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TUESDAY
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Volume 15 Issue 60
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SMMUSD audit finds student tracking error

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

A misinterpretation of enrollment in discounted school lunch programs led to an error in the Santa Monica-Malibu school district's bookkeeping.

The error was discovered in an audit of SMMUSD finances by Christy White Associates, an accounting firm hired by the district to examine its coffers.

The finding was considered

SEE AUDIT PAGE 7







LEAGUE WIN

Morgan Genser

Santa Monica High School hosted Beverly Hills in an Ocean League game on Jan. 24 and won 3-1 to improve their record to 4-0 in league play and 8-5-2 overall. Pictured are Santa Monica players Antonia Fuller, Maggie Lena and Dai Williams.

Cookies, confidence comin' to town

Santa Monica's Girl Scouts acquire financial, leadership skills through Cookie Program



Courtesy Photo

COOKIE TIME: Local Girl Scouts will be selling cookies to support a variety of activities.

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Last weekend, nearly three million boxes of Girl Scout Cookies arrived in Greater Los Angeles to be sold by roughly 40,000 scouts. Of those 40,000 girls, over 300 are Santa Monicans.

The Westside scouts, who are divided among 35 troops, sold over 60,000 boxes of cookies last year and, according to troop leader and Girl Scouts' Santa Monica service unit manager, Lisette Gold, they are on target to meet that same benchmark this year.

Gold said that the money each troop raises through the Cookie Program is used differently, as they get to decide how it's spent. Gold's troop has used their funds for travel in the past, going snorkeling in Catalina and on kayaking trips. But Gold said the girls have to use their financial skills to make those trips a reality.

"The girls become very savvy about money and budgeting," Gold said. "They have to find out how much the trip is going to cost. … They do their inventory, set goals. It is a business they are running to raise money. And there is no other possibility for girls as young as third graders or fourth graders to set and meet these goals."

Gold said that because the girls are too young to have jobs, the Girl Scout Cookie Program is the only way for most girls to gain real financial skills. But Gold said the girls are achieving financial success in the same way they would if they were employed.

"We will have one afternoon where we sell $600 in cookies and I will tell the girls they earned more than they would in most minimum wage jobs or babysitting," Gold said.

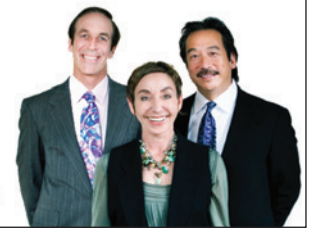
Gold said that the Cookie Program is also one of the very few opportunities for girls to learn leadership, speaking and business skills.

"It is an opportunity for girls to carry skills they will use into the future. It let's them be

SEE COOKIE PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Computer Class: Finding Free and Open Source Software

Discover free and open source alternatives to popular software programs. This is an advanced level class and requires knowledge of computers and internet searching. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 2 - 3 p.m.

Teen Time

A space just for Teens. Stop by and play board games, make some crafts, play music, do homework or just talk to your friends. Refreshments will be provided. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Memory and Aging: What You Need to Know

Learn about the way the brain changes with age, what is normal, what is not, and what you can do about it. Monica Moore, UCLA, discusses the latest research surrounding brain health, as well as practical tips to stay mentally focused and sharp. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 3:30 - 5 p.m.

City Council Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica City Council. City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Movie Screening: The End of the Tour (2015)

The story of the five-day interview between Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky and acclaimed novelist David Foster Wallace, conducted just after the release of Wallace's epic novel Infinite Jest. Starring Jesse Eisenberg and Jason Segel. (106 min.) Seating first come, first served. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Yoga

All levels. Drop in for $15/class or sign up for series (5 week/$62, with parking) Wed 1/6-2/3/16. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 - 10 a.m.

Winter Magic with Jay Leslie

Come enjoy a fun family time of comedy magic. Ages 5 and up. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 1 p.m.

Twitter: Tweet Like a Pro

Learn about Twitter and how to use it to discover the latest news that matters to you. Advanced 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., 6 - 7 p.m.

Proactive College Prep @ Main

Parents and teens, learn to prepare for a successful transition to life after high school. Presented by college counselor/Creative College Prep founder Nick Soper and therapist/teen specialist Kristine Tye. Grades 9-12 and parents. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 28

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.

