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CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS COVERED 6 CONTRACT CANCELLATION



Scott Snowden

DOWNTOWN: No-one is sure what will happen in the short term regarding private security patrols in Downtown Santa Monica.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Following Thursday night's shock announcement that private security company Covered 6 has withdrawn from its contract to patrol the Downtown and Promenade districts, City officials and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) board members reacted with shock and bewilderment.

The announcement was made at the regular DTSM Board meeting, but many of the specifics still remain sparse. Earlier this year, the City Council unanimously voted to approve a proposal from the DTSM Board to replace its existing community ambassador program with Covered 6 to provide extra security and community services within the downtown area.

According to DTSM, the contract had in fact been signed. However, an email was sent to Santa Monica City officials at about 10:20 p.m. on Wednesday night asking if Covered 6 was the right kind of company to work in Santa Monica.

Within that email, claims were made that an individual named Bryce Eddy was or had been associated with Covered 6 in some way. The email did not say what role Eddy played in the company, but included links to a number of YouTube videos where he is named as affiliated with the company and pictures of him at their facility.

Andrew Thomas, DTSM CEO, sent an email on Thursday to the

SEE **COVERED 6** PAGE 8

Award salutes sound of the stage

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

When the lights go down for a musical theater production, most of the shine goes to the actors belting their ballads for the audience. The highs of the stage production, however, would be nothing without those left in the darkness. While the lights are dim for the pit orchestra beneath the stage, the sound is why it's called a musical, making it of the utmost importance for the unit to be top-notch.

The Santa Monica High School Theater Pit Orchestra understood that assignment in spades for the spring of 2023 production of "The Drowsy Chaperone," earning a

SEE **ORCHESTRA** PAGE 7

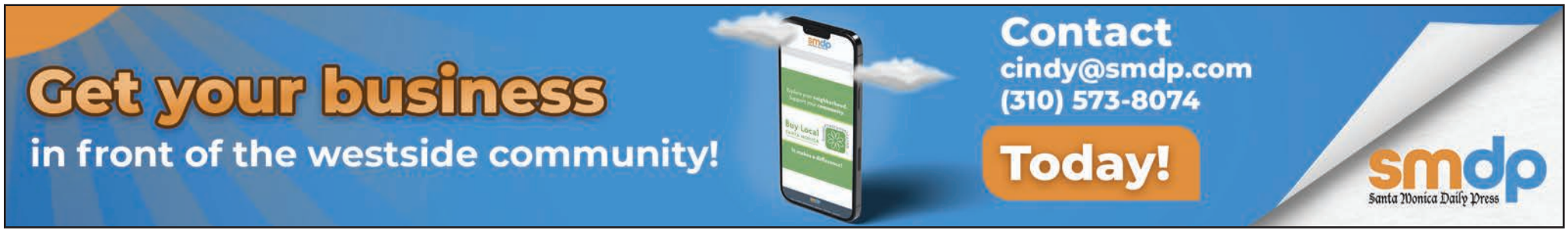
Local filmmaker triumphs with life-saving crime thriller

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

War is no stranger to Attila Korosi.

As a child, Korosi was surrounded by battle, growing up in the middle of war-torn Yugoslavia with nothing but family and a dream of filmmaking. Decades later, the auteur once again felt the heightened tensions of territorial warfare, filming guerrilla-style in

SEE **FILMMAKER** PAGE 6



Residents lament the loss of popular Venice Beach playground

WESTSIDE CURRENT
Special to the Daily Press

Families who frequented a popular Venice Beach playground located at 1 Windward Ave near a Police Substation were distressed recently to find the location taped off by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

The playground identified by LA Parks as the "Windward Plaza Children's Playground" was apparently slated for demolition due to deterioration, which according to a September 26 statement from Melody Valenzuela Gutierrez, LA Parks Senior Recreation Director, "posed a significant risk to those who used it, especially our children."

Some parents, however, disputed that claim and noted little to no deterioration of the structures or equipment prior to the demolition, which commenced on September 25 when side facing panels on the structures were removed.

Families were equally puzzled by the compete lack of signage notifying the community that the playground would be disappearing. Gutierrez did not address that issue in her statement but clarified that "The Department's decision to demolish the playground was made with the utmost concern for safety" adding:

"While the playground has been removed, we want to assure you that plans are in motion to install a new, safe, and enjoyable playground in its place. We understand the importance of this recreational space to our community, and we are actively working on securing the necessary funding to make this happen."



Photo by Amanda Heinke

VENICE: The Windward Plaza Children's Playground located at 1 Windward Ave is set to be completely demolished next month.

This statement caused an outcry among locals who were shocked to learn that the city had proceeded with demolition before ensuring financing was in place for a replacement playground.

"I'm concerned that funding isn't secured...how long is that going to take? What's the plan? How much is needed? Can we do our own grassroots funding? I need a playground now, not 3 years from now ... To take this away without a swift replacement is devastating to our community of moms," said local parent, Amanda Heinke.

The next closest playground is at a location parents called "dangerous" and "unsafe for children" as it sits next to a public bathroom and fish cleaning station.

Located off Rose Avenue, the area is frequented by transients and homeless individuals who regularly use the facilities to clean themselves as well as their clothing, which they hang to dry on the playground fencing.

"People live in those bathrooms" says Heinke. "I cannot take my kid there, no way."

The next closest playground on Venice Beach is frequented by transients and homeless individuals.

In their September 26 statement, LA Parks made no mention of alternate playground(s) but assured the community they would "provide updates as progress is made toward the installation of the new playground."

A request for additional information made to the Department was not returned by the time of publication.

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California Gov. Newsom will pick Feinstein's replacement. He pledged in past to choose a Black woman

STEVE PEOPLES AND MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

The Democrats' delicate majority in the U.S. Senate puts extra pressure on California Gov. Gavin Newsom to quickly pick a replacement for Sen. Dianne Feinstein after her death.

