

# smdp

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

### Don't Let It Be, Go Get That Good Music

**SUMMERTIME AND THE MUSIC IS POPPIN'**

Here are some suggestions.

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:**

**BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA**, Paul Thorn opening (how many groups, especially with a founding member still up there on stage, can say they will be celebrating their 80th anniversary, next year? yeah, that's right, eighty-th, been touring for seven decades but hear this, they're as good as they are old, they take you to church because they've spent their whole gospel-shoutin' lives there, but largely thanks to former McCabe's booker John Chelew, who went on to produce their albums, they won Grammys for three successive discs and the rest of the world finally took notice, and here's some advice for these great free concerts all summer long at MacArthur Park, based on the brilliant Fishbone concert I saw there recently: this show will probably be well-attended but there is lots of outdoor area for seeing and listening and there is a long lead-in with DJs and crowd-hype chatter, so bring a picnic dinner and blankets and relax because the Blind Boys, well worth the wait, won't be taking the stage till way past their bedtimes, but God will-in' they will wear you out with a performance you won't forget), Sat 7 p.m., Levitt Pavilion, MacArthur Park, downtown LA, no cover.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**TONIGHT!** — Marina del Rey Symphony: **OPERA BY THE SHORE** (emerging opera stars

SEE MUSIC PAGE 5

## Rent Control Board to discuss potential corporate housing ban

**KATE CAGLE**  
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Rent Control Board will take up the issue of corporate tenants tonight, nearly a month after a newly remodeled rent control

building on Tenth Street appeared on corporate housing websites. Chairperson Anastasia Foster and Commissioner Nicole Phillis placed the discussion item on tonight's agenda regarding a "prohibition of rental of controlled

units as corporate housing."

At the moment, there is no regulation to prevent a company from becoming a tenant in a rent control building. Once a corporation is on

SEE RCB PAGE 4

## Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

### Tickle Your Inner Elmo

**JIM HENSON'S LIFE WORK IS** being celebrated at The Skirball Cultural Center through September 2, and what a life he led. I had no idea about the longevity and breadth of his career, not just as the guy who created the Muppets, but as an early TV pioneer, using techniques never before attempted.

"The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited" will tickle your inner Elmo. See the Bert and Ernie, Count von Count puppets and Kermit the Frog in the "flesh." Watch wonderful clips from Sam and Friends, Henson's first TV venture.

Did you know that Jim Henson worked with filmmaker George Lucas AND legendary rocker David Bowie (The Labyrinth)? I didn't! And there are related costumes, TV and film clips, handwritten scripts and more from the Muppet Show, movies and Fraggle Rock. Henson was even nominated for an Academy Award in 1965 for an experimental short he made, called Time Piece.

**NOT JUST FOR KIDS**

This is truly a comprehensive show. And trust me, it's not just for kids – in fact, most of those in attendance are so young, they would never have seen Sesame Street or The Muppet movies. Nevertheless, they were giddy with joy.

There are so many unique interactive exhibits. A friend and I used puppets to video-synch with a vintage clip (That Old Black Magic) from Sam and Friends, a five-minute twice-weekly puppet show that aired on the Washington, DC NBC affiliate from 1955 to 1961...where Kermit the Frog made his debut! Very few of the original tapings have survived so

SEE CULTURE PAGE 7



### FREE ICE CREAM

Starting this Friday, July 13th, SoCal Honda is rolling out their Helpful Honda Free Ice Cream truck filled with an assortment of free frozen sweets for everyone including bomb pops, big dippers, orange dreamsicles, fruit bars, ice cream sandwiches and more. The Free Ice Cream Truck will be stopping at various community activities, parks, sporting events, and concerts every week, from Friday, July 13 including stops in Santa Monica. Residents can request a stop by posting their location online at [www.facebook.com/SoCalHondaDealers](http://www.facebook.com/SoCalHondaDealers).

Courtesy photo

## Police: DNA evidence connects inmate to 2016 unsolved shooting

**KATE CAGLE**  
Daily Press Staff Writer

Police have charged a 32-year-old Las Vegas man in connection with a 2016 violent home invasion in Santa Monica where the home-

owner was shot in the torso, according to Lt. Saul Rodriguez with the Santa Monica Police Department. Vacho Shahan was already in custody at a Federal

SEE DNA PAGE 8

## Toastmasters builds confidence

**LUCY FRIED**  
Daily Press Intern

Three years ago, Santa Monica resident Daniel Rangel was terrified of public speaking. Now, he gives

SEE TOASTMASTERS PAGE 6

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

**Wrong choice**

**Editor:**

Brett Kavanaugh is the wrong choice to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court. If he is confirmed to the Supreme Court, everything that we hold dear as a nation will be at stake.

