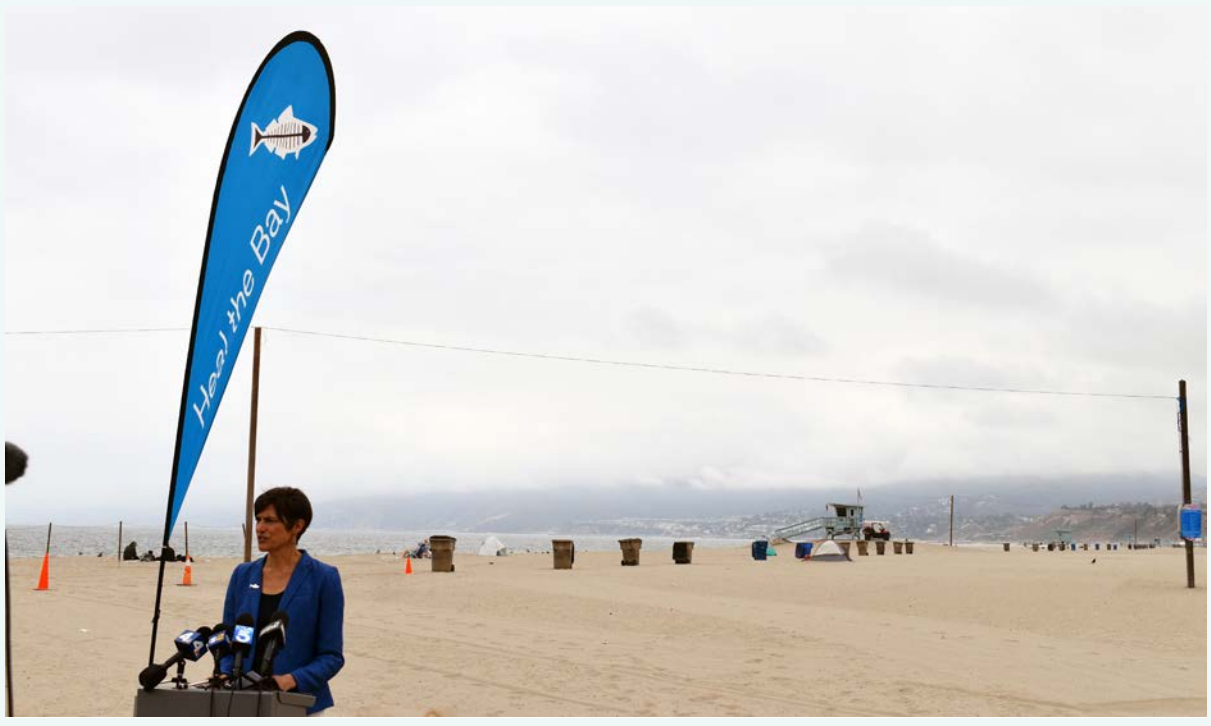
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Pier climbs off Beach Bummer list while fire debris pollutes Malibu



Mari Lundin

BEACH REPORT: **Heal the Bay released its 2019 report card this week with the Pier scoring remarkably well.**

MARI LUNDIN
Daily Press Intern

Water quality at California beaches sunk across the coast this season, but increased at Santa Monica Pier Beach.

For the first time since 2013, the Santa Monica Pier Beach didn't make Heal the Bay's Beach Bummer List, which ranks the most polluted beaches in California based on the level of harmful bacteria in the water. Santa Monica Pier has appeared on the list six times in the past decade.

Although other Southern California beaches ranked lower than usual due to increased rainfall and the Woolsey Fire, Santa Monica Pier Beach received better rankings from previous years, said Dr. Shelley Luce, Heal the Bay CEO.

Some of the Santa Monica Pier's improvement Luce attributed to the SMURRF reservoir, which was under construction during last year's press conference.

"We must invest in projects that will capture and treat water before it reaches our beaches," Luce said at Wednesday's press conference near the Santa Monica Pier. "It's an investment in our public health, our beaches, and in our economy."

Three Los Angeles County beaches ranked in the 2018-2019 Beach Bummer list;

Long Beach City Beach at no. 4, Mother's Beach no. 7, and Cabrillo Beach no. 8.

The annual Beach Report Card assigns A-F grades to 500 California beaches and includes an analysis of water quality for three time periods: summer dry season (April through Oct. 2018), winter dry weather (Nov. 2018 through March 2019) and year-round wet weather conditions.

The grading methodology is

SEE **CLIMBS** PAGE 3

City Hall budget shrinks by 7 %

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's 2019-2021 budget is 7% or about $108 million smaller than its last biennial budget, marking the beginning of a decade where the city will have to pay down a $448 million pension liability while adjusting to tepid revenue growth.

Although the city is tightening its belt, the almost $1.6 billion biennial budget City Council adopted Tuesday boosts funding for homeless services, rental assistance for low-income seniors and a new website officials call a "digital City Hall."

It also maintains funding for a $77 million annex at City Hall, a $115 million reboot of City Yards and new water infrastructure to wean Santa Monica off imported water by 2023, protecting the city from future droughts and higher water rates.

A $9.3 million payment to CalPERS, the state pension fund, kicks off the city's 13-year plan to pay off the pension liability ahead of time. CalPERS fell into crisis following the 2008 recession and jurisdictions across California now have to make up a massive shortfall between the pensions the state

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 8

Pier concerts return starting August 21

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The lineup for the 35th pier concert series has been announced.

Event organizers renamed the Twilight Concert Series as "Twilight on the Pier" last year and have announced plans to add non-music entertainment to the events this year. The weekly shows will have two music stages and one comedy performance (comedy acts will be announced in July).

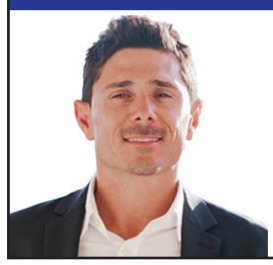
"Formerly known as the Twilight Concert Series, Twilight on the Pier has been reimagined to offer a culturally-diverse and unique Pier-wide celebration," said the lineup announcement. "Each night of the series celebrates a different soundscape from around the world, including long-time favorites (Island Vibes, Aussie Splash and Latin Wave) and new themes (Middle East Beats, Japanese Vibes)."

While entertainment has expanded to three stages, organizers said the adjacent beach is no longer part of the

