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GIRLS SOCCER:

Changes afoot for Samohi

Despite roster turnover, Vikings vying for third-straight league title



Courtesy Photo

SOCCER: Santa Monica High is hoping to repeat its history of success with a relatively young team.

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Last month, the Santa Monica High girls soccer team scored a season-high four goals in a nonconference win over Los Angeles-Marymount. During tournament play four days later, the Vikings were held scoreless in a loss to the same school.

The first game seemed to point to Samohi's potential a season after it reached the section semifinals for the second time in program history. The second game highlighted the challenges of sustaining success with seven new starters in the lineup, including three freshmen.

It's a dynamic that doesn't seem to concern coach Jimmy Chapman, who sees his seventh year at the helm not as a rebuilding lull but as a reloading opportunity.

"We find the pieces, we work and adapt based on the players we have," Chapman said. "For the returning players and the seniors, even if they weren't starting, they understand exactly what it's going to take. It's gonna come down to jelling and peaking at the right time.

"They're carrying a load that they didn't have because we had such a senior-heavy team last year. They're getting more minutes and they're being asked to do more, but they're happy to accept the responsibilities."

New players in new roles could make the difference this year for Samohi (3-5-2), which will wrap up its rigorous preseason slate this week with home games against Palos Verdes and Palisades. The Vikings enter Ocean League play at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 13 at home against

SEE SPORT PAGE 6

Get a kit, get a plan, get informed

Officials say El Nino is a motivator for emergency preparedness

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Forecasters have predicted a wave of wet weather will soak the region this week and whether or not the rain actually hits Santa Monica, local officials are taking the opportunity to educate residents on basic emergency preparedness.

Santa Monica's Office of Emergency Management has an El Nino preparation brochure available on its website (http://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/OEM/WhatToDo/el%20nino3.pdf) and Emergency Services Manager Lieutenant Robert Almada said the basic advice holds true no matter what kind of situation is pending: have a kit, have plan and stay informed.

OEM maintains a library of emergency information online, including instructions for a basic emergency kit.

According to OEM, a basic emergency kit should have enough food and water to last three days to a week (including pet food), a first aid kit, flashlights with extra batteries, a radio with extra batteries, medications (over-the-counter and prescription), cash, important documents, sanitation supplies, hygiene items, spare clothing including sturdy shoes, tools such as wrench, duct tape, fire extinguisher, sturdy gloves and a whistle.

In addition to a kit, Almada encourages residents to take some kind of basic training in first aid, CPR and disaster volunteering. Different programs are offered by the City of Santa Monica (https://www.smgov.net/Depart

SEE WEATHER PAGE 6

California braces for series of El Nino storms

KRISTIN J. BENDER
Associated Press

After all the talk, El Niño storms have finally lined up over the Pacific and started soaking drought-parched California with rain expected to last for most of the next two weeks, forecasters said Monday.

As much as 15 inches of rain could fall in the next 16 days in Northern California, with about 2 feet of snow expected in the highest points of the Sierra Nevada, said Johnny Powell, a forecaster with the National Weather Service.

To the south, persistent wet conditions could put some Los Angeles County communities at risk of flash-flooding along with mud and debris flows, especially in wildfire burn areas.

The brewing El Niño system - a warming in the Pacific Ocean that alters weather worldwide - is expected to impact California and the rest of the nation in the coming weeks and months.

Its effects on California's drought are difficult to predict, but Jet Propulsion Laboratory climatologist Bill Patzert said it should bring at least some relief.

Doug Carlson, spokesman for the California Department of Water Resources, pointed out that four years of drought have left California with a water deficit that is too large for one El Nino year to totally overcome.

Come April 1 - when the snowpack is typically at its deepest - water managers will be better able to gauge the situation.

"Mother Nature has a way of surprising or disappointing us,"

SEE NINO PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 5

Gallery
Exhibit: Art Bank: Selections from the City's collection. Open through Jan. 12 in Event House Gallery. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ocean Park Toddler Time
Join Mr. Jesse for some wonderful stories, rhymes, songs and puppets. This program is for children from 18-35 months. Registration required. Call (310) 458-8683. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Computer Basics I
Hands-on introduction to computers. Learn how to use a mouse and keyboard, work with Windows and basic computer terms. Length of class is 1-1/2 hours. Beginner level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Ocean Park Film Program: "42nd Street" (1933)
Film historian Elaina Archer screens and discusses this film about an ailing Broadway director who returns to produce one final show, but his leading lady is injured and must be replaced by a novice. (Film runtime: 89 min.) Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 6 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market (Downtown - Wednesday)
Fresh seasonal produce sold direct from California farmers. Arizona @ 2nd St., 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Computer Basics II
Use your growing mouse skills to perform a variety of basic tasks on a computer. Limited seating is on a first-arrival basis. For more information or questions, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Mindfulness Meditation
Take a pause in the day in which to refresh yourself by simply sitting and paying attention to your senses, feelings, and thoughts. You are welcome to stay for 5 minutes or for the entire 30 minutes. Natalie Bell, Mindful Wellness consultant, will guide the session, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. Montana Avenue Branch library, 1704 Montana Ave., 5:45 - 6:15 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting
Regular meeting of the Planning Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7 p.m.

SCBWI Westside Writer's Mingle
A monthly gathering for anyone interested in writing for children and young adults. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Big Brother is Watching: The Urgency of Orwell's 1984
Join The Broad Stage dramaturg Jonathan Redding for a conversation on Headlong Theatre's new adaptation of 1984, and the continued relevance of the novel in a world of surveillance capabilities even George Orwell could not have imagined. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 7

The Sea Inside/Mar Adentro
Based on a true story, Spaniard Ramon Sampedro (Javier Bardem), fought a 30-year campaign to win the right to end his life with dignity. English subtitles. (125 min.) Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

GED Prep Class
Get prepared to take the Reasoning Through Language Arts subject test of the GED. Class will be held in the Annex, next to Pico Branch Library. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 6 - 8 p.m.