Already, names were being floated Friday in California circles. The situation is complicated and wrought with political risk for Newsom, a term-limited governor with national political ambitions of his own.

The Democratic governor has promised to appoint a Black woman. He has also promised to avoid the field of candidates already running for Feinstein's seat, which was set to expire at the end of next year and includes Rep. Barbara Lee, one of the state's most prominent Black women currently serving in elected office.

In filling the Senate vacancy, Newsom has the sole authority to name a successor. He could even pick himself, though that is unlikely.

Newsom made no mention of Feinstein's replacement in a statement he issued marking her death Friday morning.

"Dianne Feinstein was many things – a powerful, trailblazing U.S. Senator; an early voice for gun control; a leader in times of tragedy and chaos. But to me, she was a dear friend, a lifelong mentor, and a role model not only for me, but to my wife and daughters for what a powerful, effective leader looks like," Newsom said. "There is simply nobody who possessed the strength, gravitas, and fierceness of Dianne Feinstein."

On Capitol Hill, Feinstein's death leaves Senate Democrats with no margin for error until a successor is appointed.

Democrats now have a functional majority of just 50 seats in the Senate, while Republicans hold 49. At the same time, many Democrats are calling for the resignation of the indicted Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., although the embattled Democrat has vowed not to step down.

And while Democrats continue to control Congress' upper chamber, Feinstein's absence will make it harder to advance Biden's judge nominees in the Judiciary Committee.

Newsom's choices all run political risks.

Should he follow through on his pledge to avoid picking from those already running in the Senate primary, he could select a true caretaker who would be replaced by whomever voters select in next year's election.

A handful of Black women in office have been floated as possibilities, including Secretary of State Shirley Weber and Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell.

Lee and others lashed out at Newsom earlier in the month after he indicated he would select a caretaker instead of picking from the current slate of candidates.

"The idea that a Black woman should be appointed only as a caretaker to simply check a box is insulting to countless Black women across this country who have carried the Democratic Party to victory election after election," Lee tweeted.

Some California Democrats are still upset about Newsom's last Senate appointment.

He chose Alex Padilla, then California's secretary of state, to replace Kamala Harris in the Senate when she was elected vice president. That process took more than six weeks. That made Padilla California's first Latino senator, but it also left the Senate without a Black woman.

He later promised that if Feinstein's seat became vacant, he would choose a Black woman to replace her.

"He made the commitment and I do not believe there is any wiggle room for the governor not to honor his commitment," Kerman Maddox, a Los Angeles-based Democratic strategist and fundraiser, said before Feinstein's death.

In a recent interview with Fox 11 TV in Los Angeles, Newsom said he was being swamped with recommendations for how to fill a possible Senate vacancy.

The decision for Newsom is clouded by his personal relationship with the late senator.

Newsom, whose father was a prominent judge in San Francisco, has known Feinstein since he was a child and has spoken recently about their personal connection. He interned in her office in college and said he considers her to be family. He said it wasn't long ago that she would call him on the phone to discuss a variety of issues, from water policy to forest management.

"I have no objectivity whatsoever," he said in a recent interview with NBC when asked about Feinstein and her decision to stay in the Senate.

He said he was hoping he would never have to make a decision to fill her seat.

Peoples reported from New York. AP writers Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington contributed.

GET IT DAILY...

CRIME WATCH

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON SEPTEMBER 23

Officers responded to the 1500 block of 2nd Street. The reporting party stated an individual, later identified as Samuel Fowler, was unsuccessfully attempting to use a scooter to break the passenger window of a parked car. Upon arrival, officers located Fowler punching the glass of the vehicle and pulling on the door handle. It was later determined that Fowler was not only the suspect, he was also the reporting party- calling into to 9-1-1 to report his criminal behavior. Fowler was issued a citation for vehicle tampering after being booked at the Santa Monica Jail.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Try Again

In the runup to the Covered 6 decision, many of our elected councilmembers and appointed DTSM leadership lectured those of us opposed to armed security on the Promenade about how unless we had a better idea, we had to try Covered 6 because that was the only idea on the table. I hope this embarrassment serves as a reminder that, actually, residents are in fact entitled to tell our leaders "no, this is dumb, go try again" without having to offer our own alternative idea. After all, we're not the ones who chased leadership positions.

Jason Mastbaum, Santa Monica

COMMUNITY AND GARDENING

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tandoori Style Eggplant

SALIMA SAUNDERS

Ishihara Park Learning Garden is buzzing with colorful butterflies and bumblebees briskly circulating, doing their bit to keep the garden flourishing. And flourishing it is. I see some beautiful curly kale, squash, cherry tomatoes, basil, onion, and pumpkin, but what really caught my eye are the hand sized Japanese eggplants.

The eggplants come in a variety of purples, some dark and rich and others more of a lighter, violet color. These eggplants are much thinner than the wide globe eggplants that we commonly see in the grocery store. They also have fewer seeds and are less bitter, which means you can just season them and stir fry or grill them. When harvesting Japanese eggplant, I have learned that it is best to cut them, using shears or scissors from their tough stems once they reach about 7-8 inches long. Letting the eggplants get too big can render them quite bitter. Once you have picked the eggplants, you can store them in the fridge for up to a week.

Eggplant is such a versatile, nutritious vegetable. Containing phytonutrients with an antioxidant capacity to help deter cancer, eggplant is another of the garden's healthy offerings. Eggplant is hardy: it can be grilled, sautéed, fried, and roasted. My favorite way of cooking eggplant is by roasting it, so that it becomes firm on the outside but almost jammy and tender on the inside.

For this recipe, I spice up the eggplant with a yogurt-based marinade seasoned with fragrant cumin, garlic, and ginger, and then grill it to perfection in the oven. This makes for a hearty end of summer dish the whole family can enjoy with some rice or naan, a true celebration of summer.



Fran Lyness

EGGPLANT: There are several kinds of eggplant but the Japanese variety are thinner and less bitter than their European counterpart.