SEE **CONCERTS** PAGE 3


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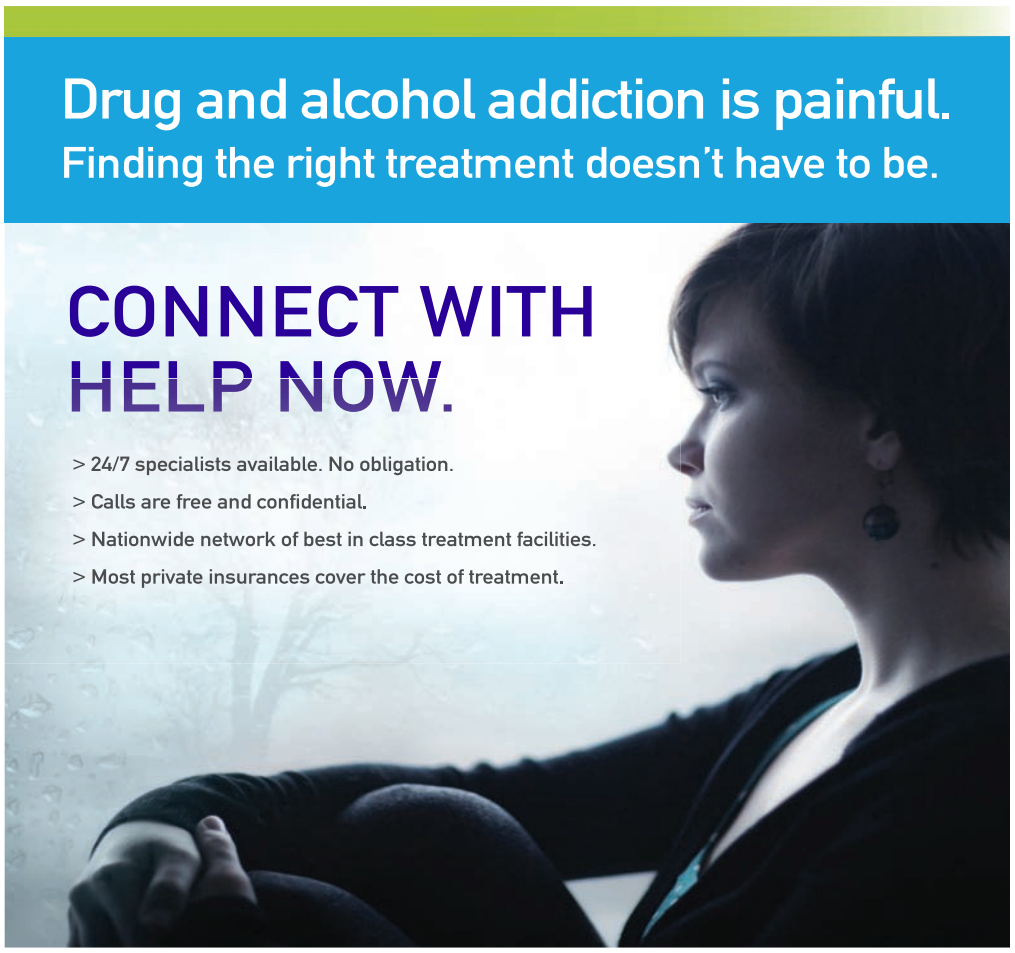
Submission Deadline is July 22, 2019 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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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** or **http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm.** There is no charge for bid package and specifications.





What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, June 27

Toddler Time
Story series for toddlers ages 18 to 35 months at Montana Branch. June 13 - July 25 [A ticket is required to attend. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, 15 minutes before the program, at the Information Desk. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. 10:15 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Paws to Read
Practice your reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog from Paws 4 Healing. Sign-up in advance for a 15-minute period starting June 17 in person or by calling (310)458-8682. Program runs from June 27 - August 3 (no session on 7/4). Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

SM Reads: Author Talk: Ghettoside with Jill Leovy
First released in 2015, Jill Leovy's Ghettoside provides readers with a nuanced, multi-viewpoint window into the plague of homicides impacting the Watts community in Los Angeles. Ms. Leovy joins us to share insights gained in the reporting and writing that went into Ghettoside, and the reaction that followed the book's publication. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard. 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 28

Drag Queen Story Hour On the Beach
We're celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride Month by bringing Drag Queen Story Hour to the beach! Our fabulous guest of honor, Miss Barbie Q, will lead an interactive story time for children of all ages. This program was created to challenge restrictive gender stereotypes, encourage self expression, and promote diversity and inclusion. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mat Pilates
Learn the techniques of Pilates, a system of controlled exercises that engage the mind and condition the total body. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 29

A Very Special Story Time for "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"
Celebrate the 50th anniversary of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" with a reading of the book along with other Eric Carle favorites. Craft to follow. Fairview Branch Library, 3 - 3:45 p.m.

Father Figure Collage workshop with Marcus Kuiland-Nazario
18th Street Arts Center Artist-in-Residence Marcus Kuiland-Nazario leads a collage workshop in conjunction with MACHO STEREO, a project and exhibit on view at 18th Street from June 1 to July 26, 2019. Participants of all genders are welcome to attend any or all of the Father Figure workshops to create autobiographical collages about themselves and their Father or Father Figure. Registration required at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/father-figure-collage-workshop-with-marcus-kuiland-nazario-tickets-59962125331. 12 - 2 p.m.

SM Reads: Book Discussion
Join organizers to share your thoughts about The Hate U Give and its themes, or simply listen and learn more about the book. Main Library, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sunday, June 30

Folk Songs for Everyone with Studio Resident Alex Wand
Sing and Play folk songs with Studio Resident Alex Wand. Learn some Woody Guthrie songs and tunes from "The American Songbag" (complied by Carl Sandburg). Bringing instruments and folk songs to teach the group is encouraged. This repeating event is open to all levels, no experience required. Palisades Park, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Frau Fiber's Sewing Rebellion - Faux Frau Training
This series of trainings are for fabricators who would like to become Faux Fraus prepared to lead the people in sewing, altering and repurposing projects each month at Sewing Rebellions in Santa Monica, around the Southland and across the nation. Palisades Park, 1-4 p.m. RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frau-fibers-sewing-rebellion-faux-frau-training-tickets-58381472556

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

CLIMBS

FROM PAGE 1

endorsed by the State Water Resources Control Board and the better the grade a beach receives, the lower risk of illness for swimmers and surfers.

While it's the first appearance on the Beach Bummer list for Long Beach City Beach, Mother's Beach made it's fifth consecutive appearance. Cabrillo Beach isn't a stranger to the list either, making it eight times in the last ten years.

A lack of circulation and waves make it easy for bacteria to invade both Mother's Beach and Cabrillo Beach.

There were 45 beaches in California deemed unsafe to swim in, even in dry summer conditions, said Luce.

"Stay out of the water for at least three days after it rains, swim at least 100 yards away from flowing storm drains and always check the Beach Report Card for latest water quality grades," Luce said.

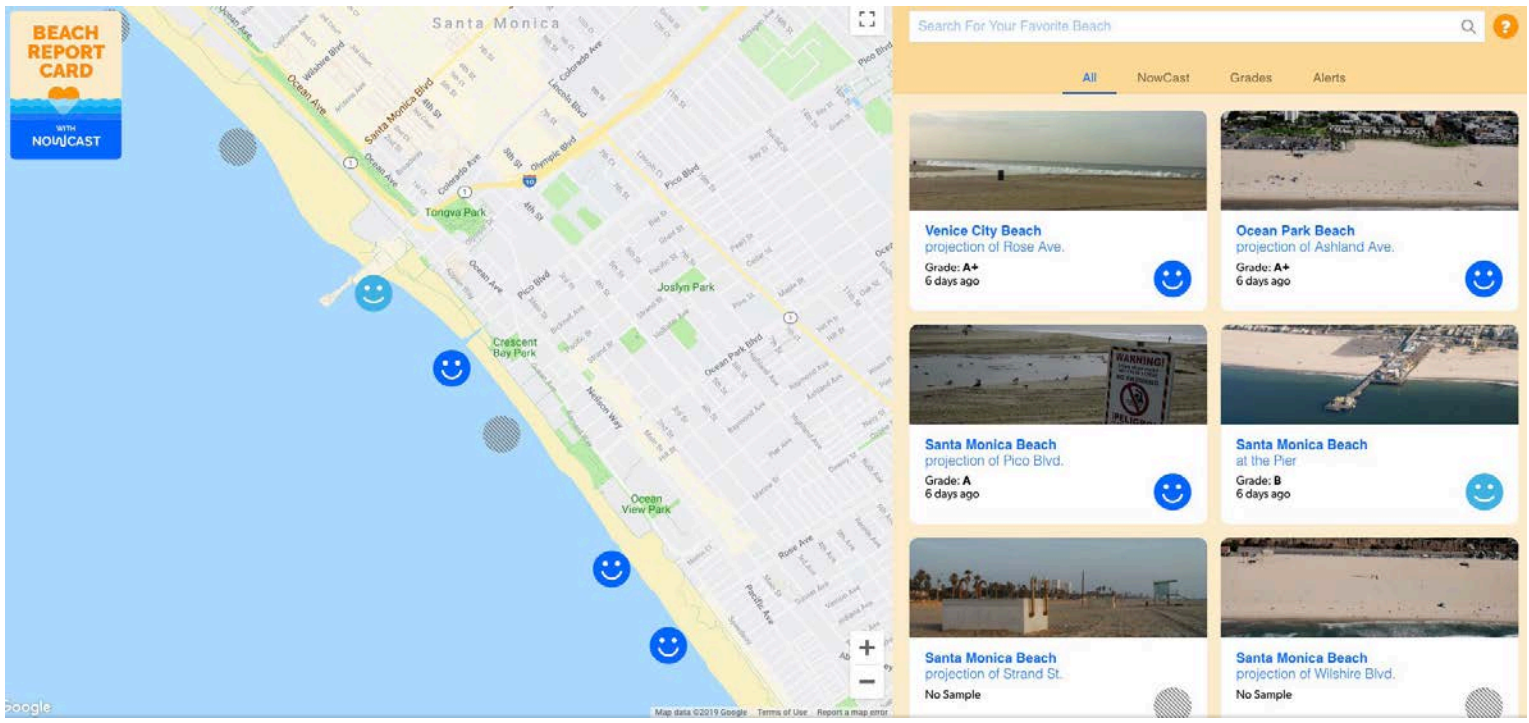
Grades were down across the board for LA County Beaches.