From a protecting a woman's right to choose to dismantling the Affordable Care Act, Kavanaugh could be the swing vote that takes away our rights. His lifetime appointment also means he could also cement the Citizens United decision in for decades, giving corporate special interests and mega-donors with extreme agendas even more influence in our democracy.

It's time to take the "For Sale" sign off of our Democracy. The Senate should NOT vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

**David Searfoss**

Santa Monica

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**JULY BIZ @ SUNSET**



**Wednesday, July 18th**

**5:30PM - 7:30PM**

**Summer rooftop fun!** Network with local business leaders and our young professionals committee at the lively Hotel Erwin!

Enjoy delicious food and drinks with a 360 degree view of our beautiful coastline at the stunning High Rooftop Lounge.

Tickets available at [SMChamber.com](http://SMChamber.com) or call 310-393-9825.

\$25 Members

\$35 Prospective Members

**Hotel Erwin**  
 1697 Pacific Ave  
 Venice Beach, CA 90291



**TOASTMASTERS**

FROM PAGE 1

frequent speeches as a real estate agent and has performed two TedX talks. The transformation, he said, can be attributed to Santa Monica's Sand and Sea Toastmasters club.

The international Toastmasters organization was founded in 1905 and has over 352,000 memberships across 16,400 clubs. The clubs, each meeting once a week for about an hour, seek to improve participant's leadership abilities, and help people overcome their fears of public speaking. The Santa Monica Sand and Sea club meets on Mondays at 7 p.m.

"Starting off was extremely scary for me," Rangel, who is now one of eight officers of the club, said. "But it gave me the opportunity to speak on a larger level, and I was eventually invited to speak at a TedX in Mexico and another one in Texas. Without a doubt I don't think I would have been able to do it if it wasn't for Toastmasters."

Rangel began attending the Sand and Sea club for its structure and its values.

"We have an agenda that's broken down to the minute, which really makes it easy for anyone who comes in to not be lost and to be in tune with what's going on," Rangel said. "What that structure instills is to take public speaking very seriously, because we want to improve. It creates that culture where we respect the space and the environment."

As an officer of the Sand and Sea club, Rangel's responsibilities include mentoring new members, taking photographs of club events, running the social media and recruiting people to join.

Rangel said that members have various opportunities to develop their public speaking skills during meetings, which are attended by 30 people per week. Meetings begin with 20 minutes of 'Table Topics,' in which a selected 'Table Topics master' will pose a question to the audience, and one person will be called on to speak on the question for two minutes.

Rangel said, "It's a great skill that you can transfer to sales, or just work in general, being able to speak off the cuff."

In addition to practicing unprepared speaking, every practice also includes prepared speeches presented by three different members, all of whom are focusing on different skills, such as vocal variety or speaking to the point.

Meetings end with evaluations, during which members assess the prepared speeches and give feedback.

The Sand and Sea club has a fee of \$45 every six months, in addition to a new mem-

bers' fee. Rangel said that the cost goes toward occasional food that is offered at practices, renting the Santa Monica First Presbyterian Church for meetings, and ribbons awarded to the best speaker of each practice.

Toastmasters also offers opportunities for international competition, and Rangel said that Sand and Sea provides financial aid for their qualifying participants to travel to the competitions.

"I think one of them was in India, they have them in so many places," Rangel said. "We want to help people out to get them to wherever that country is so that they can compete and represent our club."

Rangel said that he appreciates the values that Toastmasters Santa Monica upholds.

"It's difficult to pick up public speaking, especially when you're starting off, so I guess one of the requirements would be to come in with a supportive and optimistic attitude."

Rangel said that Toastmasters was successful for him because of the audience that it provided him.

"If you want to practice basketball, you can show up at the court and shoot some free-throws, and if you want to practice swimming you can do that by yourself," Rangel said. "But to build the skill of public speaking, you need people, and it's not always easy to get an audience of find an opportunity to speak."

"That's one of the huge values of Toastmasters is that it always creates that environment for you to practice over and over once a week."

Despite its nerve-wracking nature, Rangel said that public speaking and leadership are crucial skills to have, and that their relevance go beyond just speaking.

"It's important for knowing how to get your message across, for a business perspective to sell more of your product, but many times it's just to communicating ideas, perspective, ideologies," he said. "If you want to change the world, you have to be able to tell the world what it is that you're trying to do, and public speaking is one of those great mediums by which you can do that."

In an era of social media and the internet, Rangel said that public speaking's importance will only increase.

"You can transfer what you learn from public speaking to writing content for social media, or maybe you want to be a 'Vlogger,'" he said. "I think it's a great complement to the technology that's evolving as far as communication is concerned."

For more information about Toastmasters, visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). For more information about the Sand and Sea club, visit [www.sandandseaspeakers.com](http://www.sandandseaspeakers.com).

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