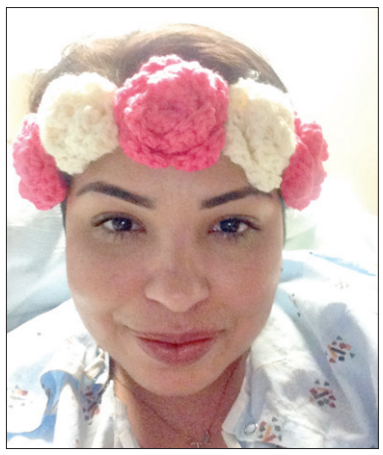
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Courtesy image

LILY MEZA: **Residents are fundraising to support Meza.**

Samohi alumni support ailing cancer patient

Community contributes to crowdfunding campaign for Lily Meza

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Cynthia Juarez met Lily Meza when they were in sixth grade at John Adams Middle School. They became fast friends, graduated from Santa Monica High School in 2003 and have kept in touch ever since.

But Juarez fears that their friendship is coming to an abrupt end. Meza, 30, was diagnosed with cancer over two years ago, and she began hospice care after an oncology appointment this week.

"She's essentially dying," Juarez said in a phone interview Tuesday. "There isn't really much the doctors can do anymore. She's chosen to stay at home so she can be as comfortable as possible."

Feeling helpless in the face of her friend's deteriorating condition, Juarez launched a crowdfunding campaign through GoFundMe to help Meza financially. Sixty-five

SEE **CANCER** PAGE 7

Minimum wage will rise to $15 an hour

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

City Council has approved a minimum wage ordinance that will raise wages to at least $15 an hour by 2020.

The Santa Monica rules mirror those recently passed by Los Angeles. Wages will increase incrementally starting this year. Some small businesses and non-profits will have an extended timeline, as would hotels that can show compliance would cause staff reductions or hours to be cut. The rules include a hotel minimum wage that would set wages for hotel workers to $15.37 by 2017 with annual increases.

Local rules deviate from the regional model in several ways. Most significantly, Santa Monica has allowed unions to negotiate for other benefits in lieu of the minimum wage. Known as supersession, the rule allows unions to secure other benefits, such as additional time off, under a collective bargaining agreement. Local unions supported the rules but supersession has been criticized for creating an unfair system that benefits unions by providing an additional tool to pressure non-union businesses to unionize.

Santa Monica also included a paid sick-leave provision and rules that allow first-time workers to be paid 85 percent of the minimum wage for 480 hours or up to six months as a means of facilitating seasonal employment.

During two hours of public comment, speakers voiced differing opinions on aspects of the law. Many speakers praised the ordinance, saying it was an important step towards a better life for low-wage workers. Some of those who supported the efforts said they'd like to see the wage increase even more to account for the area's high cost of living.

Some wanted the rules for hotel workers accelerated to match Los Angeles, restaurant owners and workers had concerns over provisions regulating service charges, some businesses wanted additional revisions to the sick-leave provisions and several students opposed the seasonal rules, arguing they deserve, and in some cases need, equal pay.

Councilman Kevin McKeown

SEE **WAGE** PAGE 6



Matthew Hall editor@smdp.com

WET BUT STURDY: **Recent wet weather did little damage to the city but it did keep tourists away from the pier.**

Santa Monica spared by El Niño — so far

No storm-related damage 'out of the ordinary,' official says

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Count Judith Meister as among those thankful for Santa Monica's lengthy beaches.

The city beach administrator noted that the expansive swaths of sand serve as a buffer between the ocean and local infrastructure, sparing the area of El Niño-related damages that have hit other parts of Southern California this winter.

"I think we made it OK last week through the rain," she said.

Other coastal communities haven't been as lucky. The county public works department this week closed a section of the bike path at Dockweiler State Beach that needs repairs following a surge of high surf.

The closure affects a 140-foot

SEE **RAIN** PAGE 7

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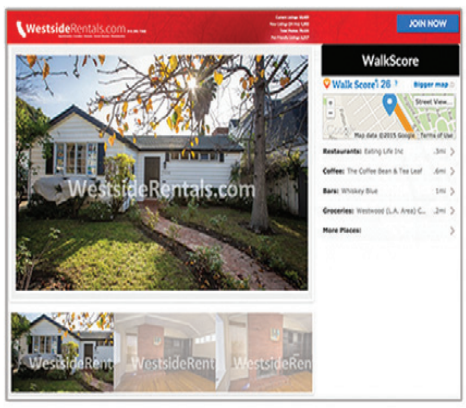
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Jan. 14

Introduction to Social Media

Overview of social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, and how you can get started. Seating is first come, first serve. Advanced Level. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Homework Help

Get help with your homework! This drop-in program offers a separate study area, basic supplies, and friendly volunteers to assist with homework questions. For students in grades 1-5 only. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 4:30 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.

Meditation Basics

Sister Priya, meditation teacher at Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization in Los Angeles, presents an educational class on Meditation with a focus on the topic of "Thinking Positive". Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Interviewing Success with Warren Mullisen

Interviewing expert Warren Mullisen shares how to convince a potential employer you're the right person for the job! He covers basic interview questions, reveals the answers that will make the interviewer remember you, and shows you an interview close that will set you apart from every other candidate. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Rent Control Board Meeting

Regular Rent Control Board meeting. City Hall, 7 p.m.

SMPL 125th Movie Screening: The Truth About Cats and Dogs

Hilarity and romance ensues in sunny Santa Monica when a radio show host (Janeane Garofolo) asks her model friend (Uma Thurman) to impersonate her and meet a handsome caller who seems smitten with her radio persona. (97 min.) Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 15

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.

