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SMMUSD updates policy on PCBs

School board tweaks best practices amid concerns over chemicals

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Amid ongoing concerns stemming from the discovery of chemicals at Malibu schools, the Santa Monica-Malibu school district is working to adjust its approach to

SEE CHEMICAL PAGE 6

Calling the shots

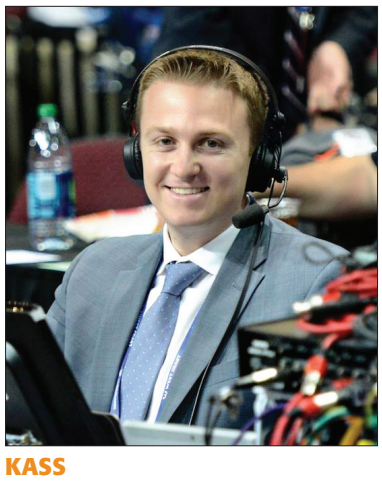
Samohi grad Jesse Kass is the voice of LMU men's basketball

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

It was a wild Saturday night in the Bay Area for Jesse Kass.

Down by 17 points in a league game against San Francisco last year, the Loyola Marymount men's basketball team appeared headed for its third loss in a row. But the Lions seemingly flipped a switch, engi-

SEE GRADUATE PAGE 7



KASS

Drivers should brace for more wet commutes



Matthew Hall editor@smdp.com

LONELY VIEW: **Visitors to the Santa Monica Pier were few and far between during yesterday's rain. More wet weather is expected this week.**

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

El Nino arrived in Santa Monica yesterday bringing several hours of rain but sparing the city from the kind of damage experienced in other parts of the county.

Flooding was reported in sections of Los Angeles and several roadways were clogged during the first significant El Nino event of the season. Boulders fell onto the PCH in Malibu causing delays but there were relatively few problems on local roads.

Rain is expected to continue through Thursday with a break Friday before another wave of storms roll in. Drivers who have yet to do so are being encouraged to prepare for traveling in wet conditions.

Santa Monica Police traffic investigator Jason Olson said local drivers should slow down during the rain and take extra precautions before heading out into rain. He encourages drivers to check their wiper blades and also refill their wiper fluid.

"Keep in mind that windshield wiper fluid has other chemicals in it that helps keep debris out of the window and can clear mud. It can help clear off the windshield when you need it," Olson said.

He said drivers should also make sure their lights are on whenever they are using wipers.

The Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA) also recommends lights with wipers.

"The storms this week are expected to

SEE RAIN PAGE 3



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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

Friday, Jan. 8

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.

Yoga

All levels. Drop in for $15/class or sign up for series (4 week/$50, w/parking). Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 - 10 a.m.

Guest House

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

To avoid crashes, the AAA recommends:

Slow down. Motorists should drive slowly, particularly through puddles that are expected with this weather system. Driving at slower speeds also helps drivers be prepared for sudden stops due to debris and other wet-weather driving hazards.

Check brakes periodically. After driving through puddles, check the brakes by tapping them gently a few times when it is safe to do so. Some newer vehicles' brakes don't need to be tapped.

Keep your distance/Avoid skids. A car needs two to three times more stopping distance on wet pavement, so allow extra following distance between cars. Sudden braking often leads to skids. Extra distance provides a buffer zone in case of skids. If the car skids and control is lost, do not slam on the brakes. Instead apply the brakes with a steady, light pressure. Remember to steer in the direction the car is sliding. When traction is regained, steering control will return. For cars equipped with anti-lock brakes, drivers should apply heavy steady pressure, but not pump the brakes.

Use headlights and a windshield defroster. Driving in rain means reduced visibility. The Auto Club recommends that motorists turn on the vehicle's headlights so they can see and be seen. Besides, it is the law in California that your headlights must be on if the windshield wipers are in use. Turning on the defroster helps keep the inside of the windshield clear of moisture.

Use center lanes. When driving during heavy rain, use center lanes of the road (without straddling the yellow line). Avoid outside lanes where water collects at curbside.

Avoid distractions. Motorists are advised to avoid eating, drinking, cellular phone use, texting, fumbling with CDs or applying makeup while driving, particularly in rain. If it's necessary to engage in these activities, pull over and stop in a safe place.

Stay informed. Tune into radio and television weather reports or use weather apps to know where traffic congestion or crashes might be located. If possible, avoid these areas.

Watch for potholes. Leave plenty of space between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Alert drivers have plenty of time to avoid potholes. Before swerving around a pothole, be sure to check surrounding traffic to determine if it's safe to change lanes.

Maintain a safe speed. If a pothole cannot be avoided, slow down, if possible. Hitting a pothole at high speed increases the chance of damage to tires, wheels, shocks, struts, springs or suspension components. High speed also increases the chance of losing control of the vehicle, especially if a series of potholes occurs on a curved or uneven roadway. When driving over more than one pothole, reduce vehicle speed and hold the steering wheel firmly to avoid losing control.

Don't brake directly over a pothole. Applying brakes causes the car's weight to shift to the front of the vehicle and can increase damage from the impact.

Beware of pooled water on the road. It may be concealing a deep pothole.

RAIN

FROM PAGE 1

produce a lot of rain so we're reminding motorists that wet roads and cooler weather combine to significantly increase crash risk," said the Automobile Club of Southern California's Community Programs and Traffic Safety manager Anita Lorz Villagrana.

"As best they can, drivers should scan the roadways, avoid road debris and look out for disabled vehicles in reduced visibility conditions. The Auto Club also recommends that motorists turn on their vehicle headlights so they can see, and be seen, by other drivers."

Drivers should be cautious during wet weather and Olson said intersections should be treated with particular care as debris can gather in the gutters.

"It's obviously just a hazard out there and people need to be careful, especially at intersections, when they're turning through those gutters."

He said it's a good time to practice defensive driving and to be courteous to other drivers. "I'd rather wait a second and let them pass than try to be aggressive and get in an accident," he said.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center said rain actually keeps people away from the ER unless they have a dire medical emergency, but there's an increase in the number of homeless individuals that seek shelter during rain and an uptick in vehicle accident related patients.