Summer Dry Grades were considered excellent for LA beaches, 91 percent received an A or B grade. However, this number is still down from the five-year average of 94 percent.

Seventy percent of LA beaches received an A or B during Winter Dry, a decrease from the 86 percent five-year average.

Wet Weather Grades were significantly lower than average, only 30 percent received an A or B compared to a 46 percent five-year average.

Two Los Angeles County beaches appeared on Honor Roll this year, Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro and Las Tunas Beach in Malibu. This is a drop from the eight that made it last year.



Courtesy photo

BEACHES: Santa Monica beaches traditionally score well on the annual list of polluted beaches and regular updates are available online.

Overall, 33 California beaches made it on Heal the Bay's Honor Roll this year, which is less than the 37 that made it last year. Honor Roll beaches must be monitored weekly and receive an A+ for all seasons and weather conditions.

The decrease in Honor Roll beaches is likely due to higher than average rainfall, stated the Beach Report Card. Los Angeles County received 15 inches of rain this year, surpassing the historical average of 10.5 inches.

A majority of Malibu beaches got poor grades even when it hadn't been raining, said Luce.

Fifty-seven percent of Malibu beaches received A and B grades this year, a significant decrease from the 100 percent A and B gradings the beaches received the year prior to the fire.

"Fire can reduce beach water quality by destroying or damaging infrastructure and also by increasing runoff due to the loss of vegetation," Luce said.

In addition to damaging fire conditions and significant rainfall, there were a reported 1.5 million gallons of sewage that reached water in Los Angeles County in the past year, according to the Beach Report.

"We must continue to monitor and report this data to the public so they have the information about where it's safe to swim," Luce said.

Check beachreportcard.org for latest water quality grades.

editor@smdp.com

CONCERTS

FROM PAGE 1

official program.

"Last year we introduced the Pier-wide festival, and this year it's all about perfecting that experience," said Executive Director, Negin Singh in a statement. "We learned that people really want to dance on the West End stage while the sun sets, so all of the artists we booked for that stage will make you move. We learned that people want to chill at the Pacific Park Stage, so we're turning it into a 21+ Comedy Stage. We're giving people an unforgettable way to experience the Santa Monica Pier, global music, and art, all for free!"

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West End: Jen Awad

LATIN WAVE // AUGUST 28

Main Stage: HELADO NEGRO
Opener: San Cha
West End: Banda Las Angelinas

MIDDLE EAST BEATS // SEPTEMBER 4

Main Stage: A-WA
Opener: Disco Shrine
West End: Los Angeles Arabs Orchestra

ISLAND TIDES // SEPTEMBER 11

Main Stage: Hollie Cook
Opener: Western Standard Time Ska Orchestra
West End: Upstream

AUSSIE SPLASH // SEPTEMBER 18

Main Stage: Methyl Ethel
Opener: APRA Contest Winner
West End: APRA Contest Winner

JAPANESE VIBES // SEPTEMBER 25

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Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mysterious Circumstances at the Geffen

The play consists of seven actors playing some 26 different characters, as well as "others" too insignificant to identify specifically. And so the stage was a chaos of people coming and going, often dressed in costumes very different from the ones in which they had previously appeared, and delivering their crucial commentary in a variety of nearly impenetrable British accents.

And because the play is conducted in almost total darkness, the notes I attempted to take consisted of half a dozen lines scribbled on top of each other and totally undecipherable. And so I had to go to the source to figure out what was going on.

The play, "Mysterious Circumstances", written by Michael Mitnick, and now having its world premiere at the Geffen Playhouse is based on an article that appeared in the New Yorker issue of December 13, 2004. That article, titled "Mysterious Circumstances: The Strange Death of a Sherlock Holmes Fanatic" was written by David Grann.

David Grann is a staff writer for the New Yorker, an outstanding journalist, and the bestselling author of one of my all-time favorite books: "The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon". And so, with little else to go on, I went to Wikipedia and found Grann's original New Yorker article, which told the story of Richard Lancelyn Green, the man who spent his entire life obsessively researching and writing the definitive bibliography and biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and, by extension, Conan Doyle's immortal creation, Sherlock Holmes.

Fortunately, Grann's article was long and bursting with details, even naming the friends and colleagues that Green worked with, as well as providing some Holmes aphorisms: "There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact" and Holmes describing himself to Watson as "a brain", adding, "the rest of me is a mere appendix."

It turns out that Green wasn't the only Holmes fanatic in Britain. Bunches of fans grouped themselves in worshipful clubs in other parts of the world as well as Britain, and many were convinced that their hero was real! In fact, many mourned his death by wearing black armbands when Conan Doyle killed him off in 1893.

Green was steadfast in his commitment to collect every scrap of paper or piece of memorabilia that pertained to Holmes or Conan Doyle and soon became a fast friend of Dame Jean Conan Doyle, Conan Doyle's daughter, who possessed a cache of private letters and documents that were said to be worth a large fortune. She had intended to donate them to the British Library, but after her death that intention was obstructed by Conan Doyle's sons and others and the treasured papers were put up for auction.

Green, who attempted to prevent the auction, was suddenly and mysteriously murdered thereafter, much to the astonishment of his peers. Although he had provided a number of clues pointing to the purported killer, many believed that the death was a carefully constructed suicide, aimed to implicate one of his rivals. For one thing, he had been garroted with a shoelace, which is nearly impossible to do to oneself. Further, he had not left a suicide note, which was uncharacteristic of a man who made notes about everything. So now, more than 15 years later, the death is still listed as "unsolved."

While "Mysterious Circumstances" may be a little hard to keep up with, it is exceptionally well done, thanks to the intense direction of Matt Shakman and the impeccable work of the extensive cast. Most especially that of Alan Tudyk, who plays both Richard Lancelyn Green and Sherlock Holmes, and Austin Durant who excels as Conan Doyle. And also Ramiz Monsef, who gets many laughs as a kibitzing Watson.

The most spectacular elements in this play, however, are the set design of Brett J. Banakis, the lighting design of Elizabeth Barker, the projection design of Kaitlyn Pietras and Jason H. Thompson, and the illusion designs of Francis Menotti and David Kwong. The images and lights that flash across the stage, the panels that slide open and closed to reveal, among other things, scenes of outside environments, including a stunning rainstorm, and the cacophony of sounds that overwhelm the auditorium are, all by themselves, well worth the price of admission.

So go! You'll be transfixed.

"Mysterious Circumstances" will run Tuesdays through Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. through July 14, at the Geffen Playhouse, 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles. For tickets, call 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.org.