Hearing Health and Screenings
Steven Kolodin, Connect Hearing, discusses the importance of hearing healthcare and the role hearing plays in preserving our mental faculties. Following the discussion, hearing screenings will be conducted for attendees on a first come, first served basis. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 1 - 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

SMC Board Of Trustees to hold special meeting on malibu campus and sheriff substation project

The Santa Monica College Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the Council Chambers of Malibu City Hall located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road.

During the meeting - which is open to the public - a hearing will be conducted to receive input on the proposed SMC Malibu campus and Los Angeles County Sheriff's substation project located at 23555 Civic Center Drive in Malibu, and the environmental studies related to its construction and operation. The Board will vote on three resolutions, one to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report, another to take actions needed to approve the project, and a third regarding the ground lease agreement with the County of Los Angeles.

SMC began the process of preparing the environmental study in May 2012 with a notice sent to all Malibu households to solicit public comments and conduct a public scoping meeting. A Draft EIR was published in July 2015, circulated for a 60-day period, and made available to the public for review with a courtesy notice sent to all Malibu households. Comments from interested parties and individuals to the Draft EIR and responses to comments have been incorporated into the Final EIR.

The proposed SMC Malibu campus project is located within the larger LA County-owned and operated Civic Center complex. On its completion, the campus will include five classrooms and labs; a community room that will double as an Emergency Operations Center for local emergencies; a computer lab; and offices. Construction will be funded by Measure S, the $135 million bond approved by the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu in 2004 to fund facilities projects.

The campus - which is slated to open in 2017 - is expected to provide college-level classes, older adult Emeritus College classes, and other college programming not otherwise available in the City of Malibu. The project incorporates a police substation within the building for use by the LA County Sheriff's Department, and also includes an interpretive center to support Malibu's Legacy Park and several other improvements within the site.

To view the full agenda and the environmental documents, visit www2.smc.edu/planning. For more information on the meeting, contact Lisa Rose at Rose_Lisa@smc.edu or 310-434-4402.

- GRACE SMITH



Courtesy image

SMC MEETING: The Santa Monica College Board of Trustees will hold a special public meeting on SMC's proposed Malibu campus and LA County Sheriff's substation project located at 23555 Civic Center Drive. The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13 in the Council Chambers of Malibu City Hall.

Los Angeles

New Medical Center Director Named for Greater Los Angeles VA

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the appointment of Ann R. Brown, FACHE, as the new Director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS). Brown will oversee delivery of health care to more than 90,000 Veterans and an operating budget of $916 million.

"We are thrilled to bring Ms. Brown on board as the new Director of VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Her leadership and past experiences will be invaluable to the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve," said Marie Weldon, FACHE, VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network Director. "We anticipate her appointment to begin on January 24, 2016."

Brown joined VA more than 19 years ago; most recently she served as Director of the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. She obtained a Masters of Science Degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University and a Bachelors of Business Administration Degree in Finance from the University of Texas. Brown is board certified as a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives.

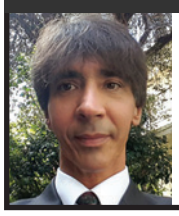
VAGLAHS is one component of the VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network (VISN 22) offering services to Veterans residing in Southern California. VAGLAHS consists of three ambulatory care centers, a tertiary care facility and eight community-based outpatient clinics. VAGLAHS serves Veterans residing throughout five counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo. There are approximately 1.4 million Veterans in the VAGLAHS service area. For more information, call (310) 478-3711 or visit www.losangeles.va.gov.

- DEPARTMENT OF VISITOR AFFAIRS

Community briefs are informational items submitted to the Santa Monica Daily Press by residents, businesses or organizations. The name and organizational affiliation of the individual who sent the information is provided at the end of each brief. To submit information, email editor@smdp.com.

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Swan song for 'American Idol' after 15 game-changing years

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

It started on June 11, 2002, with a couple of unfamiliar hosts posing in an empty theater and making an overblown declaration to TV viewers.

"Live on this stage, an unknown talent will be launched into superstardom," said Brian Dunkleman.

"You at home decide who will become the next American idol," intoned Ryan Seacrest.

The reasonable reaction: uh-huh, sure. But it turned out the two were underselling Fox's "American Idol."

The singing contest, which begins its 15th and final season Wednesday, was a blockbuster that invigorated its network. It made stars of Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson and others, and resurrected the TV talent show as a boom industry that includes NBC's "The Voice" and ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

"It not only was a huge success for Fox but impacted everyone else," said Bill Carroll, media analyst with Katz Television Group. "It once again underscored the fact that broadcast television is communal and an event."

"American Idol," from megaproducer Simon Fuller and based on his British hit "Pop Idol," did even more. It breathed life into the music industry as it and network TV both grappled with technology-driven changes in consumer habits.

The show's end is the result of dwindling ratings, the inevitable fate of even durable performers. "Idol," which averaged more than 30 million weekly viewers at its 2006 peak and ranked No. 1 for nine consecutive years, averaged about 11 million last season (still enough by today's standards to land it in the top 20, but with fewer advertiser-favored younger viewers).

Whatever its change in fortunes, the series will get a send-off worthy of a television landmark, said executive producer Trish Kinane.

As she sees it, that means paying tribute to its past while focusing on the battle among this year's contestants to become the last "Idol" winner.

"It's that tricky thing of, 'Hey, it's the 15th season, let's do nostalgia, let's look back at the show's really rich history,'" Kinane said. "But on the other hand, you've got to find an amazing American Idol. So we're trying to combine both of those things."

To accomplish that "organically," she said, past winners and familiar runners-up will be sprinkled throughout the season, starting with the open auditions in which Ruben Studdard, Clay Aiken, Taylor Hicks and others were on hand to share tips with the hopefuls.

Plans also call for duets pairing contestants with their now-famous predecessors, who "all want to be involved, somehow," Kinane said.

A famous non-Idol, Kanye West, made a surprise appearance at the judges' auditions in San Francisco in September, with wife Kim Kardashian West along as his cheerleader. His "tryout" is included in Wednesday's episode.