"The biggest, obvious thing is a lot of people stay back at home, but homeless people show up because they have nowhere else to hid from the rain and we see a considerable amount of that, particularly in Santa Monica," he said. "Car accidents is another area. People slip and slide in the rain and end up hitting somebody and they come to the ER for that."

editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Annenberg Community Beach House

Happy Birthday Marion!

It's a party, and you're invited! On Sunday, January 10, join organizers for Happy Birthday Marion! at the Annenberg Community Beach House as they celebrate Marion Davies, the silent film star whose effervescent personality was likened to the "bubbles in a glass of champagne."

From 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., step back in time as Santa Monica Conservancy docents, in vintage attire, evoke Marion's Hollywood circle to shine a light on the classic film era actress, philanthropist, famed party hostess and mistress of media tycoon William Randolph Hearst, at Davies' 1928 Julia Morgan designed Guest House. Between 11 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., Davies' historian and author Lara Fowler will participate in a special Q & A, and film historian Michael Yakaitis will show home movies from 1937 of Hearst's 74th circus themed birthday party at the Beach House. Enjoy psychic entertainer Mark Edward, and cut a rug to music from the classic American song book by LA Love Band, featuring Danny Meyer. At 1:30 p.m., a bubbly birthday toast to Marion caps the event.

Gold Coast era attire is encouraged. All ages are welcome. For more information and to RSVP for this free event visit HappyBirthdayMarion2016.eventbrite.com or call (310) 458-4904. Space is limited. The Annenberg Community Beach House is at 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Parking is $3 per hour or $8 per day.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant. For disability related accommodations, please call Guest Services at (310) 458-4904. The Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica State Beach is operated by the City of Santa Monica. The Beach House is made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation, at the direction of Wallis Annenberg, and in partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

- SUBMITTED BY TERI SAWYER

SMC

Emeritus College launches new art exhibition series with "Inside/Out 1"

The Santa Monica College Emeritus Art Gallery will present "Inside/Out 1," the first in a new series of recurring exhibitions featuring art from inside the Emeritus College community presented alongside art from established outside professionals.

The exhibition will run Jan. 14 - Mar. 2 at the gallery, located on the first floor of Emeritus College, 1227 2nd St., in downtown Santa Monica.

The opening reception is from 5 - 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The exhibit and reception are free. For information, please call (310) 434-4306.

"Inside/Out 1" presents an interdisciplinary and eclectic grouping of works linked through humor, expression, and the Surreal. A special contribution to the exhibition will be a loaned watercolor from the well-known and very significant feminist artist Faith Wilding. Other professional artists in the show include Carla Danes, Ursula Kammer-Fox, and Annetta Kapon. Danes and Kammer-Fox will exhibit very different types of wall-hanging assemblages, while Kapon will contribute a standing sculpture referencing the classic desert island cliché.

Emeritus College students John Alcantara, Donna Brown, and Gloria Markowitz will all exhibit expressive, yet quirky figure and landscape paintings, but with three very different stylistic directions. Student Elle Martin will provide a range of wall works that feature collaging of visual material with brilliant deadpan wit, P.R. Miles will include handmade sculptures on pedestals, and James Wang will show digital photographs.

– SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

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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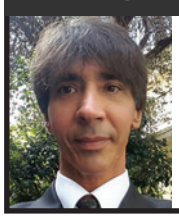


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Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Howdy, neighbor, 30 years on

ROB SCHWENKER AND I ARE BRAVE MEN.

I know this about myself, from the smiling greeting I got from one of the tough, smart leaders of the Northeast Neighbors (NEN) group. Sincere? Or a trap?

"Charles! - you're here… you're a brave man."

The last time I showed up for their monthly meeting, new City Manager Rick Cole was their guest speaker, and he was clearly unprepared for the reception he got: raucous and rude. The Neighbors were loaded for bear. He handled himself with dignity as all the ills of our city and the evils of our City Council were piled upon his fresh shoulders. Even though he had been on the job less than four months, and had spent much of that time reaching out to groups and individuals.

The NENs were angry, feeling that our city was being sold off wholesale to developers and the residents were not being listened to. I understood; I sympathized; I agreed. But I thought it went too far and I wrote about the spectacle I witnessed, and I got feedback. Let's just say no one was recommending me for a Pulitzer. Nor eagerly inviting me back.

Schwenker, if you don't know, is the publisher of this newspaper. A 13-year veteran of the Santa Monica Daily Press, rising from intern to the top, he has been publisher for just over half a year. Keeping a daily newspaper in a small city afloat is a near-impossible task in the 21st Century, but he's doing it. He's made a lot of good changes, and continues to innovate and find better ways. This was his first stop as publisher on his "tour" of all the neighborhood groups.

I didn't think he'd get the kind of "welcome" Cole did, but I was concerned. There are those who have a love-hate relationship with the paper, and in the hour before he arrived several expressed their perception that the Daily Press is sometimes biased in its coverage.

Even though there was no specific talk of lynching or tar and feathers, I was prepared to do whatever was necessary to protect my publisher if it got ugly. I wore my snakeskin running shoes. I fingered the mace in my pocket. I mentally ran through my best Krav Maga moves. I eyed the exits. I planned my heroic, sacrificial moves if he needed to bail and head quickly for the door.

But it wasn't necessary. The group did clearly voice their concerns and grilled him, but it was reasonable and respectful. They made suggestions. Schwenker listened, responded, explained. It seemed win-win, good communication between community and media.

NEN's Tricia Crane suggested to me that evening that members of the neighborhood groups could be useful adjuncts to the position of ombudsman that I proposed in my column last Wednesday. While she's skeptical that an ombudsman (an independent citizen advocate within city government) can be effective here, we agreed that such a position might be better instituted after this year's elections. I wrote that volunteer assistants (information gatherers with legal authority) to the ombudsman would be necessary, and there are so many in the neighborhood groups already doing such work that it would make sense to find them there.

