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Santa Monica Daily Press

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SMC program sings, strums to honor mariachi tradition



Photo Courtesy SMYO

MARIACHI: The Santa Monica College Mariachi Ensemble has continued to grow through its second year as a program, featuring students from both SMC and Santa Monica High School.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A musical odyssey ongoing for hundreds of years has landed on the Westside, providing opportunities for both students and local festivities.

The Santa Monica College Mariachi Ensemble recently finished its second year as a program, performing the music made famous in western Mexico in the 18th and 19th centuries. Holding courses at Santa Monica High School, the class merges Samohi students, SMC students and adults together to pay respects to Latino heritage.

"Music kind of offers a way to honor and learn about one's culture, and it just bridges generations … the music itself, I just find it to be very lovely and very unique, and it's just been … fun to teach," SMC mariachi instructor Mary Alfaro said.

The idea gestated first as a youth ensemble at Virginia Avenue Park, evolving into a partnership between SMC, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica Youth Orchestra. One of the first instructors brought on for the endeavor was Guillermo "Willie" Acuña, the harpist for Grammy Award-nominated group Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández. Acuña took on the challenge in order to bring the mariachi tradition to Santa Monica and neighboring cities.

"Los Angeles is sort of a Mecca for mariachi music in the United States, except (for) the Westside … this is the first time it makes it up to the Westside," Acuña said.

In the classic mariachi spirit, all students (ranging from ages 14 to 65) must participate both with their singing voice and their chosen instrument. Samohi students that complete the course receive college credit for their efforts. The class joins together to sing choruses, while select soloists are chosen for parts in verses. Exercising the lungs is also a lesson in self-confidence, Alfaro noted.

"When you go to a gig, pretty much everybody sings in the mariachi, and some (kids), they can be a little shy or self-conscious," she said. "(But) a lot of kids have stepped to the plate, they've been very brave in taking that step of

SEE **MARIACHI** PAGE 11

Council voting on board and commission seats gave both unsurprising and unexpected results

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Without a doubt, one of the more popcorn moments from Tuesday's City Council meeting was the annual appointment voting to the boards and commissions within the City of Santa Monica. One of the most notable was with regards to the three positions available on the Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) board of directors.

In what really could only be described as a disorganized circus, members of council wrestled over the nomination and voting process for the three key council-appointed positions on the DTSM board of directors.

The nominees were Peter Trinh, Ericka Lesley (both incumbents) plus Kurt Isensee, Natasha Rusler, Jon Farzam, Berta Negari, Hudson Maudlin, Michelle Cardiel, Hodge Patterson, Andrea Salerno and Albin Gielicz.

Vice Mayor Lana Negrete first nominated Farzam, Councilmember Caroline Torosis nominated Lesley and Councilmember Oscar De la Torre nominated Trinh. However, in the first round of voting, De la Torre voted for Farzam, Torosis stuck by Lesley, Negrete also voted for Farzam, Councilmember Gleam Davis voted for Lesley, Councilmember Christine Parra voted for Farzam, Councilmember Jesse Zwick voted for Lesley and Mayor Phil Brock voted for Farzam. Consequently, in a vote along political lines, Farzam was appointed by a vote of 4-3.

In the next round, for the second seat, Torosis once again nominated Lesley, Negrete nominated Negari and Zwick nominated Patterson. De la Torre voted for Negari, along with Negrete, Brock and Parra, Torosis stuck with Lesley, while Davis and Zwick voted for Patterson. Thus Negari won 4-3. Then Zwick changed his vote, so the record will reflect a 5-2 victory.

Once more confusion had been overcome, the final round of voting for the third position began. Zwick

SEE **CITY COUNCIL** PAGE 4

Saturday opens the streets to the Soul of Main Street with summer festival

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

This year has seen a true entertainment revival on Main Street, one that has continued into July with the return of a standout soiree.

After years of dormancy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Summer Soulstice Festival returns on Saturday for its 20th anniversary. The free event thrown by the Main Street Business Improvement Association (MSBIA) will have music, art and activities for all ages, running from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

MSBIA's Jenny Rice explained that Summer Soulstice "took a lot of different turns" since the street festival was scrapped in 2020. During the pandemic, Main Street was able to work with the city to close the street for endeavors like fitness classes and acoustic music concerts, but the feeling for a full-fledged festival remained.

"We kind of had these iterations

SEE **FESTIVAL** PAGE 11



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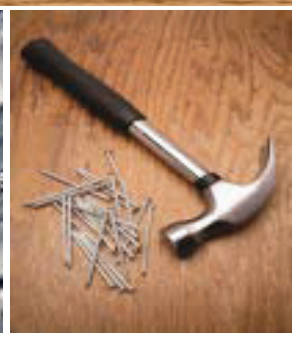
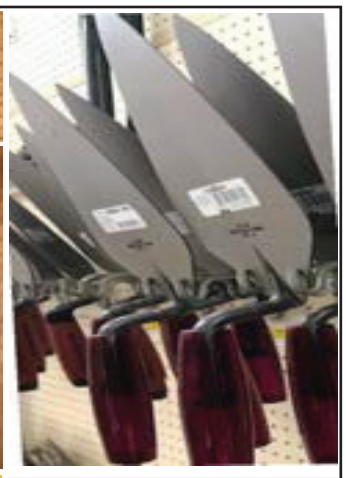
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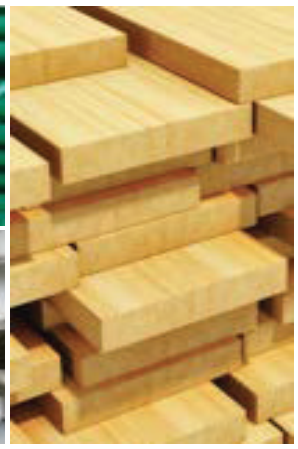
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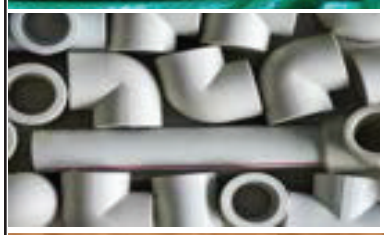


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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California faces a variety of workforce shortages. It can't afford to cut training programs



Photo by Juliana Yamada for CalMatters
TRAINING: Dentist Ann Chen, left, and dental assistant Phuong Truong, right, work on a student patient at the Shop 55 Wellness Center at Oakland High School in Oakland on May 10, 2024. Through the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP), Oakland High is able to offer a variety of medical services such as dental care to students.

EDGAR ALAS

Growing up in El Salvador, I was certain that coming to the United States would be my ticket to economic opportunity. But the reality in California and elsewhere is that traditional pathways to higher-wage employment, like training or a four-year degree, are out of reach for many young jobseekers like me. It will only become harder if the state cuts career training programs like the one that got me where I am today.

When I arrived in the Bay Area in 2017, a career in health care seemed to be the perfect way to combine my passion for helping people with the benefits of a quality job, but I was unable to meet the educational and financial requirements to become a nurse while I worked to support my family.

I was renting a small room with my uncle, working two low-wage part-time jobs, and struggling to stay on top of rent and other bills. In 2022, I learned about Jewish Vocational Service's Foundations in Dental Assisting program. While many jobs face uncertain futures and instability, dental assisting is a stable, in-demand career pathway.

The average wage for dental assistants in California is over $25 per hour, with employment opportunities projected to grow 20% by the next decade. Not only was the program completely free but it included a paid internship, hands-on experience and more to ensure I was successful in the dental field. After finishing a second program this year, I'm now a registered dental assistant with a full-time job and opportunities for advancement — but the impact of these programs extends far beyond securing employment.

The mentorship, networking opportunities and practical job training gave me a sense of confidence that I could excel. I plan on attending dental hygiene school soon, a goal I never thought was possible when I began this journey.

Programs like these are typically government-funded, and many have been put on the chopping block as the state grapples with a budget deficit. While lawmakers rejected proposed cuts to the High Road Training Partnerships, which funds career training programs like mine, the final approved budget includes $746 million in cuts to healthcare workforce development programs. San Francisco lawmakers are also considering funding cuts for the city's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, which could lead to layoffs at nonprofits that rely on public agencies to support the training programs they provide.

With workforce development funding at risk, organizations could end up serving fewer jobseekers who rely on them to gain access to quality careers. These programs are vital for many young people in California, especially those from immigrant, Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, as well as other

SEE **TRAINING** PAGE 11

Biden's candidacy faces new peril as Pelosi, Clooney and more Democrats weigh in

LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

President Joe Biden's imperiled re-election campaign hit new trouble Wednesday as House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi said merely "it's up to the president to decide" if he should stay in the race, celebrity donor George Clooney said he should not run and Democratic senators and lawmakers expressed fresh fear about his ability to beat Republican Donald Trump.

The sudden flurry of grave pronouncements despite Biden's determined insistence he is not leaving the 2024 race put on public display just how unsettled the question remains among prominent Democrats. On Capitol Hill, an eighth House Democrat, Rep. Pat Ryan of New York, publicly asked Biden to step aside.

"I want him to do whatever he decides to do," Pelosi said Wednesday on MSNBC rather than declaring Biden should stay in. Though he's said repeatedly that he's made his decision, she said, "We're all encouraging him to make that decision, because time is running short."

