, and activities. While the goal is to grow, Hall said the community experience is what matters most.

"We just want people to have a good time. The world is a serious place and it's getting more so, day by day. All too often people get wrapped up in darkness of the world and this even lets people have a nice time and engage the community. Summer Soulstice is a fun event meant for people to unwind, enjoy life, and enjoy our wonderful city of Santa Monica. "

Open to all ages. Admission is free. Tickets for the Firestone Beer Garden are $10 and tickets for the VIP Bar Hopper are $40. Visit www.mainstreetsm.com/summer-soulstice for more information.

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Review: Pattinson elevates the melancholy western 'Damsel'

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Pitiful men pin their hopes on delusions of romance in David and Nathan Zellner's clever and melancholy western "Damsel," an offbeat odyssey about the foolhardiness of believing in the "damsel in distress."

The Zellner brothers' last film, "Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter," was based on an urban legend about a Japanese woman who, believing the Coen brothers' "Fargo" to be a true story, travels to wintery North Dakota to find the buried case of cash left by Steve Buscemi's character.

That movie, patiently idiosyncratic, found some poignancy in an absurd, ambling tale about fatally misguided misconceptions, and much is the same in the offbeat "Damsel." Almost everybody but Mia Wasikowska — the "damsel" in question — is tilting at windmills.

The Zellners, who wrote, directed and co-star in the film, have moved to the Old West but the Coens are still close at hand. In lesser, hit-or-miss doses, "Damsel" has imitated some of their verbal theatricality and straight-faced comedy.

The "Waiting for Godot"-style opening is one of the movie's high points. A defeated-looking preacher (a briefly seen but terrific Robert Forster) joins a man headed West at a comically remote stagecoach stop in the middle of a Monument Valley desert. Before stripping out of his clothes and handing his half-empty Bible (pages have been torn out for kindling, rolling papers and, he bashfully adds, "hygiene") to the traveler, he warns the man that life in the West is no better than anywhere else, just bad in "new and fascinating ways." He then runs off in his long underwear, calling to the Lord.

It's an omen that no one in "Damsel" heeds: Look neither toward the West, nor a woman, for your self-reinvention, your "fresh start."

Soon arriving is Robert Pattinson's Samuel Alabaster, a stranger in town, who enlists Parson Henry (David Zellner) — the Monument Valley traveler, having inherited the pastor's robe and Bible — to marry him and his fiancee, Penelope (Wasikowska). With a gold tooth and a miniature horse named Butterscotch, Pattinson gives the film a kick that it lacks when he departs. His Alabaster is prim, peculiar and possibly psychotic. Believing himself gallant, he has a song prepared for Penelope

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 11

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Merv Hecht

OWNER: Andrea Inio at his restaurant Orto in Santa Monica.

FOOD

FROM PAGE 1

of the others, run by a real Italian restaurateur, and with a superior menu to most of the others.

You'll have no trouble meeting the owner, Andrea Inio. He's always there and always meets and greets the customers. And he'll remember you the next time you come in. He grew up by Lake Garda in a restaurant family. This puts him close to my heart because for the past 40 years each year Bonnie and I have visited friends with a summer home on Lake Garda.

Trained by his stepfather, one of the top chefs in Italy, Andrea came to Los Angeles in 1991 to study finance at Loyola Marymount, then came back to the restaurant business. For 12 years he worked at Locanda Portofino on Montana, where I first met him.

The menu is not as extensive as, say, Lago — another restaurant whose owner also comes from the Northern lakes of Italy. It is more focused and more like restaurants in Italy. There are 10 "starters," including just about all of my favorites: grilled Spanish octopus, fritto misto, mushroom timbale, and eggplant parmigiana. But there are also plates of Italian cold cuts and cheeses with roasted vegetables, beef carpaccio, and San Daniele prosciutto with organic tomatoes or roasted vegetables. As you might guess from the menu and the restaurant's name, vegetables are the highly prized products in this restaurant.