The season debut is a four-hour, two-night affair, airing from 8-10 p.m. EST Wednesday and Thursday and opening on a retrospective note with the Seacrest-Dunkleman '02 clip.

One contestant featured in the premiere demonstrates the show's impressive hold on its fans. Michelle Marie Lecza of Daytona Beach, Florida, recalls watching it as a 4-year-old and can recite all of the winners, in order.

"'American Idol' is what I based my life off of. I am going to walk into the audition room and go get my dream," the braces-wearing 15-year-old says.

Such fervor made "American Idol" a well-timed hit. With social media gaining steam, viewers wanted to get in on the real-time conversation about "Idol" — good news for networks selling commercial airtime and the sponsors who wanted their ads to be seen, not skipped as the show was replayed on a DVR.

The live "Idol" episodes increased that appetite and launched the networks' embrace of a variety of other live broadcasts that included NBC's musicals "The Sound of Music" and "The Wiz."

It was a salve as well for the music business: In 2009, Steve Knopper, author of "Appetite for Self-Destruction: The Spectacular Crash of the Record Industry in the Digital Age," called "American Idol" and its robust digital sales one of the few bright spots for the industry as consumers grew increasingly resistant to shelling out for albums.

The series became such an impressive promotional platform that established artists including Steven Tyler, Mariah Carey and Prince dropped in as panelists, mentors and performers.

So did Harry Connick Jr., Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban, returning for their third year together as judges to usher "Idol" to its conclusion. They're joined by the savvy, unflappable Seacrest, the show's on-camera linchpin who outlasted fellow original cast members Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson (and Dunkleman, who was one-and-done).

Urban said he's focused less on the show's farewell than what he calls the "job at hand."

"I more often forget it's the last season until somebody mentions it," the country music star said during a production break at the Dolby Theatre. "It's just finding the right person and making sure we don't miss somebody."

He said the show retains its power to jump-start a beginning career. For the farewell season, some 75,000 people swarmed to auditions in Atlanta; Denver; Philadelphia and Little Rock, Arkansas, in addition to San Francisco.

"I love the fact that these guys and girls still see the potency and potential of something like 'Idol' to take them to places really, really quickly," Urban said.

It would be ideal if the final season produces another "American Idol" pop superstar, Connick said.

The show "has had a lot of hits, had a lot of misses. I would love to see somebody come out and put a bookend on what Kelly Clarkson did the first year, which is to sell a ton of records, sell a lot of concert tickets and became a household name," the jazz musician said.

"That would be a great way to end it," he said.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

California lawmakers propose $2 billion plan to aid homeless

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California would spend more than $2 billion on permanent housing to help the nation's largest homeless population, under a proposal outlined by state senators on Monday.

The housing bond would be enough to help local governments construct more than 10,000 housing units primarily for those with mental illness when it's combined with other federal and local money, estimated Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles.

"It is despicable that in the richest state, that is the state of California, that just last night thousands of Californians laid their tired bodies on a sidewalk or on a cardboard," Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, said during a news conference broadcast from Los Angeles' Skid Row.

Homelessness has become a growing issue across the state.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress says nearly 116,000 people are homeless in California, more than a fifth of the nation's homeless population. The same report projects that more than 29,000 are chronically homeless in California, with many suffering from mental illness.

Los Angeles' homeless population increased more than 10 percent in the last two years. The Los Angeles City Council declared a homelessness crisis in November as it prepared to change city ordinances to let people temporarily live in their cars and sleep on sidewalks. In October, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors declared a "shelter crisis" because of concerns that strong winter storms could flood homeless camped along riverbeds and storm drains.

Neighboring Orange County is buying a $4.25 million warehouse for a 200-bed homeless shelter.

In Sacramento, police have clashed in recent days with homeless camped outside City Hall to protest an ordinance prohibiting such urban camping.

The bond lawmakers proposed Monday would be repaid by redirecting money from Proposition 63, the 2004 ballot measure that added a 1 percent tax on incomes over $1 million to pay for mental health treatment.

The Senate proposal would target the housing money to chronically homeless persons with mental illness. More than 90 percent of the Proposition 63 money raised each year would continue to go to existing programs.

Senators also want to use $200 million from the state's general fund over the next four years to provide rent subsidies and other shorter-term assistance while the permanent housing is built.

De Leon also called for increased spending in the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment program that aids about 1.3 million poor elderly, blind, and disabled people who can't work.

But he said the amount will have to be negotiated with the Assembly and with Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown, who presents his proposed budget on Thursday.

The Brown administration supports empowering local governments to address homelessness, poverty, and mental health issues and will take a close look at the Senate proposals, Deborah Hoffman, a spokeswoman for the governor, said in an email.

Details on distributing the housing money will also have to be worked out before the June budget deadline, de Leon said. However, he envisions a competitive grant program for local governments. With matching local and federal funds, he estimated the $2 billion could be leveraged into $5 billion or more worth of construction.

Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, said California is following the lead of Utah and other areas that are using supportive housing to help the homeless mentally ill. New York City has a $2.6 billion plan to create 15,000 apartments to aid that population.

"First and foremost we have to stabilize them" before other services like mental health and drug treatment can be provided, de Leon said.

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SPORT

FROM PAGE 1

Hawthorne.

Even with his team's significant turnover on the field, Chapman said this year's group can still contend for a conference title and make a run in the CIF Southern Section playoffs.

Samohi, which hasn't lost a league game since the 2012-13 season, is in the hunt for a third straight conference crown.

"We have a lot of spots to fill," he said. "We're having seven girls who have had no varsity experience or very limited varsity experience playing. But we're going to get back to where we were last year and take the next step because of their discipline, their mentality and their fight. We spend a lot of time working on bonding and working on team chemistry, and that's going to serve us well. They know it's a process."

Chapman said he'll rely on several key returners to lead the Vikings in 2015-16. Pacing the midfield is junior Maggie Lena, a talented playmaker who earned first-team all-league honors and third-team all-CIF recognition last year. Powering the Samohi attack is current points leader Chloe Kleinman, a senior forward who also received first-team all-league and third-team all-CIF awards last season. And anchoring the back line is senior Francine Rios-Fetchko, a second-team all-conference honoree who was named the team's defensive most valuable player last year. Starting in goal is junior Madeline Kresin.