It's a crucial moment for the president and his party, as Democrats consider what was once unthinkable — having the incumbent Biden step aside, just weeks before the Democratic National Convention that is on track to nominate him as their candidate for reelection.

Biden is hosting world leaders in Washington for the NATO summit this week with a crowded schedule of formal meetings, sideline chats and long diplomatic dinners. He faces his next public test Thursday when he is scheduled to hold a news conference that many are watching for signs of his abilities.

To be sure, Biden maintains strong support from key corners of his coalition, particularly the Congressional Black Caucus on Capitol Hill, whose leadership was instrumental in ushering the president to victory in 2020 and is standing by him as the country's best choice to defeat Trump again in 2024.

"At this moment, the stakes are too high and we have to focus," Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota told The Associated Press on Tuesday, saying Democrats are "losing ground" the longer they fight over Biden's candidacy. "Democracy is on the line. Everything we value as Democrats, as a country, is on the line, and we have to stop being distracted."

Pelosi has been widely watched for signals of how top Democrats are thinking about Biden's wounded candidacy, her comments viewed as important for the party's direction as members weigh possible alternatives in the campaign against Trump.

Because of her powerful position as the former House speaker and proximity to Biden as a trusted longtime ally of his generation, Pelosi is seen as one of the few Democratic leaders who could have influence on the president's thinking.

The lack of a full statement from Pelosi backing Biden's continued campaign is what lawmakers are likely to hear most clearly. Her remarks came moments before actor Clooney, who had just hosted a glitzy Hollywood fundraiser for the president last month, said in a New York Times op-ed that the Biden he saw three weeks ago wasn't the Joe Biden of 2020. "He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate."

Sen. Michael Bennet, a Democrat from Colorado, spoke forcefully late Tuesday about the danger of a second Trump presidency and said it's for the president "to consider" the options.

Stopping just short of calling for Biden to drop out, Bennet said on CNN what he told his colleagues in private – that he believes Trump "is on track to win this election -- and maybe win it by a landslide and take with him the Senate and the House."

Bennet said, "It's not a question about politics. It's a moral question about the future of our country."

Another Democrat, Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, said Wednesday he was "deeply concerned" about Biden winning the election, which he called existential for the country.

"We have to reach a conclusion as soon as possible," Blumenthal said on CNN.

Democrats have been reeling over the question of whether to continue backing Biden after his poor showing in the June 27 presidential debate with Trump and his campaign's lackluster response to their pleas that Biden, at 81, show voters he is up for another four-year term.

Biden and his campaign are working more intently now to shore up support, and the president met with labor leaders Wednesday, relying on the unions to help make the case that his record in office matters more than his age.

With the executive council of the AFL-CIO, America's largest federation of trade unions, Biden told the crowd that even Wall Street was acknowledging the power of unions, as he once again articulated his vision for an economy built "from the bottom up and middle out."

"I said I'm going to be the most pro-union president in American history," Biden told the cheering crowd. "Well guess what? I am."

While more House Democrats have publicly called on Biden to end his candidacy, no Senate Democrats have gone that far. Bennet was among three Democratic senators, including Jon Tester of Montana and Sherrod Brown of Ohio, who spoke up during a private lunch Tuesday, according to a person familiar with the meeting and granted anonymity to discuss it.

Pelosi of California said Biden "has been a great president" who is beloved and respected by House Democrats.

The Californian said she watched as he delivered a forceful speech at the NATO summit on Tuesday, and recounted his many accomplishments.

While foreign leaders are in Washington this week and Biden is on the world stage hosting the event at a critical time in foreign affairs, Pelosi encouraged Democrats "let's just hold off" with any announcements about his campaign.

"Whatever you're thinking, either tell somebody privately but you don't have to put that out on the table until we see," she said, how it goes "this week."

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **66.7**

THURSDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist
Small but peaky. S swell nudges up a bit further as NW windswell sticks around. Drained low tide early AM, mid/late morning tide push looks like the ticket. Winds look to be on the lighter side and conditions OK in the AM.

FRIDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist
S swell eases, mixing with lingering NW windswell for some small peaks. Light/variable early AM wind expected, potentially picking up out of the W quickly. Mid-AM low tide isn't too bad, should be able to surf through it.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 76.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 65. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 74. Light south wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/07/11	Thu	12:39 AM	4.58		H
2024/07/11	Thu	07:40 AM	0.67		L
2024/07/11	Thu	2:41 PM	4.13		H
2024/07/11	Thu	8:03 PM	2.63		L
2024/07/12	Fri	01:25 AM	3.94		H
2024/07/12	Fri	08:08 AM	1.18		L
2024/07/12	Fri	3:21 PM	4.29		H
2024/07/12	Fri	9:35 PM	2.48		L
2024/07/13	Sat	02:30 AM	3.31		H
2024/07/13	Sat	08:38 AM	1.67		L
2024/07/13	Sat	4:03 PM	4.49		H
2024/07/13	Sat	11:16 PM	2.07		L
2024/07/14	Sun	04:19 AM	2.84		H
2024/07/14	Sun	09:14 AM	2.12		L
2024/07/14	Sun	4:46 PM	4.74		H
2024/07/15	Mon	12:29 AM	1.49		L
2024/07/15	Mon	06:28 AM	2.76		H
2024/07/15	Mon	10:07 AM	2.48		L

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 7/8
20 22 31 33 45
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 41 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/9
21 26 54 60 64
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 203 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/6
8 11 17 27 31
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 51 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/9
1 3 7 14 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/9
EVENING: 2 5 6
Draw Date: 7/9
MIDDAY: 3 4 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/9
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:46.93

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Santa Monica Daily Press

CITY COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

nominated Trinh, Torosis once again nominated Lesley and De la Torre nominated Cardiel. Negrete was going to nominate Gielicz, but he required five votes since he's a registered lobbyist, so that was out of the question. De la Torre voted for Cardiel, along with Negrete, Parra and Brock. Torosis stuck with Lesley and both Davis and Zwick voted for Trinh.

As such the three new, council-appointed seats on the Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. board go to Jon Farzam, Berta Negari and Michelle Cardiel.

Speaking to the Daily Press, Negrete said regarding her nomination for John Farzam, "He's a hotel operator in the downtown area and we haven't had one on the board yet. He's also positive and has been wanting to be collaborative about helping our downtown area be clean and safe and see economic rebirth."

The results of the other boards and commissions votes were:

Airport Commission, one position available between Joseph Pertel (incumbent) and David Hopkins. Pertel won 7-0.

Architectural Review Board, two positions available between Craig Hamilton, Barbara Kaplan (both incumbents) and Howard Laks. Hamilton won 7-0 and Kaplan also won 7-0.

Arts Commission, two positions available between Ana Boghosian, Julia Carnahan, Bryan Carrigan, Elizabeth Dubelman, Kara Fox, Susan Jain, William Kairala, David Kaplan, Eric Warren, Laurie K. Yehia (incumbent). Both Yehia and Jain won with a vote of 7-0.

Building & Fire-Life Safety, four positions available, between Blair Calderhead, Tim Koutsouros, Charles Whitaker (all incumbents) and Tonia George. Each by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice & the Environment, two positions available between Judy Abdo, Mark Gold (incumbent), David Lappen, Gerda Newbold, Ashley Oelsen, Olivia Walker. Council voted between Walker and Newbold and after some vote changing, Walker wins 7-0 along with Oelsen.

Disabilities Commission, three positions available, between Nasreen Asaria, Matthew Susman (both incumbents) Anya Baroff, Nancy Gordon, Zoë Muntaner, Paul Squire. Following some disorganization, changing of votes and nominations, Asaria, Susman and Gordon ultimately win 7-0.

Housing Commission, one position available, between Lydia Garcia, Timothy Gudgel, Edmund Ha, Shane Hixon, Lynda Rush, Analise Wells (incumbent). Brock nominated Wells and she was elected 7-0.

Human Services Commission, two positions available between Bruce Leddy, Tamara Kagel (both incumbents), Kevin Glover, Mark Jaffe, Maxine Koza, Zoë Muntaner and Krystina Nguyen. Torosis moved that both incumbents be selected and that passed unanimously 7-0.

Landmarks Commission, two positions available between Grant Keller, Jodi Summers (incumbent). A significant amount of confusion followed this seemingly simple equation because of the qualifications required for each position. Needless to say, Summers remains on the commission as the requirements weren't met for the second role.

Metropolitan Water District, one position available, with Mark Gold vying for it. This passed unanimously 7-0. A similar situation unfolded for the Personnel Board, which also had just one position open with Dirk Van de Bunt applying for the role. He too secured the position with a vote of 7-0.

Planning Commission, two seats available between Leslie Lambert, Ellis Rasking (both incumbents) Peer Chacko, Al Dram, Jacob Wasserman. Torosis nominated Raskin and Brock nominated Lambert. Changing her mind following a 6-1 vote, Lambert ultimately won 7-0. For the second seat, no one scored four votes in the first round. As such a second attempt was made. Davis nominated Wasserman and Negrete nominated Chacko. De la Torre voted for Chacko as did Brock, Torosis voted for Wasserman as did Zwick and in a vote down political lines once again, Chacko won the seat, removing City Council contender Ellis Rasking from the role.

Public Safety Reform & Oversight Commission, two seats available between Manju Raman, Brian Stedge-Stroud (both incumbents), Xavier Banister, Stuart Graber, James Kennedy, Zoë Muntaner and Donald Singer. Torosis moved that both incumbents remain and that passed by a vote of 7-0.