I don't always agree with the narrow concerns all the neighborhood associations espouse, but they are a legitimate expression of our citizenry and should get more attention. Unless and until we go to district voting here for City Council, we should find a way to better hear those voices.

The first half of the meeting discussed getting the long-promised (since 2005) and now orphaned athletic field back into the plan for the revitalized Civic Center. Two Samohi PTSA members, Jaleh Mirhashemi and Ann Hoover, have been working on this for nearly two years, and presented their case to the group. Having myself gone to nearly all the meetings of the Civic Working Group, whose recommendations (which do not insist the field be included) go to City Council at their Feb. 9 meeting, I felt sorry for them. From the very beginning, the bias of the consultants and the push of almost all members of the Working Group was no field, but we do need hotels, office and retail to pay for it all. No, we don't, there are other ways.

Their mention that Samohi is having to pay the city to use outside fields because of their lack on campus elicited shock from the group. Also drawing angry comment was the huge Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) building, standing out like a huge red sore thumb on the map they distributed of the proposed site. They said the ECEC increased in size again over the summer and is now so large there may not even be room for a soccer field green space.

The ECEC issue always makes me angry. A pre-school in the civic center, almost downtown? Serving primarily Rand and City Hall employees? Run by a for-profit company? Paying $1 a year in rent? Seriously? And anyone who questions it is shut down and told it's a done deal, don't even bring it up.

Jan. 1 marked 30 years in Santa Monica for me, in the same little cozy condo close to the beach. I'm fortunate, blessed, and thankful.

EL NINO QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "A hard rain's a-gonna fall." - Bob Dylan

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 30 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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Record-tying El Nino's storms hitting parched California

KRISTIN J. BENDER & SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

Californians who have sharply reduced water use during their four-year drought were warned against reverting to old habits Tuesday as the first of several storms spawned by a record-tying El Nino began drenching the state.

The series of storms lining up over the Pacific Ocean was welcome news in California, despite their potential for causing flash floods and mudslides.

But authorities cautioned that even the wettest of winters can't replenish depleted reservoirs and aquifers unless everyone keeps pitching in.

California's water deficit is so deep that a "steady parade of storms" like these will be needed for years to come, said Mike Anderson, climatologist for the state's Department of Water Resources.

"We're at least on a good trajectory," he said. "We've got to keep it going."

The current El Nino - a natural warming of the central Pacific Ocean that interacts with the atmosphere and changes weather worldwide - has tied 1997-1998 as the strongest on record, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center said Tuesday, citing statistics that go back to 1950.

El Ninos usually bring heavy rains to California, although it remains to be seen whether people should expect anything like a repeat of 1997 and 1998, when storms killed 17 people, wiped out crops, washed out highways and pushed houses down hillsides.

"DarthNino may finally have California in its sights," said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private Weather Underground.

"A parade of strong Pacific storms characteristic of a strong El Nino event will batter the state this week and will likely bring damaging flooding by the time the second storm in the series rolls through on Wednesday," Masters said.

However, Masters and meteorologist Ryan Maue of the private WeatherBell Analytics don't believe this first storm is as powerful as some other Pacific storm systems, and caution that the storms now following it may land elsewhere.

The current forecast calls for a "kind of a nice level of bombardment" over the next two weeks; probably not enough to cause the tremendous flooding of 1998, but then again, that year's floods didn't peak until February, Masters said.

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.

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

The first in the line of storms also drenched the desert Southwest on Tuesday and was aiming for the Gulf Coast, but should weaken to no more than a couple inches of rainfall by the time it reaches the Southeast, Masters added.

In California, flash flooding and flows of mud and debris were a concern, especially in places left barren by last year's wildfires. Residents of the Silverado Canyon burn area in Orange County and the Solimar burn area in Ventura County were urged to consider evacuating.

"The best time to prepare is before a weather event happens, but there is still time to prepare at least a basic emergency kit for your home, your car or your place of work," said Brad Alexander, spokesman for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Rocks fell on the roadway through Malibu Canyon, damaging four vehicles and clogging a heavily traveled commuter route through the steep Santa Monica Mountains, and Los Angeles police were rousting the homeless from normally dry riverbeds.

As steady and sometimes heavy rains fell, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti urged people to clear gutters and anything in their yards that might clog storm drains, and to stockpile sandbags if their home is susceptible to flooding.

Garcetti also said that the city's homeless encampments have been mapped for the first time, and promised shuttles to bring people to shelters with 6,000 beds.

Los Angeles Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said swift-water rescue teams are ready, but he'd rather not deploy them. Authorities hope to avoid a repeat of last September's rescue of a homeless man who scrambled up a tree with his dog when the Los Angeles River quickly grew to a torrent.

The storms are whipped up large ocean swells that could generate hazardous breaking waves at west-facing harbors. Ventura's Harbor Boulevard was closed Tuesday by flooding about a foot deep, police there said.

Altogether, the storms hold the potential for massive amounts of precipitation for a very parched state, but water managers won't be able to fully estimate this year's snowmelt until April 1, when the snowpack is typically at its deepest.

"Mother Nature has a way of surprising or disappointing us," Department of Water Resources spokesman Doug Carlson said, insisting that conservation must continue.

Californians used 20 percent less water this past November than they did in November 2013, before Gov. Jerry Brown declared the state's water emergency, the Water Resources Control Board announced Tuesday.

That falls short of Brown's 25 percent conservation mandate for a second straight month, although board chairwoman Felicia Marcus said the state remains on track to meet his overall goal.

"The fact that per person water use dropped to 75 gallons per person per day on average is proof that Californians are clearly thinking twice before turning on the tap," Marcus said in a statement.

Despite these storms, Shawn Coburn says growers like him, working thousands of acres in the western San Joaquin Valley, expect no water this year from the federal government's vast system of reservoirs and canals. He blames strict environmental laws designed to protect endangered fish.

"I hope that it rains so much that Noah and his ark are flowing down the San Joaquin River," he said. "The people that run the system are telling us to be prepared for zero."