TANDOORI STYLE EGGPLANT RECIPE
INGREDIENTS:

4-5 Japanese Eggplants sliced in half lengthwise and cut into 1 inch half moons
⅔ cup of plain yogurt
1 TBS vegetable oil
1 TBS tomato paste
½ TBS minced garlic
½ TBS grated ginger
1 tsp cumin powder
½ tsp turmeric powder
½ tsp salt
Dash of cayenne pepper (optional)
Lemon juice (optional)

Method:

1. Combine the yogurt, oil, tomato paste, garlic, ginger, cumin, turmeric, salt, and cayenne pepper in a large bowl and mix well
2. Turn on oven to 400 degrees
3. While your oven is preheating add eggplant to the yogurt mixture and let it marinate until the oven comes to temperature
4. Once your oven reaches 400 degrees spoon out the eggplant onto a parchment lined baking pan
5. Bake for 15 minutes, flip eggplant pieces over, and bake for another 10 minutes
6. Remove from oven after 25 minutes and enjoy with a squeeze of lemon

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's ability to count its population is under fire – with or without the government shutdown



Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters

CENSUS: A sign encouraging residents to participate in the 2020 census hangs from the Alameda County Courthouse in Oakland on April 28, 2020.

With the U.S. government on the brink of a shutdown, many are emphasizing the costs that will be incurred in delayed paychecks, stifled operations and even national security. But this is not just about shutting down the government but about shutting down democracy. If the House of Representatives was actually allowed to vote on a stopgap resolution, it would surely pass with bipartisan support.

This affront to democracy also extends to portions of federal operations that are crucial to the long-term future of California. Already, proposed spending this fiscal year for the Census Bureau – the agency that produces the data that determines the state's share of federal funding –represents a 20% cut to the Biden administration's request. It is also more than 30% below experts' recommendations for what is needed to maintain and improve census data quality.

What is now transpiring in Washington D.C. will almost certainly become a fixture in budget-cutting efforts, particularly by GOP representatives, and is likely to persist throughout the decade.

For California, these cuts would be especially damaging. The accuracy of data derived from the 2020 census and the yearly American Community Survey, or ACS, is crucial for assuring that California receives its fair share of available federal funding. Low-income communities with concentrations of Latinos, American Indians and African-Americans were seriously undercounted in 2020 – and as a "minority-majority" state, California was particularly vulnerable.

Anticipating the shortfall, California invested $187 million in efforts to encourage people to respond to the census. Despite these funds and the hard work of many community organizations, there were scores of low-income neighborhoods throughout California that were missed, especially immigrant ones in urban Los Angeles and rural farmworker communities throughout the state. The pandemic contributed to this problem, but the undercount of marginalized communities has been documented for more than half a century.

It will get worse as housing becomes more expensive and public trust in government continues to decay.

The Census Bureau has acknowledged serious shortcomings in the census and annual survey data. Dr. Robert Santos, its first Latino director, has committed the agency to a decade-long effort to fix it. With the Census Bureau working hard to overcome longstanding problems, this is the moment to expand – not shrink – fiscal support.

All of this is threatened by the likely shutdown and the political jockeying it represents. It is also not surprising that politicians whose rhetoric and legislative proposals are consistently anti-immigrant would find it convenient to hamstring Census Bureau efforts to reliably portray U.S. diversity and starve programs covering education, food security and health care.

The public investment needed to support the Bureau-wide research that can effectively allocate money to more than 340 federal programs is about $2 per household, less than the cost of a soft drink at the movie theater. That seems to be an affordable investment in good government – but it's clear that what worries some is that we will get the count right, that we will distribute funds fairly, and that political representation will be more reflective of our future than our past.

As has happened on climate, immigrant rights and worker well-being, California may need to step up to offer a different path. The state's Congressional representatives, business leaders and others should demand adequate funding for the census.

What's at stake is not just dollars but democracy.

Ed Kissam is an expert on the census and a co-trustee of the Werner-Kohnstamm Family Fund. Manuel Pastor is a professor of sociology and the director of the USC Equity Research Institute. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

Art and environment cross paths at Clock Tower

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A crossover of art, weather and community collaboration has come to the forefront on a Santa Monica landmark.

This week, the famed Clock Tower Building on Santa Monica Boulevard was transformed into an artistic display like no other. On the east-facing wall of the building, a projection entitled "Art of Time" by Drasko Vucevic has stunned locals, with the final day of the week-long interactive experience taking place Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to midnight.

The project lays base layers of artwork to be projected onto the building, overlaid by visual representations of real-time environmental data. That data, which includes wind patterns and noise levels, shifts the visuals by the minute using artificial intelligence. The result is an unpredictable display, where light scatters based on factors like wind speed and direction.

"The idea behind the concept was to create this kind of continuously living organism that is representative through this abstract art … it's cooler to have the art be shaped by this environment," Vucevic said of the piece.

The art was also shaped by locals, who connected to the projection through scanning a QR code on mobile phones. The phones became "gesture pads," where attendees were able to feed into the art piece in real-time.

Bringing in Vucevic for the project was Art of Recovery, an initiative of the City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs, working alongside Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM). Working with the artist was several years in the making, an opportunity that DTSM Operations & Placemaking Director Jeremy Ferguson jumped on from the start.

Ferguson was trained in projector use for the experience, calibrating the projectors to get the visuals just right on the Art Deco-style building. Using the Old Gap Building to keep the equipment, Ferguson stayed each night of the week-long endeavor to close up shop, working past midnight. He noted that he had to sleep in the building one night after forgetting his key.

> "This has been just so much fun"
> - Jeremy Ferguson DTSM Operations & Placemaking Director

Still conscious of his daytime duties, Ferguson took on the extra work to help Vucevic due to the aesthetic value the Clock Tower provides to Santa Monica residents.