Santa Monica Cares

Emmy winning PSAs about three

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC students win awards

Five Santa Monica College students and a senior from Point Loma High School were presented the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition 2016 Education Awards at a ceremony held Jan. 18 to commemorate Dr. King's birthday.

This year's awards recipients are:

SMC sophomore Aljzana Hobdy-Clayton, who received the 2016 Clyde Smith Award for her poem "Don't Let Those 6 Principles Go." The award for 'artistic effort and service to making our world a better place' is given to celebrate the life of MLK Westside Coalition co-founder, director of the former Neighborhood Development Corporation (NRDC), and revered community leader Clyde Smith.

SMC sophomore Terrance Chavez Ware, Jr., received the 2016 Saul Morrison Award for his essay "Peace Requires Defeating Injustice." The award for an essay that 'demonstrates a passion for bridge-building, community, and leadership' is presented to honor the memory and efforts of social activist Saul Morrison to secure equal opportunities for everyone.

SMC freshman Brenda De Angel received the 2016 Lillie Bell Blakley Award for her essay "Peace requires Justice." The award for an essay that 'demonstrates an awareness of tradition, legacy, and history' is given in honor of Lillie Bell Blakley, whose passion to "keep moving forward" is apparent in her family's multigenerational commitment to education and service, which includes son and former Mayor of Santa Monica Nathaniel Trives, as well as granddaughter Dr. Toni Trives, chair of the SMC Modern Languages and Cultures Department.

SMC sophomore Damian Tarelle Butts received the MLK Westside Coalition's 2016 First Place Award for his poem "The Non-Violent Way" and his original illustration of Dr. King.

SMC sophomore Chrisauna Chery received a 2016 Honorable Mention Award from the MLK Westside Coalition for her poem "A Plea to Cry over Spilt Milk."

Also, Point Loma High School senior Brooklynn Jade White received a 2016 Honorable Mention Award from the MLK Westside Coalition for her essay on Dr. King's "Six Principles of Nonviolence."

Each year, schools, churches, and youth groups invite college and high school students to submit an essay, poem, or other creative work that exemplifies the "Six Principles of Nonviolence" in Dr. King's Stride Toward Freedom. The awards are supported by endowments established in memory of local community activists and managed by the Santa College Foundation.

SMC student Hobdy-Clayton - who was homeschooled until 11th grade - said, "My dad taught me how to read, and I have embraced literature and expression of such ever since." Despite being told it was not possible, she graduated with honors and poetry awards. "My situations only caused me to strive harder for things that matter most to me."

SMC student Ware - who contributes heavily to his household's food income - states quite firmly that he has "a natural hatred for ignorant situations and people." The first -generation college student plans to earn a Master's degree in accounting and become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

SMC student De Angel - who migrated to the US from Mexico at age 2 - said she believed "nothing is impossible despite my citizenship status." She is a full-time SMC student and a part-time cashier at a near-by amusement park, but is "still able to give back to my community by volunteering for two years at two hospitals."

SMC student Butts - who is involved in SMC's Black Collegians and STEM programs and volunteers as a homework helper at the Boys and Girls Club - is pursuing a career as a software developer. "I'm interested in researching human-computer interactions," he said, "and the challenges of making computers useful, usable, and universally accessible to humans."

SMC student Chery is studying to become a history teacher, and enjoys writing "when the inspiration is present" and creating new experiences with her friends.

For more information or to help support the awards, call the SMC Foundation at (310) 434-4215.

- SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH, SMC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Beach House

New Writer-in-Residence at the Annenberg Community Beach House

The New Year brings events from a new Writer-in-Residence, including interactive talks on the bond between animals and humans in literature, local authors discussing the writing process, and a publishing workshop. Other events include the opening of a new exhibit with a special live music installation.

Jennifer Caloyeras is the seventh Annenberg Community Beach House Writer-in-Residence, and will be working from an office in the Marion Davies Guest House from Jan. 13 to March 12, 2016. Her most recent novel, Strays, explores an incarcerated teen's relationship with a pit bull. In considering the portrayal of animals in literature, she draws upon her experience as a dog columnist for the Los Feliz Ledger, a position she has held since 2005.

Caloyeras' short fiction has appeared in Booth, Storm Cellar and other literary magazines. She holds a M.A. in English from Cal State Los Angeles and a M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of British Columbia. Jennifer's current project is her first adult novel - a mixture of humor and pathos - that explores a mother's journey with her transgendered six-year-old daughter, and the weight of expectations parents place on their children. Her website: jennifercaloyeras.com.