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Theater Review

By Tatiana Blackington James

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Death of a Salesman



Courtesy Photo

ON STAGE: Jack Merrill (l) and Rob Morrow (r) perform in "Death of a Salesman" at the Ruskin.

Playwright Arthur Miller died before Twitter, Facebook and Instagram were invented, but he still managed to nail our obsession with getting likes.

"Bernard is not well liked, is he?" Willy Loman (Rob Morrow) asks in "Death of a Salesman" (playing now through August 4 at the Ruskin Group Theater).

"He's liked but he's not well liked," his son Biff confirms, sounding like your average millennial scrolling through social media on his phone.

Miller's most famous play — it won the Pulitzer prize in 1949 – "Death of a Salesman" fell out of fashion for a while. In 2012, The New Yorker outright dismissed it as too obvious, too repetitive, and no longer worth seeing.

What a difference a few years make. The last presidential election has paved the way for the play's revival, at least for this thoughtful production, directed by Mike Reilly.

Willy has taught his son to value his own "personal attractiveness" and popularity over everything, an idea promoted by our current commander in chief. One can imagine Willy nodding in agreement when Donald Trump hesitated to appoint John Bolton to his cabinet because Bolton's mustache meant he didn't "look the part." Eventually, Trump changed his mind, but only because like Willy, he was running out of options.

"Bernard can get the best marks in school," Willy tells Biff, a star football player, played with nuance by Robert Adamson, "but when he gets out in the business world…you are going to be five times ahead of him."

The anti-intellectual bluster sends Biff straight into the wall when, unable to crib off Bernard, he flunks his Regents exam and loses his college scholarships. (Ah, that age of innocence, when there was no way to cheat on standardized tests and student athletes applying to college actually played the sport in question.)

Miller wrote this story on the brink of the post-war manufacturing boom, yet he somehow foresaw the link between technology and loss of jobs and dignity. In a scene that manages to be both comical and anguished, Willy begs to keep a meager version of the sales position he's held for decades while his young boss – Darrin Hickok in a deft turn as a callous, mid-century tech bro – makes him listen to the banal chatter he's recorded on his expensive new tape recorder. He advises Willy to buy one of his own and have "the maid" record his favorite radio program. Then he fires him.

Morrow, who plays the smugly amoral Adam DeGuilio on the Showtime series "Billions," successfully transforms himself into the opposite here. It must take considerable stamina to inhabit such a desperate character, who swings wildly from past to present, self-delusion to terror. Morrow portrays Willy as a cornered animal who doesn't want to bite, yet can't stop himself lunging at those he loves. Lee Garlington is affecting as his strong yet helpless wife and Jack Merrill brings his trademark wry delivery to the role of Charley.

For two decades after the play was written, America was prosperous enough to lift all boats — both Biffs and Bernards — but when the machine of capitalism broke down, many of its wage slaves, like Willy, started clamoring for a gauzy past that had never been sustainable, lashing out, and ultimately harming themselves.

Anxiety over getting one's children launched, growing old with no savings, the upheaval of gentrification on working class neighborhoods – Miller covers it all in this play.

The only current hot-button issue that's absent is the mistreatment of immigrants. For that, he wrote "A View from the Bridge."

"Death of a Salesman" will be performed Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm; Sundays at 2 until August 4. The Ruskin Group Theatre is located at 3000 Airport Avenue; tickets ($25-35) can be purchased by phone at 310 397-3244 or online at www.ruskingrouptheatre.com. Parking is free.

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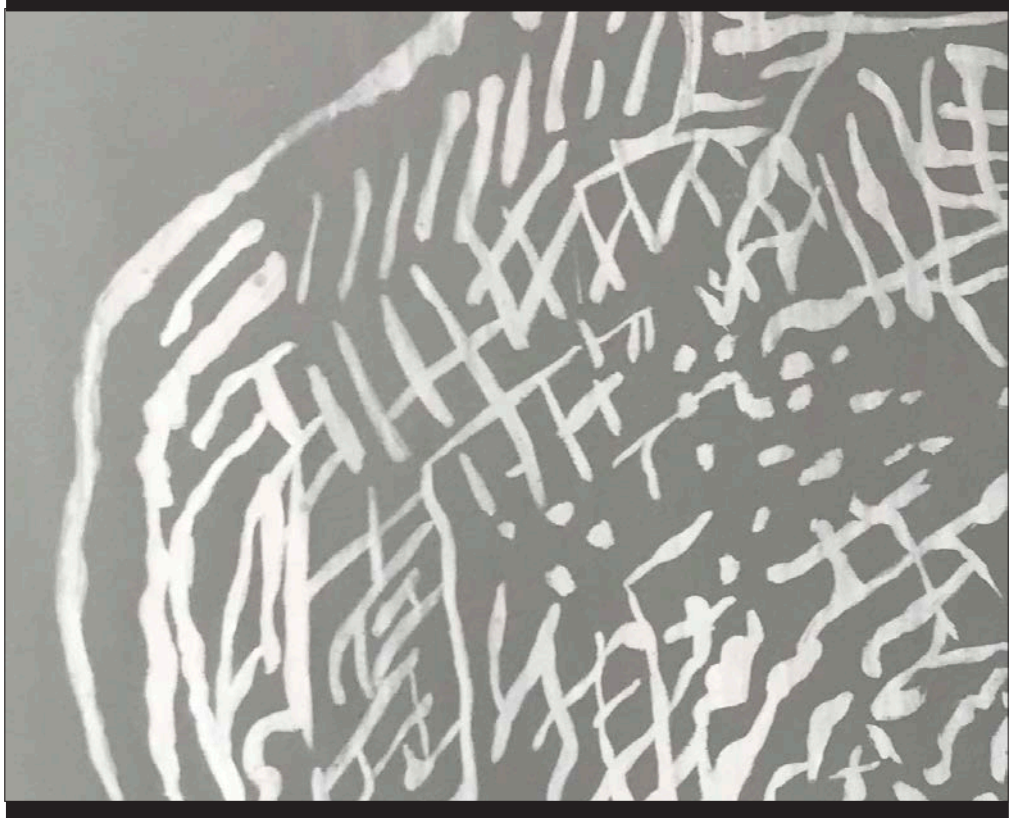
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Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mysterious Murder; Blue Note Jazz

In 2004, The New Yorker published an article by David Grann called "Mysterious Circumstances," about a Sherlock Holmes scholar/fanatic murdered under—you guessed it—mysterious circumstances. Matt Shakman, now Artistic Director of The Geffen Playhouse, optioned the story, and spent years figuring out how to frame this complex story into a play. He's succeeded and "Mysterious Circumstances" is now making its world premiere at the Geffen.

A member of British aristocracy (per the story, big house, no money), Richard Lancelyn Green was obsessed with Sherlock Holmes as a child, and as an adult turned his fanatical devotion into a scholarly passion. He was determined to write the definitive biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the author-creator of the groundbreaking detective whom he came to resent for overshadowing his life. Doyle thought of himself as a serious writer of forgotten British history and poetry, but no one considered that work any good.

THE INFAMOUS TRUNK

Instead Doyle created the genre-establishing, deerstalker hat/cape-wearing, pipe-smoking, cocaine-using logician who practiced intense observation and rational reason to solve mysteries. "Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth," Doyle wrote, representing Sherlock's methodology, a line mentioned more than once in the play.

Green gets caught up in the search for a rumored trunk with a treasure trove of stories, poems and notebooks by Doyle that went missing when Doyle died. Green befriends Doyle's daughter, Dame Jean, who allows him 20 minutes to look inside the actual trunk, which really does contain those treasures. She tasks him with moving the trunk to her solicitor's office for safekeeping, and upon her death, to get the archive to the British Library, so scholars would have access to the materials.