Recreation & Parks Commission, three seats were available between Steven W. Johnson, Maryanne LaGuardia (both incumbents) Nikki Kolhoff, Jaleh Mirhashemi, Greg Morena and Larry Arreola. Brock nominated LaGuardia, who needed a minimum of five votes and instead received seven. In the second round, Negrete nominated Morena and that too passed unanimously 7-0. The third round saw De la Torre nominate Kolhoff, Torosis nominate Johnson and Negrete nominate Mirhashemi. Zwick and Davis voted for Johnson while Parra and Brock voted for Mirhashemi. However, since no one received four votes, another round was needed. Torosis once again nominated Johnson and Negrete nominated Mirhashemi. Zwick, Davis voted for Johnson, Parra voted Mirhashemi and in a refreshing break from voting along political lines, Brock joined De la Torre in voting for Johnson. After which, both Negrete and Parra changed their vote to Johnson so that the record would reflect a 7-0 win.

Library Board had one seat available between Daniel Cody, Nick Flaig, Dan Hugh-Jones. Brock nominated Cody and with no others, he secured the seat with a vote of 7-0.

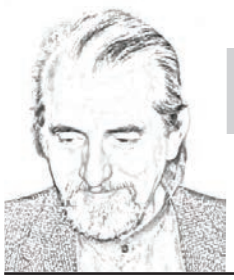
Finally, the Santa Monica Pier Corporation had three seats available between Christopher Foster, Jeff Jarow and Randi Parent (all incumbents) Julieta Giner, Greg Morena and David Newberg. In the first round, De la Torre nominated Giner and Brock nominated Foster. Torosis, Negrete, Davis, Parra, Zwick voted for Giner, who won the seat 6-1. However, Brock changed his vote so that the record will reflect a 7-0 victory.

In the second round, Brock once again nominated Foster (who requires five votes to secure a third term) and Torosis nominated Parent. De la Torre, Parra, Negrete and Brock all voted for Foster while Davis, Zwick voted for Parent. However, five votes were not counted, so another round was required. Needless to say this resulted in a circus. It was decided that a simple vote would be taken to see if Foster could get five votes. Torosis voted no as did Davis and Zwick, so he could not.

In the next round, Negrete nominated Parent. Parra nominated Newberg. De la Torre voted Parent, before everything descended into chaos once again. Torosis wasn't sure who she was voting for but ultimately opted for Parent, who was chosen on a unanimous vote of 7-0.

In the final round, Negrete nominated Newberg and Torosis nominated Jarow. De la Torre, Parra and Brock voted for Newberg, Davis and Zwick voted for Jarow, which meant that the seat, in a somewhat unexpected fashion went to Newberg and Jarow lost out, 4-3 along political lines.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



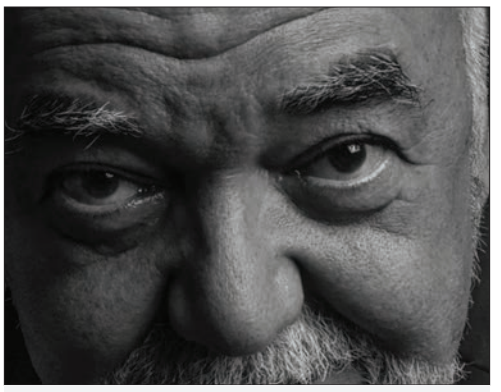
OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

FROM NASHVILLE TO THE STONES

NASHVILLE

Before my first visit there, a week ago, I didn't know all that much about Nashville, longtime capital of country music, but which country music? 50 years ago they began embracing a commercial, "pretty boy/girl" brand that left some of the greatest practitioners – Waylon and Willie, Merle Haggard, Kris Kristofferson, more, as outsiders, "outlaws." Willie moved back to Texas and never looked back, folks like Dwight Yoakam dug deep into the Merle/Buck Owens Bakersfield history, and here we are, with a splintered but familial country music still HQ'd in Music City. Nashville is not to be dismissed, even by purists, and I found a lot of great history AND music there. Which I will have to tell you more about next week. Y'all come!



Courtesy Photo

X: Master Drummer Peter Erskine brings his jazz trio to Sam First this weekend.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

THEATRICUM BOTANICUM – Founder Will Geer's daughter Ellen is directing "The Winter's Tale," one of Willie the Shake's last, a tragi-comedy in five acts. TB is known, for more than half a century, for their Shakespeare and performed "Midsummer" their first season, and every year since, and this year it is directed by Willow Geer, Will's granddaughter. There is not a more perfect stage for this classic than the woods of Topanga. "Wendy's Peter Pan," also directed by Ellen, by title alone sounds like great fun. "Tartuffe" Sat 7:30 p.m.,"Winter" Sun 3:30 p.m., "Peter Pan" Sun 7:30 p.m., $15-60.

PETER ERSKINE TRIO + BOB MINTZER - It's not that I'm lazy, I've just written about jazz percussion master Peter Erskine and his remarkable trio, with Darek Oles on bass and Alan Pasqua on piano, together for decades, so many times, that if you haven't caught them yet, especially in such an elegant jazz room as Sam First, so close to Santa Monica, then I haven't done my job properly and I just don't know what else to say. Add in sax master Mintzer for these gigs, and it goes through the roof. If I had a category for WAY AMAZING HIGHLY SUPER DUPER RECOMMENDED, I would use it for these two nights. Fri, Sat, 7:30, 9:30 P.M., Sam First, LAX, $30.

ROLLING STONES – No, they're not as magnificent as when I saw them on their best tour ever, with Mick Taylor in the band and Stevie Wonder opening up, in '72, but who is, half a century later? But they are not that far off and that is remarkable. They have so many great songs they can't play them all in a couple of hours. The Glimmer Twins, Mick and Keith, are 80, and I promise that won't detract from their show. Yet, we know they won't be around forever. So... go. Sat 7:30 p.m., Sofi Stadium, Inglewood, $81-1832.

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

RECOMMENDED:

ALL GERSHWIN, LA PHIL – My only "improvement" on this fine evening under the stars with our exhilarating, world class LA Philharmonic: I would leave "Rhapsody in Blue" for the finale, because I think it is one of the finest compositions of the last couple of centuries. But that's just me. (There is quite a story behind it, look it up.) Thurs 8 p.m., Hollywood Bowl, $14-165.

"THE SUBSTANCE OF FIRE" – It's always exciting when the Ruskin Group mounts a new production, because their track record is so exceptional. Over 20 years they have built a reputation for attracting stellar talent in actors, directors, writers and musicians. More importantly, a reputation for presenting an evening of theatre that makes you think and moves you, sometimes profoundly. This one stars Rob Morrow and Marcia Cross, both with extensive credits and awards for stage, film and TV. Go soon, you may well want to return, and take friends. Thurs (preview), Fri, Sat 8p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SM Airport, $25-40.

"WILD THINGS ARE HAPPENING: THE ART OF MAURICE SENDAK" – Now you can see them much bigger than a page in a book. This is the first complete retrospective of his art since his death in 2012, and includes his work in many areas of the arts. 7/11-9/1, Skirball Museum, admission price? Parking fee - call for info and hours.

LIQUID KITTY PUNK ROCK BBQ - The dark, so hip Liquid Kitty on Pico is long gone ('96-'16) but this resuscitated, now-SM tradition has rocked the occasional Sunday afternoon at Harvelle's for years. You'll get five bands, with a lot of legendary punkers including San Pedro's Mike Watt. Sun 1 - 6 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica,

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Summer SOULstice Festival & More

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the Main St. Summer SOULstice Festival, Anderson Paak @ Night Market Thursdays @ The Bungalow, DineLA Restaurant Week Deals, and much more!

Anderson Paak @ Night Market Thursdays @ The Bungalow: This is a free event, open to the public for guests of all ages and pet-friendly. Families can also enjoy a kids' play area with complimentary face painting, alongside various brand activations, celebrity appearances, and DJ performances. On Thursday, July 11, Grammy-winning artist Anderson Paak, aka DJ Pee Wee, will perform with his brand SelvaRey and AMASS' Summer Water Rosé Pizzolato to support Paak's charity, Paak House. Event runs every Thursday from 5 - 11 p.m. through August 29. https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/activities/night-market/

SaMo Swim Center Family & Friends Splash Night: "What better way to celebrate than with an evening of family fun at the pool? Bring the whole family (and your friends!) and dive into an unforgettable experience. We'll provide pool floats and an inflatable obstacle course to add an extra element of excitement to your aquatic's adventures. Plus indulge your sweet tooth with delicious treats provided for all attendees." Friday July 12, 4:00 - 7:00p.m. @ 2225 16th St. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4ra2gp14zrxb4vcaj8r0gj8s48/202407121600

Main St. Summer Soulstice Festival: Main St. will again be closed to vehicular traffic and transform into a pedestrian plaza as the iconic Summer Soulstice returns on Saturday, July 13, 12 - 7p.m. There is a full calendar of live music, vendors, beer garden, activities for kids & more. FREE! https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-soulstice-festival-tickets-916807565107

GRLSWIRL SurfSkate Fest: "It's time to celebrate inclusivity, female empowerment, and the love of skating." Get ready to shred, swirl, and dance as the global skate community comes together in for an epic day of Surf and SurfSkate competitions, and a 70s-themed dance party under the iconic Venice sign. Saturday, July 13, 8:00a.m. - 10:00p.m., Windward Ave. & Pacific Ave. Surfskatefest.com

"Second Saturdays of Summer" Free Movie in the Park: Wilmont Neighborhood Coalition is hosting "free live music and movies" along with free popcorn & lemonade for kids, too. This month's movie is "Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone." Saturday July 13 @ 8:00p.m. @ Reed Park, 1133 7th St. https://www.wilmont.org/?mc_cid=2b4b60a192&mc_eid=141281ef42

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer with Matt Walsh -discussing her memoir, True Gretch: What I've Learned About Life, Leadership, and Everything in Between From trailblazing Michigan governor and rising Democratic star Gretchen Whitmer comes an unconventionally honest, personal, and funny account of her remarkable life and career. Monday, July 15, 8:00p.m. @ New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/gretchen-whitmer/



Courtesy Graphic

SUMMER: The return of the Summer Soulstice street festival highlights this weekend's events in Santa Monica.