There is a nice mix of salads, and all the usual main courses (I had a terrific veal chop with mushrooms the last time I was there). But the stars for me are the pastas—10 selections on the menu. I found those to be among the best anywhere in town, both in preparation and in selection. Carbonara pasta is hard to find elsewhere. The lobster ravioli includes strips of zucchini blossom and mullet roe; the crabmeat tagliolini includes pink grapefruit; the clam spaghetti is made with saffron and zucchini blossoms. In other words, the preparations are just a bit more on the gourmet side than in almost any other Italian restaurant in this area.

Desserts are ordinary.

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" is available on Amazon. He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.



HEATING UP

National Weather Service

The National Weather Service says a strong upper-level ridge moving in Wednesday will boost inland temperatures up to 12 degrees above normal. Forecasters say valley areas around Los Angeles could see triple digits. Downtown LA temperatures will reach into the 80s. Coastal temperatures are expected in the low to mid 70's. Santa Monica's forecast from the National Weather Service calls for highs near 72 today with a light wind in the afternoon. Patchy fog is expected throughout the next week with evening lows around 60 degrees. On Thursday, temperatures are expected to peak around 74 and remain within that range for the next few days.





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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **65.3°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
SW/S swell mix for exposures. Small windswell.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small SW/S swell mix and traces of NW windswell.

PICO WELLBEING PROJECT

REFLECT. CONNECT. ACT!

PENSAR. CONNECTAR. ¡ACTUAR!

Please join your friends, neighbors and local businesses in launching the Pico Wellbeing Project, a new approach to improving community wellbeing through acon ind out about the unique strategy and help idenfy your neighborhoods most pressing issues

Share your experiences living/working in Pico
earn about the itys commitment to supporng your quality of life
elp brainstorm soluons that are long lasng, real and designed by you

Únase a sus amigos, vecinos y empresas locales en el lanzamiento del Proyecto Pico Wellbeing, un nuevo enfoque para mejorar el bienestar de la comunidad a través de la acción de los residentes. Aprenda sobre esta estrategia y ayúdenos idencar los problemas más urgentes del vecindario.

Comparta su experiencia viviendo / trabajando en Pico
Aprenda sobre el compromiso de la ciudad para apoyar su calidad de vida
¡Ayude a generar soluciones que sean duraderas, reales y diseñadas para usted!



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THELMA TERRY ROOM & THE ANNEX

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El barrio de Pico es único y también lo son sus residentes. Este proyecto necesita su aporte y parcipacin para preservar y empoderar al vecindario.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 371 Calls For Service On June 19.