Main Library Docent Tours

Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library's collection. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Word I (MS Office 2013)

Introduction to using Microsoft Word 2013 to create and format basic documents. Intermediate 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 - 4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 16

Compost Giveaway

Residents may fill five large bags with

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown

Santa Monica teens to hold outdoor overnight "sleep-out"

Teens in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica's Keystone Club are bringing awareness about the city's homelessness issue through a safe overnight "sleep-out" on Jan. 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Jan. 23 at their Clubhouse in their enclosed outdoor recreation yard at 1238 Lincoln Blvd. The event aims to educate teens and the community about the issue of homelessness, and raise funds and donation items.

About 150 teens, ages 13-18, are expected to participate in this rain or shine event. Youth will sleep outside on the Club's fenced in black top along with adult staff. Each participating teen will represent nearly five homeless people. According to the City of Santa Monica, in 2015 the number of homeless men, woman and children in Santa Monica was 738. The city will conduct the next homeless count on Jan. 27.

Teens will hear from guest speakers including representatives from the Santa Monica Police Department, Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC) and St. Joseph Center. Teens will also participate in team building, watch movies that feature issues on homelessness and more.

Participants are asked to wear warm clothing and to bring a sleeping bag, yoga mat or padded mat and a warm blanket.

It's also requested that teens bring a $5 donation and items for the homeless including outerwear (beanies, gloves, scarves), new or unopened toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, razors, shaving cream, soap, and feminine hygiene products. Donations will be given to OPCC.

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the total of homeless person in Los Angeles County in 2015 was 44,359, including thousands of children.

"Many do not receive the help they need to break the cycle of homelessness," says Tim Blaylock, president & CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Monica. "Homeless kids have high rates of acute and chronic health problems, and the constant barrage of stress and traumatic experience has profound effects on their development and ability to learn. We are proud of our Keystone teens helping to bring this issue to light through this overnight experience."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica serves many homeless children, and works to break the cycle of homelessness. No child is turned away from the Club for lack of ability to pay the $20 membership fee. Members are provided resources and mentors to help them succeed in school and in life. Those who are in need of housing are connected with services to help with sustainable housing and self-sufficiency.

For more information, visit www.smbgc.org or follow them on Facebook (facebook.com/smbgcfan) and Twitter (twitter.com/SMBGC).

- SUBMITTED BY MARY DICESARE

Downtown

Youth urge adults to keep alcohol out of young hands this year

Youth, public officials, parents and others are launching a new, dynamic, playful Southern California-based campaign — called #ItsTooEasy — locally. The campaign aims to shine a spotlight on how easy it is for youth to obtain alcohol and what adults must do to rein in that easy access and the problems it brings. The theme – centered around teens in Groucho Marx glasses – is meant to emphasize that youth aren't adults.

Local organizers will launch the campaign on Friday, Jan. 15 from 4:45 – 6 p.m. at ICE, 1324 5th St., (At the corner of Arizona Avenue and 5th Street in downtown Santa Monica.) The event will feature a youth rally, remarks from organizers and a photo booth.

The Los Angeles County #ItsTooEasy event is in Santa Monica because it's one of the primary focuses of an LA County-funded effort to reduce underage drinking.

The City of Santa Monica, in conjunction with the Police Department, has taken multiple steps to reduce its underage drinking rates, including awareness campaigns, underage decoy and undercover investigations and high patrol visibility.

- SUBMITTED BY DANA SHERROD, PREVENTION COORDINATOR THE WESTSIDE IMPACT PROJECT

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.

LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

compost. Compost made from the City's green organics cart program will be given to Santa Monica residents for free. When residents put lawn clippings, vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, pizza boxes and other organics in the green cart, residents are participating in the composting process.
City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave., 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lei-Out Ultimate Frisbee Tournament

17th annual coed beach tournament with some of the best players around. For more information visit www.leiout.com, Beach (Central), 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Brian Calle at (909) 851-1068 for more information.

Master Gardeners at the Market

Helping you grow more of your own food, even in an urban setting Master Gardeners provide free gardening tips, solutions to gardening problems, seeds and seedlings as well as their technical expertise based on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program which provides intense gardening training emphasizing organic gardening and covers vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, trees, soils, composting, pests and harvesting. The Master Gardeners of Los Angeles visit the Pico Farmers Market on the third Saturday of each month 9:30 am - Noon. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave

Ocean Park Fiction Winners Book Group

Book Discussion of "Lila" by Marilynne Robinson. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St.

What Do You Dream Of? A Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Celebration

Join organizers to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as they bring to life his inspiring message. Music, documentary, crafts and the opportunity to write your dream in the I Have a Dream Wall will follow. It is an event that you will not want to miss! 12 - 2 p.m., Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd.

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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

1984: Welcome to Dystopia



Courtesy photo

1984: Matthew Spencer plays Winston in the production of 1984 at the Broad Stage.

IN ITS STORIED HISTORY, GEORGE ORWELL'S novel "1984" coined phrases now widely used and immediately understood: "Big Brother, thought police, double-speak." He turned the proverb "ignorance is bliss" on its political head, and the adjective "Orwellian" has come to mean twisting the truth until what's being said means the very opposite.

This classic novel of a future totalitarian state, controlling not just people's lives but their thoughts and individuality, was published in the Cold War world of 1949.

But with its themes of state-sponsored surveillance, physical torture and psychological manipulation, it's equally relevant today, as demonstrated by the highly-lauded, multimedia adaptation by the U.K.'s Headlong Theatre now at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica. Following sold-out runs in London and a tour of the U.K., this production marks the launch of the company's American tour of "1984."

A brief summary of the novel: Following a global atomic war, the world is divided into three Superstates engaged in perpetual war. Today's enemies are tomorrow's allies. Winston Smith works in The Ministry of Truth, revising history to make the past mesh with the State's current political realities, which can change in an instant. But Winston is secretly rebellious, and through the revolutionary act of falling in love and keeping a diary of his private thoughts, he makes an attempt to bring down the system. No surprise: he fails.