Contributors include Seth Borenstein in Washington and John Antczak in Los Angeles. Smith reported from Fresno, California.

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CHEMICAL

FROM PAGE 1

hazardous materials and environmental safety.

The local Board of Education last month discussed changes to district policies and best practices, including specific references to polychlorinated biphenyls.

Last revised in 2009, the SMMUSD best practices regarding hazardous substances are intended to reflect updated recommendations from the California School Boards Association.

"The Board of Education desires to provide a safe school environment that protects students and employees from exposure to potentially hazardous substances that may be used in the district's educational program and in the maintenance and operation of district facilities and equipment," reads the new language.

The discussion came as the district continues talks with Malibu advocates about the possible split of SMMUSD into separate Santa Monica and Malibu entities.

Meanwhile, the board considered new language in its best practices for environmental safety. Ramboll Environ, which the district hired to handle chemical testing at Malibu schools, was consulted regarding the language pertaining to PCBs.

According to the best practices document, the district's plan for environmental safety should now include "reducing the potential exposure of building occupants to PCBs at school sites to acceptable levels in accordance with [Environmental Protection Agency] requirements."

EPA guidelines include removing and disposing of potentially harmful fluorescent light ballasts, testing for "potential PCB-containing caulk, paint and other PCB-containing building materials during planned renovations and repairs" or removing materials that "may be assumed to contain PCBs at regulated levels."

There was some debate among board members and district officials over which government agencies to rely on for recommendations on hazardous materials.

According to the proposed language, the district would rely on City of Santa Monica suggestions for cleaning products and other environmental issues.

But board member Craig Foster said the City of Malibu, which he believes is "more progressive" than the City of Santa Monica on environmental matters, should be consulted instead.

The district's acting facilities director, Carey Upton, said the City of Santa Monica's information about environmentally friendly products was "so much more readily available" than the City of Malibu's. He said he didn't have a clear idea of the key differences between the cities on their recommendations for certain products.

Upton said the district partnered with Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment several years ago to replace its cleaning supplies with more eco-friendly substitutes.

"We were a lead agency in a statewide effort," Upton said. "Our cleaning products are ahead in that way."

Jan Maez, the district's chief financial officer, suggested including the City of Malibu as an additional reference point for questions on environmental issues.

Board member Oscar de la Torre said a parent asked him about chemicals in fertilizers used at district sites.

"We've been very careful about what soil we bring on our campuses," Upton said. "It's something in our consciousness."

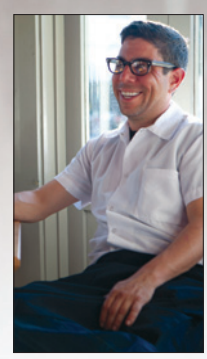
New language included in the district's best practices on hazardous substances also covers protocol for science classrooms. There should be "specific measures to ensure the safety of students and staff in school laboratories where hazardous materials are used," according to the document, including a chemical hygiene plan and instruction to students about handling chemicals.

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art's table

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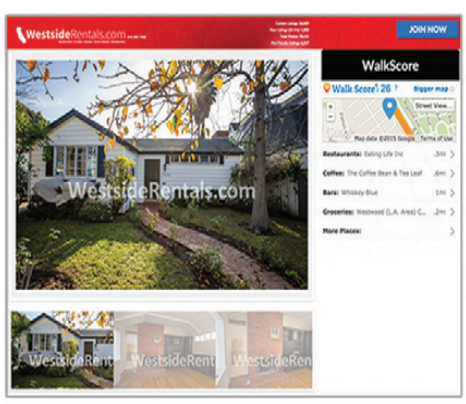
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GRADUATE

FROM PAGE 1

neering a furious rally to come within one point in the final seconds.

And as they capped their thrilling one-point comeback victory on a buzzer-beating putback, Kass was frantically chronicling the game with his voice.

Kass, who graduated from Santa Monica High School in 2006, is currently in his fourth year as LMU's play-by-play radio announcer.

Calling the team's captivating win over USF is one of several career highlights for Kass, who will be back on the microphone on KXLU-FM 88.9 for the Lions' home games Jan. 7 against Saint Mary's and Jan. 9 against Pacific at Gersten Pavilion on the campus of the Westchester-area university.

Kass said he feels much more at ease calling live sporting events now than he did when he broke into the field as an LMU student.

"There's always going to be a little bit of nerves, but as the games have gone on and the years have gone by, I'm much more comfortable than I was when I first started," he said. "Listening back [to old recordings], I can tell the improvement in my comfort level, how much better I sound, my vocabulary. More experience will lead you to better production."

The seeds of Kass' current job were planted before he could walk, when his father took him in a stroller to LMU basketball games. Kass, who attended Roosevelt Elementary and Lincoln Middle schools before Samohi, also played club basketball and other sports throughout his childhood.

Perhaps more importantly, Kass was often intrigued by the broadcasters who called college and pro games. He particularly appreciated the work of late Lakers play-by-play legend Chick Hearn, current Clippers voice Ralph Lawler and Knicks announcer Mike Breen.

Shortly after Kass began pursuing a communications degree at LMU, he made connections with athletics staffers and people involved with the campus radio station. He started doing play-by-play for the school's soccer, baseball and volleyball teams.

"It snowballed from there," he said. "It's something I really enjoy doing."

Toward the end of his time in college, Kass was invited to work as a color commentator for home basketball games alongside longtime play-by-play announcer Jeff Lampe. And when Lampe's full-time job took him to Denver, Kass was asked to call games on his own.

"I had a great mentor," he said. "He was really good on air, and I was able to build off that. ... With the speed of the game, it helps to have someone to bounce ideas off of and play back and forth with. But I don't see it as a big burden to do it by myself."

Kass now travels with the team for away games, and he said he enjoys that he's able to announce for his alma mater. He's already seen the program work through a coaching transition from Max Good to Mike Dunlap, who is currently in his second season at the helm.

