

Parading and promoting



Two Malibu actors are part of the Theatre Palisades Youth production "Shrek The Musical," which promoted its show at the Palisades Fourth of July Parade.

Theatre Palisades Youth participated in the Palisades Fourth of July Parade, promoting its upcoming production, "Shrek The Musical." Two Malibu

residents, Trinity Rose Drummond and Elle Baker, are cast members for the show, which premieres July 25 at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades.

The show is directed by Dorothy Dillingham Blue and produced by Jody Crabtree. It's slated to run through August 3.

Photo courtesy Cynthia Peterson

Speaking out



Photo courtesy Susan Tellem

Malibu resident Susan Tellem, an expert in crisis management with Tellem Grody PR, Inc., speaks at the California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors meeting in Orange County. She is also scheduled to speak at the Orange County Sheriff Retreat in Mission Viejo in August.



Malibu mermaid

Mermaid Heather Carter visited the Wonder Years Family Preschool during beach camp last week. She brought seashells from her world travels and sat with the children to answer questions before her fin got too dry and she had to return to the water.

Photo courtesy Jillian Rydell



By Pam Linn

Sawyer pens PI Barney Moon thriller

In his third novel, "Cross Purposes," author and Malibu resident Thomas B. Sawyer introduces the reader to an entirely new character, the New York private investigator Barney Moon. Cracking wise is his modus operandi and sharing the New Yorker's disdain for all things Hollywood give Moon plenty to grouse about as he searches for the perpetrator of an arson fraud.

What starts out to be a quick hunt for the alleged arsonist's fingerprint among the ashes, saving the insurance company turns into a convoluted plot involving Russian gangsters, cops of dubious character, techies trying to unscramble cyber fraud and religious fanatics.

Moon, like most New Yorkers, has never learned to operate an automobile. His driver is called back to NYC, creating an opening for Melodie, a teen-aged car thief, to take over Moon's transportation. Having grown up in L.A., she knows all the things the P.I. doesn't about the sprawling left-coast city. She's hard to like at first, a skanky street kid of questionable character, but she grows on you. And Moon develops a sincere, if conflicted, affection for her.

The quick fingerprint search turns into a longer attempt to unravel two murders, in at least one of which Moon is a suspect, and more. Sawyer, a veteran TV writer, plots this thriller to perfection. Years as head writer and script editor of the long-running "Murder She Wrote" TV series, starring Angela Lansbury, have prepared Sawyer to deal with plot deception in an organized and witty style. The dia-

logue is authentic, the characters marvelously developed and the story line engrossing.

His first two novels, based on historic events, "The Sixteenth Man" and "No Place to Run," read like scripts and capture readers' attention from page one. "Cross Purposes" is more character driven and infinitely funnier although the plot unfolds more slowly, revealing its secrets like the peeling of an onion. Sawyer wrote a nonfiction book titled "Plots Unlimited" that actually shows writers how to do this.

Don't begin the last half dozen chapters unless you can finish them in one sitting. Sleep won't come easy until you uncover the intricate plot twists and the miscreants who maneuver them.

Along the way a Malibu mansion is incinerated, cars are totaled, Moon is beaten up by the Russian hit man, the rogue cop is reprimanded by his boss and a scheme by evangelical zealots is uncovered, all with Moon's dogged investigation.

But while Moon can't wait to return to New York, the insurance company that employs him finds ways to extend his stay in La-La Land. Melodie is secretly delighted but doesn't give away much.

I couldn't help thinking that their final scene at LAX was a set up for the next Barney Moon thriller to come from Sawyer's pen. I can't wait.