I spoke to the Broad's new Artistic Director Wiley Hausam about the play. Although it was on the schedule before he stepped full time into his new role in November 2015 he says, "It's exactly the kind of theatre I love. It's about what's really happening in the world, and what really matters to how we live and what we'll face in the future."

With the advent of WikiLeaks, Edward Snowden's revelation of top-secret documents and "enhanced interrogation techniques," the book was nearly prescient. "Orwell seems like he's predicting in 1950 a world that will happen in the near future, just as it does now," said Hausam. "Although the specifics are not the same, 1984 doesn't age, it's not a period piece. It's a profound and frightening book and this play is not for everybody. It's for people who want to talk and think about these issues and who are not afraid to feel difficult feelings."

The play is framed using the novel's appendix, which describes the development of "Newspeak," the mechanism of thought control by censoring language, which Orwell posits will be adopted as the official language of the superstate Oceania in 2050.

Here adapters Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan have set the actors, appearing outside their characters, in a room-possibly an office or a library-to discuss Newspeak; it's ambiguous whether they are a modern day book club or a group of Party members examining a subversive document from the past. Hausam says, "I've seen 1984 three times this week, and every time I learn something new about the relationship of the parts. They introduce the book, and at the end they comment on what you've seen."

The characters of Winston, his love interest Julia, the mysterious O'Brien, who is a member of the "Inner Party" are introduced. Large screens integrated into the walls of the room blast out such phrases as "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery," "Ignorance is Strength." And Big Brother is always watching: everyone is under relentless surveillance every moment of their lives.

Winston comes to O'Brien's attention and at first believes O'Brien also wants to overturn the state, but he's really just out to entrap Winston. There are scenes of violence as Winston is tortured by O'Brien into revealing his subversive thinking and rejection of the Party's philosophy, and he is ultimately manipulated horribly into betraying Julia.

"It's one of the most provocative, thought provoking productions I've seen in years," says Hausam. "It's incredibly contemporary, smart, relevant and disturbing. But it's not a feel good time in the theater."

Hausam will put his artistic stamp on next year's Broad Stage offerings. He tips his hat to the work of predecessor Dale Franzen, who envisioned, founded and ran The Broad from its inception to its 2008 opening through 2014. "It's really hard to open a theatre, build the building, raise all that money, and keep raising it every year," he told me. "A 499-seat theatre is about the most challenging size you can build because ticket sales will never provide enough of the budget."

As was Franzen's, Hausam's goal is "to remain focused on high quality world class artists. But it's hard to make the arts relevant to a community when you're only serving 3 percent of the population or the most affluent. That's just the nature of the economics of the arts in America, unlike Western Europe where subsidies make it possible to keep ticket prices low enough to serve a wider swath of the population. I want to bring in a diverse range of people, get them in the door and while grounding our work in Santa Monica and the Westside, serve the entire community."

"1984" by Headlong Theatre is onstage through Feb. 6 at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica. Please note: Due to its graphic nature, it's not recommended for children under the age of 14. Tickets are available at www.thebroadstage.com or call the box office at (310) 434-3200.

SARAH A. SPITZ spent her career at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica and produced freelance arts reports for NPR. She has also written features and reviews for various print and online publications.

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Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

Kevin M. Brettauer
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

FIVE TO WATCH OUT FOR: The Most Buzzworthy Comics of the Year to Come

AS ALWAYS, THERE ARE A LOT OF NEW comics debuting in 2016. In January, co-creator Len Wein's new Swamp Thing miniseries debuts the same day as writer Cullen Bunn's run on Uncanny X-Men begins. Also that month, Michele Fazekas and Tara Butters, the producers of TV's Agent Carter, launch a new Captain Marvel series illustrated by the mega-talented Kris Anka, late of the X-Men books. A new, more modern take on Power Man & Iron Fist is scheduled to drop in February, and the animated X-Men of the Clinton era make their post-Secret Wars return in X-Men '92 #1 in late March. March also sees the fiftieth issues of the surviving original books of DC's New 52 initiative, including giant-size adventures of Batman, Green Arrow, The Flash, Aquaman, Superman, Green Lantern and Wonder Woman. And, as always, Marvel has a slew of crossover events in the offing, including "Spider-Women", "The Apocalypse Wars", "Avengers Standoff: Assault on Pleasant Hill" and Civil War II. But beyond that, what should we get really pumped about? What are the most exciting new projects of 2016?

This January, Ted McKeever returns following his thoughtful, atmospheric and altogether demented Mad Max/Animal Farm mash-up, The Superannuated Man, with a new mini-series from Image. Pencil Head is a pseudo-autobiographical comic about Poodwaddle, a comic book creator whose work is bizarre as McKeever's own, but whose time in the field is filled with the type of behind-the-scenes stories that are nuttier than anything in the man's own work. McKeever's work, including Eddy Current and Miniature Jesus, are the sort of bizarre, thought-provoking comics that most people don't know exist, and more people should. Pencil Head promises to deliver on that tradition.

February brings us the launch of a new series simply entitled Spider-Man, brought to you by former Ultimate Spider-Man cohorts Brian Michael Bendis and Sara Pichelli. But, like in that series, this Spidey is not Peter Parker, but rather Miles Morales, the half-Latino/half-black teenager originally from Marvel's Ultimate Universe. Following the events of Secret Wars, Miles finds himself in the main Marvel Universe, even serving alongside the All-New, All-Different Avengers alongside Iron Man and Ms. Marvel. But there have been hints that things are different with Miles this time around. Who is this Miles Morales? What is his (potentially new) history? How is his mother, Rio, alive? Miles has proven to be a fan favorite character, and this new, long-anticipated series promises to fulfill the desires of all those clamoring for a new solo series for the teenage hero.