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

Overdose 1100 block Harvard 12:10 a.m.
Drunk driving 19th/Idaho 12:22 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 1:56 a.m.
Vandalism 2500 block Santa Monica 4:04 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 4th 7 a.m.
Burglary 2300 block Lincoln 7:07 a.m.
Battery 2nd/Santa Monica 7:27 a.m.
Grand theft auto 100 block Fraser 7:28 a.m.
Trespassing 2700 block 2nd 8:07 a.m.
Vandalism 1300 block 4th 8:35 a.m.
Drinking in public 400 block Euclid 8:44 a.m.
Burglary 2800 block 2nd 9:03 a.m.
Encampment 1700 block Lincoln 9:07 a.m.
Grand theft 600 block Santa Monica 9:23 a.m.
Person down 1200 block Wilshire 9:29 a.m.
Vandalism 400 block 16th 10:00 a.m.
Animal related incident 700 block Pier 10:07 a.m.
Trespassing 1000 block 3rd 10:38 a.m.
Armed robbery 1600 block 4th 10:56 a.m.
Auto burglary 800 block 20th 11:08 a.m.
Battery Franklin/Wilshire12:28 p.m.
Animal related incident 900 block 2nd 1:01 p.m.
Lewd activity 1900 block Main 1:15 p.m.
Fight 1600 block 16th 1:31 p.m.
Critical missing person 300 block Santa Monica 1:32 p.m.
Fraud 3000 block 31st 1:41 p.m.
Animal related incident 1600 block Appian 2:40 p.m.
Harassing phone calls 200 block Ocean 2:47 p.m.
Vandalism 1700 block Ocean Front 2:49 p.m.
Battery 1300 block Ocean 3:19 p.m.
Fraud suspect there now 400 block Santa Monica 3:42 p.m.
Fight 1900 block Ocean 4:00 p.m.
Drunk driving 1400 block Lincoln 4:01 p.m.
Person down Main/Hill 4:46 p.m.
Battery 1500 block Broadway 4:52 p.m.
Battery 2500 block Santa Monica 4:53 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating in public 2100 block 20th 5:04 p.m.
Grand theft 500 block Wilshire 5:26 p.m.
Burglary 1000 block Michigan 5:34 p.m.
Animal related incident 1300 block 2nd 5:36 p.m.
Urinating/defecating in public 1300 block 2nd 5:47 p.m.
Drinking in public 1800 block 9th 6:06 p.m.
Trespassing 1900 block Lincoln 6:07 p.m.
Encampment 200 block The Beach 6:20 p.m.
Auto burglary 900 block Pacific Coast 6:49 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 2nd 7:10 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1400 block 2nd 7:20 p.m.
Fight 4th/Colorado 7:48 p.m.
Battery 4th/Colorado 8:03 p.m.
Auto burglary 1300 block 2nd 8:51 p.m.
Vandalism 4th/Ocean Park 9:18 p.m.
Illegal weapon 100 block California 9:56 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 400 block Santa Monica 10:20 p.m.
Trespassing 1800 block Wilshire 11:24 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 32 Calls For Service On June 19.

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

Emergency Medical Service 1600 block Cloverfield 12:54 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Lincoln 1:14 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2600 block Lincoln 2:40 a.m.
EMS 1400 block Wilshire 3:01 a.m.
EMS 5th/Arizona 7:13 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield/Santa Monica 8:12 a.m.
EMS 1200 block Wilshire 9:29 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 9:39 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 10:17 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block California 10:27 a.m.
EMS 2700 block Neilson 11:49 a.m.
EMS 1200 block 18th 12:05 p.m.
Hydrant shear 2600 block Ocean Park 2:16 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 1400 block Lincoln 4:02 p.m.
EMS 2200 block Colorado 4:52 p.m.
EMS 2000 block 14th 4:53 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 2nd 5:47 p.m.
EMS 800 block Pico 6:17 p.m.
EMS 600 block Santa Monica 6:19 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 6:28 p.m.
EMS 700 block Broadway 7:06 p.m.
EMS 700 Block Hill 7:48 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 10th 8:23 p.m.
Elevator rescue 700 block California 8:36 p.m.
EMS 4th/Arizona 9:29 p.m.
EMS 600 block Wilshire 9:30 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 2nd 9:36 p.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 10:45 p.m.
EMS 1100 block 7th 10:50 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Pico 11:34 p.m.
EMS 600 block Santa Monica 11:43 p.m.



DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 6/16
9 45 57 58 65
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 151M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 6/19
11 13 28 65 70
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 192M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 6/16
11 13 24 30 42
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/19
11 16 17 19 23

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/20
MIDDAY: 7 9 4
Draw Date: 6/19
EVENING: 2 0 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/19
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:48.79

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!

thigmotropism

1. Biology. oriented growth of an organism in response to mechanical contact, as a plant tendril coiling around a string support.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Number Cruncher

■ A serving of two microwaveable White Castle hamburgers (89.6 grams) contains 260 calories, 117 from fat. It has 13 grams of total fat or 20 percent of the recommended total fat intake for a 2,000-calorie daily diet.