One day, Kass said, he hopes to be a play-by-play broadcaster for a professional sports team. For now, though, he's happy honing his craft just a few miles from Santa Monica.

He's even developed a recurring exclamation, "Trey bien," a pun that combines the basketball slang for a 3-pointer and the French phrase for "very well," an ode to his mother's French roots.

As for how often he uses it?

"I like to let that happen organically," he said.

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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.2°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **4-7 ft** shoulder high to 2 ft overhead occ. 8ft
Stronger long period WNW swell moves in and peaks. Secondary windswell mixing in. Possible moment of light/variable wind early, before another front sweeps through with S clocking SW-WSW wind.

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **5-8 ft** head high to 3 ft overhead occ. 10ft
Larger reinforcing push of West-NW swell moves in. Possible moment of light/variable wind early, before yet another front sweeps through with S clocking W wind. More rain.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 282 calls for service on Jan 4.

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

Suspicious person, 2800 block of Virginia, 12:40 a.m.
Loud music, 2200 block of Ocean, 3:09 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold, 4th/I-10, 4:12 a.m.
Threats, 1900 block of Lincoln, 7:15 a.m.
Vandalism, 1500 block of Lincoln, 7:20 a.m.
Vandalism, 2000 block of 19th, 8:24 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 1300 block of 9th, 9:26 a.m.
Drinking in public, 2300 block of Lincoln, 11:34 a.m.
Battery, Lincoln/Broadway, 12:13 p.m.
Burglary, 1600 block of Euclid, 12:13 p.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 1400 block of 4th, 12:43 p.m.
Lewd activity, 800 block of Santa Monica, 1:00 p.m.
Fraud, 1800 block of 17th, 1:09 a.m.
Suspicious person, 2900 block of Virginia, 1:37 p.m.
Traffic collision, 2400 block of Michigan, 2:19 p.m.
Identity theft, 1000 block of Euclid, 3:04 p.m.
Fight, 1700 block of Main, 3:19 p.m.
Hit and run, 16th/Montana, 3:44 p.m.
Public intoxication, 1900 block of Main, 4:29 p.m.
Traffic collision, 21st/Ocean Park, 4:34 p.m.
Burglary, 800 block of Euclid, 5:06 p.m.
Hit and run, 1600 block of Lincoln, 5:36 p.m.
Disturbance at a business, 2100 block of Main, 6:21 p.m.
Fight, 1800 block of Lincoln, 6:42 p.m.
Drinking in public, 1800 block of 9th, 7:02 p.m.
Identity theft, 800 block of 4th, 7:13 p.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 600 block of Ocean, 7:25 p.m.
Threats, 1700 block of Hill, 7:38 p.m.
Hit and run, 1400 block of 4th, 7:48 p.m.
Grand theft, 1500 block of Ocean, 8:03 p.m.
Stalking, 2400 block of Ocean Park, 8:18 p.m.
Death, 300 block of Bay, 8:28 p.m.
Domestic violence, 1300 block of 4th, 8:52 p.m.
Public intoxication, 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom, 9:52 p.m.
Battery, Neilson/Pico, 10:37 p.m.
Arson, 1800 block of 10th, 10:48 p.m.
Party complaint, 2600 block of 30th, 11:40 p.m.
Suspicious vehicle, 400 block of 11th, 11:55 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 44 calls for service on Jan. 4.

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

EMS, 11th/Wilshire, 12:00 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of Lincoln, 12:15 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 12:17 a.m.
EMS, Ocean/Santa Monica, 12:23 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of Santa Monica, 1:02 a.m.
EMS, 2500 block of Arizona, 1:07 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1200 block of 3rd Street Prom, 2:27 a.m.
Smoke investigation, 1200 block of 3rd Street Prom, 3:29 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom, 3:51 a.m.
EMS, Lincoln/Olympic, 4:29 a.m.
EMS, Ocean/Arizona, 8:09 a.m.
Structure fire, 1300 block of 17th, 8:30 a.m.
EMS, 500 block of Olympic, 8:32 a.m.
Assist LAFD, 200 block of Ozone, 9:05 a.m.
EMS, 2300 block of Virginia, 9:25 a.m.
EMS, 200 block of Ocean, 9:41 a.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 3rd, 9:43 a.m.
EMS, 600 block of Santa Monica, 10:37 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 400 block of Pico, 11:41 a.m.
Injuries from assault, Lincoln/Broadway, 12:14 p.m.
Injuries from assault, Lincoln/California, 12:37 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 12:47 p.m.
Structure fire, 2400 block of Beverley, 1:00 p.m.
Wires down, 400 block of 22nd, 1:03 p.m.
EMS, 1800 block of Ocean, 1:11 p.m.
EMS, 1200 block of Berkeley, 1:19 p.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Pico, 1:42 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 4th, 2:07 p.m.
EMS, Cloverfield/I-10, 2:10 p.m.
EMS, Stanford/Montana, 2:58 p.m.
Vehicle fire, 16th/Pearl, 4:29 p.m.
EMS, 21st/Ocean Park, 4:33 p.m.
EMS, 800 block of Ashland, 4:46 p.m.
Miscellaneous outside fire, 26th/Pico, 4:59 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 3100 block of Nebraska, 5:02 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of Olympic, 5:04 p.m.
EMS, 2100 block of Ocean, 5:07 p.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 16th, 5:13 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Santa Monica, 5:46 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block of Ocean, 5:51 p.m.
EMS, 17th/Arizona, 5:55 p.m.
Arcing wires, 2nd/California, 6:42 p.m.
Smoke investigation, 1200 block of 3rd Street Prom, 7:05 p.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 6th, 10:13 p.m.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Spots for tots
6 Petty argument
10 Artist Matisse
11 Resort site
12 Bitter
13 Snouts
14 Track competition
15 Packing a wallop
16 Orange seed
17 Shop tool
18 Devilfish
19 It might get under your skin
22 Banks on TV
23 Hyphen's kin
26 Track competitor
29 Fuming
32 Scathing review
33 Vein yield
34 Eggy dish
36 "Downton Abbey" countess
37 Leg bone
38 Museum piece
39 Monsters
40 Knucklehead
41 Driving site
42 Borscht base