Surf & Saddle: The Bungalow will host the new themed series Surf & Saddles each Wednesday from 9 to 11 pm for a night of country music by the coast. Guests are encouraged to arrive in their best cowboy boots and hats and grab a signature cocktail from the bar for line dancing with the popular local DJ Pinke. https://thebungalow.com/santa-monica/#calendar

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

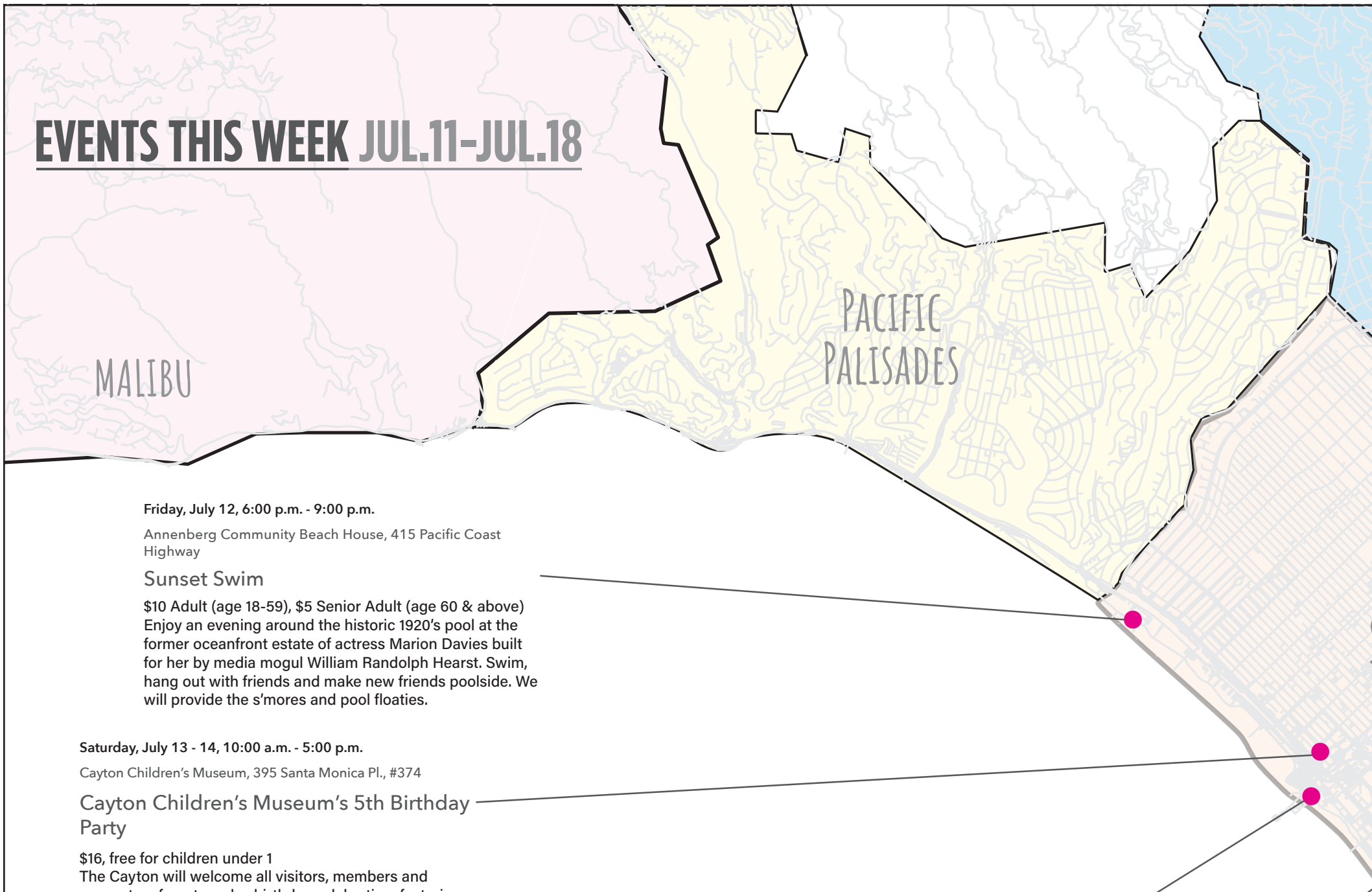
DineLA Restaurant Week: This summer's event runs July 12-26 with hundreds of local restaurants offering special lunch and dinner menus. Some SaMo offerings include high end spots like Citrin, Fia Steak, and Via Veneto, and more casual options like Bludo's BBQ, Colapasta, and Uovo. https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/dinela

Melisse Anniversary Party: July 14 is both Bastille Day and the 25th anniversary of the day Mélisse first opened its doors in 1999. To commemorate, they're hosting a grand

SEE **TOWN** PAGE 11



EVENTS THIS WEEK JUL.11-JUL.18



Friday, July 12, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway

Sunset Swim

$10 Adult (age 18-59), $5 Senior Adult (age 60 & above) Enjoy an evening around the historic 1920's pool at the former oceanfront estate of actress Marion Davies built for her by media mogul William Randolph Hearst. Swim, hang out with friends and make new friends poolside. We will provide the s'mores and pool floaties.

Saturday, July 13 - 14, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cayton Children's Museum, 395 Santa Monica Pl., #374

Cayton Children's Museum's 5th Birthday Party

$16, free for children under 1
The Cayton will welcome all visitors, members and supporters for a two-day birthday celebration, featuring birthday-related art projects and activities including a Birthday Bubble Dance Party, face painting and birthday cake sensory bins. All visitors will leave with a special goodie bag as a thank-you for being a part of the Cayton community over the past five years, while supplies last.

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

Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk

#PlasticFreeJuly Trash Bowl

Celebrate Plastic Free July with a self-guided clean-up of Santa Monica Beach! Stop by Heal the Bay Aquarium to grab your free clean-up supplies and help rid the sands of harmful plastic pollution before it reaches the ocean.

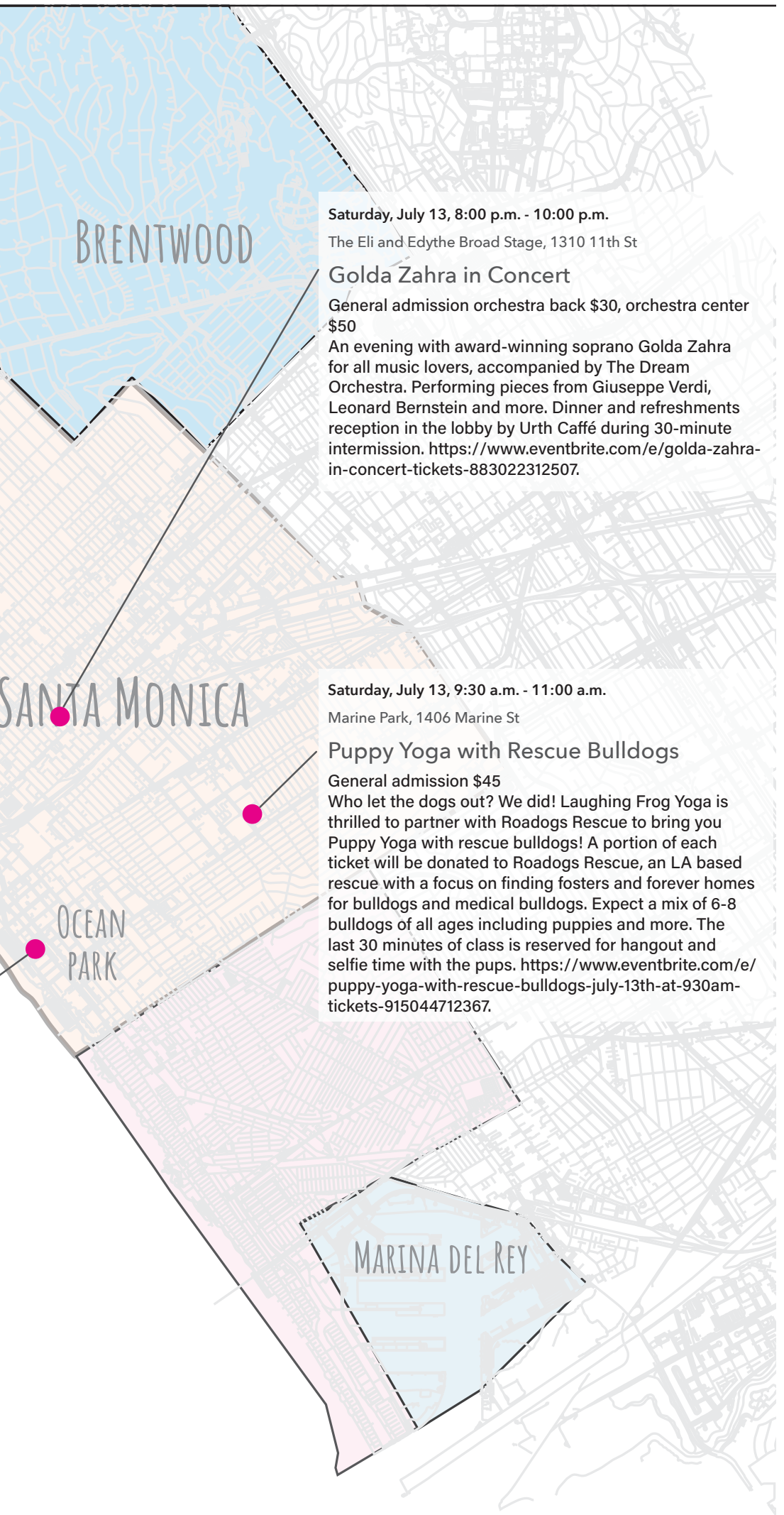
Saturday, July 13, 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Main Street Santa Monica