Lena, Kleinman, Rios-Fetchko and Kresin will help the Vikings carry forward following the departure of a large 2015 class that included first-team all-CIF honorees Ariana Lomeli and Hannah McNally as well as current Wesleyan University player Ella Sinfield.

Chapman said he promotes continuity in his program by having the varsity players train with the less-experienced athletes, particularly during the offseason.

"They already understand the philosophy and what our expectations are, and we adapt what we do tactically based on personnel," he said. "We're playing a different style, more of an attacking style. We're going to press a lot, and we're going to be in every game because we're not going to wait to see what happens. We're going to force the issue and be aggressive instead of being passive and hoping for the best. We're going to go down swinging."

jeff@smdp.com

WEATHER

FROM PAGE 1

ments/OEM/Programs/Santa_Monica_CERT.aspx), the Santa Monica Fire Department (http://santamonicafire.org) and American Red Cross (http://www.redcross.org/ca/santa-monica).

Those resources also include help for developing an emergency plan and Almada said residents can stay informed by signing up for alerts at smalerts.net.

Almada said he is cautiously optimistic about Santa Monica's ability to respond to an El Nino-related emergency and said his office is currently providing additional information about flood readiness to residents.

"Since we know there's an El Nino and those generally cause greater than average rainfall, it makes sense for us to be talking about that at this time," he said.

Basic flood awareness includes staying away from steep slopes that might become unstable when saturated, staying away from flood channels or flowing rivers, avoiding water crossings, staying alert when driving in wet conditions and knowing how to get help if you need it.

Almada said his office uses an "all hazard preparation philosophy" and can provide residents with information on flood, fire, quakes, hazardous materials or any other potential emergency. He said any opportunity to help get people prepared is beneficial.

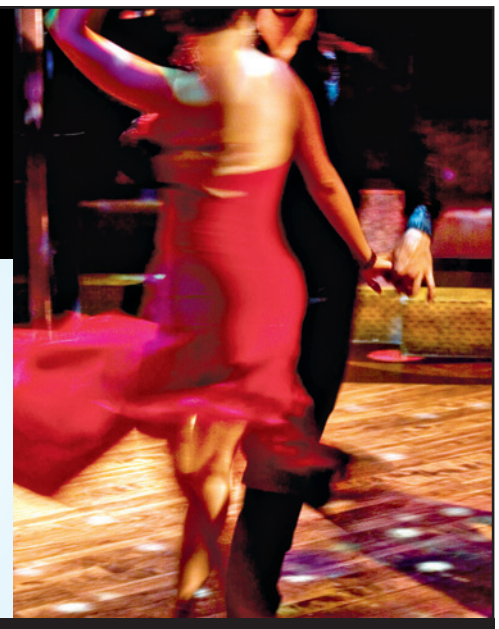
"We see El Nino as the likely thing that we'll see next, but that doesn't mean we won't see an earthquake," he said.

Residents who want up-to-the-minute information can check with the National Weather Service for storm advisories at www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox or visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov for the latest information on beach conditions.

Residents who need sandbags can find them at several locations. Monday through Thursday and every other Friday, residents can go to 2500 Michigan Ave., Building #8, to pick up pre-filled sandbags. All other times, go to any fire station in the City for sandbags. Sand is located at Memorial Park, 1401 Olympic Blvd., in the parking lot next to the tennis courts.

If flooding does occur, residents can call the Water Resources Division at (310) 458-8532 (7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) or (310) 434-2672 after hours.

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

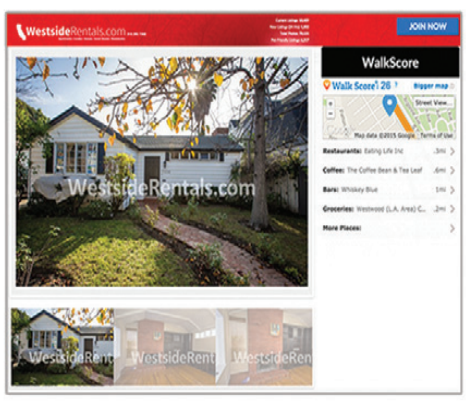
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that that sealed bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4234 TWO (2) NEW AND UNUSED TRUCK-MOUNTED REGENERATIVE AIR STREET SWEEPERS, AS REQUIRED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT
Submission Deadline is January 21, 2016 at until 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4236 FURNISH AND DELIVER CALSENSE SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS, AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC LANDSCAPE DIVISION
Submission Deadline is January 20, 2016 at until 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

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Most Insurance Programs Accepted/ PPO Friendly
Flexible Payment Options Available
State Licensed & JCAHO Accredited
THE TREATMENT HELPLINE
NTN National Treatment Network
*Sorry, we do NOT accept Medicare or Medicaid.

NINO

FROM PAGE 1

Carlson said.

The record drought in California has forced Gov. Jerry Brown to order cities to conserve water by 25 percent compared to the same period in 2013.

El Ninos in the early 1980s and late 1990s brought about twice as much rain as normal, Patzert said. The weather also caused mudslides, flooding and high surf.

In recent weeks, a weather pattern partly linked with El Niño has turned winter upside-down across the nation, bringing spring-like warmth to the Northeast, a risk of tornadoes in the South, and so much snow across the West that even ski slopes have been overwhelmed.

Big parts of the country are basking in above-average temperatures, especially east of the Mississippi River and across the Northern Plains.

In Los Angeles County foothills beneath wildfire burn areas, residents braced Monday for possible flash flooding and debris flows. Workers in Azusa cleared storm drains and handed out sandbags, while in nearby Glendora, police announced restricted parking measures for steep roadways under barren hillsides.

Residents were urged to monitor weather reports and consider stockpiling sand bags.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti warned people to clear gutters and anything in their yard that might clog storm drains; assemble an emergency kit; and stockpile sandbags if their home is susceptible to flooding.