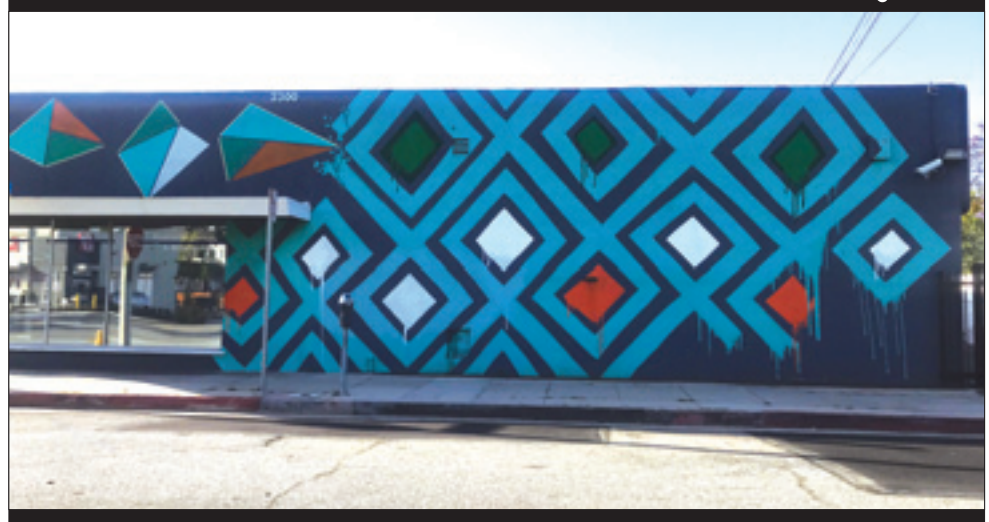
■ It also contains 25 milligrams of cholesterol (8 percent); 350 mg of sodium (15 percent); 25 grams of total carbohydrates (8 percent); 1 gram of dietary fiber, 3 g of sugar and 12 g of protein.

Never Say Diet

■ The Major League Eating record for chocolate candy bars is two pounds in six minutes, held by Eric Booker, proving that success does indeed taste sweet -- and likely involves cavities.

MYSTERY REVEALED!

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Amanda Li correctly identified the mystery photo as the side of Printing Palace at 2300 Lincoln Blvd. She wins a prize from the Daily Press

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

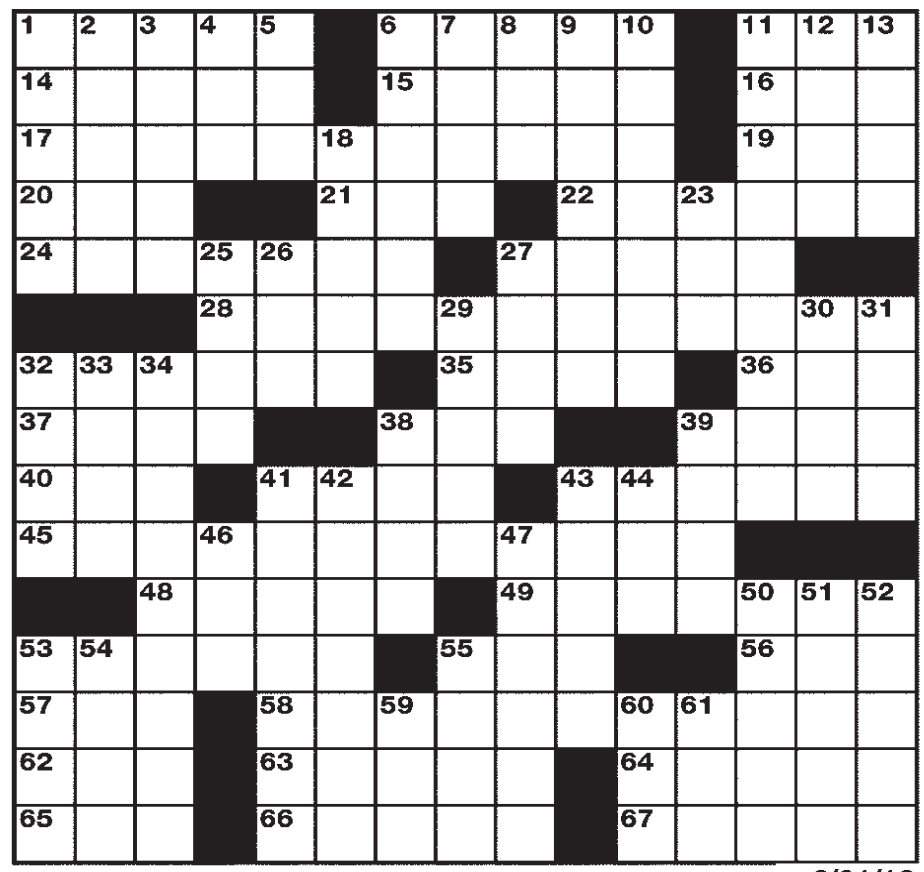
7	8	9	5	1	2	3	6	4
1	3	4	9	8	6	7	5	2
5	6	2	7	3	4	9	8	1
9	5	7	8	4	1	2	3	6
2	4	6	3	5	9	8	1	7
3	1	8	2	6	7	4	9	5
6	9	1	4	7	8	5	2	3
8	7	5	6	2	3	1	4	9
4	2	3	1	9	5	6	7	8