"This has been just so much fun," Ferguson said. "We interact with so many people, so many people on the screen. It's really interesting to hear (that) people want the clock tower to be illuminated at night, because they feel like it's a beacon of hope for the community."

thomas@smdp.com



Photo by City of Santa Monica

CLOCK TOWER: The east side of the Clock Tower Building in downtown Santa Monica was transformed into the art projection "Art of Time," a real-time data project by Drasko Vucevic.

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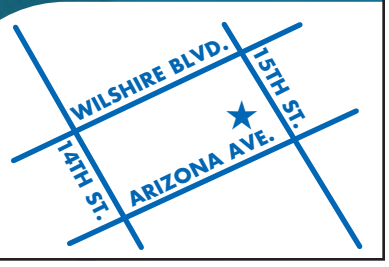
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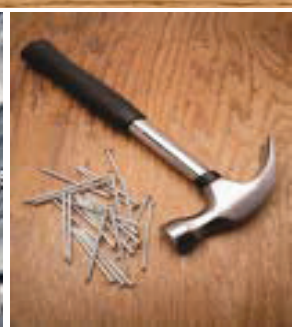
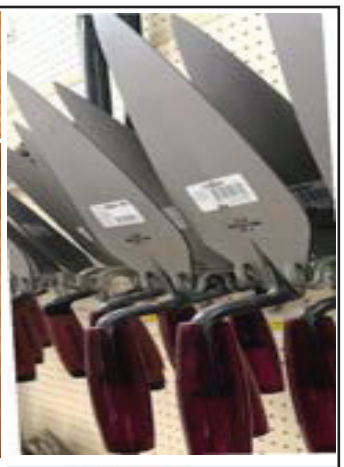
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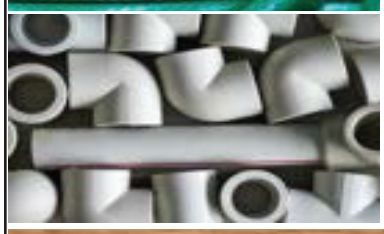
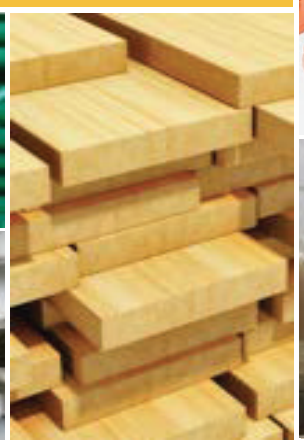
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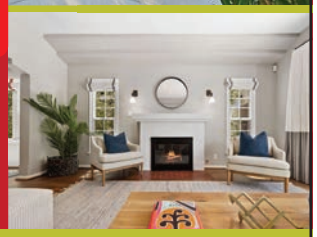






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FILMMAKER

FROM PAGE 1

gang-affiliated neighborhoods for his first feature "Live And Die in East LA."

The film is semi-biographical, with parallels aplenty between his tough upbringing and the perilous lives of Los Angeles youth. Filming in the dead of night in locations like Watts, Montebello and Boyle Heights; the Santa Monica resident noted that his work had none of the "safe environment" of major productions.

"We literally (had) to film, to do it as fast as we can, before something was about to go down on the streets," he said. "And oftentimes, it was gunshots, and we (had) to run into the houses (and) take cover under the table."

The panic of the production cycle has its positives, however, as he said his "creative juices are just amplified" when his "back is cornered." And just like his Yugoslavian home, residents in the throes of violence were welcoming to the director, becoming like a second family. One set of neighbors was able to provide the home in which he evaded potential threats.

"People sometimes get a little bit intimidated when they talk to me just because of my accent and things like that," Korosi said. "But in East L.A., the people living there, it was a totally different culture, totally different understanding ... nobody was more welcoming."

Already having several short films to his name, Korosi intended on challenging himself with a fast-paced film production, born out of necessity as well as creative desires. The movie follows several characters, including child character Daniel, who wants to be an astronaut despite his family's dismissal. Daniel's dream echoes the "highly improbable" responses Korosi received to his filmmaking dream back home, and the street violence background in the movie served as emotional bridge between filmmaker and actors. Daniel's family commended Korosi for keeping him out of gang life with the project, which to them "saved his life," and the young actor said he appreciated "the generosity (he) showed us while making the movie."

"Regardless of our background, there are certain emotions that are heightened during harsh or tough times," he said. "For example, in a war, or in a gang war in the middle of East L.A., people are experiencing those kinds of emotional exposures. They not only toughen up, but they broaden their horizon ... regardless of our background (being) different, the core of our emotions is very similar."

Korosi's unconventional dream was also born of necessity, keeping his mental health afloat through childhood with bootleg VHS copies of films like "The Terminator" and "Alien." With movies becoming his salvation, he knew he needed to make a break from Yugoslavia, succeeding by becoming a scholarship track athlete at the University of Tulsa. After college, he moved to Santa Monica, a place with "creative spirit" where dreams can be freely pursued.

"In Santa Monica, people want to do something, there (is) lots of creative energy in the air ... that creative mindset lays a very fertile soil for people who want to do something, want to pursue something," he said. "And that's beautiful."

After producing, directing and writing four short films, including 2015's "City Full of Angels," it was time to get to work on "East LA." Finishing with a runtime of 84 minutes, the movie's final piece was a 6-minute animation section hand drawn by an artist residing in Tokyo, Japan. Once the animation was complete, it was February of 2020, and despite the warm reception to early screenings, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down any potential release.



Courtesy Photo

EAST LA FILM: Atilla Korosi poses with East Los Angeles locals that helped make "Live and Die in East LA" a reality.

Shelved for a couple of years, Korosi was unsure of how to release his passion project until a meeting with legendary producer Michael Shamberg. Nominated for two Academy Awards for "The Big Chill" and "Erin Brokovich," Shamberg told Korosi that if he had a finished movie, it should be sold and released, if nothing else than to get Hollywood aware of the project.