An effort also was under way to provide shelter for homeless people.

"We want as little damage and destruction and as little death as possible," Garcetti said.

Between 2 and 3.5 inches of rain is predicted to fall across the coastal and valley areas of Southern California through Friday, with up to 5 inches falling in the mountains.

The first wave of rain started in Northern California with light showers Sunday and was expected to pick up strength and cover a large area of the region, the weather service said.

"This series of storms are definitely associated with the El Niño phenomenon in that the jet stream has taken a fairly significant southward trajectory in the Pacific on its return flow back into the California coastline," said Bob Benjamin, a forecaster with the weather service.

Forecasters said a second, stronger storm is expected to arrive in Northern California late Monday. At least two more storms are expected to follow on Wednesday and Thursday, possibly bringing as much as 3 inches of rain.

"Friday looks like a dry, clear day but more rain is expected Saturday," Powell said.

In Arizona, El Nino conditions will help push a parade of Pacific Ocean storms inland with light to moderate snow falling in the high country and rain in lower elevations, forecasters said Monday.

The National Weather Service says a series of weather systems will drop snow in the high country and rain in lower elevations as the week progresses.

Associated Press writers Christopher Weber in Los Angeles and Paul Davenport in Phoenix contributed to this report.

McCoy to return to Chargers despite 4-12 finish

BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

Mike McCoy will return as coach of the Chargers despite a 4-12 record this season.

The next big question is whether he'll be coaching them in San Diego or Los Angeles.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity to be back," McCoy said Monday, a day after the Chargers lost at Denver to go winless in the AFC West for the first time since 1984, the year Alex Spanos bought the team.

Alex Spanos' son, Dean, the team's chairman, wants to move the Chargers to the Los Angeles area. The team was expected to file for relocation Monday, along with the Oakland Raiders and St. Louis Rams. NFL owners could decide next week whether any of the teams move to Los Angeles next season.

Dean Spanos wants to partner with the division rival Oakland Raiders to build a stadium in Carson. Rams owner Stan Kroenke wants to build a stadium in Inglewood.

Asked if he's the right guy to lead the Chargers into the nation's second-biggest market, McCoy said: "Without a doubt. I can't wait for the opportunity. We're all ready to roll."

Then, he added: "I'm ready to be the coach wherever it is. I'm excited just to be the head football coach of the Chargers. It's all speculation up to this point in time what's going to happen. In a couple of weeks we'll figure out what we're going to do."

McCoy is 23-27 in three seasons, including a playoff win and loss in his first season, 2013. He has one year left on his contract.

The Chargers failed to beat a team with a winning record in posting their worst record since also going 4-12 in 2003. Overall, they've lost 18 of their last 26 games under McCoy.

McCoy has been criticized for conservative game plans and clock-management issues.

Later Monday, the Chargers fired offensive coordinator Frank Reich. There could be other changes on the coaching staff, but McCoy refused to divulge specifics.

The Spanos family has a history of making curious coaching decisions. They kept Mike Riley after he went 1-15 in 2000 and fired Marty Schottenheimer after he led the Chargers to a 14-2 record in 2006 and the AFC's top seed in the playoffs, where they were upset at home by the New England Patriots. Dean Spanos sided with then-general manager A.J. Smith, who had a power struggle with Schottenheimer.

Dean Spanos' son John, the president of football operations, said in a statement that he has "utmost confidence" in McCoy and general manager Tom Telesco.

Telesco received a contract extension during the summer but the team tried to keep it secret. Word of that deal leaked out in December.

Neither John Spanos nor Telesco returned messages seeking comment about McCoy.

San Diego has missed the playoffs five times in six seasons. Even with Philip Rivers at quarterback, the Chargers have lost eight straight and 10 of their last 12 games against AFC West rivals.

Rivers said bringing back McCoy was the right thing to do.

"As the quarterback I was certainly supportive of that, hoped that was going to be the case," Rivers said. "We know and Mike knows, everybody in this building knows, it wasn't good enough this year, any of us. I wasn't good enough, Mike, none of us were. I don't think starting over with wholesale change was going to be the answer. You see teams that have done that around this league and they never win."

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO • Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **editor@smdp.com**







SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.1°**

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **3-5 ft** waist to head high occ. 6ft
Primary WNW swell continues, with a fresh round of secondary Southerly windswell - Another winter storm approaches the region with rising SE wind.

WEDNESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **4-7 ft** shoulder high to 2 ft overhead
BIGGEST LATE WITH LARGER SURF RISING UP - Strong WNW swell builds in and peaks late. Secondary windswell continues. Front looking to pass through the region. Stormy weather.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 268 calls for service on Jan 3.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Speeding Ocean/Wilshire 12:24 a.m.
Party complaint 2500 block of Kansas 12:47 a.m.
Trespassing 1000 block of 5th 12:53 a.m.
Fight 500 block of Colorado 1:49 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block of Wilshire 2:51 a.m.
Party complaint 1400 block of Franklin 3:21 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 1900 block of 12th 3:40 a.m.
Overdose 1400 block of 16th 5:18 a.m.
Battery 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 6:02 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block of 19th 6:22 a.m.
Animal related incident 12th/Arizona 7:19 a.m.
Public intoxication 2600 block of Main 8:24 a.m.
Grand theft auto 800 block of 5th 8:49 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 700 block of Bay 9:23 a.m.
Drunk driving investigation 20th/Santa Monica 9:25 a.m.
Burglary 600 block of Ashland 9:55 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1100 block of Euclid 10:08 a.m.
Grand theft auto 500 block of San Vicente 10:15 a.m.
Petty theft 900 block of 11th 10:30 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1900 block of 18th 10:31 a.m.
Petty theft 300 block of Olympic 10:42 a.m.
Petty theft 800 block of Wilshire 10:43 a.m.
Person down 1800 block of Lincoln 10:44 a.m.
Auto burglary 2000 block of Cloverfield 11:16 a.m.
Petty theft 300 block of Olympic 11:31 a.m.
Petty theft 2100 block of Lincoln 11:50 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 800 block of 15th 11:54 a.m.
Vandalism 1500 block of Lincoln 12:41 p.m.
Construction noise 100 block of Fraser 12:44 p.m.
Speeding Centinela/Interstate 10 12:48 p.m.
Vandalism 2000 block of 21st 12:52 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom 12:59 p.m.
Fitness permit violation 500 block of Adelaide 1:11 p.m.
Auto burglary 1800 block of 19th 1:15 p.m.
Traffic hazard Lincoln/Olympic 1:37 p.m.
Petty theft Ocean/Broadway 1:58 p.m.
Vandalism Ocean/Colorado 2:06 p.m.
Animal related incident 1700 block of Maple 2:16 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1400 block of Broadway 2:20 p.m.
Petty theft 1500 block of Lincoln 2:29 p.m.
Traffic collision 4th/Arizona 3:21 p.m.
Auto burglary 2200 block of Virginia 3:26 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 800 block of 9th 3:34 p.m.
Petty theft 1600 block of Ocean 4:18 p.m.
Speeding Main/Pier 4:21 p.m.
Petty theft 3200 block of Wilshire 4:21 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom 5:12 p.m.
Drunk driving 10th/San Vicente 5:30 p.m.
Petty theft 400 block of Hill 5:41 p.m.
Fight 200 block of Santa Monica 5:45 p.m.
Bike theft 1500 block of 2nd 6:07 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom 6:50 p.m.
Traffic collision 5th/Arizona 7:37 p.m.
Stolen vehicle 21st/Pearl 7:48 p.m.
Threats report/investigations 100 block of Broadway 8:08 p.m.
Auto burglary 2000 block of 21st 8:11 p.m.
Battery 3rd Street Prom/Broadway 8:45 p.m.
Auto burglary 2000 block of Cloverfield 9:12 p.m.
Petty theft 2000 block of Cloverfield 10:04 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop 4th/Colorado 10:06 p.m.
Auto burglary 2000 block of Cloverfield 10:06 p.m.
Traffic/vehicle stop Lincoln/Olympic 10:42 p.m.
Battery 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom 10:44 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 36 calls for service on Jan. 3.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Miscellaneous outside fire of 5th/Hollister 12:03 a.m.
EMS 1800 block of Lincoln 12:10 a.m.
EMS 2100 block of 7th 12:38 a.m.
Automatic alarm 500 block of Colorado 1:47 a.m.
EMS 1800 block of Ocean 1:53 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 16th 5:19 a.m.
EMS 1100 block of 3rd 6:27 a.m.
Elevator rescue 600 block of San Vicente 7:41 a.m.
EMS 1600 block of Cloverfield 8:45 a.m.
EMS 1700 block of Idaho 8:58 a.m.
EMS 2400 block of Wilshire 9:44 a.m.
EMS 1000 block of Ocean 9:57 a.m.
Hydrant leak 2300 block of 6th 10:13 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block of 24th 10:17 a.m.
EMS 1800 block of Lincoln 10:45 a.m.
EMS 700 block of Ocean 10:50 a.m.
EMS 200 block of Palisades Beach 11:04 a.m.
EMS 800 block of 2nd 11:21 a.m.
EMS 300 block of Santa Monica 12:20 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 2:18 p.m.
EMS 2300 block of Main 2:28 p.m.
EMS 2600 block of Centinela 2:31 p.m.
EMS of 7th/Wilshire 2:47 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of 6th 3 p.m.
EMS 300 block of Santa Monica 4:42 p.m.
EMS 21000 block of Hollister 4:53 p.m.
EMS 1200 block of 6th 5:04 p.m.
EMS 500 block of Olympic 5:15 p.m.
EMS of Lincoln/Cedar 5:58 p.m.
EMS 200 block of Marguerita 6:56 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of Montana 7:03 p.m.
EMS of 5th/Arizona 7:39 p.m.
EMS 400 block of ocean 8:23 p.m.
Injuries from assault of 3rd Street Prom/Broadway 8:48 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block of 10th 9:40 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of Ocean 9:46 p.m.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Email to: editor@smdp.com or fax to (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Moves, as freight
6 Acted wordlessly
11 Patriot Ethan
12 Make amends
13 Churchill trademark
15 Language suffix
16 Early auto
17 Used a couch
18 One walking a line
20 Numerical prefix
21 Salt, to Simone
22 Garden areas
23 Flower part
26 "Water Lilies" painter
27 Waiter's aid
28 Sty resident
29 Baseball score
30 Idle talkers
34 Cider girl of song
35 Place to park
36 Farrow of film
37 Winner's celebratory circuit
40 Old anesthetic
41 Book parts
42 Run-down
43 Abrasive powder

DOWN

1 Rich folks
2 Celeb roster
3 Stomach woe
4 Rent out
5 Breathing tube
6 City leader
7 "— a Small World"
8 Make damp
9 Fencing cry
10 Crown repairer
14 Film unit
19 "By Jove!"
22 Marshy areas
23 Tries hard
24 Learned
25 Flair
26 Hit the wrong key
28 Destitute
30 Renown
31 Mirror sight
32 Pan, for one
33 Impudent
38 TV's Danson
39 On the — (fleeing)

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

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
18			19					20		
■	■	■	21			■	22			
23	24	25			■	26				
27				■	28			■	■	■
29			■	30				31	32	33
34			■	35			■	36		
37			38				39			
40					■	41				
42					■	43				

1-5

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

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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. The difficulty level ranges from (easiest) to (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 1/2
5 6 15 29 42
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 400M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/1
7 18 37 38 39
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 145M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/2
10 21 29 39 43
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/3
5 7 8 27 35

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/3
MIDDAY: 3 8 0
Draw Date: 1/3
EVENING: 5 3 6

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/3
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:45.11

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**

WORD UP!

salubrious
1. favorable to or promoting health; healthful: salubrious air.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1846 – The United States House of Representatives votes to stop sharing the Oregon Territory with the United Kingdom.

1875 – The Palais Garnier, one of the most famous opera houses in the world, is inaugurated in Paris.