March sees the debut of Ghost World and The Death-Ray auteur Daniel Clowes's "indescribable psychedelic science fiction love story" Patience, which publisher Fantagraphics Books says "veer[s] with uncanny precision from violent destruction to deeply personal tenderness in a way that is both quintessentially 'Clowesian,' and utterly unique in the author's body of work." With little to go on regarding plot, characters or even tone, it's really Clowes himself that creates the draw here; every single one of his books, from Wilson to Like a Velvet Glove Cast in Iron, is an utter masterpiece, and there's no indication that Patience will be anything less than one of the best comics of 2016. Even so, Fantagraphics promises the 180 page graphic novel will be Clowes's "most suspenseful, surprising and affecting story yet."

In April, essayist and journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates, one of the prominent social consciences of the modern American sociopolitical landscape, teams up with artist Brian Stelfreeze for a new series chronicling the story of Marvel's Black Panther. While the character, played by Chadwick Boseman, who will be appearing in theatres the month after when Captain America: Civil War debuts, is a known and beloved quantity to Marvel aficionados, the general public is unfamiliar with this former Avenger and African monarch who is considered by many to be both the smartest and richest man in the world. Tackling issues of heritage, popular uprisings and insurgencies, Coates and Stelfreeze look to bring T'Challa into the mainstream with what promises to be a challenging and timely yarn.

Finally, come late 2016, industry darling Jeff Lemire will release a new graphic novel from Simon & Schuster. Entitled Roughneck and originally announced in 2013, it seems like the story, about a former professional hockey player forced to confront his past and heritage head-on, will be more in line with his other independent work (The Underwater Welder, Lost Dogs and The Essex County Trilogy) than his work with mainstream superhero characters (such as Green Arrow, Extraordinary X-Men, Bloodshot Reborn and All-New Hawkeye) or even his Vertigo or Image output (like Descender, Trillium and the superlative The Nobody). Written, drawn and fully painted by the Canadian auteur, Roughneck promises to be well worth the wait until the end of the year.

So there you have it. Five comics from all across the spectrum to get excited about this year. I know I can't wait for these books, myself, and most of them are only from the first few months of year! Who knows what the rest could bring?

To learn more about all things comic books, visit Hi De Ho Comics, 1431 Lincoln Blvd., in Santa Monica.

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Progression assuming an annual 2% CPI

YEAR (as of July 1)	SM LIVING WAGE	LA HOTEL WAGE	SM HOTEL WAGE (phased)	MIN WAGE	MIN WAGE SMALL BUS
Current	$15.37	$15.37	-	$10.00	$10.00
2016	$15.68	$15.37	$13.25	$10.50	$10.00
2017	$15.99	$15.68	$15.37	$12.00	$10.50
2018	$16.31	$15.99	$15.68	$13.25	$12.00
2019	$16.64	$16.31	$15.99	$14.25	$13.25
2020	$16.97	$16.64	$16.31	$15.00	$14.25
2021	$17.31	$16.97	$16.64	**$15.00**	**$15.00**
2022	$17.66	$17.31	$16.97	**$15.30**	**$15.30**

Courtesy image

SCHEDULE: While some wage scales are linked to inflation (estimated here at 2 percent) the minimum wage will increase on a set schedule.

WAGE

FROM PAGE 1

said the law might need some minor improvements but was passionate in his support for the measure.

"With great pride in the work that our city staff has done, our local businesses, our local workers and the unions that represent them and very many members of our community that have supported this for many years and are finally going to get to see it come to fruition tonight, I move this minimum wage law," he said.

In addition to passing the rules, Council established a working group that will continue discussion of several topics including service charges, seasonal workers, sick days, employee protections, definitions of terms and eventual unification of Santa Monica's different wage schedules.

McKeown said he wanted to pass the recommended rules and allow for future revisions to respect the work that had been put into the process over the past year.

"What we have before us is something that multiple constituencies in our community have been able to participate in in and buy into," he said.

City Manager Rick Cole praised the work the community had put into the rules and strongly criticized a last-minute campaign that had attempted to undermine the union exemption. Cole called the tactics "thuggish" and said the city had been targeted by anti-union lobbyists with no connection to the actual residents of Santa Monica.

The rules passed with six councilmembers voting "yes" and Councilwoman O'Connor abstaining. O'Connor said she strongly supports workers' rights and a $15/hour wage but said she did not support exemptions from the rules. In her explanation, O'Connor criticized Cole and other councilmembers for what she described as demonizing individuals that disagreed with the council's position.

"I believe the City Manager could have made the comments, could have made the points very strongly that there's an outside group with specific motives that are trying to influence Santa Monicans, but without the highly charged rhetoric," she said.

"I also have some concerns. Frankly, what I'm seeing is a growing tendency among some councilmembers to challenge speakers who don't agree with them. ... I don't think that's healthy for real civic debate."

She said there is a difference of opinion about the minimum wage rules and there are valid reasons to oppose the union exemption. O'Connor said the minimum wage discussion wouldn't solve the greater economic problems facing low-income workers.

"The minimum wage is not going to solve the problems of income inequality and the minimum wage is not going to solve our problems of poverty," she said. "Yes, it will help low-income workers, but what we need to do, we need to build a strong economy. We have to do that so we can raise the incomes. We do that how? We do that by educating people, we do that by supporting industries and businesses that create jobs that are middle-class, good-paying jobs."