Summer Soulstice Festival

Santa Monica's Main Street closes to cars for a summer celebration with live music featuring tributes to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and AC/DC that will rock the street alongside stunning art and free activities for all ages. Explore a pop-up art gallery, kid corner and even bring your furry friend to the pet zone! Attendees 21+ can saddle up in the VIP Honky Tonk, featuring premium drink tastings with DJ Ariana Gavrilis as she spins today's hottest country anthems. VIP tickets are just $20 and include a free gift from Aviator Nation Ride, a commemorative bandana, and tastings from JuneShine Hard Kombucha, Easy Rider American Beer and more. mainstreetsummersoulstice2024.eventbrite.com

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Saturday, July 13, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage, 1310 11th St

Golda Zahra in Concert

General admission orchestra back $30, orchestra center $50

An evening with award-winning soprano Golda Zahra for all music lovers, accompanied by The Dream Orchestra. Performing pieces from Giuseppe Verdi, Leonard Bernstein and more. Dinner and refreshments reception in the lobby by Urth Caffé during 30-minute intermission. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/golda-zahra-in-concert-tickets-883022312507.

Saturday, July 13, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Marine Park, 1406 Marine St

Puppy Yoga with Rescue Bulldogs

General admission $45

Who let the dogs out? We did! Laughing Frog Yoga is thrilled to partner with Roadogs Rescue to bring you Puppy Yoga with rescue bulldogs! A portion of each ticket will be donated to Roadogs Rescue, an LA based rescue with a focus on finding fosters and forever homes for bulldogs and medical bulldogs. Expect a mix of 6-8 bulldogs of all ages including puppies and more. The last 30 minutes of class is reserved for hangout and selfie time with the pups. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/puppy-yoga-with-rescue-bulldogs-july-13th-at-930am-tickets-915044712367.



THURSDAY | JULY 11

FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Free summer lunch program for youth under the age of 18 at Virginia Avenue Park's Teen Courtyard Center, 2200 Virginia Ave. Lunch program participants must eat the lunch in the designated lunch space and must be able to eat independently. Lunch will be served from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. while supplies last.

LAFD FIRE TRUCK VISIT AND STORYTIME

Kids can hear a story about fire trucks and see a real Los Angeles Fire Department truck in person from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice.

NIGHT MARKET AT THE BUNGALOW

A special edition of Night Market at The Bungalow, 101 Wilshire Blvd., runs from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. as Grammy-award winning artist DJ Pee .Wee, also known as Anderson.Paak, will mesmerize the crowd with a DJ set. The event, featuring Paak's brand SelvaRey and AMASS' Summer Water rosé Pizzolato is a ticketed event with all proceeds supporting .Paak House. Olivia, Paak's co-owned vegetarian restaurant, will tantalize taste buds with their Korean-Mexican pizzas and bites. Entrance fee $20.

RENT CONTROL BOARD

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

FRIDAY | JULY 12

HISTORY OF CLAY WORKSHOP AND LECTURE

Join ARTime Barro, 302 Pico Boulevard, beginning at 10 a.m. for an engaging two-hour workshop and lecture designed for beginner to intermediate enthusiasts eager to explore the rich history and hands-on techniques of clay art. This immersive sessions combines practical clay-building exercises with a fascinating lecture on the evolution of clay usage across various cultures and eras. Admission $129, to purchase visit: https://www.artimebarro.com/workshops/history-clay-santa-monica.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SPLASH NIGHT

What better way to celebrate than with an evening of family fun at the pool? Bring the whole family and friends and dive into an unforgettable experience at Santa Monica Swim Center, 2225 16th St., beginning at 4 p.m. Pool floats and an inflatable obstacle course provided, as well as delicious treats for all attendees. Fees apply, for more information visit: https://www.santamonicaswimcenter.org/swim-center-special-events.

ROOFTOP SPEED DATING FOR SINGLES

Join The Park Santa Monica Apartments, 500 Broadway, at 7 p.m. for an unforgettable evening at the Fun Speed Dating Event, set against the stunning backdrop of Downtown Santa Monica. This exclusive event is designed for singles aged 25-40 who are ready to mix, mingle and make meaningful connections. You meet multiple quality partners face to face in a short space of time, with each date usually lasting 3-5 minutes. Tickets $29, one drink included. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/las-fun-rooftop-speed-dating-for-singles-tickets-936345523667.

LOBBY LOUNGE LIVE- PIANO NIGHT

Guests are invited to immerse themselves in the enchanting ambiance of the Lobby Lounge at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd., as they enjoy handcrafted cocktails, delectable bites and the unparalleled talent of master pianist Jason Pelsey. As a special treat, six lucky attendees will have the opportunity to join Pelsey at the piano for an unforgettable musical experience (first come, first serve). Begins at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY | JULY 13

COMPOST GIVEAWAY AT CITY YARDS

Join City of Santa Monica's Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please bring gloves and containers if you're picking up compost - a limited supply of bags are available. This is a self-service event so please be prepared to load your own compost.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDER CLUB

Explore the building blocks for Kindergarten by singing songs and listening to stories that build literacy skills at the Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., beginning at 10:30 a.m. For ages 2-5. Registration required. To register, email library@santamonica.gov.

BALCONY & CONTAINER GARDEN WORKSHOP

Beth Crosse and Joy Tucker, University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners since 2017, will host a special free presentation and demonstration at the Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St., from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. They will focus on container gardening and raised beds discussing benefits, site preparation, key to success, materials and what and how to plant. After the presentation, wander the gardens and enjoy and stroll along Main Street at the Summer Soulstice Festival.

SUONO CLUB BEACH HOUSE DAY PARTY

Come join in an epic day party at The Oasis, 944 Palisades Beach Rd., running from 2 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. A beach front house with a pool and a jacuzzi right by the Santa Monica Pier! Get ready to dance to music from some of LA's best DJs. Early bird tickets $10, general admission $25. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/suono-club-beach-house-day-party-tickets-932843599317.

SUNDAY | JULY 14

CHESS SUNDAYS

Make your move as chess players of all ages and levels are invited for weekly casual play on the 1200 Block of Third Street Promenade from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Play a game with a friend as some chess sets (including a few giant ones) will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. No sign-ups or advance registration required. This event is a partnership between the Santa Monica Chess Club and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