But he is dealing with the envy and possible malicious intent of a competitive scholar, an unnamed American who has managed to bend Dame Jean's ear and persuade her that Green's intentions are not pure. And upon Jean's death, the transfer to the British Library never happened. Green is stunned to read news that the archive would instead be auctioned off by Christie's.

Green cannot understand how distant relatives of Doyle's ended up with the rights to Doyle's archive and he tries to stop the Christie's auction. This may be why he ended up dead, garroted by a bootlace in his own home—



Jeff Lorch

PREMIERE: L-R/ Ramiz Monsef and Alan Tudyk in the world premiere of Mysterious Circumstances at Geffen Playhouse. Directed by Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Matt Shakman.

though he did not wear boots—with an empty gin bottle nearby—he didn't drink gin—and a strange man's voice on his answering machine's outgoing message, saying "Sorry, not available."

THE CREATIVE TEAM

With seven cast members playing multiple roles, the play bounces between the real and fictional characters—Doyle, his wife, Holmes and Dr. Watson, Green, his family and friends, Dame Jean, and the American—shifting back and forth in time

SEE **MYSTERIOUS** PAGE 11

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Great Music and Theater



Courtesy photo

JOHN MCEUEN: JOHN McEUEN & The String Wizards will perform this weekend.

NOT WHINING –

Just an explanation. That I still can't do for you what I have been doing for almost two years with this column, which is to recommend the live music shows (and occasional theater etc.) that I do not want you to miss, based on my experience and knowledge. Because the almighty LA Weekly music calendar that I depended on was recently "redesigned" and now it is useless. Useless. If anyone knows of a comprehensive source for that info please let me know, because I haven't found one. Thanks. Sorry. Grrr.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

"DEATH OF A SALESMAN" by ARTHUR MILLER starring Rob Morrow (Pulitzer- and Tony-winning play from 1949, this group of actors gives this very challenging material all it deserves, Morrow is nuanced and riveting but so is everyone else, I noted my surprise after a preview performance that it didn't get a standing O but my wife observed, I think correctly, that everyone was just stunned, our own Sarah Spitz did an interview with Morrow for her Culturewatch column last Thursday and there was a piece in the LA Times yesterday about Morrow), Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SM Airport, $20-$35.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — "THE QUIET ONE" (hurry! ends tonight! a fascinating character study of original Rolling Stones bass player Bill Wyman and his career/life insights as thoroughly documented through his incredible archives, never made available until five years ago), Thurs, Nuart Theater, West LA, $9-$12;

"ECHO IN THE CANYON" (don't know if it ends tonight, another first-persons account of rock and roll history, of the creative denizens of Laurel Canyon, but no "Lady of the Canyon" herself Joni Mitchell? — maybe she didn't want to, knowing how much dishing would be put on film), Thurs, The Landmark, West LA, $12.

TONIGHT! + Fri, Sat — THE SWINGING AND GROOVING COLLECTIVE ("embodies the spirit and the sound of the hard-bop era"), Thurs;

MATT SLOCUM (the Minneapolis Star Tribune wrote, "Slocum has emerged as one of the great young jazz drummers in New York City, and therefore all of jazz, he clearly places empathy and ensemble eloquence over solo fireworks, with sublime results"), Fri;

ISAMU MCGREGOR TRIO (keyboardist McGregor delights in bridging the gap between acoustic jazz and electric fusion), Sat — all shows 8, 9:30 p.m. at Sam First, LAX, $10-$20.

A DARING DUO! (President Obama awarded percussionist and Ethnic Heritage Ensemble leader KAHIL EL'ZABAR the International Ambassador's Award in the Arts, he and DAVID MURRAY founded the iconic World Saxophone Quartet, Murray's "furious sax style has lyrical moments which carve out a space in the avant garde for tenderness and extend the language of bebop into more volatile territories," three Grammys between them!), Fri 8 p.m.;

ERIC ALEXANDER QUARTET (pretty much straight ahead jazz, "the group could be recommended on the strength of Alexander's full-throated tenor sax alone, yet what ultimately stands out is the brand of unfettered swing that defines this band, Alexander has absolutely established his own voice within the bop based tradition," praised Jazztimes.com), Sat 8 p.m.;

DWIGHT TRIBLE ("in tune with the Cosmos" is a good description for this dazzling jazz vocal innovator whose ensemble quintet uses kalimba, exotic flutes, woodwinds, congas, bongos, tabla, gongs, electronic live looping and more "to weave melody with pulses and soundscapes that can move an audience into

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11



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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 382 CALLS ON JUNE 25.

Public intoxication 900blk Lincoln Blvd 1:30 a.m.
Petty theft 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:48 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 3100blk 4th St 2:11 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Palisades Park 6:17 a.m.
Encampment Moomat Ahiko / Pacific Coast Hwy 6:34 a.m.
Traffic collision - unknown injuries Euclid St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:37 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Ashland Ave 7:30 a.m.
Traffic collision - unknown injuries Lincoln Blvd / Cedar St 8:42 a.m.
Exhibition of speed 900blk Lincoln Blvd 9:13 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:15 a.m.
Fraud 1300blk 15th St 9:22 a.m.
Vehicle parked on sidewalk 800blk 22nd St 10:54 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1400blk 4th St 10:55 a.m.
Grand theft 1400blk Olympic Blvd 11:39 a.m.
Burglary 1500blk 16th St 11:45 a.m.
Battery 22nd St / Arizona Ave 11:57 a.m.
Battery Euclid St / Colorado Ave 12:14 p.m.
Grand theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 12:45 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 12:54 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 20th St / Marguerita Ave 1:03 p.m.
Grand theft auto 1000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:03 p.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor investigation 1300blk 2nd St 1:20 p.m.
Encampment 1100blk Ashland Ave 1:29 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:42 p.m.
Grand theft 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 1:53 p.m.
Threats 1400blk 6th St 2:03 p.m.
Elder abuse 2700blk 4th St 2:31 p.m.
Elder abuse 2900blk Highland Ave 2:31 p.m.
Fraud 2000blk 20th St 2:43 p.m.
Illegal weapon 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:45 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 800blk 7th St 2:56 p.m.
Burglary 700blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:57 p.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor investigation Neilson Way / Strand St 3:02 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 22nd St / Virginia Ave 3:24 p.m.
Exhibition of speed 300blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:33 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries 24th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:47 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk 20th St 3:56 p.m.
Fraud 1500blk Ocean Ave 3:56 p.m.
Malicious mischief 100blk Wilshire Blvd 4:10 p.m.
Encampment 1300blk 2nd St 5:03 p.m.
Burglary 1100blk 17th St 5:37 p.m.
Fight 1400blk 17th St 6:33 p.m.
Encampment 1400blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:50 p.m.
Indecent exposure Stewart St / Exposition Blvd 6:53 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:39 p.m.
Traffic collision - unknown injuries Lincoln Blvd / Pine St 7:42 p.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor investigation 15th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:46 p.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ashland Ave 8:07 p.m.
Threats 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 8:28 p.m.
Petty theft 00blk Pico Blvd 8:51 p.m.
Fight 1600blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:12 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:40 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMPD STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON JUNE 25.