The statewide minimum wage is $10 per hour.

editor@smdp.com

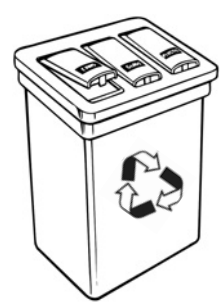
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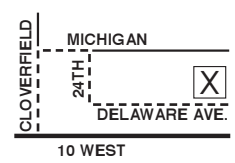


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RAIN

FROM PAGE 1

portion of the path from the lifeguard station at 8600 Vista del Mar to a maintenance facility at 8255 Vista del Mar, west of Los Angeles International Airport. The segment is part of the 22-mile cycling thoroughfare that runs from Pacific Palisades to Torrance.

Public works officials established a detour that would be clearly marked for cyclists, pedestrians and other users, and there is no timetable for when the usual route will open.

"It gets narrower there between the water and the bike path," Meister said of the damaged section. "Fortunately, we were OK."

Meister and other officials are hoping for mild conditions while preparing for the possibility of destructive, El Niño-driven weather patterns.

Meister, who started working for the City of Santa Monica in the early 1980s, has seen inclement weather wreak havoc on the local community before. She was around in 1983 when storms caused a partial collapse of the Santa Monica Pier.

"It was pretty wild," she said. "We basically lost a quarter of the pier. Hopefully that's not going to happen again."

The city has taken numerous steps to account for the chance of consistent rain, Meister said. The parking lots and walkways near the pier have experienced flooding in the past, but a drainage system that was put in several years ago has been effective in keeping overflow to a minimum. And if extreme ocean conditions threatened Santa Monica infrastructure, beach maintenance officials would be ready to create berms with hills of sand.

"As we know," Meister said, "you never know."

The Santa Monica Fire Department is typically busier during stormy conditions, but there was "nothing really out of the ordinary" during the recent rainy spell, according to Battalion Chief Mike McElvaney.

Local fire officials respond to more reports of downed or arcing wires and fallen trees in wet weather, McElvaney said. They also see more traffic accidents due to the slickness of rain-covered roads.

But, McElvaney said, the department hasn't faced severe flooding or other El Niño-related issues so far this season. He added that officials keep an eye on the stability of the Pacific Coast Highway bluffs.

"We're pretty lucky because we don't have any real canyons or places where water collects," he said.

Local residents should make sure their drains are clear of leaves and other debris, McElvaney said. Sandbags are available at city fire stations.

For updates on bike path closures, visit http://dpw.lacounty.gov/bikepathclosures. For more information about El Niño prevention, visit smgov.net/oem.

jeff@smdp.com

CANCER

FROM PAGE 1

donors, many of them fellow Samohi alumni, had contributed more than $4,400 as of Tuesday evening, just a day after the fundraiser kicked off. Juarez was planning to tell Meza about it Tuesday night.

"I was just awed at how many people had been reaching out," Juarez said. "Given her condition is worsening every minute, I want to let her know how many people are reaching out and sending their well-wishes."

Born in Mexico, Meza attended Edison Language Academy, JAMS and Samohi before finding work as a nanny and freelance photographer. She enjoyed hiking and the outdoors, and she shared her dreams of traveling to Greece and China.

After being diagnosed with angiosarcoma of the breast in late 2013, Meza had a mastectomy and began numerous rounds of chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

She stayed active over the next two years, continuing to work, cook, write and make crafts even as cancer spread into her lungs. She regularly visited Juarez in Koreatown, where she works as a teacher.

"She's remained probably the most positive of everyone," Juarez said. "Not once did she say she was too sick to do something or too weak to do something. She's a fighter. She pushed through it all. ... I know she was in pain, but she wanted to make sure we were OK. She wanted to look out for others to make sure we were shielded."

When Meza was hospitalized late last month, though, she learned that her cancer was affecting her bones. Feeling even more pain than usual, she's become "disheartened at the fact that her independence is slowly being taken away from her," Juarez said.

Complicating Meza's life over the last two years is her immigration status, which Juarez said has prevented her from qualifying for certain healthcare benefits.

"She's had to work through her illness because she doesn't get disability or anything like that," Juarez said.

Nurses, friends and family will be with Meza at her Inglewood residence for the foreseeable future. She is supposed to turn 31 on Feb. 12, and Juarez is trying to cherish every moment she gets with her childhood friend.

"I don't know how long she has," Juarez said. "But she's still not giving up."

jeff@smdp.com







SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **58.1°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-5 ft** waist to head high
West-WNW swell continues as reinforcing energy moves in. Wind conditions looking generally favorable at this time. Incoming tide through the morning helping most spots.

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high occ. 4ft
West-WNW swell continues. Wind conditions looking generally favorable at this time. Incoming tide through the morning helping most spots.

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON JANUARY 5, AT ABOUT 1:25 P.M.

A male subject, later identified as Wahid Allah, entered the CVS store in the 3200 block of Wilshire Boulevard. A loss prevention agent standing behind the photo counter near the front entry doors saw Allah walk in carrying a large backpack and decided to monitor him as he shopped. The loss prevention agent followed behind Allah as he went to the hair care area and started pulling large bottles of Head and Shoulders shampoo from the shelf, stuffing them into the backpack. Allah hoisted the now full backpack onto his shoulder and made his way back to the front of the store. The loss prevention agent tried to stop Allah before he exited and asked Allah to return the merchandise. Allah refused, walked past the agent and the cash registers, and left the building. All of this was captured on surveillance video. Officers responding to CVS located Allah nearby and detained him for investigation. Allah was in possession of drug paraphernalia, but not the shampoo. The loss prevention officer positively identified Allah as the thief. Allah was placed under arrest for petty theft, possession of drug paraphernalia, and a probation violation, and transported to the Santa Monica Jail. Allah, 25, of Hollywood, had bail set at $10,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 326 calls for service on Jan. 12.