Two weeks later, "East LA" was off the buyers' market, as the film was sold to a United States distributor along with agreements in over 20 foreign markets. Finally premiering in August, the project has received acclaim that leaves Korosi "very mind blown," including a rare 100 percent "fresh" rating from Rotten Tomatoes and a 7.0/10 from the typically hard-to-please reviewers of IMDB. At 118 IMDB reviews thus far, the movie has out-rated much of 2023's high-budget fare.

"They enjoyed it, they didn't find it boring, they liked it," Korosi said. "They were inspired to write about it. They reached out to me, some of them, so it was a pleasant feeling. I mean, I can't describe (it) ... (I'm) very, very happy."

Still close with his "East LA" cohorts, the filmmaker says the film's creative success will push him farther in the future, including his next project, an action-horror set in South Korea.

"We had lots of challenges to make this film happen," he said. "But my drive to tell the story, and to (not) take no for an answer ... I was always confident that I'm gonna find a way to solve the problem. I'm going to find a way to solve the problem creatively. And the more I prove myself in that regard, the more people respond to my abilities to make things happen."

thomas@smdp.com

ORCHESTRA

FROM PAGE 1

prestigious award for its efforts. Under the direction of Terry Sakow, the orchestra was recently bestowed with the Jerry Herman Award for Best Orchestra in a high school musical, besting 33 other Los Angeles area high schools for the honor. The accolade is the local offshoot of the National High School Musical Theater Awards, recognizing the best in areas like acting, technical direction and orchestra.

Now in his 34th year at Samohi, Sakow has seen the musical program evolve to this point of major recognition, and is amazed at the dedication his students put in year after year, never doing the same musical twice.

"Musicals are very time-consuming, there (are) a lot of moving parts … it's not an easy thing to do at a high school, you're doing professional-level music," Sakow said. "You're doing two hours of music … a typical band concert, a band will prepare for maybe 15 minutes worth of music, and spend two months on it. (For musicals), you got like a couple months, maybe 3-4 weeks of rehearsal, to get together two, two and a half hours of music. It requires a lot of skill on the individual players, it's no small feat."

The individual skill starts at the elementary school level, Sakow says, and the infrastructure of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District music program prepares students for anything before they begin high school productions. Having a bevy of talents to choose from, the director splits his orchestra into two groups, rotating them throughout the run of a musical. While the choice is logistical, as the Barnum Hall pit can only fit around 40 players, the decision also takes pressure off of those with heavy school work and extracurricular loads.



Photo by Erin Leigh Neumeyer

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE: The Santa Monica High School Pit Orchestra, under the direction of Terry Sakow, was honored with the Jerry Herman Award for its work on "The Drowsy Chaperone."

"I ran it kind of like a professional orchestra where you don't have to be at every rehearsal, just tell me what's going on," he said. "Because I do realize that this isn't the focus of your life here. (I) try to be flexible so kids can do it, that it's not a stressful thing for them, it's something they want to do."

The pit orchestra wanted to take on the rigors of "Chaperone," a 1920s-style jazz score that's unlike the classical style played in classrooms. With rhythms featuring more syncopation, it took ample rehearsal to master the material, with Sakow stating that "once they got it," the group sounded "pretty darn close" to professional recordings. Another wrinkle for "Chaperone" was the musical lacking string parts, so Sakow implemented violins to play the flute part in the score, which he said "worked better" in some of the songs.

Another difficulty that was conquered by the orchestra was the unique challenge of playing alongside actors, instead of playing just within themselves.

"If the actor gets ahead, or gets behind, they automatically just go with (it)," Sakow said. "That's a skill that you don't have to worry about in a band concert, because you're not accompanying anybody. A good pit orchestra, we'll adjust to the singer on stage and cover the singer if there's a problem."

Tackling the tricks of a musical production were rewarded with the Jerry Herman recognition, as judges came to the "Chaperone" show to evaluate all aspects. The musical theater program also earned a nomination for then-Samohi senior Hayley Mullane's performance in the production, and took the win for the orchestra. Samohi Theater Director Kate Barraza noted that the judges and theater patrons in Santa Monica are a knowledgeable bunch, so the orchestra "better sound good," and credits Sakow and student leaders with accomplishing that goal.

"I think they deserve it … they're definitely always on the radar in the area, as far as a really strong orchestra, so to finally get first place was really exciting … it's just a structure that's been working for a really long time. (In the spring), we just had a really strong group of people who worked really hard."

The orchestra director echoed his longtime musical partner, commending the effort of his students.

"We always try to put our best show on, whichever show it is … so we just kind of did our thing," Sakow said. "If the audience is pleased, we're really happy about that. When we heard we were nominated, that was just icing on the cake. I didn't really expect to win, because we did get nominated (before), and this time we got it. So that was pretty cool."

thomas@smdp.com

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COVERED 6

FROM PAGE 1

DTSM Board acknowledging Eddy's email. Thomas said Covered 6 founder Chris Dunn had stated Eddy was not an employee of the company and there was no affiliation between the company and Eddy. However, given the information provided in the email, Thomas said he asked for additional reassurances from Dunn.

Thomas later announced at the board meeting that Covered 6 had exercised an option to withdraw from the contract. Needless to say, everyone at that meeting was blindsided.

The Daily Press reached out to every DTSM Board member, City Councilmember and the Santa Monica Police Department for comment, but at the time of going to press, only a handful had responded, with the majority preferring to only comment through Thomas. He himself released a statement on Friday afternoon that read in part, "The DTSM, Inc. Board will schedule a special meeting to determine the next steps as we endeavor to enhance public safety and supplement the services provided by the Santa Monica Police Department."

Speaking to the Daily Press, Councilmember Phil Brock expressed his anger and frustration with the decision to allow the cancellation to proceed. "I talked to the founder of Covered 6 this morning, he says that person has never been an employee," Brock said, adding "My understanding is that Covered 6 has a number of LGBTQ+ members in their protection teams and that I think this is a tragic remnant of canceled culture … Unfortunately, Covered 6 decided that sometimes the push isn't worth the pull. They had invested thousands of dollars and my understanding is that they're laying 15 people off today."