Caloyeras will share her work with three public events, weekly blog posts at beachhouseair.blogspot.com, and open office hours on Mondays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. from through March 7 (except Feb. 15 that is replaced by Thursday Feb. 18.) The public is welcome to stop by and ask her questions about her work, her experience of the residency, or consult her for literary advice (inquire at Guest Services for directions.) For more information, call Guest Services at (310) 458-4904 or visit the Beach House website.

The Beach House is located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, CA 90402 on the west side of Pacific Coast Highway. Enter off PCH at the Beach House Way traffic light. Parking is $3/hr with various daily rates. The park and pay machines in three areas of the parking lot take credit cards and cash. Check annenbergbeachhouse.com for parking details.

For general hours, events and more, visit http://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com or call 310-458-4904. Sign up for the Beach House email list at http://ow.ly/jZvUZ or for more information on Santa Monica Cultural Affairs programs, join the email list at: smgov.net/artsignup

- SUBMITTED BY NAOMI OKUYAMA, CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUPERVISOR

LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

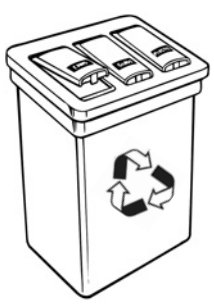
Santa Monica Cares organizations: Bread and Roses Café, directed by Dianne Bartlow; StepUp directed by Jerri Sher, and; Ocean Park Community Center directed by Melanie Wagor. A panel discussion with the film directors and representatives from the organizations follows the screenings. Audience members are invited to join the panel participants for a light mixer following the discussion. This event is free and open to the public with seating on a first come basis. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 - 7:30 p.m.

SMPL Anniversary Celebrations: SM Pier Movie Screenings

Elaina Archer screens and discusses two classic films featuring the Santa Monica Pier. This double feature includes "Tillie's Punctured Romance" (1914) and the Little Rascals film, "Fish Hooky" (1933). Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Wear your PJs for a pajama story time, and then leave your stuffed friend for a night of fun. Return the next day to receive a memento of their sleepover adventures! (One stuffed animal per child.) Space is limited. Ages 4 and up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 - 7:45 p.m.

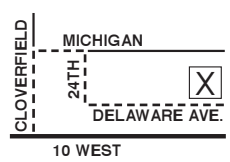


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SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

Applications and letters of interest are invited to fill one unscheduled vacancy on the Santa Monica Rent Control Board for a partial term ending November 2016. The person appointed will serve until the next general election in November 2016.

All persons are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Applicants must be residents and registered voters in the City of Santa Monica.

All interested parties please send applications and/or letters of interest to:

Lonnie Guinn, Board Secretary
City Hall
1685 Main Street, Room 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Applications are due in the Rent Control Board office by 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2016.

Applicants will be invited to make a presentation of up to 5-minutes to the Rent Control Board at a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2016. The Rent Control Board will appoint a new commissioner that evening.

The State Political Reform Act requires board and commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board duties are available from the Rent Control Board Office, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, by phone at (310) 458-8750 or online at www.smgov.net/rentcontrol.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8751.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 10,000 on weekdays and 11,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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SQA Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER



What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jibjab gives employees the old fluff and fold

I HATE DOING LAUNDRY. WHICH IS perhaps why I don't do it. In the past 20 years I have done perhaps three loads of laundry, two of which were emergencies thanks to some dog issue I'm sure. College was the last time I did my own laundry regularly, by which I mean I reached the point of inability to hide it in the closet, and there was no more room for just buying new socks, underwear and the occasional graphic t-shirt. Perhaps that was part of the problem, the task became so overwhelming that it was simply easier to just go shopping than to spend a half a day in a laundromat.

The outsourcing of my laundry has been handled over the years by both housekeepers and by fluff and fold at the local laundry. I find it oddly satisfying to simply drop off a bag of stinky gym clothes and come back the next day to a neatly piled stack of sweet smelling socks and t-shirts.

For years I used Birdies on Pico and Lincoln. I became friends with the staff there. I'd practice my Spanish with Ramon, and learn about life as a young black man trying to survive in this town from Jay. But alas, Birdies has gone the way of the Dodo, mostly thanks to the high cost of water I imagine and the required cutbacks thanks to the drought.

It was odd to see it go, as historically Laundromats are one of the safest and best investments one can make. It's an all cash business, people need to come in regularly, there's lots of disposables for sale like soap, softeners and properly managed it's a fairly simple business to set up and run.