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

Drunk driving, 1100 block 14th, 12:03 a.m.
Hit and run, 2600 block 34th, 2:06 a.m.
Trespassing, 1500 block Lincoln, 5:57 a.m.
Disturbance, 1900 block Lincoln, 6:53 a.m.
Public intoxication, 1900 block Main, 9:05 a.m.
Petty theft, 1600 block Oak, 9:46 a.m.
Disturbance, 2700 block Santa Monica, 10:16 a.m.
Elder abuse, 800 block 11th, 10:29 a.m.
Identity theft, 1000 block 17th, 10:50 a.m.
Auto burglary, 800 block 6th, 10:56 a.m.
Battery, Main/Ocean Park, 11:11 a.m.
Disturbance, 2600 block Main, 11:29 a.m.
Hit and run, 20th/Olympic, 11:44 a.m.
Trespassing, 900 block Wilshire, 12:24 p.m.
Fraud, 1200 block Wilshire, 12:35 p.m.
Disturbance, 300 block SM Pier, 1:12 p.m.
Elder abuse, 1200 block 6th, 1:52 p.m.
Person down, 1500 block 17th, 2:33 p.m.
Disturbance, Lincoln/Olympic, 2:49 p.m.
Grand theft, 2400 block Wilshire, 2:49 p.m.
Disturbance, 2000 block Ocean, 3:01 p.m.
Indecent exposure, 1700 block Ocean Front Walk, 3:28 p.m.
Disturbance, 200 block Ocean, 3:48 p.m.
Burglary, 100 block St rand, 3:53 p.m.
Fight, 14th/Wilshire, 4:02 p.m.
Disturbance, 400 block Santa Monica, 4:06 p.m.
Indecent exposure, 400 block Santa Monica, 4:32 p.m.
Identity theft, 1400 block 15th, 4:34 p.m.
Threats, 1500 block PCH, 5:41 p.m.
Disturbance, 1600 block 14th, 6:28 p.m.
Death investigation, 2900 block 4th, 7:03 p.m.
Petty theft, 300 block Arizona, 7:15 p.m.
Trespassing, 600 block Wilshire, 8:39 p.m.
Battery, 1900 block Cloverfield, 9:16 p.m.
Battery, 500 block Colorado, 9:38 p.m.
Trespassing, 2200 block Broadway, 10:17 p.m.
Panic alarm, 1900 block Main, 10:38 p.m.
Disturbance, 2000 block Ocean, 11:07 p.m.
Trespassing, 500 block Colorado, 11:14 p.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 4th/Santa Monica, 11:58 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 55 calls for service on Jan. 12.

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

Emergency Medical Service (EMS), 3100 block Pearl, 12:38 a.m.
EMS, 1700 block Ocean Park, 1:23 a.m.
EMS, 200 block Bicknell, 3:11 a.m.
EMS, 800 block Stanford, 7:10 a.m.
Flooding, 400 block Marguerita, 7:39 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 3300 block Ocean Park, 7:47 a.m.
EMS, Stanford/Berkeley, 7:52 a.m.
Assist LAFD, Montana/Centinela, 8:04 a.m.
EMS, 1500 block 4th, 8:18 a.m.
EMS, Cloverfield/Interstate 10, 8:47 a.m.
EMS, 900 block Montana, 8:56 a.m.
EMS, 1800 block Lincoln, 8:58 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block 15th, 9:05 a.m.
EMS, Cloverfield/Interstate 10, 9:07 a.m.
EMS, 1900 block Main, 9:20 a.m.
EMS, 2300 block Oak, 10:10 a.m.
EMS, 800 block 2nd, 10:19 a.m.
EMS, 2900 block Pico, 10:46 a.m.
EMS, 2200 block Colorado, 10:55 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block 4th, 11:44 a.m.
EMS, 2400 block Wilshire, 12:01 p.m.
EMS, 600 block Arizona, 12:09 p.m.
EMS, 2800 block Wilshire, 12:11 p.m.
EMS, 200 block Santa Monica, 12:14 p.m.
EMS, 2300 block Ocean Park, 12:16 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block Lincoln, 12:29 p.m.
EMS, 1600 block Ocean Front Walk, 12:40 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block 3rd, 12:56 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block Ocean, 1:12 p.m.
EMS, 2500 block Georgina, 1:21 p.m.
EMS, 800 block 2nd, 1:28 p.m.
Structure fire, 2100 block Ocean Park, 1:56 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block 17th, 2:34 p.m.
EMS, 1000 block Lincoln, 3:08 p.m.
Hazardous materials, 1500 block 17th, 3:53 p.m.
EMS, 20th/Arizona, 4:45 p.m.
Fire investigation, 3200 block Pico, 4:54 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 1300 block 3rd, 5:06 p.m.
EMS, 800 block Ocean, 5:34 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block 2nd, 5:46 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 1300 block 3rd, 5:59 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block Harvard, 6:32 p.m.
Transformer fire, 1700 block Montana, 6:47 p.m.
Elevator rescue, 2000 block Wilshire, 6:52 p.m.
Elevator rescue, 2200 block Wilshire, 6:54 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block 5th, 7:03 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 2500 block La Mesa, 7:09 p.m.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