However, this wasn't a point of view shared by everyone. Talking to the Daily Press, Ericka Lesley, entrepreneur and DTSM board member said, "I'm sure there's going to be a lot of fallout. Santa Monica is not for the faint of heart. You have to be more progressive coming in here to our city. Any company that's going to come to Santa Monica has to be in alignment with our views with the views of the city.

"Okay, so we don't have enough police officers, it's real simple. We need more officers. It's not fair to think that you're going to hire security and expect them to do the job of an officer. You can't have a security company do the job of a police officer, period," she said, adding, "But you also have to understand that our city is growing. And as our city grows, our police force is going to have to go along with it. That's just the facts. We got big city problems [sic]. It's a small city, but we have big city problems."

In a statement, the City of Santa Monica said, "The city learned about Covered 6 terminating its contract with DTSM on Thursday, Sept. 28. While not involved in the details of this matter, the city will continue to work closely with DTSM in addressing matters of public safety in downtown."

The private security company has worked on security projects all over the world and has its own training facility in Moorpark, just north of Thousand Oaks. It employs many ex-law enforcement officers and former members of the armed services. Moreover, it has also already operated in the city of Beverly Hills for some time.

Covered 6 was chosen to replace the current ambassador program following concerns about homelessness and crime in the downtown area.

"They've been operating in other cities for a while, so we weren't the first ones to vet them," Brock said. "They weren't coming in as a military force to destroy the city. They would have complimented our police department, they would have complimented what residents want, a safe downtown … Covered 6 had invested so much time already in this city, but at the end they didn't feel they had the support."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 30)

You'll make big leaps in your personal life hitting certain goals you've thought about since you were small. A move brings new activities and social circles. More highlights: A stellar endorsement followed by an invitation. You'll become a master of something difficult. You'll be strategic with your efforts and focus on one quantifiable thing at a time. Virgo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 3, 33 and 21.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Sometimes you feel like you have no control over your emotions, and sometimes your emotions feel like they have no control over you. But today, you and your feelings will be on the same page.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In love, learning from your mistakes is key, but don't forget about learning from your wins. You'll take a trip down memory lane, and it will be a little like cropping a picture and keeping the best parts of the image in frame.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's no need to disavow traditional methods in favor of finding your own way. You can save time by building on the old ways instead. It's possible to improve everything with just a little tweak.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When a behavior becomes a habit, it becomes less of a sensory experience. The task gets easier and takes less energy, but being used to the motion of it, your attention goes to other things. You'll get excellent ideas when this happens.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life is a team sport today and it would be bad sportsmanship to play every position or try to make every point yourself. Play to your strengths, one of which is sharing the ball and setting others up for the win.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Society is built on hard jobs. And though you're glad not to be hauling slabs up pyramids or laying railroad track, your role seems pretty challenging today because it is. Give yourself more credit and more breaks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In something as simple as a short conversation, many things are exchanged — the most obvious ones, like money or time, being the least significant. You'll give deep values, like respect and love, in casual interactions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Focus on what there is to love about your day-to-day. Domestic life will come into sharp focus, which is not always as comfortable as you wish, but the things that make it home can be maximized and well-enjoyed tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are people in the world who open their eyes in the morning and think, "I wonder what fresh fun I could get into today?" There are not a lot of them, though, so when you find them, keep track. Let them be your role models today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everyone seeks love. But when you feel like you might be excessive in your thinking or need, it's an invitation to allow and afford yourself more of those specific you-things that give you comfort and joy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The idea of fun can be daunting. Sometimes you'd rather work, and that's OK. The pressure of trying new things will be less appealing than the certainties of working toward an expected outcome.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Feel your emotions without judgment, whether good or bad. Though you don't want to be gleeful in the face of people who are struggling, it's not the feeling itself that's wrong; you just need to take it somewhere else.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

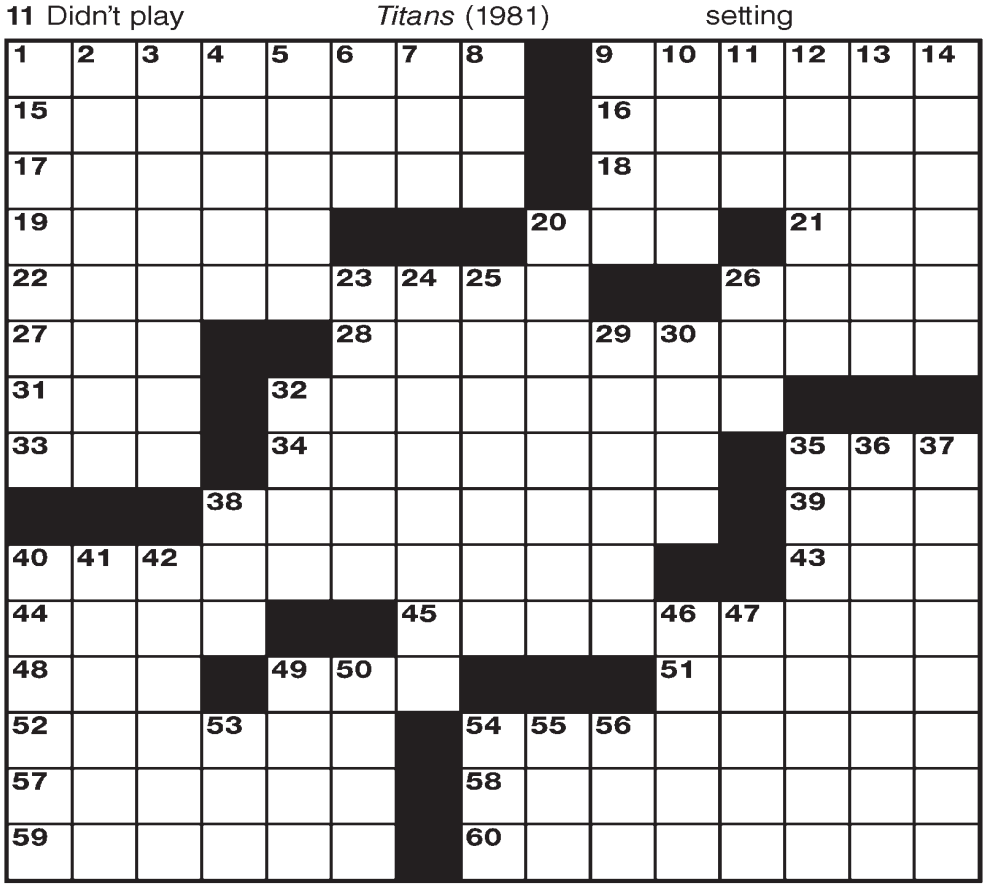
SATURDAY STUMPER by Lester Ruff
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Attention-getting order
9 Givers of orders
15 Invest with power
16 Nowhere near clear
17 Company with a maharajah mascot
18 Brit's ticket back
19 Some bucks
20 "Where soil is, ___ grow": Keats
21 Fill up
22 Cable viewed by an audience
26 Locks or shocks
27 Pack or sack
28 Imperious portmanteau
31 Unkindly
32 Anatomical centers
33 Poet with a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame
34 Query after a holdup
35 Toaster's choice
38 Issues (from)
39 Inattentive
40 Young surfing obsessive
43 Dice device
44 Knocked off
45 Where McCartney sang "Back in the USSR" in 2003
48 Knock off
49 Master starter
51 Let loose
52 Boz boy
54 Ariana and Madonna
57 Don't fight
58 Case
59 Not natural
60 Get rusty