EMS 1600blk Ocean Ave 2:28 a.m.
EMS 2300blk 27th St 3:55 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury Euclid St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:37 a.m.
Bee emergency 300blk Olympic Dr 7:27 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Main St 7:27 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury Lincoln Blvd / Cedar St 8:42 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 9:08 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:15 a.m.
EMS 300blk Ocean Ave 9:52 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Pacific Ter 10:18 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 11:01 a.m.
EMS 21st Pl / San Vicente Blvd 11:27 a.m.
EMS 400blk Santa Monica Pier 11:58 a.m.
EMS 14th St / Colorado Ave 12:17 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1900blk Main St 12:18 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 12:47 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 12:55 p.m.
EMS 2000 blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:18 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 2:23 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:43 p.m.
Elevator rescue 1900blk Broadway 2:58 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 15th St 3:05 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 3:46 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 24th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:47 p.m.
Public assist 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 5:16 p.m.
Elevator rescue 500blk Broadway 5:29 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 6:01 p.m.
EMS 14000blk 17th St 6:17 p.m.
EMS 400blk 22nd St 6:48 p.m.
EMS 600blk Pico Pl 7:04 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 7:17 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Lincoln Blvd / Pine St 7:42 p.m.
Electrical fire 1300blk Yale St 8:12 p.m.
Smoke investigation Olympic Blvd / 26th St 8:20 p.m.
EMS 800blk 4th St 8:56 p.m.
EMS 900blk Euclid St 10:47 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Ocean Way 10:52 p.m.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

promised to workers and the balance of the fund.

Santa Monica's accelerated repayment plan will save more than $100 million in interest, said finance director Gigi Decavelles-Hughes. Even so, the pension liability and eroding revenues from sales tax as consumers shop online instead of in Santa Monica's brick-and-mortar stores could put the city $50 million in the red over the next 10 years if it doesn't cut costs. A looming recession would only make matters worse.

The 2019-2021 budget takes the first steps toward those long-term savings, eliminating 29 vacant jobs, trimming administrative costs and diverting local students from some poorly attended childcare programs. It also includes metrics to measure the effects of funding levels on city services.

"With this budget, we continue to invest in the exceptional services, programs and public facilities for which Santa Monica is known while also preparing for harder economic times," said Mayor Gleam Davis. "Budgeting based on performance and continually measuring how we're doing will maintain our strong financial standing and allow us to continue to innovate to meet regional and global challenges like homelessness and climate change."

The budget city manager Rick Cole proposed last month included other cuts, including extending the winter closure of the Santa Monica Swim Center, ending a contract with KCRW to broadcast City Council meetings and dialing down enforcement of the city's leafblower ban, but the council rejected those cost-cutting measures.

The council also asked that the budget incorporate $100,000 for hospitality ambassadors in Reed Park.

Since last fall, the city's Recreation and Parks Commission has called on the council to prevent people experiencing homelessness from relieving themselves, using drugs or committing crimes in the park. The council decided to launch a six-month pilot program in which Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. ambassadors, who are already present in other downtown parks, will work with the homeless population in Reed Park.

The budget also renews funding for outreach teams that work with homeless individuals on the streets and expands the Preserving Our Diversity (POD) program to provide rental assistance to 200 to 400 low-income seniors with the goal of preventing homelessness.

To bring in more revenue, the budget raises parking rates across the city, including a parking meter rate increase of $0.50 per hour downtown and near the beach, $0.25 per hour in all other areas and Main Street parking lots and a $15 increase in the monthly permit price for the Main Street lots. Hourly and daily parking rates will also increase at the Santa Monica Pier deck and the central beach lots.

madeleine@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Senator Ben Allen Honors The Albright at the 2019 California Small Business Day

Senator Ben Allen (D - Santa Monica) has named The Albright as Small Business of the Year for Senate District 26. The Albright, which was chosen for its commitment to sustainability and dedication to the Santa Monica community, received the award at a Sacramento luncheon sponsored by the California Small Business Association on Wednesday, June 19.

"It is my pleasure to recognize Greg Morena, Yunnie Kim Morena, and everyone at The Albright for serving generations of Santa Monicans on the Santa Monica Pier," Senator Allen said. "They have been trailblazers in sustainability and greening efforts on the Pier and in the greater Santa Monica community by serving sustainable, locally sourced seafood and ingredients. This is a labor of love for the Morena family and they have done a fantastic job bolstering fellow Santa Monica businesses and engendering a sense of respect and social responsibility within the community."

California Small Business Day 2019 honored 82 small businesses for their contributions to the state's economy. Small business contributes to 75% of California's gross domestic product and over half of the state's private sector jobs. From hardware stores to manufacturers, small businesses are stalwarts of California's communities and its economy.

The Albright - SM Pier Seafood is a family owned and operated restaurant on the Santa Monica Pier, a local mainstay opened 1977. The modern, relaxed, seaside atmosphere is adored by locals and tourists alike. The Morena family has earned many awards for their small business leadership and community efforts. They established the first sustainable committee under the Santa Monica Pier Lessee's Association to focus on updating and integrating sustainable practices on the Pier. In 2019, spearheaded by their efforts, the collective Pier tenants will divert more than 500,000 pounds of organic waste from landfills.

Owner of The Albright, Greg Morena, said, "Small business is the backbone of our economy. To be recognized by our great state gives me such pride in that our efforts are appreciated. It is with honor that we receive this award on behalf of all our dedicated and passionate staff. Thank you for recognizing The Albright on the Santa Monica Pier as Small Business of the Year!"

Ben Allen represents California's 26th Senate District, which includes the Westside, Hollywood and the South Bay communities of Los Angeles County.

SUBMITTED BY COLLEEN BEAMISH

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 06/22
3 6 11 14 66
Power#: 21
Jackpot: $122 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 06/25
24 33 45 47 61
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: $71 M

SuperLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 06/22
6 8 20 40 42
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: $56 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 06/25
7 11 16 22 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 06/25
Midday: 2 2 0
Draw Date: 06/25
Evening: 7 0 3

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 06/25
1st: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
2nd: 3 - HOT SHOT
3rd: 9 - WINNING SPIRIT
RACE TIME: 1:43.33

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



SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 64.4°

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft+ ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
Shadowed S swell fades at best exposures. Small NW windswell.

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft+ ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
Shadowed S swell leftovers at best exposures. May see slight uptick in NW windswell.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

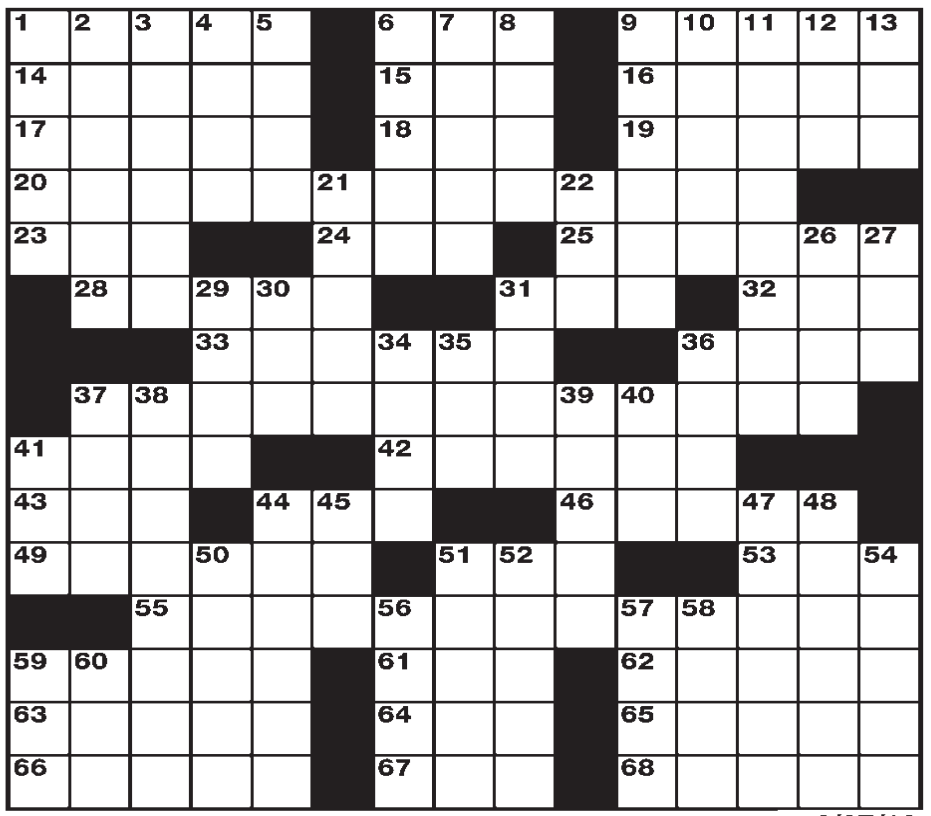
	5	8	7	2			9	
	6				9			5
7			1			2		6
5		6		9			2	
	2						1	
	9			1		6		7
2		5			3			4
6			2				5	
	3			5	4	7	6	