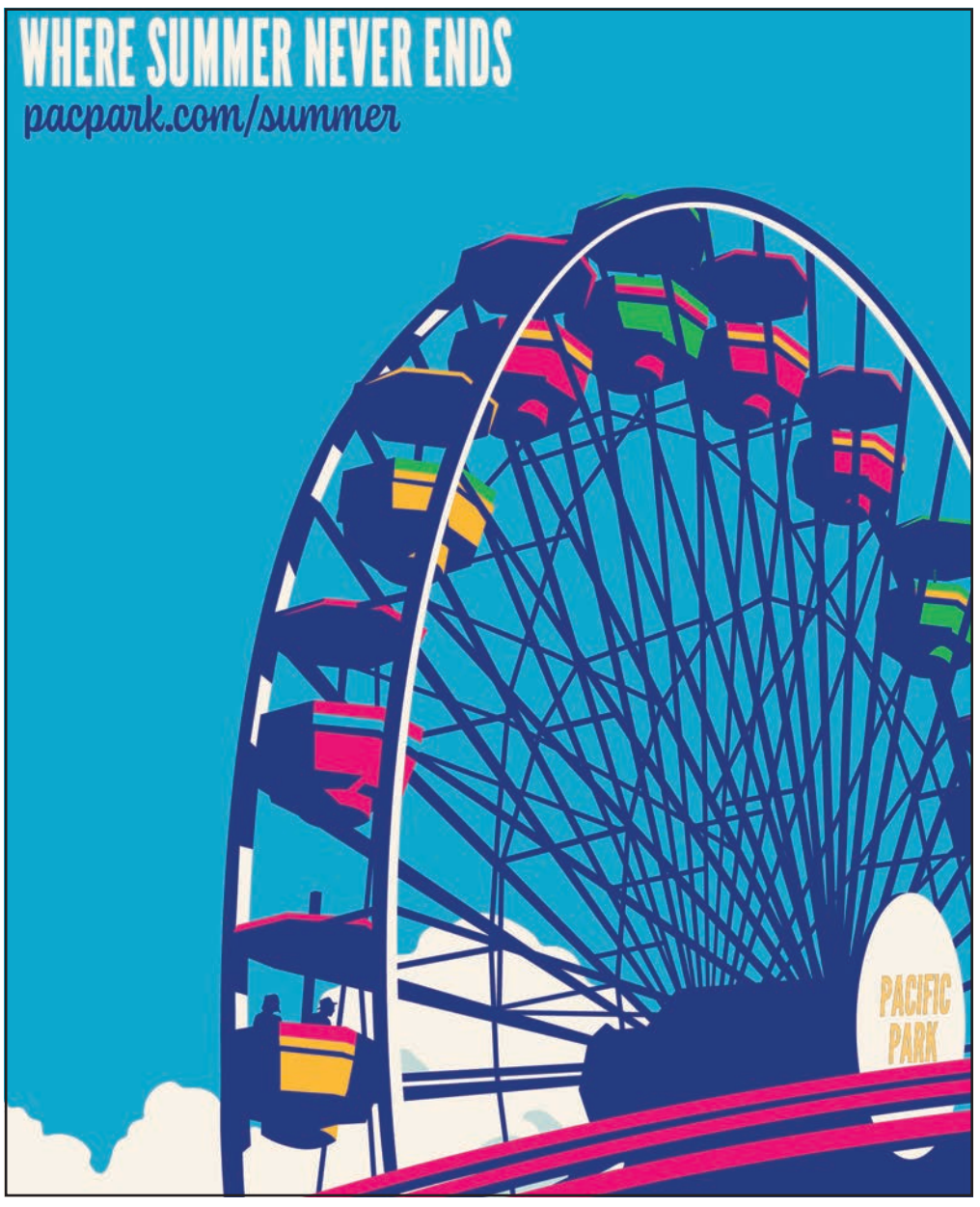
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California fast food workers now earn $20 per hour. Franchisees are responding by cutting hours.

JAMIE DING
Associated Press

Lawrence Cheng, whose family owns seven Wendy's locations south of Los Angeles, took orders at the register on a recent day and emptied steaming hot baskets of French fries and chicken nuggets, salting them with a flourish.

Cheng used to have nearly a dozen employees on the afternoon shift at his Fountain Valley location in Orange County. Now he only schedules seven for each shift as he scrambles to absorb a dramatic jump in labor costs after a new California law boosted the hourly wage for fast food workers on April 1 from $16 to $20 an hour.

"We kind of just cut where we can," he said. "I schedule one less person, and then I come in for that time that I didn't schedule and I work that hour."

Cheng hopes the summer when business is traditionally brisk with students out of school and families traveling or spending more time eating out will bring a better profit that can cover the added costs.

Experts say it's still too early to tell the long-term impact of the wage hike on fast food restaurants and whether there will be widespread layoffs and closures. Past wage increases have not necessarily led to job losses. When California and New York nearly doubled their minimum wage previously to $15 compared to the federal level of $7.25 per hour, job growth continued, according to a University of California, Berkeley study.

So far, the industry has continued to show job growth. In the first two months after the law passed April 1, the industry gained 8,000 jobs, compared to the same period in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. No figures were available yet for June.

Joseph Bryant, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union, which pushed for the raise, said the industry has not only added jobs under the new law but "multiple franchisees have also noted that the higher wage is already attracting better job candidates, thus reducing turnover."

But many major fast food chain operators say they are cutting hours and raising prices to stay in business.

"I've been in the business for 25 years and two different brands and I never had to increase the amount of pricing that I did this past time in April," Juancarlos Chacon, an owner of nine Jersey Mike's in Los Angeles, said.

A turkey sub for under $10? It's now $11.15. While customers are still coming in, he's seeing them cut back — no drinks, no chips, no dessert.

Since their core business is lunch, Chacon has been reducing staffing in the mornings and evenings. He's also cut a few part-time employees, going from 165 total to about 145.

It wasn't only entry-level workers that got a pay raise. Shift leaders, assistant managers, and everyone else up the ladder had to get raises too, and labor represents about 35% of his costs.

"I'm very nervous," Chacon said.

Aaron Allen, founder and CEO of a global restaurant consulting firm, said he's gotten panicked calls from California restaurant operators and suppliers that are still recovering from the COVID-19 lockdown. He predicts a growing divide between corporations like McDonalds that have money to invest in automation and reduce costs through "menu reconfiguration, versus smaller, more regional chains that might go under or face a major reduction in stores."

Cheng said he has no plans to lay off any of his 250 Wendy's workers and instead has turned to cutting overtime and reducing the amount of workers on each shift. He also raised menu prices about 8% in January in anticipation of the law.

Still he said his books show that he was $20,000 over budget for a two-week pay period.

Jot Condie, president and CEO of the California Restaurant Association, which opposed the minimum wage bill, said businesses are simultaneously feeling the squeeze from rising rents and food costs.

"When labor costs jump more than 25% overnight, any restaurant business with already-thin margins will be forced to reduce expenses elsewhere," Condie said. "They don't have a lot of options beyond increasing prices, reducing hours of operation, or scaling back the size of their workforce."

Julieta Garcia, who's been at a Pizza Hut in Los Angeles for a little over a year, said she's now working five days instead of six. But that's not a bad thing, she said, since she can spend more time with her 4-year-old son. The extra money means she can pay her cellphone bill on time, instead of having to turn off service, and take her son to get his tonsils checked out, she said.

Howard Lewis, a 63-year-old retiree who works at a Wendy's in Sacramento, said he has been investing his extra money.

"Today was payday and I bought $500 worth of stock," said Lewis. He's also helping his ex-wife fix the brakes on her car.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the hike was necessary to give the state's more than half a million fast food workers a living wage.

"We are a state that gives a damn about fast food workers — who are predominantly women — working two and a half jobs to get by," Newsom stated in his state-of-the-state address posted on social media.

For Enif Somilleda, a general manager at a Del Taco in Orange County, the raise has been a mixed bag. She used to have four people working per shift. She now only has two.

"Financially it has helped me," she said. "But I have less people so I have to do a lot more work."

Classifieds

Affordable Local Plumber

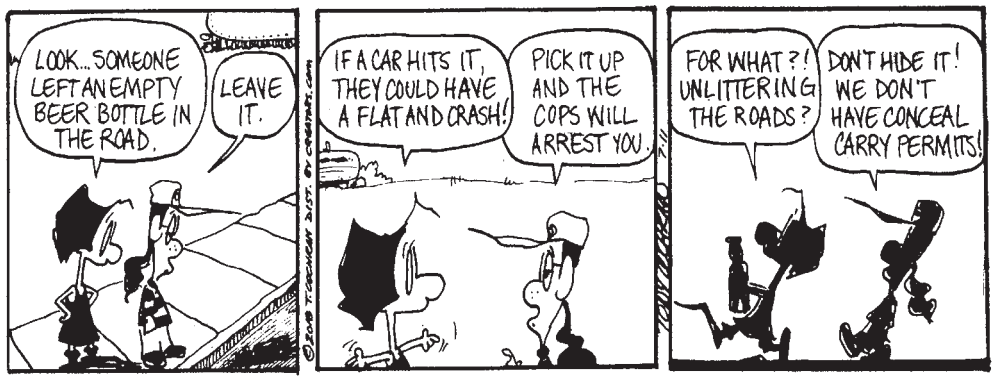
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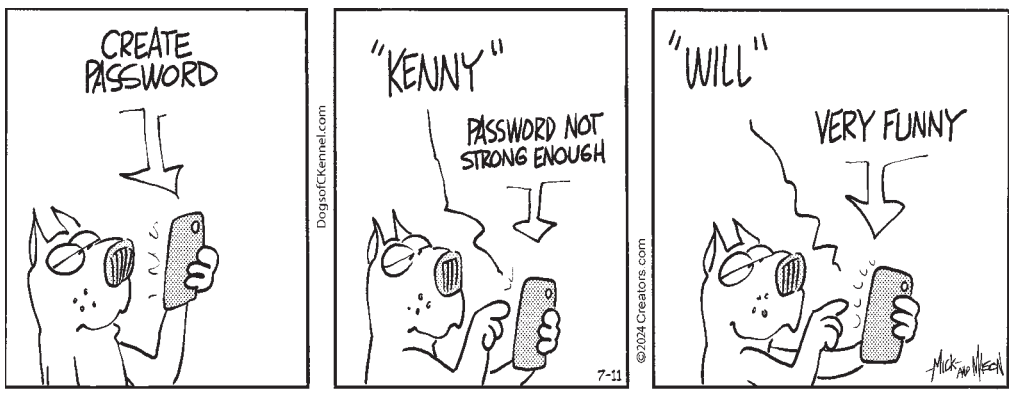
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