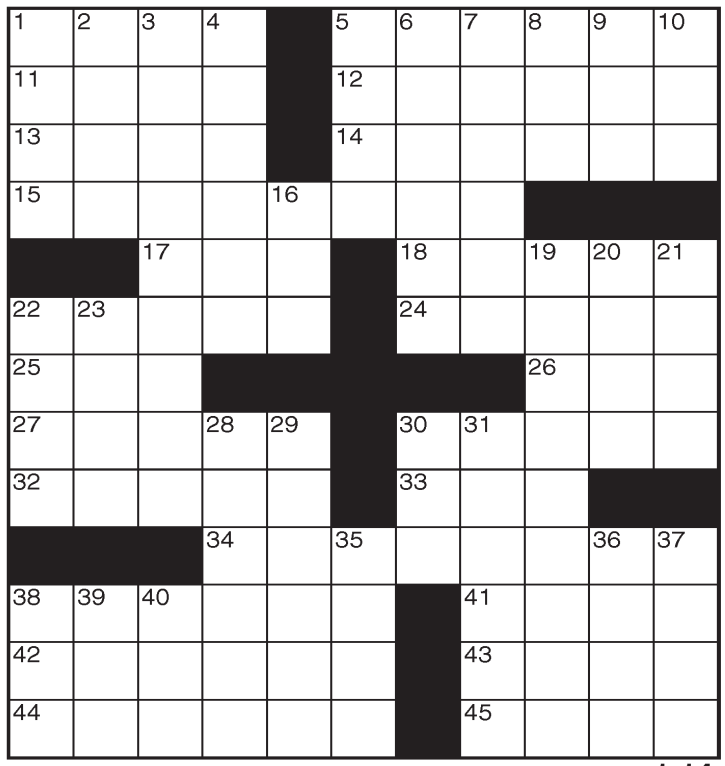
ACROSS
1 Group of players
5 Grapevine talk
11 Geometry calculation
12 Individually
13 Gallup concern
14 Vacillate
15 Suffers from the heat
17 Corp. VIP
18 Worried
22 Texas player
24 Hayek of "Frida"
25 Letter after upsilon
26 Near-eternity
27 Roof overhangs
30 Bulletin board items
32 Refine ore
33 Ump's cry
34 Crescent's ascent
38 Playwright Pinter
41 Kitchen sight
42 Doted on
43 Woodwind part
44 Egg buys
45 Invites

DOWN
1 Tube tops
2 In — (aligned)
3 Choosy
4 More statuesque
5 Fence feature
6 Met shows
7 Afternoon break
8 Ready to go
9 Road hazard
10 Individually
16 Not to mention
19 Nonessential courses
20 In a frenzy
21 Salon offerings
22 Big galoots
23 Counterfeit
28 Writer Leonard
29 Taken the wrong way
30 Great weight
31 Dawn goddess
35 Bookie's concern
36 Hunt for
37 Goals
38 Owned
39 Hubbub
40 Cartoonist Chast

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

Yesterday's answer

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



1-14

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Matthew Hall *matt@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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 1/9
16 19 32 34 57
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 1.5B

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/12
15 27 29 31 48
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 22M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/9
5 12 24 25 36
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/12
12 30 35 36 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/12
MIDDAY: 7 3 6
Draw Date: 1/12
EVENING: 9 1 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/12
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:42.92

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WORD UP!

bellwether 1. a person or thing that shows the existence or direction of a trend; index. 2. a wether or other male sheep that leads the flock, usually bearing a bell.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1953 – Josip Broz Tito is inaugurated as the first President of Yugoslavia.

1954 – The Hudson Motor Car Company merges with Nash-Kelvinator Corporation forming the American Motors Corporation.

1957 – Kripalu Maharaj was named fifth Jagadguru (world teacher) after giving seven days of speeches before 500 Hindu scholars.

1960 – The Reserve Bank of Australia, the country's central bank and banknote issuing authority, is established.

1967 – Counterculture of the 1960s: The Human Be-In, takes place in San Francisco, California's Golden Gate Park, launching the Summer of Love.

1969 – An accidental explosion aboard the USS Enterprise near Hawaii kills 27 people.

1972 – Queen Margrethe II of Denmark ascends the throne, the first Queen of Denmark since 1412 and the first Danish monarch not named Frederick or Christian since 1513.

1973 – Elvis Presley's concert Aloha from Hawaii is broadcast live via satellite, and sets the record as the most watched broadcast by an individual entertainer in television history.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Mendel Epstein (Lakewood, New Jersey) is not the only rabbi suspected of being overaggressive as he helps desperate wives obtain religiously proper divorces, but he will be headed to prison for 10 years after a federal court found that he used beatings, stun guns and, once, an electric cattle prod to convince reluctant husbands they should sign the papers. Orthodox Jewish wives cannot remarry properly without obtaining a "get," and Rabbi Epstein was apparently very "convincing." (According to trial evidence, he used the services of four thugs.) "Over the years," Epstein confessed in court, "I guess I got caught up in my tough-guy image."

■ Another Way to Tell If You're Really, Really Drunk: Her passengers had run away, leaving Elena Bartman-Wallman, 23, behind the wheel but oblivious on a December afternoon in Aleknagik, Alaska, and her car's tires had started to smoke. She had lodged her foot against the accelerator, facing the wrong way on the road, with her wheels spinning continuously, and by the time police arrived (to discover Bartman-Wallman passed out), the front tires had melted down to the rims.