Newsday Crossword

DOUBLERS by Pam Klawitter
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Possible bow breaker
6 Whoop-__-do
9 Olympics city in Russia
14 South Pacific kingdom
15 2019 Oscars airer
16 Ti, in F minor
17 Divvy up
18 Common conjunction
19 Hangs around
20 Rock hound's purchase
23 Symbol on Japan's flag
24 Cry of fright
25 Trojan War hero
28 What "aloha" can mean
31 Participate, with "in"
32 Application form abbr.
33 Sewn loosely
36 Phone app symbol
37 Thrill seeker's ride
41 Swooped down
42 Heart's __ valve
43 Practical purpose
44 Severely test
46 Upper sky
49 Teen turning 60 this year
51 Cote comment
53 It might float your boat
55 Moving message
59 On-stage asset
61 "Little old me?"
62 "Loving" prefix
63 Peripheral
64 Comfy footwear
65 Rounds of four
66 First Amendment topic
67 Early times, briefly
68 Stratospheric layer

DOWN
1 Forest males
2 Lie low
3 Utilizing a hotspot
4 Awestruck
5 Missing the boat
6 Prom, for instance
7 Tablet reading
8 Shade near beige
9 Type of stanza
10 Time and again
11 Birdseye of frozen food
12 Something pitched by pitchforks
13 Where-at filler
21 Milton Hershey contemporary
22 Day-care break
26 Romantic *emoción*
27 Wickedness
29 Having the know-how
30 Four prezzes after Teddy
31 Trait of banana oil
34 Buffet holder
35 "Green" prefix
36 Restless urge
37 Sub __ (secretly)
38 Orthodontic concern
39 Annoyed greatly
40 Perch (on)
41 Do voice-over work
44 Microwave functions
45 Street cred
47 __ Pie (ice cream brand)
48 Catch from a pier, perhaps
50 After-school lineup
51 Witch craft
52 Japanese competitor of Nike
54 Cropped up
56 Stone of the cinema
57 __ facto
58 Bistro-name word
59 What some call soda
60 Claimed by us



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/27/19

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 27)

This year has it all – adventure and excitement offset by periods of time that let you settle into a comfortable, healthy routine. What results from the friendship and working developments in July eventually will be a shared history that makes you proud. You'll invest with friends and loved ones and it pays well in 2020. Aquarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 33, 5 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's nothing worth losing your cool over. Finding a solution to the problem depends on maintaining a certain frame of mind. Do the self-care that allows you to relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Of course, it often takes a struggle to change your status. But if maintaining a position continues to be a struggle, consider that it's not a good fit. Life isn't meant to be easy, but it shouldn't be hard all of the time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know that you can't please everyone and have in fact learned that if too many people love what you're doing, it's not a plus. Rather it's an indication to drill further into your own uniqueness.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've no use for other people's curiosity right now. You only want to draw attention to yourself when you have a specific reason to do so. Go under the radar until the moment you're ready to lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Friendship is the high form of love that allows you to give purely today and with the sole purpose of making another person happy and building a strong relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be mindful of how different people bring out different sides of you. The sorts of things you do in the company of one person will be totally different from what you wind up doing with someone else.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Right has might and you're in its strong clutches. The question that arises today: How do you know what's right, especially when other people believe that they are just as right?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have a gift for seeing what's interesting about people and situations even when it's not readily apparent to others. Because of this, you can turn just about anything into an interesting experience.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Excellence is never everywhere. By definition, the position of excellence is held by precious few. Quantity lowers value. If there's too much of a thing, then it's not worth as much. The best things in life are always rare.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're so busy building up reasons for people to appreciate you right now that there's no time to worry about the money. In the end, the money is actually a certificate of appreciation that naturally flows toward your efforts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your true friends aren't sitting around breaking down the nuances of your every word, move or mistake. They get your heart and extend the benefit of the doubt to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your imagination is so powerful today that you could easily put it to use for time travel. Project yourself to the far future. What you see there will help you create your best strategy.

Moon's Operation Manual

Different things motivate different people. Some are set into motion by the promise of pleasure, others activate for the possibility to have a greater influence over their world. The lesson of this Taurus moon is that taking care to learn your own buttons will prevent you from moving involuntarily in the direction others want you to.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

"Could you give me some insights on my relationship with a very personable Gemini? I'm a passionate Cancer. We never stop talking and touching, but I am concerned about the future. I'm very much in love, but this will be our second time around, and I want it to be our last. While I know there are no guarantees, I'd love guidance. Previously, I was married to an Aries, and all the stars said no, but I didn't listen." The nature of Cancer is to seek security and provide the illusion of security even where none exists – and, as you stated, certainly none exists in matters of the heart. In fact, the very nature of love is that you cannot be in love without having been injured by love. Knowing how badly love can hurt and then choosing to risk the pain is the very essence of love. Without the contrast of pain, love wouldn't be a risk, and if not a risk, it wouldn't be love. So thank your Aries for causing you pain. Without that relationship, you wouldn't be the person you are today – the person your Gemini is falling in love with.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

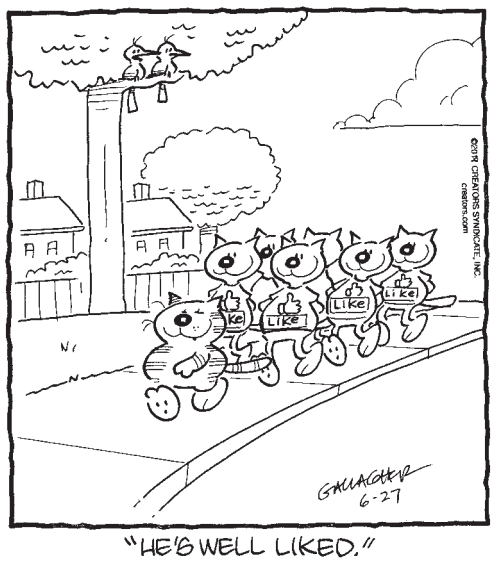
Political activist and author Helen Keller was rendered deaf and blind by a disease that struck her as a toddler. With the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, she forever changed the way the world would think of the disabled. This triumphant spirit was born when the sun and Venus was in nurturing Cancer and the moon was in Pisces, the sign of old souls. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Minimoon
noun [min-ee-moon]
a short, usually inexpensive honeymoon, often followed by a longer honeymoon later on:
They left the courthouse after the ceremony and had a weekend minimoon at The Plaza.