Newsday Crossword

JOB DESCRIPTIONS by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Italian cheese city
6 Sort of hard roll
11 Tugboat's service
14 Two-dimensional spaces
15 Split to unite
16 Homer Simpson's dad
17 Favored pupil
19 Sneaker part
20 Fizzle out
21 Author Tolstoy
22 Overplayed it
24 Stops bothering
27 Kiddie song conclusion
28 Novelist's bane
32 Sleep aid
34 Down
35 Prefix like pre-
36 Bit of physics
37 Do a disservice to
38 "Dude!"
39 Part of AD
40 What GPs pay dues to
41 Fully stretched
43 Rubber sealer
45 Short work day
48 Unscrupulous
49 "Were you watching?"
53 Revolutionary councils
55 Co. officers
56 "Pale" brew
57 LAX announcement
58 Bonus quantity
62 Bagpiper's accessory
63 "You bested me"
64 Not moving
65 Any ship
66 Short-tempered
67 Some grilled sandwiches

DOWN
1 *Slumdog Millionaire* star
2 Field of combat
3 Good to go
4 Old-style "dude"
5 Hardwood tree
6 Deprived (of)
7 Besides which
8 Whom the RNC represents
9 Competitive sword swinger
10 "I'm fine as I am"
11 Certain parlor supply
12 Slender instrument
13 Hoe target
18 Tiny and troublesome
23 Contents of some cans
25 Make some waves
26 Raw resource
27 Cube creator Rubik
29 Hoe target
30 Construction zone marker
31 Nautical measure
32 Melville mariner
33 Family nickname
34 Shopper's consideration
38 Really jumping
39 Admin. __
41 Large data transmission measure
42 Gallery event
43 It may be educated
44 Portray
46 Set to assemble
47 Fish hawk
50 Nut-bearing tree
51 Attentive
52 Outdoor wedding rentals
53 Spurts of water
54 Six-sided state
55 Flotation device
59 Ring stats
60 Lit a bit
61 Till bill



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/21/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 21)