1895 – Dreyfus affair: French army officer Alfred Dreyfus is stripped of his rank and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island.

1900 – Irish leader John Redmond calls for a revolt against British rule.

1911 – Kappa Alpha Psi, the world's second oldest and largest black fraternity, is founded at Indiana University.

1912 – The Prague Party Conference takes place.

1914 – The Ford Motor Company announces an eight-hour workday and that it would pay a "living wage" of at least $5 for a day's labor.

1919 – The German Workers' Party, which would become the Nazi Party, is founded.

1925 – Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming becomes the first female governor in the United States.

1933 – Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge begins in San Francisco Bay.

1944 – The Daily Mail becomes the first transoceanic newspaper.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) Police in St. Petersburg reported the December arrest of a 12-year-old boy whose rap sheet listed "more than 20" arrests since age 9. He, on a bicycle, had told an 89-year-old driver at a gas station that the man's tire was low, and when the man got out to check, the boy hopped in the car and took off. (2) A driver accidentally plowed through two small businesses in Pensacola in December, creating such destruction that the manager of one said it looked like a bomb had hit (forcing both -- a tax service and a casket company -- to relocate). The driver told police he was attempting to "travel through time." [WTSP-TV (St. Petersburg), 12-15-2015] [WEAR-TV (Pensacola), 12-23-2015]

■ (1) Breen Peck, 52, an air traffic controller who has been having career troubles in recent years, was arrested during a traffic stop on New York's Long Island in December when officers found illegal drugs in his car. "That's meth," he said. "I'm an air traffic controller." "I smoke it to stay awake." (2) In a "she-said/he-said" case, wealthy Saudi businessman Ehsan Abdulaziz, 46, was acquitted of rape in December in England's Southwark Crown Court, apparently persuading jurors of "reasonable doubt" about his DNA found in the alleged victim's vagina. Perhaps, his lawyer said, Abdulaziz was still aroused after sex with the other woman in the apartment and accidentally fell directly upon the alleged victim lying on a sofa. [New York Post, 12-11-2015] [The Independent, 12-16-2015]

Check your bank account, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Tempers flare in the morning, and disruptions seem to be the name of the game. You might want to pull back and not be so involved. Someone close to you might be creating a hassle. Confusion surrounds conversations. Try not to hold a grudge. Tonight: Dive into a project.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You could be in a situation where you feel that there should be fast changes. Others might want to take control, and you have nothing to lose by stepping back. Confusion surrounds money matters, as someone does not see eye to eye with you. Tonight: Stay relaxed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your ruling planet, Mercury, does a backward jig and affects your travel plans, making it difficult to see certain facts clearly. You could be in a position where you want to take a deep breath. If you can avoid making any decisions, do so. Tonight: Read between the lines.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Be careful with partners and close associates. You might think they are saying one thing, when really they are expressing something different. If you feel confused, clarify; otherwise, you take the risk of having an argument. Tonight: Let a loved one take the lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might be too serious for many people in your life. They are not used to seeing this side of you. Confusion surrounds a partnership that you value. If this misunderstanding does not occur today, it could in the near future. Try to keep the airways clear. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Pace yourself, as you might have a lot to do. An unacknowledged difference of opinion could be the source of a disagreement that goes on for far too long. A friend might feel inspired and full of ideas. Listen to what he or she has to say. Tonight: Catch up on news with a neighbor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you are. You might not be aware that a conversation you have had about a risk and money involvement could be misunderstood on the other side. You will land all right as long as you don't trigger an argument. Tonight: Check your bank account.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Express your creative side. You could be surprised by what comes down the pike. For some of you, your imagination is likely to create some wild scenarios. For others, this endless source of fantasy might serve you and your loved ones well. Tonight: Anchor in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Stay on top of communication. A dropped call here and there could cause you a significant problem in the near future. The other party might make a faulty assumption, which could create a chip on his or her shoulder. Tonight: Time to visit someone at a distance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ One-on-one relating will evoke a strong response, no matter who you are or how you are acting. You might develop a stronger relationship without trying. Open up to new possibilities within this bond, which could be either personal or professional. Tonight: Dinner and talks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You will act like a chicken with its head cut off. You could be easily overwhelmed. How you handle a personal matter will be a lot different from how you had intended. Also, the reaction from the other party might be very different from what you expected. Tonight: Be available.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. How you speak to this person could be very important. You are very different people who rarely respond in the same way. You easily could misread each other and cause a problem. Clarify and confirm. Tonight: Read between the lines.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

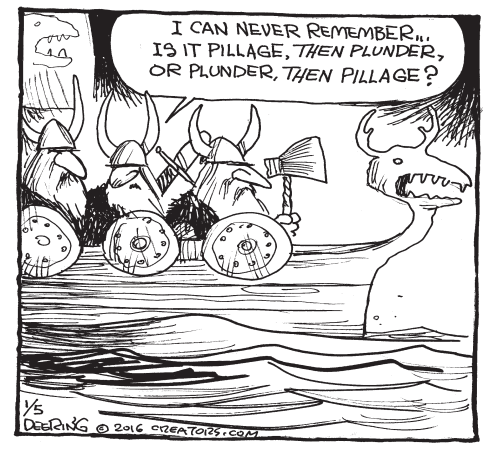
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you have every chance to manifest a long-term goal. You will notice a tendency of confusion; it likely emanates from you. You are the common denominator. When you feel confused, ask yourself what you are trying to avoid seeing. You easily could sabotage yourself if you are not careful. Foreign interests, education and travel could appear in your life in some form. If you are single, someone quite unique could stroll into your life. The interactions between the two of you will be very exciting. If you are attached, this year will be dynamic for your relationship. Your partner will be more dominant than he or she has been in a while. SCORPIO understand you well.

