

Musical

from front page



Jack Riordan, as Don Lockwood, right, and Sean Flanagan, as best friend Cosmo Brown, relive a time before their movie fame in a new musical stage production of *Singin' in the Rain* by El Segundo Youth Drama.

and Parks department runs Youth Drama, divided into the Junior Drama program for youth ages five through 12 years old and Senior Drama for teens 13 through 18 years old. Throughout the year, the Junior and Senior Drama groups stage two productions of their own. Then they join together for a summer production that's always the biggest of the season.

Riordan, who has sung other roles in *Grease*, *Parade* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, says playing Lockwood, a rising star caught amid Hollywood's difficult transition from silent pictures to talkies, reminded him about what it means to be truly confident. "I'm just like every other person --- there are those actors that I idolize," Riordan admitted. "The message of the story is that you don't have to be like them, and you can still make it."

Riordan also wants to "make it" in musical theater after he graduates, though at this point he's not thinking about college. All he knows is that *Singin'* is the best production he has ever joined. It has given him an unmatched feeling that his career is "moving forward."

Jeff Cason, the show's producer, says there are many reasons *Singin'* could inspire a sense of momentum. First, he said, *Singin' in the Rain* is one of the most popular classic movie musicals of all time. Many consider it to be the perfect musical - a mix of endearing characters, catchy music and a story that uplifts.

Second, "We're going big this summer," promised Cason, noting that *Singin'* is "our biggest effort to date, with over 60 kids, 25 staff and 50 parent volunteers."

Cason went on to say that the show will also employ high-tech lighting, new 3-D sets and a "state-of-the-art" rain effect for the title number. Though he didn't offer much about the new lighting, Riordan hinted the effects were based on the projection systems used in the musical *Wicked*, which ended a nearly two-year run at the Pantages Theater in Hollywood earlier this year. "In a perfect world, we wanted it to really rain on stage," said Riordan, "but all the safety considerations kept us from doing that."

Before the acting bug bit him in his sophomore year, Riordan played soccer and also competed in track and field. Then he got up on stage one day and that was that. His teammates had to find a new goalie. Probably around the same he started riding a bike, Cason knew theater was his calling. He launched his own career at age seven, right here in El Segundo, in productions staged by the same Recreation and Parks department. His first character part was as a court jester. Later he played roles in *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Guys and Dolls*, to name a few. Those initial productions "kick-started a love of

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anything that I can do to help raise money, I'm down."

After Smith's act, the band took the stage. The group consisted of Jose Zerimar and Jean Fritz on acoustic guitars, Paul Alford on bass and additional instruments played by Derek Lovett and Alfonso Lopez. Fritz said it's difficult to describe the type of music they play. She said it's influenced by Spanish flamenco styling, but her background brings a folk touch.

Fritz explained that the group's music is very powerful. Zerimar plays so fast and hard that she said it's almost impossible to follow him. She can't watch him while they're playing or she'll lose the rhythm. "Part of the whole thing about our performance is Jose plays and we follow," Fritz said, "Everything is spontaneous."

The Relay for Life was the band's first charity work. Fritz's husband fell in love with the cause after the band played at the first relay event and he became the driving force in support of the American Cancer Society.

The ZF Dancing Fleas hosted this concert for two years. They were one of the teams

that participated in the El Segundo Relay for Life last month held at the El Segundo High School track. It was a 24-hour event that started Saturday morning. There were 30 different teams, and usually one walker from each team was on the track at all times. Off the track, the teams were doing their part to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The ZF Dancing Fleas, for instance, sold baked goods, T-shirts and raffle tickets. The El Segundo Relay for Life made over \$101,000 prior to the concert, Kirsch said.

This is the third year El Segundo has participated in the Relay for life. Kirsch encouraged all El Segundo residents to come out and help raise money for this community function. However, Kirsch noted that teams come from all over. Anybody can participate from any area. Guitar-playing Fritz has had a positive time working with the Relay for Life. "It's just a real heartwarming experience," she said. The Relay for Life event occurs in many cities, including El Segundo.

To learn more, visit www.relayforlife.org/elsegundoCA. To learn more about the band, *Zerimar & Fritz*, visit zerimarfritz.com.

Police Reports

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

One female adult was arrested at 0156 hours from Imperial Highway and Douglas Street for misdemeanor DUI with a BAC of .08% or above and possession of marijuana while driving.

One male adult was arrested at 0211 hours in the 700 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard for possession of a controlled substance.

An on-line lost property report was taken at 0700 hours. In the 800 block of Penn Street, a wallet and identification card was lost.

An on-line vandalism report was taken at 0710 hours. In the 1000 block of East Acacia Avenue, shaving foam was sprayed on several vehicles.

An on-line misdemeanor hit and run report was taken at 1245 hours. It occurred in the 700 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard, vehicle versus parked vehicle.

An on-line grand theft report was taken at 1131 hours. In the 200 block of East El Segundo Boulevard, an Apple iPhone was taken.

Burglary (commercial) report was taken at 1732 hours in the 1900 block of Hughes Way. Taken was a box of victim's credit card statements, bills, account information, and eight plaques.