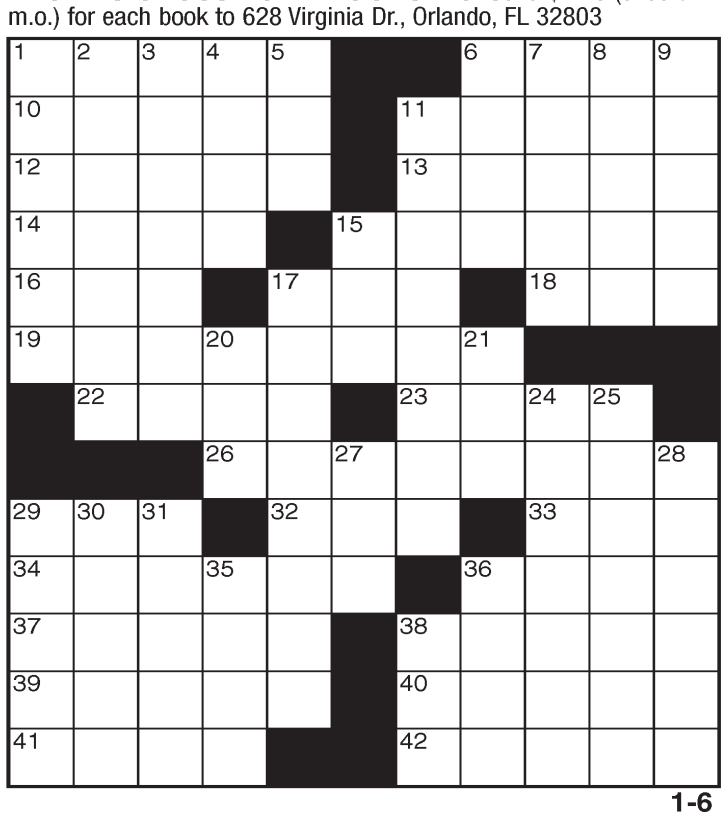
DOWN

1 Title holders
2 Expense report attachment
3 As an answer
4 Londoner, e.g.
5 "Ice Age" sloth
6 Bar order
7 Tricky puzzle
8 Competition setting
9 Irritable
11 Confined to a cabin, perhaps
15 Butter bit
17 Stir-fry veggies
20 Auditor's org.
21 Operated
24 Informant
25 "All Creatures Great and Small" writer
27 Informant
28 Gasps, say
29 Power provider
30 Baja buddy
31 Messing on TV
35 Told tales
36 Give over
38 Chest protector

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

Yesterday's answer

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1-6

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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

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

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

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5 6 15 29 42
Power#: 10
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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: 1/4
6 13 24 31 35

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/4
MIDDAY: 9 3 4
Draw Date: 1/4
EVENING: 2 7 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/4
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:44.72

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WORD UP!

kvell
1. Slang. to be extraordinarily pleased; especially, to be bursting with pride, as over one's family.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1900 - Second Boer War: Having already sieged the fortress at Ladysmith, Boer forces attack it, but are driven back by British defenders.

1907 - Maria Montessori opens her first school and daycare center for working class children in Rome, Italy.

1912 - New Mexico is admitted to the Union as the 47th U.S. state.

1912 - German geophysicist Alfred Wegener first presents his theory of continental drift.

1921 - Formation of the Iraqi Army.

1929 - King Alexander of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes suspends his country's constitution (the January 6th Dictatorship).

1929 - Mother Teresa arrives in Calcutta, India, to begin her work among India's poorest and sick people.

1930 - The first diesel-engined automobile trip is completed, from Indianapolis, Indiana, to New York, New York.

1931 - Thomas Edison submits his last patent application.

1941 - United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivers his Four Freedoms speech in the State of the Union address.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Christopher Manney was fired from the Milwaukee Police Department in 2014 after shooting a black suspect to death in a case bearing some similarity to 2015 shootings that produced "Black Lives Matter" protests -- not fired for the shooting (adjudged "not excessive force") but for improper actions that preceded the shooting (not announcing a valid reason for a pat down and conducting a not-by-the-book pat down). Two days before the firing, he had filed a disability claim for post-traumatic stress disorder from the shooting and aftermath, and in November 2015 the city's Annuity and Pension Board, following city law, approved the claim. Thus, Manney, despite having been subsequently fired, retired with full disability, with basically the same take-home pay he was receiving when fired. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11-5-2015; WITI-TV (Milwaukee), 10-16-2015]

■ In November, as anti-Muslim tensions arose in several U.S. cities following the Paris terrorist attack, two chapters of the Satanic Temple church (San Jose, California, and Minneapolis) offered to protect Muslims. The Minneapolis group offered "just big dudes walking you to where you need to be," for example, grocery shopping -- an offer "of genuine compassion for our fellow human beings." (The offer was subsequently rescinded by the Minneapolis church's executive ministry, reasoning that they are "not a personal security service.") [City Pages (Minneapolis), 12-22-2015]