DOWN

1 Minimality metaphor
2 Towel embroidery
3 Don't keep up
4 Femoral region
5 Grassley's Senate colleague
6 Drift off
7 Amalgamation indication
8 "Sugar" sphere
9 Endured
10 Vacant
11 Didn't play
12 Spill something
13 33-nation travel channel
14 Car named to evoke safety
20 Assisted in settling
23 Effective hitter
24 Nothing to write home about
25 Loot
26 Towel embroidery
29 Walks on
30 Puzzle pieces
32 Madcap kin of '50s fiction
35 Inspiration for Pacino in *Dick Tracy*
36 Zeus in *Clash of the Titans* (1981)
37 Got paid back for
38 "Oh no!"
40 Bright blinker
41 YETI offering
42 Kilmer nesters
46 Where some South American birding tours begin
47 Hawkeye's pal
49 Small branch
50 Big kahuna
53 Passing through
54 What you might 51 Across at times
55 2022 Emmy winner for a Beatles docuseries
56 Winter Sea-Tac setting

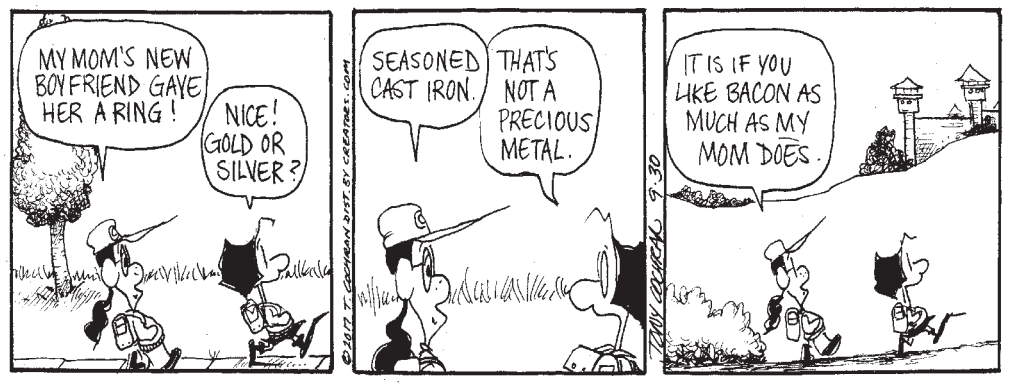


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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



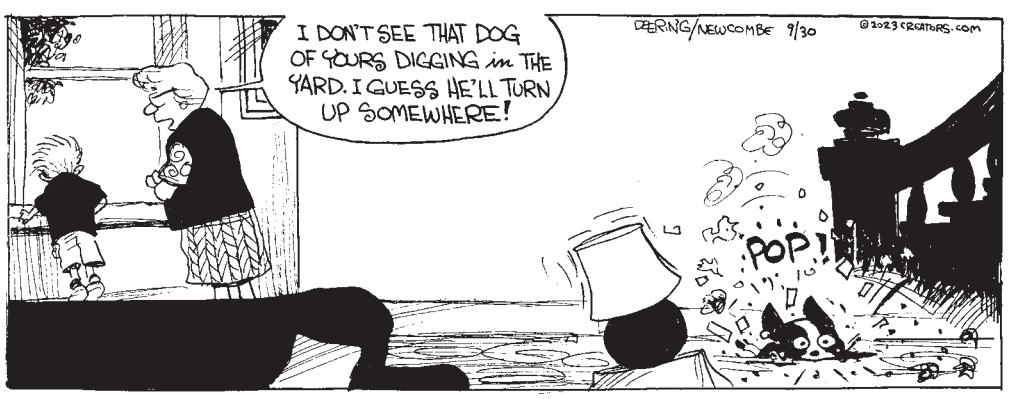
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I'VE GOT HELIUM IN MY VEINS."