You've earned the respect and admiration that comes with this solar return, so enjoy it! You'll be giving back to a past benefactor and it will feel terrific to satisfy a karmic debt. October comes in a rush of passion. The turn of the year represents a chance to gain professional rank or publicity that turns into money. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 39, 4, 40 and 22.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You don't want to comply with what's being asked of you. Do what comes naturally: Stall. It will give you time to more fully realize the dynamics at play. The stall will help you stay aware of what's really going on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Technically, you are free to set up your daily life in a way that serves your own rhythms. But the reality is that the involvement of others makes this tricky. Success follows being slightly more assertive about your domestic wishes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
It is said that twins share a private language all their own. You have a unique language with every single person you talk with, as you intuitively cater your communication specifically to others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You did what you did. It was the best you knew at the time. In hindsight, maybe you did certain things to cope and survive that you wouldn't choose now. But go easy on yourself. Have self-compassion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Fulfillment of your aims will take organization and planning. You could really use a boost, and it's going to come from the completion of something tangible. Making a measurable difference with your work will bring contentment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Transformations can happen -- and they do, all of the time. But don't count on other people's transformations, as each person must be in charge of his or her own. Put all your focus into becoming who you want to be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You hear people, whether or not they tell you in words. Many people can get the gist of emotional messages, but you actually act on them, which is part of what makes your friendship so golden.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Say what you're going to do. Do it. Seems simple, right? For you. Not for everyone. Some people in your life won't have the same follow-through. Hopefully, you'll be patient with them today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Is "forced cooperation" an oxymoron? After all, if a person has no choice but to comply, it's not cooperation; it's control. Most people don't like to be controlled, as today's situation will highlight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You appreciate friends who can keep a secret, because most can't. In the "can't" group, there are those who will warn you up front, and there are those who won't. Know whom you're dealing with today, because discretion will be important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Goals need a plan; plans need a ritual. Rituals are the support beams you'll be building on. Look at your current rituals, significant habits you carry out to make life work. How can you better line them up with your plan?

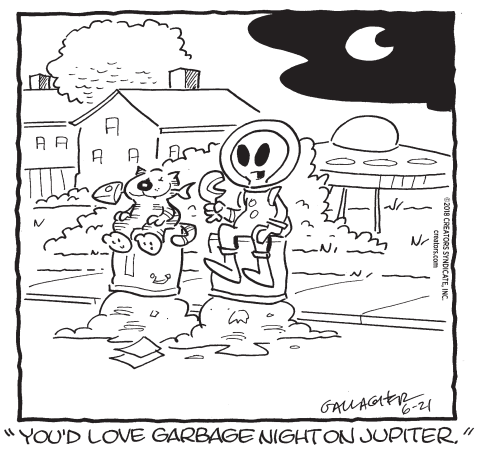
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
A project is pushing to the forefront of your mind. If you don't do it now, then when will you do it? Resist the urge to start over, because there's something here to keep and build on. Use what's already working for you.

Happy Summer Solstice

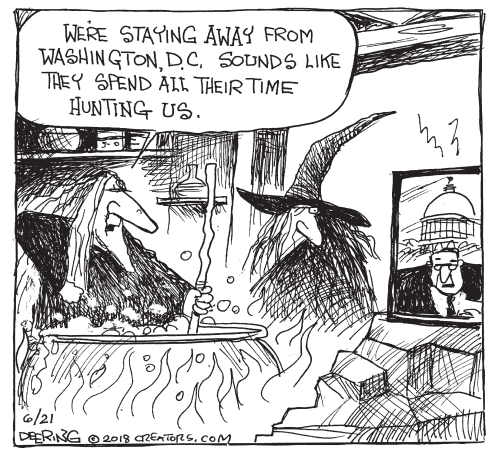
This is the sun's big moment, with parties all around the globe to celebrate the life-giving center of our cosmic system on the longest day of the year. There will be notable festivals in Iceland, Spain, Canada and Croatia, to name a few ... not to mention the most famous spots, such as Stonehenge and the ancient Cahokia Mounds of Illinois, USA.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



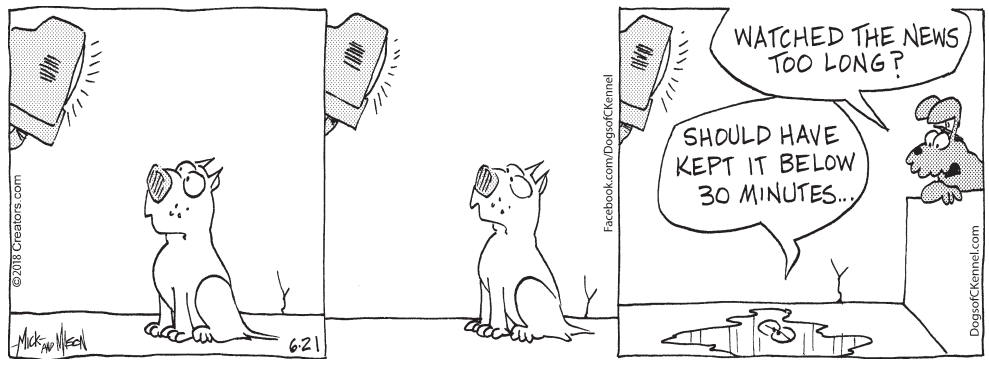
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



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PLAY

FROM PAGE 1

Audubon, whose dazzling portrait of a flamingo was said to be worth 12 million dollars.