"Cross Purposes" by Thomas B. Sawyer, Suspense Publishing, 228 pp, Paperback and Digital

CROSSWORD

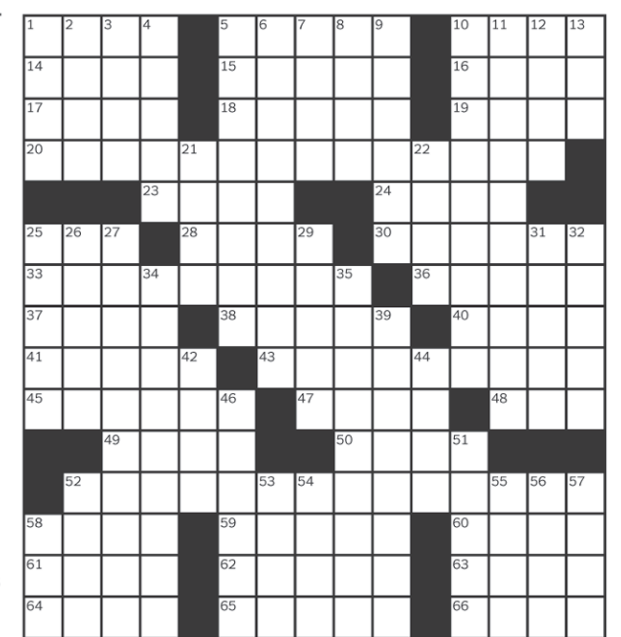
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0529

- ACROSS**
- 1 Knock silly
 - 5 Some Summer Olympics gear
 - 10 "Spider-Man" girl
 - 14 Stone, e.g.
 - 15 "The Alchemist" novelist
 - 16 Facetious words of understanding
 - 17 Backdrop for the final scene of Antonioni's "L'Aventura"
 - 18 How some legal proceedings are conducted
 - 19 Apocryphal beast
 - 20 #1
 - 23 Comic (typeface)
 - 24 Seaside bird
 - 25 Revolutionary body?
 - 28 New York City's Galerie
 - 30 Odds, e.g.
- 33 #2**
- 36 Sleep with, in slang
 - 37 Simpleton
 - 38 Afflictions known technically as hordeola
 - 40 This, to Tomás
 - 41 Comparably sized
 - 43 #3
 - 45 "Not in a million years!"
 - 47 Mode of transportación
 - 48 Shape of a timeout signal
 - 49 Genesis' "man of the field"
 - 50 Symbol of softness
 - 52 #4
 - 58 Waiting room distribution
 - 59 Something that's on the record?
 - 60 Where Macbeth, Malcolm and Duncan are buried
- 61 Aoki of the P.G.A.**
- 62 Things twins share
 - 63 TV greaser, with "the"
 - 64 FiveThirtyEight owner
 - 65 Complete: Prefix
 - 66 Get out of town
- DOWN**
- 1 1965's "I Got You Babe," e.g.
 - 2 "No" voter
 - 3 Brass section?
 - 4 Solide and lique
 - 5 Condition of being awesome, in modern slang
 - 6 Hillary Clinton wardrobe staples
 - 7 Start to pop?
 - 8 Gen. Robert
 - 9 Like many works in minor keys
 - 10 "It's Raining Men," for one
 - 11 The place to be
 - 12 Abbr. on a historic building
 - 13 "___ insist!"
 - 21 ___ E (TV channel)
 - 22 "___ my dad would say..."
 - 25 Media icon with an eponymous Starbucks beverage
 - 26 Shake, maybe
 - 27 It might pop in the post office
 - 29 Memphis's home

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

QUID HITME AHAB
 ESSO ONEAL CAGE
 ISAW NANNY EDIT
 IRONS LAG SHONE
 PILLMORNING
 PALATE AIG
 ANOTHER ONE THING
 RTE UTE TAU
 CIBEFORREE EXCEPT
 DAB ATONES
 READINGBURN
 HORSE ORE AGONY
 AXON NOIRE AREA
 WIDE INFER MAIL
 NEER BETTE ELLE



PUZZLE BY ANNA SHEXTMAN

- 31 More than quirky
- 32 Held forth
- 34 Writer with the most combined Tony and Oscar nominations
- 35 Littoral
- 39 Sequence of events
- 42 Tiny irritant
- 44 Genesis grandson
- 46 Yield
- 51 Swing and miss
- 52 Chuck
- 53 Romain de Tiroff's pseudonym
- 54 Cambodian currency
- 55 One being used
- 56 ___ Bradstreet, America's first published poet
- 57 The Sphinx's is "blank and pitiless as the sun," per Yeats
- 58 Outdated cry

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