Take some time to yourself, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A friend knocks on your door. At first, you might not be enthusiastic about a discussion, but once you get into it, you will relish the conversation. A loved one will add an element of perspective. Curb traveling today, if you can. Tonight: Listen to someone else's sob story.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ When hitting an obstacle, make it a point to stop and look at the situation with detachment. Perhaps you are on the wrong path. An honest conversation with someone who has your best interests in mind will be helpful. Tonight: Let the discussion continue over dinner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone you care about. Take a deep breath, and worry less about who is doing what to whom. Create the response you desire. Defer to others, and go along with someone else's plans. If you feel fuzzy or off, say so. Tonight: Take some time to yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Your effectiveness is being tested. You seem to have had your fair share of distractions lately. You can screen your calls, but your curiosity will encourage you to see whose calls you have missed! Recognize that you could be your own worst enemy. Tonight: Get some exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Allow your creativity to flourish, and open up to a loved one who has been distant. You won't know how treasured you are by this person until you see his or her reaction. You might wonder what has been going on with him or her. Use good sense; don't ask. Tonight: Out late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be reaching out to a family member who has been somewhat unavailable. Open up to conversations that allow greater give-and-take between the two of you. You might feel touched by what he or she shares. Tonight: Pinch yourself to see whether you are dreaming.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Keep reaching out to someone who makes a difference in your life. You could be surprised by the alternatives that appear in the next few days. Allow yourself to go along with this person's suggestion; he or she inspires you to think outside the box. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be more aware of your financial situation. You could feel put off by what is going on around you, and might want a break. The only break will be in your mind, at least for a little while. Postpone any ideas of traveling for now. Tonight: Take off and do some shopping.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Beam in more of what you want. Others often tend to be difficult or contrary, but right now you are likely to hear a "yes." Sometimes you are overwhelmed by others' suggestions, but not at the present moment. Enjoy the here and now. Tonight: As you like it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Do some thinking about a matter you have yet to discuss. You might recognize that you are worrying too much. Just let go and be willing to work on disciplining your thoughts. Even if you feel uncomfortable, avoiding the discomfort will be worth it. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A friend will make an effort to warm up the distant, cold waters that lie between you. You might want to get past an immediate hassle that is causing you stress. Relax with this person for a while. Just know that nothing is written in stone. Tonight: Where your friends are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Take a stand with an authority figure. Be careful, as you don't want to build any barriers between you. Understand what needs to happen in order to have a good exchange of ideas. You can be vague at times; make sure the other party gets your message. Tonight: A must appearance.

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

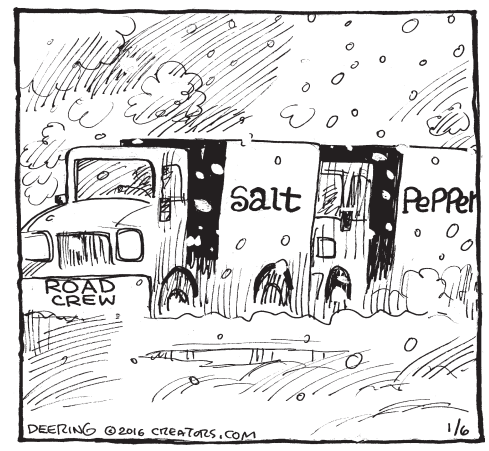
This year you have a unique opportunity to move in a new direction. Often you will feel confused as well as inspired. Until you are sure of yourself, do not venture ahead. Communication seems to be off, and often could be a problem. Rather than worry, confirm what you hear. If you are single, a friend could become a lot more. As a result, your bond will grow. If you are attached, the two of you will decide to go off and schedule a vacation you both have longed for. Take perspective into your quarrels. SAGITTARIUS makes a great healer for you.

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

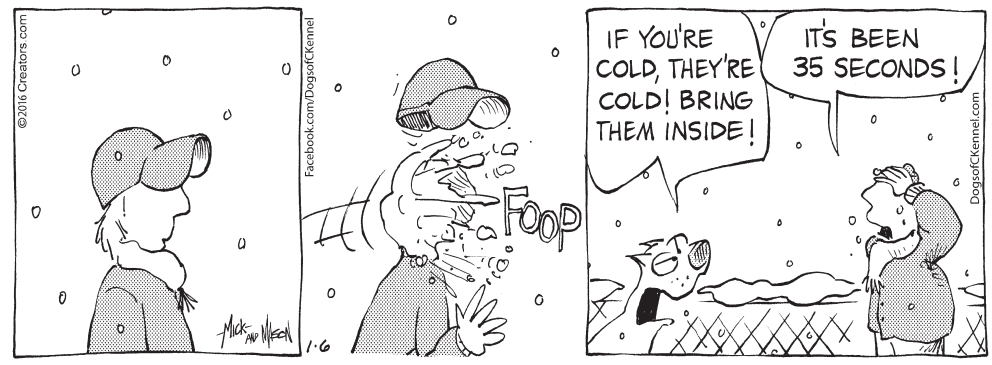
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