At the same time, in a sudden burst of ennui, a young student named Spencer Reinhard (Barry Keoghan) was beginning to question his life and its purpose and what he could do to make it memorable. Then in a group visit to view the library's formidable treasures, a whimsical answer to that question was supplied by, Warren Lipka (Evan Peters), a student who had received a football scholarship to the school but didn't take it very seriously. He, like Spencer, was searching for a meaningful future.

The visit to the securely locked Special Collections triggered Warren's idea for a special adventure that would provide him and Spencer with incredible wealth and the notoriety that comes with pulling off a successful heist.

Spencer, who came from a warm, loving family that had equipped him with strong ethical principles, was initially reluctant to even consider Warren's suggestion, but as Warren pursued the idea with more and more enthusiasm he managed to persuade Spencer to go along with the plan, even though there was no "plan" and neither of them had any idea how to go about such a project.

And so Warren became the leader and together they recruited two more friends, Blake Jenner, who played the robber Chas Allen and Jared Abrahamson who played Eric Borsuk, and even though Spencer and the new recruits had periodic spasms of fear and apprehension Warren was so forceful in his convictions that the others continued piling up tools and plotting their moves. Just like the robbers do in every heist movie you've ever seen.

When the day of the robbery finally arrives, the story becomes something of a Jerry Lewis farce, except with serious consequences.

"American Animals", written and directed by Bart Layton, is the true story of the actual robbery that took place in 2004. What's more, the four perpetrators narrate their own story, appearing from time to time onscreen to augment the tale and add their own perspective.

It's a beautifully rendered film with cinematography by Ole Bratt Birkeland and greatly enhanced by the musical score of Anne Nikitin. But be warned: the music is written to supplement the frenzied action and emotional baggage of the film, and while it is symphonic sometimes, for the most part the noise and banging and electronic devices may cause your ears to fall off. But then, you might think it's worth it.

"Americans Animals" which premiered at Sundance in January 2018, opened in Los Angeles last weekend (on June 15th) and can be seen now at a theater near you.

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 6

dubbed "Honey Bun." Sample lyric: "You're my horseshoe to my hoof."

It's well into the journey when Alabaster confesses Penelope has been kidnapped, so their mission is a combination rescue-proposal. His wide-eyed ardor for Penelope begins to grow suspiciously shallow. She's "good at reading words, even good at kissing and lovemaking," he says. "What more could you ask for?"

The proposal, naturally, doesn't go quite as "lickety-split" as Alabaster envisions, and Henry — a gentle and half-formed man who naively craves the adventure of meeting "a real Indian" — is carried along by the unfolding events. That he isn't a real man of God is little surprise to anyone. "But my heart is the right place," he whimpers.

But, then again, none in "Damsel" are really quite up to the role they imagine themselves in, except for Wasikowka's Penelope — the only sane person in the movie crowded with fools. Handsomely shot by Jeff Nichols' regular cinematographer, Adam Stone, "Damsel" has the look of a classic Western but a story of dopey, lost men that could just as easily be told in modern-day Brooklyn. While the movie isn't quite as clever as it thinks it is, the Zellners have a sweet, likable sense of humor tinged with tragedy. And they remain filmmakers to watch.

"Damsel," a Magnolia Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some violence, language, sexual material, and brief graphic nudity." Running time: 113 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

MPAA definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

'Yellowstone' boasts Costner, strong Native American co-star

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

"Yellowstone" has everything a worthwhile Western should, including breathtaking vistas, battles over land and Kevin Costner in the lead role.