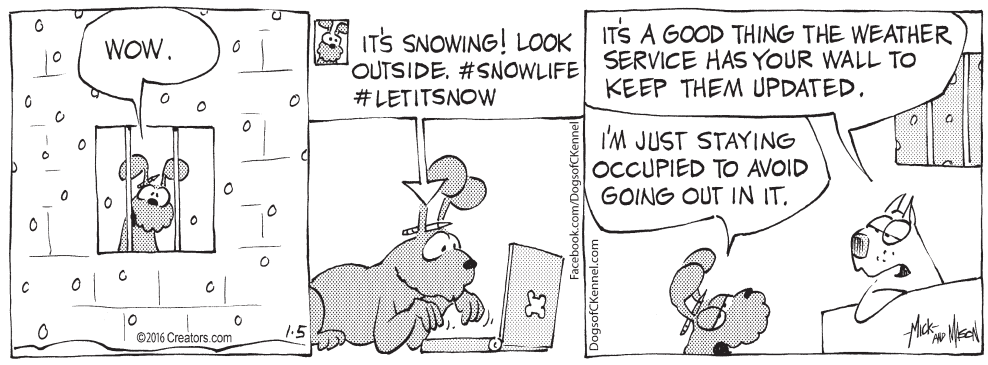
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



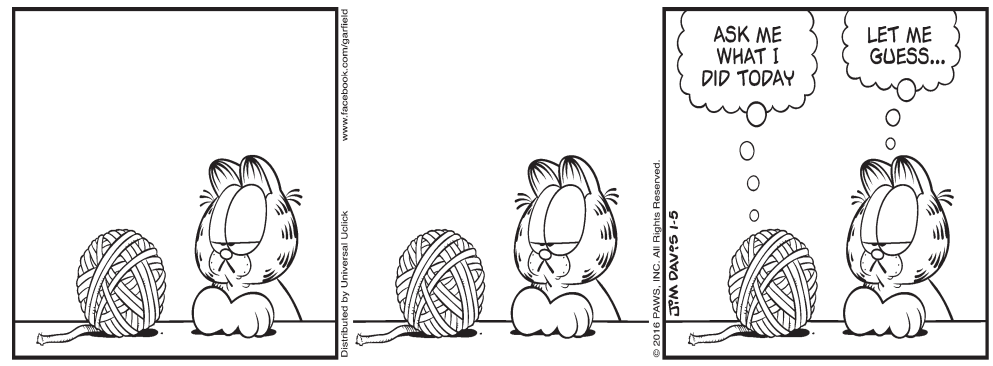
Strange Brew
By John Deering



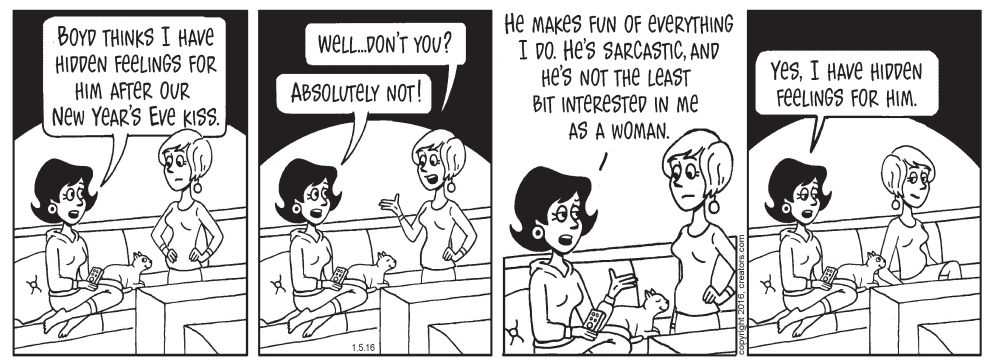
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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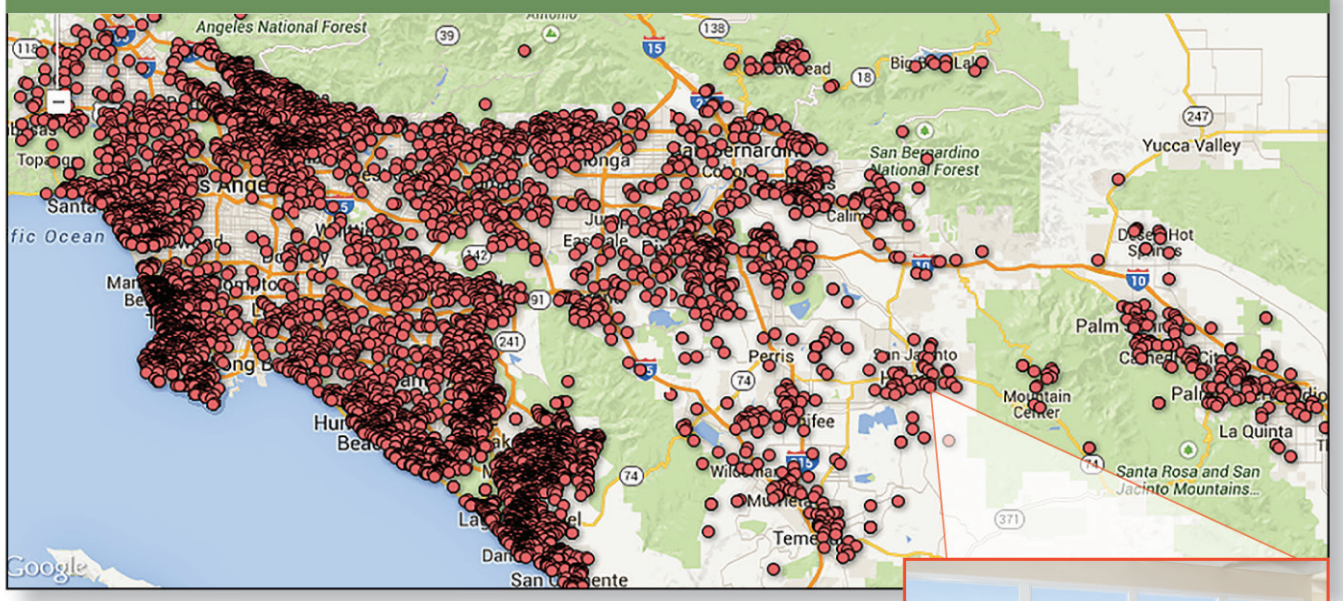
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