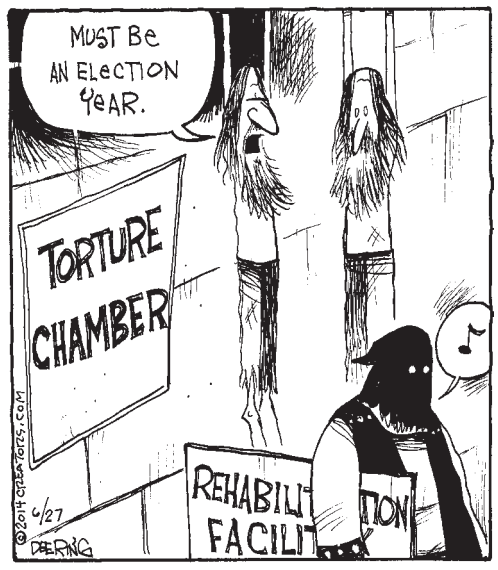
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



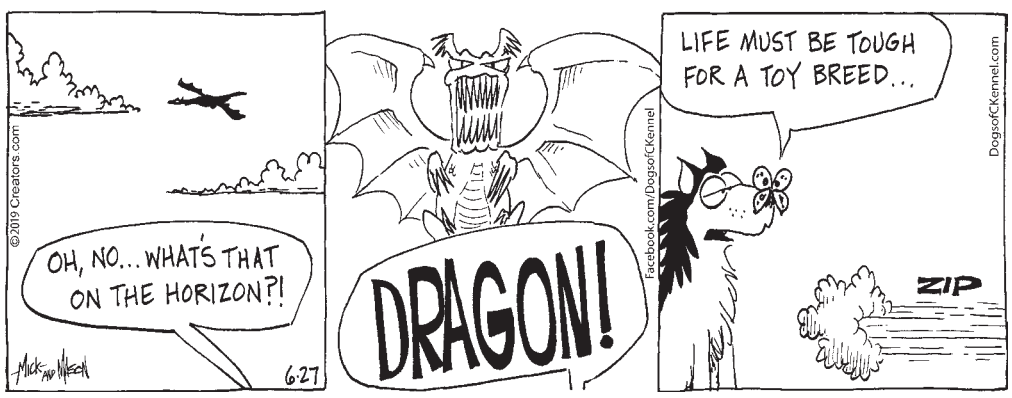
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NOTEWORTHY

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new realms of musical and poetic spaces," whew!), Sun 5 p.m., all shows at The Jazz Bakery, Moss Theater, New Roads School, SM, $25-$35.

JOHN McEUEN & The String Wizards present "Will The Circle Be Unbroken" (you may quite rightly associate McEuen with The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band because he co-founded them in Long Beach when I was a freshman in college, yes, that damn long he's been doin' it, and was with them first for 20 years and later for 17, but John always surrounds himself with drop-jaw players and if he's calling this group wizards, you'd best believe him, McCabe's promises "an incredible evening of Dirt Band favorites and the presentation of the 2019 Topanga Legend Award to John"), Sat;

RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT (how does a nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn whose father wanted him to become a surgeon wind up running away with the rodeo at 15, becoming a student of Woody Guthrie, teaching his kid Arlo his father's songs after Woody's demise, having his nasal delivery copied by a young Bob Dylan, and at 87 be still ramblin', lucky us, but this show is officially sold out so you're going to have to show up and beg someone for a spare ticket, who knows?), Sun, both shows 8 p.m., McCabes, SM, $30.

"AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE" by HENRIK IBSEN ("Freely Adapted and Directed by Ellen Geer" but that's a good thing, a very good thing, as the daughter of founder Will Geer has maintained a standard at this magical outdoor theater that has lasted 46 years), Sat 8 p.m., through Sept. 28, Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $10-$42.

MEET ME AT REED (Santa Monica Taiko Drum Festival), Sat 5-7 p.m., Reed Park, SM, free.

BODACIOUS BIRTHDAYS: Last week on his birthday I promised you a tale about Beach Boy BRIAN WILSON (6/20/1942), so here ya go.

It started when I moved here from NM in 1980, with the determination to always live where the best schools were, for my son Chris, 11. That took us from Brentwood, to North Hollywood, to Beverly Hills. BHHS was then rated one of the top 10 high schools in the country, private or public. Turns out, he hated it. Not his tribe. But when he discovered the school's radio station, he found his people. Other music fanatics who couldn't care less about fast cars or fashions. He remained friends with that group through his whole life.

One friend, Randy Bookasta, started an alternative music magazine, while still in HS — Contrast. It lasted a few years and was well regarded, and one day in '88 Randy got a call from Warner Bros. Records, asking if he would like to have an exclusive interview with Brian Wilson, on the occasion of the release of the famous Beach Boy's first solo album. "Hell yeah!" he responded immediately, then thought, as he hung up the phone, oh no, I don't know squat about Brian Wilson! Who do I know who does? Oh yeah — Chris's dad! Randy was among the friends who spent many happy hours at our place going through my massive LP collection.

I was, of course, delighted. This was only the second interview allowed, the first being for the NY Times magazine, by the incomparable biographer Timothy White. Warner Bros. wanted the world, and especially the kids, to know this was not the work of some fat old irrelevant Beach Boy, this was cutting edge post-modern music, and they felt Contrast was the vehicle to deliver that message.

Brian had been emotionally disturbed for more than 20 years, having suffered a series of nervous breakdowns when he was just 22. But he was the money machine supporting dozens of people, including family, and everyone tried to keep him going. He abandoned touring but kept writing, absolutely brilliant pop music. I had always read about the most respected musicians' (including Leonard Bernstein) regard for his "genius" talent. I could never quite see the genius part. Surf and car songs? Until I did that piece.

— TO BE CONTINUED

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 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

MYSTERIOUS

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from 1894 to 2004.

The staging is absolutely amazing: enormous sliding panels, projections, bookshelves, bridges, a dead body on the floor (suspended from a wall) and super quick, fluid scene changes between the various venues and settings, past and present.

There's an entire universe of fanatics, scholars and imitators, each of whom might have had a stake in what happens to Green. Including Green himself, according to one line of thought. Is the mystery of Green's death solved? No; and that's not a spoiler. The way we don't find out is very clever— each potential way he might have died (including self-asphyxiation) is demonstrated; then Sherlock tries to edify us with his deduction—which we'll never hear.

It's an entertaining and complicated play and the actors are outstanding: Alan Tudyk as Green and Sherlock; Ramiz Monsef as Watson, Green's friend Henry and others; Austin Durant as Conan Doyle and others; Hugo Armstrong as many characters but primarily, The American; Leo Marks, John Bobek and Helen Sadler fill in all the other blanks.

Written by Michael Mitnick and directed by Shakman, it took a lot of creative wrangling to tie the many threads running through this story into a staged work. That said, I will say the ending (because it's true) does not come to a straightforward "whodunit" answer. Tying up the still loose ends inspires a slightly ponderous wrap-up.

But this is a terrific romp, both funny and thought-provoking and a beautifully-produced piece of theatre. "Mysterious Circumstances" runs through July 14, weeknights and weekends including matinees, at the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood Village. Tickets at the box office (310) 208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.org.

BEYOND THE NOTES: JAZZ AND HIP HOP

Tomorrow at Laemmle's Monica Film Center, a new documentary traces the storied history of one of the music industry's most beloved record labels. "Blue Note Records: Beyond the Notes" is a veritable history of jazz, and the two men who created it loved jazz more than they cared about turning a profit. That's what makes Blue Note Records such a rare beast.

It's a talky doc, but talk worth hearing— not to mention great music by some giant jazz artists: Art Blakey, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, to name just a few. And just when you wonder whether such an idealistic label can survive the realities of the digital era, the connection between Blue Note and Hip Hop becomes startlingly clear, and the news is good. Jazz gets reinvented by way of sampling.

Go see "Blue Note Records: Beyond the Notes" at Laemmle's Monica. Tickets here: https://www.laemmle.com/films/45670; and more info about film: https://bluenoterecords-film.com/en/.

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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5 p.m. Gates Open to Corsair Field and Stadium Bleachers

6 p.m. Entertainment Starts on the Stage
- The Chris Mulkey Band
- Opening – SMC Cheer Squad

8:15 p.m. Parking Lots Close

8:45 p.m. Entry Gates Close

9 p.m. Fireworks by Pyro Spectaculars Entertainment

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