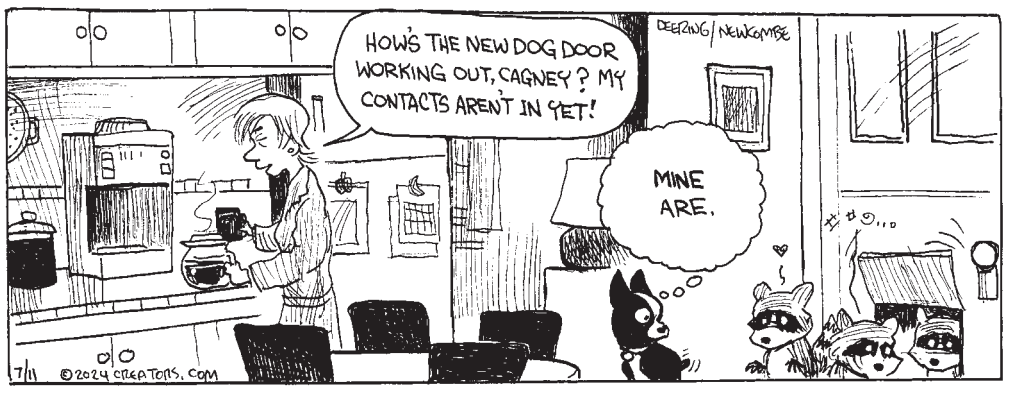
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"BEES LOVE HIM."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6268

Sweet sixties music

H	A	I	R	T	H	E	B	E	A	T	L	E	S	A
D	D	N	O	O	T	I	I	S	E	M	A	J	S	N
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D	O	O	R	S	L	D	B	R	O	W	N	S	E	T

Acid	Drop out	James	Rhythm
Attitude	Drums	Janis	Rick
Band	Eddie	Kinks	Rolling Stones
Base	Funny	Loud	Simon
Brown	Gary	Love	The Beatles
Byrds	Gene	Modern	Trendy
Col Joye	Hair	Nancy Sinatra	Troggs
Crystals	Hosts	Neil	Voice
Delfonics	Hot	Noisy	
Diana Ross	Impressions	Rage	
Doors	Jade		

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 11)

You'll venture boldly, not knowing the way, and nor will your mentors or team. But your moral compass, curiosity and work ethic will lead you all to innovate, invent and strike gold. More highlights: relationship developments that thrill and move you, a clutch investment will pay for seasons to come, and droves of new clients, supporters and fans. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 2, 20, 14 and 8.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Becoming has its own intelligence. Even though you may feel clueless as to what your next move is, your intention to avoid trouble and steer yourself in a healthful and supportive direction will prevail.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you over-do it, the recovery can be so intense you wish you never made the effort in the first place. Go forward incrementally, so as to make the challenge a pleasure, not a punishment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are many ways to be truthful. Your truth is tested by worthy opponents. Priorities shift. New influences and interests come. Growth is exhilarating. Rest when needed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a day to choose your song and let it carry you through experiences, as a good soundtrack is keen to do. If you need another reason to sing: the verbalizations will resonate through the entire body with healing sound waves.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When volunteers are needed, you'll consider it and you'll join in the case where you truly believe you can do something good in the situation. If you do decide to raise your hand, it will be in the spirit of certainty. Later you'll look back and realize it was all because you raised your hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you make plans involving others, suddenly dozens of other small goals fall into the mix. There's so much that has to happen to make one meeting come together. This is what's on your mind and agenda.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Build good will and it will remain. It will be there when you need it to be there. It will be there when you want to tap it and it will be there if you never do. Good will, like gold, has a way of remaining untarnished and ready.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When people want to be generous with you, you're first instinct is skeptical, which is only smart. If there's no reason to be skeptical, that will be revealed. First you'll wonder if accepting generosity will put you in debt. Then you'll find out what expectations are in play.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's something to add and something to drop. You can balance much, but not all. Once you let go of a matter, it will fall into circulation. Someone else will get it and be very happy for the acquisition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've done things you're proud of. You're still in the thrust of it, actually. Don't wait for others to notice your accomplishments. Privately acknowledge and praise yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Contrary to the saying, honesty is not always the best policy. It is only best when the truth is both necessary and kind. There's a time for silent honesty. That's when you hold a space, quietly observing, until someone needs and wants to know what you see.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be a key player in the events of the day, and there's a lot you're doing to get ready for the events of tomorrow, too. The muses favor you with excellent ideas that you'll sell with great persuasion.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

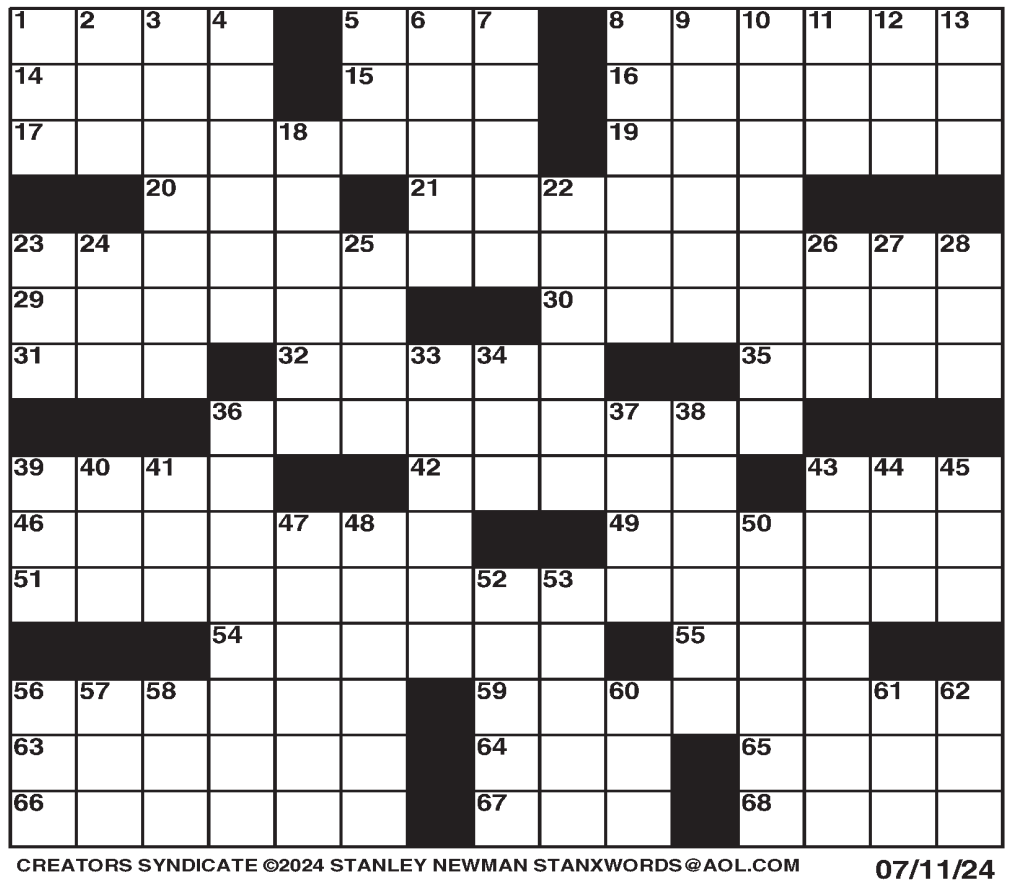
APPLICANT INTERVIEW by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Relief map, for short
5 '60s chic
8 Barista's servings
14 Livestock holder
15 Suffix for stock or block
16 Spread out, as a carpet
17 "Please tell me about your __"
19 Very much
20 Workout venue
21 Really chafe
23 "Please tell me about your __"
29 End of a "cozy" comparison
30 Senses somehow
31 Dermal design
32 Generous bar buy
35 Flanged fastener
36 "Please tell me about your __"
39 Region northeast of Egypt
42 Where mariners go
43 Female rabbit
46 Retired professors
49 Recipe instruction
51 "Please tell me about your __"
54 Scale-teaching song
55 Hard wood
56 Egg on
59 "Please tell me about your __"
63 Germ cell division
64 Car's gas-saving __ mode
65 Person for whom Sam "played it"
66 A euro predecessor
67 Moist beads
68 Millennials' folks

DOWN

1 Sched. placeholder
2 Rebus puzzle conjunction
3 Usher in early
4 Roughly equal
5 USAF officer
6 Signs of spoilage
7 First show
8 Messy fundraiser race
9 Staged with no break
10 What many West Pointers wear
11 Brief trip
12 Purely
13 Apt to mislead
18 Old enough to know better
22 Many Elvis-era tunes
23 "Scram!"
24 "Messenger" molecule
25 Elton John attainment of 2024
26 Article read by Merkel
27 VW predecessors
28 Retired flyer
33 Computer-operating period
34 It means "innovative"
36 Eden, for instance
37 Safari attire
38 Rankles
39 Rock in a ring
40 Exercise advocacy org.
41 Introspective sect
43 Wildcatter's non-strike
44 Wildcatter's strike
45 Compass reading
47 Outfielder's call
48 Patron saint of Spain
50 "Huge deal"
52 Lodge firmly
53 Wedding photo subject
56 Small scamp
57 Never: Ger.
58 DJIA components
60 Farm-related noun or verb
61 ID with dashes
62 Jam session participant



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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE 1

of a closed street event, just because we wanted to keep some momentum, and it worked fine … (but) it seemed like we needed an identity," Rice said. "Open street things were fun, but it needed to have a theme, and that's when we said, let's bring this back."