There's also something rare in the contemporary Paramount Network series debuting Wednesday: prominent Native American story lines and parts, including one filled by an actor formidable enough to stand up to Costner and his ranching baron.

Gil Birmingham plays Thomas Rainwater, a tribal chief and casino owner who's ready and able to oppose those whose interests conflict with the well-being of the people he represents.

Birmingham, of Comanche ancestry on his father's side, has played his share of Native Americans and others on TV and in films including "Hell or High Water" and "Wind River," both written by Taylor Sheridan, the creator of "Yellowstone."

"Through my career, a rather long career of struggling, mostly, I've been asked, 'What would be your dream character?' and this is it," Birmingham said of his role on Paramount Network's first drama series since its rebranding from Spike TV last January.

Playing a fully realized, modern Indian character is an opportunity that doesn't come often enough and one that counts beyond entertainment, the actor said.

"Many people don't even think that we (Native Americans) still exist, that we're just historical artifacts that once upon a time existed," he said, crediting Sheridan with a "great leap forward" in the 10-part series and on the big screen.

Birmingham tips his hat as well to Costner and his 1990 Oscar-winning period drama "Dances with Wolves," which "really did open the door for people for maybe the first time ... to see the beauty and the depths of the native culture."

Costner, also an executive producer on "Yellowstone," said authenticity is his goal with any project. That's particularly important in the show's portrayal of Native Americans, he said, for whom "a terrible wrong" has occurred and not been remedied.

Sheridan got the balance "letter perfect," with the nuance and imperfection that characters of every ethnicity warrant, he said.

The series, set in Montana, was filmed there and in Utah.

Costner stars as John Dutton, a die-hard Westerner determined to keep his family's holdings intact. There are pressures from without — including land developers, oil and lumber interests and the adjacent Indian reservation and Yellowstone National Park — and from within, courtesy of his family.

Dutton's offspring include Kayce (Luke Grimes), estranged and living on the reservation with his Native American wife, Monica (Kelsey Asbille); lawyer Jamie (Wes Bentley), eager to please his dad, and heir apparent Lee (Dave Annable), who's running the family operation with Dutton.

The sole daughter, Beth (Kelly Reilly), more than keeps up her end, filling in for her late mother as family matriarch and doubling as a cutthroat business negotiator.

The role of Thomas Rainwater was Birmingham's for the taking after he proved himself to Sheridan in "Wind River" and "Hell or High Water," which earned the filmmaker an Oscar bid for best screenplay.

Birmingham couples technical proficiency with artistic expression in his work, Sheridan said, and Rainwater's character required particular deftness.

"It's the ability to be cunning without it being misconstrued as evil," said Sheridan, who recalled advising Birmingham that Rainwater needed to be seen as "an equal force to people who have a real disregard for the rule of law, and yet never lose his goodness."

The actor has a personal connection with his character's story. Rainwater grew up unaware of his ancestry because his adoptive parents withheld his background from him, while Birmingham's late father downplayed his native heritage.

Birmingham left home at 14, ultimately attending the University of Southern California and working as a petrochemical engineer. A foray into bodybuilding served as an improbable wake-up call to embrace the arts.

"I was more intrigued by the aesthetic ability to form a body like a sculpture. In my creative desire, I just knew I couldn't do the engineering anymore. It didn't speak to me, to my spirit," he said.

Another unlikely step — he got a part in Diana Ross' music video "Muscles" — propelled him into acting, although the guitar had captured his imagination as a youngster and he'd hoped for a musical career.

That dream has yet to be fulfilled, but Birmingham said it allowed him to make an instant connection with fellow actor-musician Jeff Bridges when they had just a few days to rehearse their roles as longtime friends in "Hell or High Water."

Birmingham marvels at what's happened since he decided as a teenager he would rather be on the street in San Francisco (before becoming a ward of the court and entering a boys' home) and find his own path.

"The events of my life unfolded in such a way that they placed me in places I never would have imagined. And the only way that I could move forward was to trust," Birmingham said.







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