One male adult was arrested at 1815 hours in the 200 block of Arbor Vitae, Inglewood, for possession for sale of a controlled substance, possession for sale cocaine base substance, and transportation for sale of a controlled substance.

One male adult was arrested at 1855 hours in the 200 block of Arbor Vitae, Inglewood, for possession of a controlled substance and two LAPD misdemeanor traffic warrants.

One male adult was arrested at 2256 hours from LAPD, Van Nuys Division, for one ESPD misdemeanor traffic warrant.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

One male adult was arrested at 0146 hours in the 400 block of Main Street for suspicion of burglary and possession of burglary tools.

One male adult was arrested at 0242 hours from Center Street and Imperial Avenue for misdemeanor DUI.

An on-line lost property report was taken at 0630 hours. In the 2000 block of East Imperial Highway, a RIM Blackberry cell phone was lost.

Vandalism occurred between 08/03/09 and 08/04/09 in the 800 block of North Nash Street. A building was "tagged."

Vandalism occurred between 08/03/09 and 08/04/09 in the 2100 block of East Mariposa Avenue. Two vehicles and one door to a building were "tagged."

One male adult was arrested at 1115 hours from Main Street and Imperial Avenue for vandalism.

One female adult was detained and cited at 1646 hours in the 300 block of Main Street for one LASD traffic warrant.

Grand theft report was taken at 1713 hours in the 2200 block of East Imperial Avenue. Taken was a silver and black carbon fiber Fuji Absolute SX Road bicycle with a Cateye computer, valued at \$775.00.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

One male adult was arrested at 0111 hours in the 1300 block of East El Segundo Boulevard for parole violation.

One male adult was arrested at 0201 hours from Grand Avenue and Nevada Street for misdemeanor DUI with a BAC of .08% or above.

One male adult was arrested at 0845 hours from Main Street and Oak Avenue for driving without a license.

Traffic accident (no injuries) occurred at 0842 hours in the intersection of Grand Avenue and Continental Boulevard. Two vehicles were involved.

Burglary (auto) report was taken at 1145 hours in the 500 block of W. Palm Avenue. Taken were an insurance card and miscellaneous items from the glove box.

Vandalism report was taken at 1445 hours in the 100 block of E. Acacia Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) walked on the victim's vehicle causing damage to the roof.

Traffic accident (with injuries) occurred at 1531 hours in the intersection of El Segundo Boulevard and Sepulveda Boulevard, vehicle versus pedestrian.

One male adult was arrested at 2320 hours at Rosecrans Avenue and Village Drive for being under the influence of a controlled substance.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Burglary report was taken at 1119 hours from the 2200 block of Park Place. Unknown suspect(s) broke into the victim's locker, took his Visa credit card and made unauthorized charges.

Forgery report was taken at 1119 hours from the 2200 block of Park Place. Unknown suspect(s) forged checks using the victim's business name and check routing number and attempted to cash them out of state.

An injury report was taken at 1132 hours from the 700 block of Maryland Street. The victim was bitten by a dog.

Burglary (auto) report was taken at 1250 hours from the 1200 block of E. Imperial Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) broke into the victim's vehicle and removed the stereo.

One male adult was arrested at 1917 hours from Aviation Boulevard and El Segundo Boulevard for giving false information to a peace officer, driving without a license and one outstanding Inglewood P.D. felony warrant.

Burglary report (vehicle) was taken at 2302 hours in the 500 block of North Sepulveda. Unknown suspect(s) broke into the victim's vehicle and took items.

One male adult was arrested at 0053 hours in the 500 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard for plain drunk in public.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Battery report was taken at 0126 hours at Mariposa Avenue and Indiana Street.

Vandalism report was taken at 0829 hours in the 2200 block of East Mariposa Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) vandalized victim's property.

Grand theft report was taken at 1021 hours in the 300 block of North Continental Boulevard. Suspect took money from their employer.

Grand theft report was taken at 1827 hours in the 2300 block of East Rosecrans Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) took victim's bike.

One male adult was arrested at 1903 hours from the 500 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard for one outstanding LAPD misdemeanor warrant and one LASD misdemeanor warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 2209 hours from Aviation Boulevard and Imperial Highway for misdemeanor DUI .08% or above.

One male adult was arrested at 2255 hours from Center Street and Grand Avenue for possession of concentrated cannabis and driving under the influence on a bicycle.

One male adult was arrested at 2326 hours from Imperial Highway and Pershing Drive for two outstanding LAPD misdemeanor warrants.

One male adult was arrested at 0022 hours in the 2500 East block of El Segundo Boulevard for being under the influence of a controlled substance.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

One male adult was arrested at 0139 hours in the 400 block of East El Segundo Boulevard for a parole warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 0214 hours at California Street and Imperial Highway for one outstanding ICE warrant.

One female adult was arrested at 0409 hours in the 400 block of South Sepulveda for driving under the influence of alcohol.

One female adult was arrested by CHP at 0518 hours at the 90 Freeway and Lincoln Boulevard for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Vandalism report was taken at 0747 hours

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