Send and return emails, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Much has been going on behind the scenes. You could be more challenging than you realize because of your unusually high drive. This push will continue to build in the next few days. You might opt to take a strong stance. Tonight: Do whatever pleases you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might be a lot more outwardly directed than you had anticipated. Someone has made choices that you don't like, but your creativity works through the problem in a way that surprises not only you, but also others. Share your ideas. Tonight: Get some much-needed R and R.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You are in charge of a situation, and you'll manage to make a difference that counts. You could feel pressured. You come from a resilient point of view, and your solutions reflect this same resilience. Use this to handle a personal matter. Tonight: Go where your friends are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Look beyond the obvious. Understand that there is another path or a different approach to a problem you have been facing that you have yet to find out about. Your sense of direction and a willingness to brainstorm will allow others to open up. Tonight: In the limelight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Someone close to you refuses to walk away from the bottom-line issue. You can present other views and/or bait this person, but it won't make a difference. Extremes mark the next few days. Be aware of what you are doing. Be as precise as possible. Tonight: Consider a visit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You might be more resilient than anyone would anticipate. Your ability to get past a problem puts you in an awkward situation. You'll want to have a discussion with someone about recent events. Be willing to make the first move. Tonight: Share news with a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Dive into a project. You might be distracted by an idea from a friend whose opinions you welcome. Make a difference, and listen to news more openly. Your inner strength comes forward later in the day when handling a personal matter. Tonight: Be more upbeat than in the past.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Differ to someone else, and listen to what is being said. You could find a situation to be far more complicated than you had originally thought. Lady Luck plays into the mix, and somehow the situation works out. Tap into your creativity, and you'll be delighted. Tonight: Clear your desk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Staying close to home might be a great idea; however, it also could add to a feeling of cabin fever. An unexpected offer or call might be so enticing that you will decide to bolt right out the door. Your creativity colors the afternoon. Tonight: Use your imagination well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving, even if you find the small talk to be tedious. If you listen, important nuggets of wisdom will emerge. If you remain nonchalant, you will hear a lot more. Take an overview. Detachment will help you know which way to proceed. Tonight: Head home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Be more forthright and direct in how you handle a difficult situation involving finances. Your ability to make a financial difference depends on previous connections and decisions. You might need to rely on previous resources. Tonight: Send and return emails. Ask questions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Feel your power. Know where you are coming from and why. You'll discover that others respond in a positive way, no matter what you do or say. Opportunities seem to surround you, so be open and receptive. Know what you want, and then go for it! Tonight: Indulge a little.

Thursday, January 14, 2016

This year people seem to perpetually express themselves to you, expecting you to respond accordingly. You will need to let others know that you are your own person who makes your own decisions. If you are single, you might be very desirable, but perhaps not emotionally available to many suitors. When Mr. or Ms. Right appears, you will become far more accessible. If you are attached, the two of you often have very different ideas and challenge each other. You also share a mutual respect for each other. ARIES can be controlling and challenging.

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

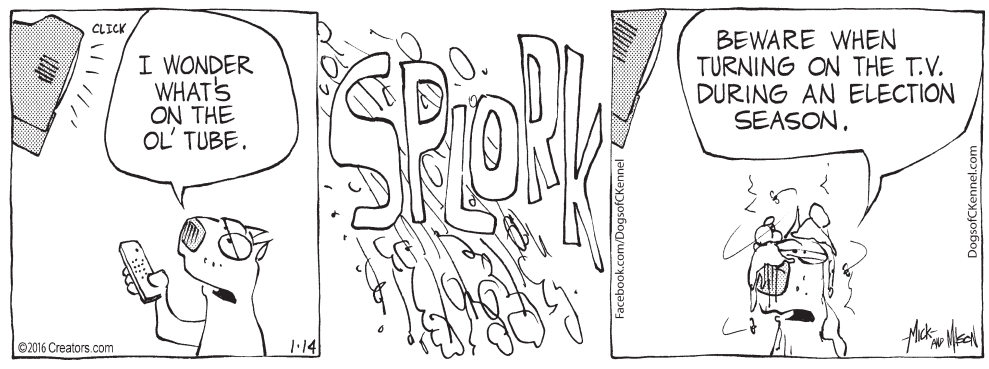
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



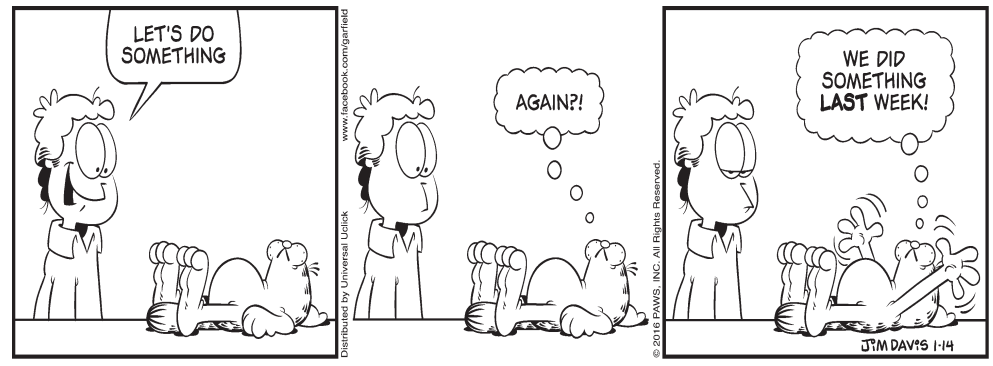
Strange Brew
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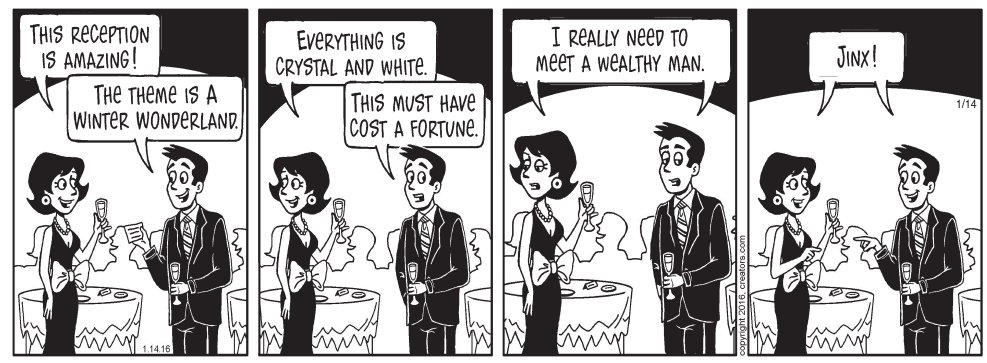
Dogs of C-Kennel
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Announcements

* * * * * * * * * * * * * RE - WARD********** $5,000 reward, tan male dog, taken Dec. 17th, possibly sold on craigslist as retriever/poodle mix. Please call (920) 819 - 8809.

Employment

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