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 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5983

A round of golf

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

Amateur
Birdie
Buggy
Bunker
Bye
Caddy
Chip
Choke
Davis
Devlin
Divot
Drinks
Drop
Eagle
Easy
Fade
Fall
Flag
Fore
Grass
Grip
Hard
Head
Help
Hole
Hook
Improve
Iron
Kemp
Lapse
Lost
Marc Leishman
On par
Open
Out of bounds
Path
Pins
Play
Relief
Rough
Sand
Senior
Shaft
Slice
Soft
Stance
Tour
Trap
Trees
Webb
Wood
Yips

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SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 30

MINI FALL FESTIVAL & SMC GLASS PUMPKIN SALE
Virginia Avenue Park will host a Mini Fall Festival on Saturday, September 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the weekly Pico Farmers Market! The event will feature SMC's Glass Pumpkin sale, seasonal craft activities for kids, a family photobooth, and Attendees can pick out a free pumpkin, one per family, while supplies last. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MONTANA AVENUE ART WALK
For the first time, Montana Avenue will be closed to cars transforming the street into a visually exciting experience with 150+ visual artists and local vendors, thoughtfully curated wine garden, activities for kids, live music and more. 900 - 1630 Montana Ave. 1 - 7 p.m.

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 1

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ANTIQUE MARKET
Noted as One of the Top Ten "Flea Markets' in America, visit the Santa Monica Airport Antique Market, a fun outdoor (and dog-friendly!) market full of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more. 2800-3200 Airport Ave 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SHARK FEEDING
Feast on a little knowledge while our swell sharks, horn sharks, and round stingrays chow down. Come and watch the Aquarium staff feed these important keystone species and learn about the part sharks play in marine ecosystems, every Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk.

MONDAY | OCTOBER 2

TEEN TAKE & MAKE KIT: CERAMIC CALAVERAS
Learn about the cultural significance of calaveras and decorate one of your own. Registered teen volunteers can earn one hour of community service by decorating a calavera and adding it to Main Library's ofrenda for Día de los Muertos. Pick up at the Main Library Youth Services desk and at all branch locations, while supplies last. For ages 11-18.

L7
This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd. $75

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 3

THE NO CHASERS
Doors open at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9:30 p.m. Online ticket sales end at 7 p.m., tickets available at the door after 8 p.m. Two drink minimum. The No Chasers are hailed as one of the greatest cover groups around SoCal. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St. $10

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons at the library, from crafting the perfect character to participating in a short campaign. Materials provided. No registration necessary. For ages 10-18. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue 4:30 - 6 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
6:00pm Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission. City Hall 1685 Main Street

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 4

BANNED BOOKS TRIVIA BOWL
Celebrate Banned Books Week and flex your literary knowledge with a pub-style trivia contest! Compete individually or as a team to win prizes and raise awareness about book bans. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 6 - 7 p.m.

KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Sing a song, sing it loud and sing it strong at Tavern on Main's Karaoke Night Party, every Monday and Wednesday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St,

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 5

JOB HUNTING WITH CHRYSALIS
Representatives from local nonprofit Chrysalis provide drop-in resume assistance, job search tips, and on-the-spot orientations for their employment programs. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

JESS FULLER 'ALCHEMY' EP RELEASE FT. SUN ZU
Don't miss Jess Fuller's release show for her very first EP "Alchemy" featuring up and coming local rapper Sun Zu. 8 p.m. Townhouse Venice, 52 Windward Ave. $7.

TECH & TASKS
Need a little help? Visit our Tech & Tasks program to receive one-on-one assistance from our volunteer tutors and build your skills. Staff and volunteers can assist with reading, writing, and technology related tasks. Drop-in between 2-4pm every Thursday to get help with completing online forms and applications, resume writing, device help, improving reading skills, email, downloading eBooks, and much more. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

HOUSING COMMISSION
The Housing Commission regularly meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6 P.M. at City Hall

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



SURF REPORT
WATER TEMP: **65.7**

SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh	Looks small but probably rideable off a little mix of S and NW swells. Onshore W wind looks increasingly likely to build and become breezy through the afternoon - the early AM could have a light window. Stay tuned.
SUNDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	Refresh of shorter period NW swell mix will nudge surf size back up from Saturday. Probably chunky/ disorganized from overnight onshore flow but the morning tide push offers a few corners if you don't mind a little jumble.

WEATHER

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67.
Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.
Sunday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 64.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/09/30	Sat	04:09 AM	0.37	L
2023/09/30	Sat	10:19 AM	6.22	H
2023/09/30	Sat	4:46 PM	-0.11	L
2023/09/30	Sat	10:55 PM	5.12	H
2023/10/01	Sun	04:40 AM	0.98	L
2023/10/01	Sun	10:53 AM	6.26	H
2023/10/01	Sun	5:37 PM	-0.12	L
2023/10/01	Sun	11:49 PM	4.45	H
2023/10/02	Mon	05:11 AM	1.63	L
2023/10/02	Mon	11:28 AM	6.11	H
2023/10/02	Mon	6:31 PM	0.05	L
2023/10/03	Tue	12:54 AM	3.81	H
2023/10/03	Tue	05:40 AM	2.27	L
2023/10/03	Tue	12:06 PM	5.78	H
2023/10/03	Tue	7:33 PM	0.34	L
2023/10/04	Wed	02:24 AM	3.35	H
2023/10/04	Wed	06:08 AM	2.84	L
2023/10/04	Wed	12:51 PM	5.33	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 9/27
1 7 46 47 63
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 925 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/26
15 30 35 42 60
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 267 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 9/27
1 21 34 38 43
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/28
24 26 30 32 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/28
EVENING: 6 7 7
Draw Date: 9/28
MIDDAY: 5 4 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/28
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:47.71

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Shari Davis
Santa Monica College

Matt Horton
Milken Institute

Lt. Erika Aklufi
SMPD



Shane Phillips
UCLA Lewis Center



Dr. Jonathan W. Welburn
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Mayor Gleam Davis
City of Santa Monica



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This first Santa Monica Policy Conference, with its lineup of well-known speakers and authors, will cover three topics most important to businesses with a think-tank approach providing unique views and insights. "This is will be an impactful and thoughtful discussion around a vision for building a livable city in Santa Monica - a conversation with thought leaders you will not want to miss!" Judy Kruger

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