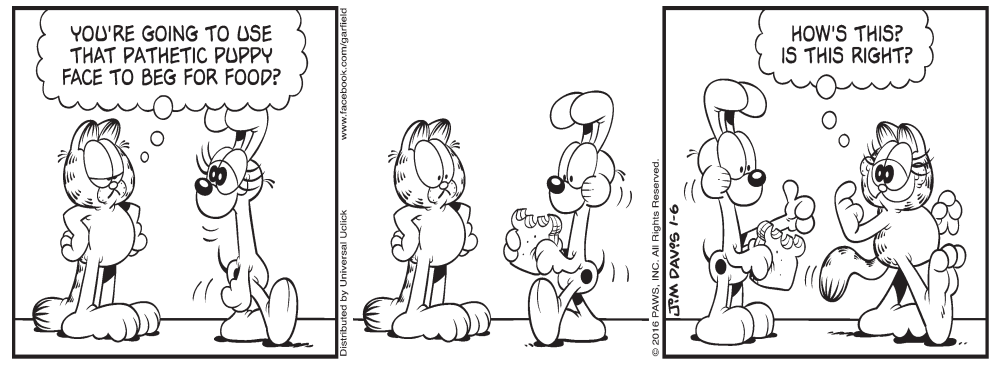
Strange Brew
By John Deering



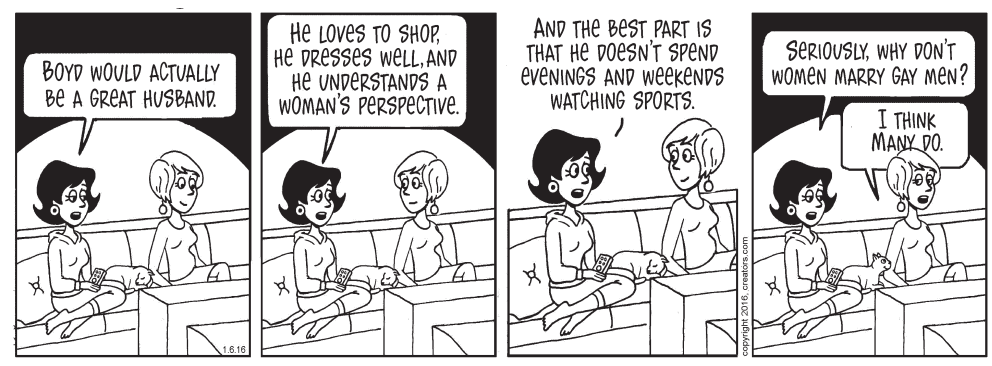
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2015297920 NEW FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/23/2015 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LARO. 11057 VALLEY VIEW, LA MIRADA, CA, 90604. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: LOS ANGELES RECORDER ORCHESTRA, INC. 508 VIA LA SELVA REDONDO BEACH, CA, 90277. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)08/01/2004. /s/: LOS ANGELES RECORDER ORCHESTRA, INC.. LOS ANGELES RECORDER ORCHESTRA, INC.. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/23/2015. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/23/2015, 12/30/2015, 01/06/2016, 01/13/2016.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2015307380 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/07/2015 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as TRUE CUBES. 1935 CORINTH AVE., SUITE D, SANTA MONICA, CA, 90025. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: CRYSTAL CUBES, LLC 1935 CORINTH AVE., SUITE D SANTA MONICA, CA, 90025. This Business is being conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:CRYSTAL CUBES, LLC. CRYSTAL CUBES, LLC. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/07/2015. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/06/2016, 01/13/2016, 01/20/2016, 01/27/2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2015310808 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/10/2015 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GAME ON FAMILY. 818 18TH ST UNIT C, SANTA MONICA, CA, 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: OFUNLO, INC. 818 18TH ST UNIT C SANTA MONICA, CA, 90403. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:OFUNLO, INC.. OFUNLO, INC.. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/10/2015. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/06/2016, 01/13/2016, 01/20/2016, 01/27/2016.

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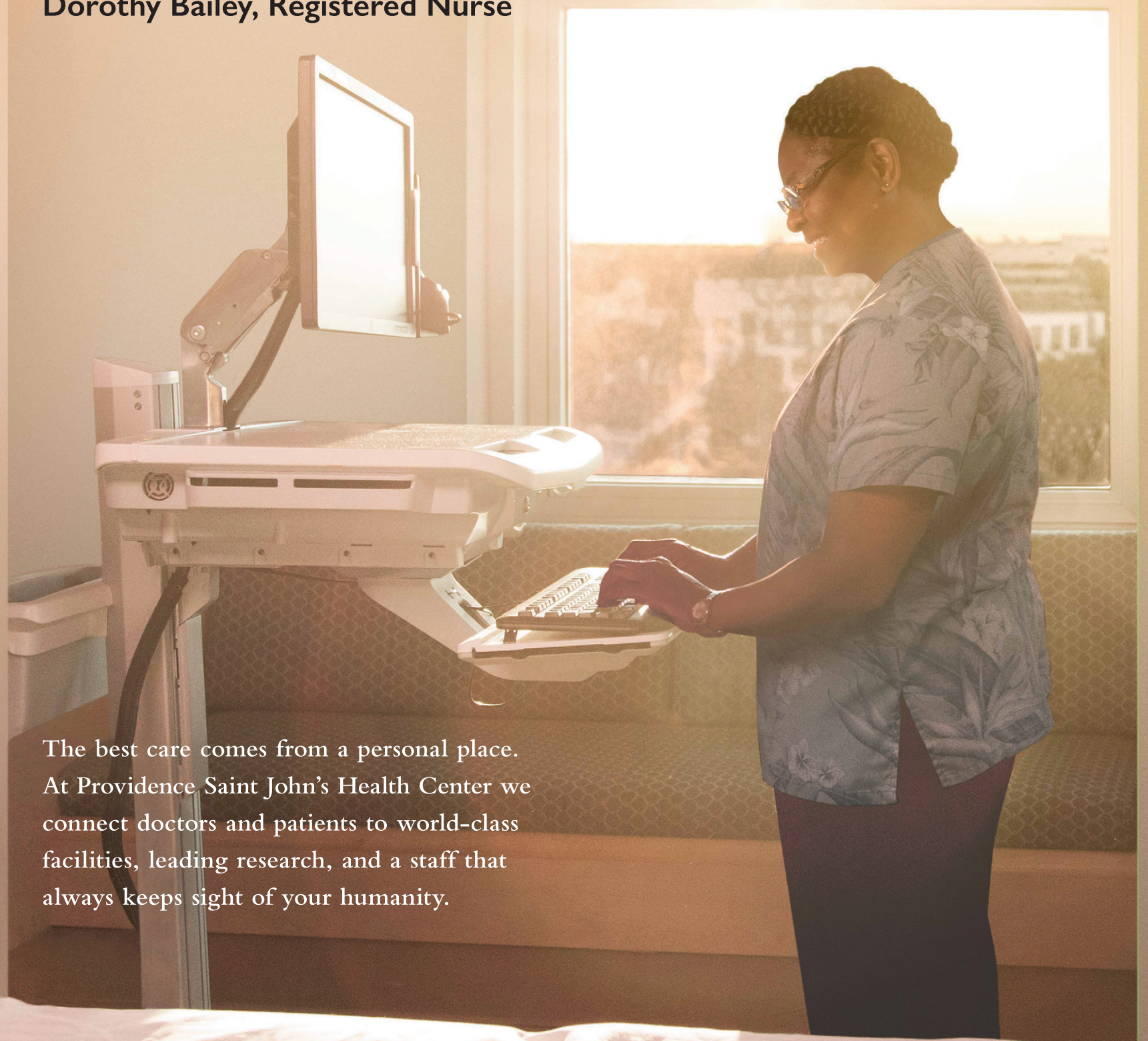
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