The tradition returns with a force, closing the street down for two different music stages. The Hollister Stage will be graced by Nick Kennnerly, female AC/DC tribute band Herway to Hell and Jane Fonda's; while the Pier Stage has performances from Selfish Sons, La Compañía and the Red Hot Chili Peppers tribute Red Hot Tribute.

For the more visually-enticed, a grant from the City of Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs department paved the way for a pop-up art gallery at Summer Soulstice, with over 50 visual artists in tow. Rice said the idea began at the Montana Avenue Art Walk, with her inviting various artists to set up shop.

Kids will have the spotlight via a partnership with Pump Station & Nurtury, lending out activities like face painting, musical story time and interactions with Super Soccer Stars. Adult fun will be had as well in the VIP Beer Garden, a $20 expense that will include a complimentary keychain or kookie from Aviator Nation, as well as tastings from the likes of JuneShine and Easy Rider American Beer.

None of these amenities and more would be possible without another partnership, this time with Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's office. Submitting a grant to Horvath, the Main Street association was eventually given $15,000 to put on Summer Soulstice and September's Day of the Dog festival.

"Really having the funds to close the street and then having the funds to really bring back things that our people are coming to see … (it) really took us four years to get back to that level," Rice said.

This is the third major event in the past several months for Main Street, which hosted the MAINopoly event recently followed by the successful Fourth of July Parade. Juggling all the events takes "a lot of time and effort," Rice noted, but holds true to the association's ambitions.

"I think that the goal is to showcase Main Street to all the community, to all of Santa Monica, and to just bring it back to its heyday where people (came), where it was the cool place to hang out."

Summer Soulstice will also feature the EdgeMar Courtyard satellite bar, a pop-up from skatepark experience Beyond the Board and a bevy of street vendors. For more information and to purchase beer garden tickets, visit mainstreetsm.com.

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Photo Courtesy Jenny Rice

FESTIVAL: The Summer Soulstice street festival returns to Main Street after a pandemic hiatus, bringing music, art and more to the area.

TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

cocktail party "filled with reminiscing, celebrating achievements, and connecting with many of the culinary artists who have been a part of the Mélisse journey and the greater Los Angeles dining scene." They are offering canapés by 18 chefs across LA, wine and cocktails available, a raffle to support Stop the Void, and more. $195. July 14, 5:00 - 7:00p.m. @ 1104 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.citrinandmelisse.com/25th-anniversary

Where To Eat After Hitting The Beach: The Infatuation published this "beach-by-beach guide so you know exactly where to eat after your day in the sand." SaMo recommendations include Bludso's BBQ, Big Dean's, Vamos Vamos, Ghisallo, Cha Cha Chicken, and more, https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/where-to-eat-after-hitting-the-beach

The Georgian Room Make the Infatuation's "Favorite Hidden Restaurants In The US" List: "This Italian steakhouse in LA exudes Old Hollywood glamor, down to its secrecy. Located in the basement of The Georgian Hotel, you'll have to buzz a mysterious doorbell and put a privacy sticker over your phone camera before you're seated. And the moody space with red walls and black leather booths feels like you might bump into someone preparing for their audition in a Damien Chazelle movie. The menu is full of solid Italian food, with dishes like hazelnut-crusted lamb rack and oxtail ragu, and a buttery New York strip steak. Start with one of the house martinis, and don't leave until you hear the jazz singer crooning slowed-down renditions of Brittney Spears songs next to a vintage Steinway." 1415 Ocean Ave. https://www.theinfatuation.com/all/guides/best-hidden-restaurants-in-america

LOOKING AHEAD: Dine LA Restaurant Week (7/12-26), National Night Out (8/6), Montana Ave. Dog Daze (8/24), Main St. Day of the Dog Festival (9/7)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Here are my past columns and let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Summer SOULstice Festival & More!

MARIACHI

FROM PAGE 1

putting themselves out there."

Mariachi instruments like violins and trumpets are in the mix for the class, though many instead choose a guitar, such as the high-pitched vihuela and the acoustic bass guitarrón, due to just joining into a music ensemble for the first time. The guitar technique, Alfaro added, involves much strumming in a rhythmic manner, a good way to get students up to speed.

Acuña stressed that the class finds material that is "the right balance" for skill levels, making songs appropriate for beginners while still challenging more advanced players. Overall, however, effort is more important to the ensemble than technical mastery.

"We just asked them to really give it their all because (we) tell them that this music is something that is bigger than all of us, it's been around longer than any of us has been alive … you're representing an entire culture, an entire group of people that have come and gone," Acuña said.

The final component is combining singing and strumming in an appealing manner, as Alfaro explained that "a big part of mariachi is bringing the party." The ensemble has played at numerous live events, making stage aura key.

"In mariachi, it's important to do it in a way that engages the crowd," Alfaro said. "So students starting out, they can be a little stiff … we (try) to get them to loosen up and have good stage presence, so that's also a big part of the class."

Performances substitute the typical midterm or final exam, such as a recent showing at the Pico Branch Library's 10th Anniversary celebration. The shows give students crucial experience, while also giving the Westside a new group on-call for top-notch celebrations. Even those who don't keep up with the genre have appreciated what the SMC ensemble has brought.

"Folks who aren't familiar with (mariachi), it's something new to their ears, and I think everyone in the community is really, really latched on to this group," Acuña said.

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TRAINING

FROM PAGE 2

underrepresented populations who face barriers to stable employment.

Investing in workforce development is an investment in the future of California. Career training programs help jobseekers explore alternative career options in crucial industries that are experiencing staffing shortages, such as health care, manufacturing and water. Maintaining this funding gives young people, regardless of their background, a fair chance at success. It also expands the state's skilled workforce so California can meet the demands of the future.

Cutting funding to these programs would be a disservice to the many jobseekers in California who rely on these opportunities to improve their lives, just as I did.

Leaders across the state must continue funding high-road training and similar initiatives, ensuring that programs like the ones I participated in can keep transforming lives and building a stronger workforce for the state's future.

Financial support for this story was provided by the Smidt Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

free admission, free hot dogs.

"THE DOORS" film, 70mm - I know, our revered, historic 85-year-old movie palace is known for cinematic art, and this attempt by Oliver Stone to capture the drug- and chaos-riddled short life of charismatic vocalist Jim Morrison falls short, but the soundtrack of 25 Doors songs, heard through the Aero's fine sound system, should make it worth the trip. Mon 7:30 p.m., Aero Theatre, Santa Monica, $12-17.

COMING ATTRACTIONS (also recommended): All Gershwin, Hollywood Bowl, 7/11; "Wild Things Are Happening: The Art of Maurice Sendak," Skirball, 7/11-9/1; Peter Erskine Tio + Bob Mintzer, Sam First, 7/12. 13; Rolling Stones, Sofi Stadium, 7/13; Slash, Samantha Fish, Warren Haynes Band, Eric Gales, Greek, 7/13; Theatricum Botanicum - "Tartuffe-Born Again" 7/13, 20, 27 - "The Winter's Tale" 7/14, 19, 28 - "Wendy's Peter Pan" 7/14, 21, 2; Liquid Kitty's Punk Rock BBQ, Harvelle's, 7/14; Hot Club of Los Angeles, Cinema Bar, 7/15, 22, 29; Big Band Night, Hollywood Bowl, 7/17; "THE SUBSTANCE OF FIRE," Ruskin Group Theatre, 7/19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 8/2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 9/1: Ziggy Marley, Bellwether, 7/20; Mozart Under the Stars, Zubin Mehta, Pinchas Zuckerman, Hollywood Bowl, 7/23; "Apocalypse Now" 70mm, Aero Theatre, 7/23; "Zoot Suit" 70mm, Aero Theatre, 7/24; All-Beethoven, LA Phil, 7/25; X, Regent Theater, 7/25, 26; Michael Franti & Spearhead, Greek, 7/26; Dwight Yoakam, Mavericks, Greek, 7/27; Lake Street Dive, Greek, 7/27; "Lawrence of Arabia," 70mm, Aero Theatre, 7/27, 28; Outlaw Fest: Willie, Bob, Mellancamp. Hollywood Bowl, 7/31; UB40, English Beat, Inner Circle, Greek, 7/31; Schumann & Bruch, LA Phil, Hollywood Bowl, 8/1; Mavis Staples, Norah Jones, Greek, 8/4; Reggae Night XXII: Damian and Stephen Marley, Hollywood Bowl, 8/4; Hives, Foo Fighters, BMO Stadium, 8/9; Jon Batiste, Greek, 8/10; Wailing Souls, Levitt Pavilion, 8/10; Alanis Morisette, Joan Jett & Blackhearts, Kia Forum, 8/10; Pretenders, Foo Fighters, BMO Stadium, 8/11; Herbie Hancock "Head Hunters" 50th, H0llywood Bowl, 8/14; 10CC, Theatre at Ace Hotel, 8/15; Lila Downs, Marina del Rey summer concert series, 8/17; All-Dvořák with Midori, LA Phil, Hollywood Bowl, 8/20; Gary Clark Jr., Hollywood Bowl, 8/21; Ghostland Observatory, Teragram Ballroom, 8/24; Ash Grove Alumni, McCabe's, 8/25; Dudamel & Yunchan Lim, Hollywood Bowl, 8/29.

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


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