When Birdies closed I had to find a new fluff and fold, so I tried one in town, and in a Goldilocks moment, they used too much soap and it was too perfumey for my sensitivities. Then I found Clean People's Coinless laundry. They're actually the ones who explained to me that Birdies probably went out of business due to the drought restrictions.

I've been using Clean People's for about four months now and I'm happy to share their excellent services. At $1.25 a pound for the fluff and fold, it works out to about the same amount of money that I would have to spend if I did it myself, but I get my clothes back all neatly folded, far neater than I would or could ever do. Plus I don't have to wait around for a spin cycle, or a slow dryer.

As I was picking up my laundry yesterday I noticed that they have a couple dozen laundry bags with the JibJab.com logo on them, and individuals names. I was very intrigued, and it turns out that Clean People's actually has several client companies that have arranged for pickup and delivery of their employees laundry. I reached out to JibJab to find out if they are picking up the tab, and I received a response from Alessandra Souers that it is in fact one of the benefits of working at JibJab. (I wonder if they need columnist…) What a great time saver and awesome employee benefit - kudos to them for thinking of their employees in this unique and useful way.

In the crazy days of the dot com boom, there were many benefits being offered to employees to either steal them away from competitors or to keep them happy. When I was working at GeoCities we had lots of food, fun, beer thrown at us. The idea of keeping the staff happy and well fed is an old one, and a good one, and if adding a concierge service like laundry makes an employee happier, and more likely to stay put, then I can see Clean People's being able to pick up a few additional corporate clients in this town. As we continue to become more of a tech based, youth based economy, the service providers like Clean People's can expect to see continued growth.

For my part, I like that we have companies that are thinking about what will make an employee's life more comfortable. Because those services will filter through society, and make my life easier if I can take advantage of them, like having Clean People come to my office to pick up and drop off my laundry.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Worries over metro safety

Editor:

I am a big fan of the metro but have serious safety concerns, which were reinforced tonight. We were driving south on 6th and stopped at the light at Colorado to make a left turn. When the green arrow appeared, both my wife and I were confused as we saw the marked bike lane and initially thought that was not a car lane. We hesitated but figured it out. As we drove east on Colorado a car heading east obviously did not figure it out as it was driving on the tracks. Worried, but hopeful.

Mark Kaiserman
Santa Monica

Make federal contractors disclose their political contributions now

Editor:

What is the downside to requiring federal contractors to disclose their political contributions? All corporations should be required to publicly disclose their political spending. Shouldn't voters be able to know who's paying for often-misleading political ads?

William Schoene
Santa Monica

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

Santa Monica Forward

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Urban acupuncture, open space, and transforming Santa Monica's public realm

ONE OF THE MAIN DRAWS OF LIVING IN A city is the diversity urban environments offer: diversity of people, architectural styles, transportation modes, housing options, and professional opportunities.

A healthy urban environment also needs a diversity of types of open space, small and large, to create an attractive public realm that invites people out of their homes and cars and into the community.

Sports fields and passive green spaces are a necessary part of the urban fabric, but these types of open space alone aren't enough to create a truly welcoming and inclusive public realm. In fact, one of the most vibrant open spaces in Santa Monica has no green space at all. It is actually the stretch of Arizona Avenue between 2nd Street and 4th Street when it is closed to cars twice a week for the Farmers' Market.

The space, which functions primarily as a thoroughfare for vehicles, transforms into a thriving public square with the placing of a few traffic barriers. It begins to take on a life of its own, however, as people gather to buy their fresh produce, mingle with their neighbors, exchange ideas and news, and create the last phase of Colorado Center to be built, the public open space there provides broad walkways and seating, tennis courts, basketball courts, workout equipment, and a grassy field for all to use and at no expense to the public.

Future projects could emulate and improve on this model, adding active public open space in new and creative ways where it is needed.

"Living alleys" are beginning to take off across the country. These spaces between our buildings provide a perfect opportunity to create spaces for people first. Adding traffic calming measures, trees, and other amenities for people can transform these spaces into welcoming places for people to stroll, kids to play, and neighbors to gather. This isn't a new idea; in fact in the Netherlands, one can find thousands of these "living alleys," called "woonerven" in Dutch.

This can be an especially useful model in places like Wilmont and the eastern end of Mid-City where park space is lacking.

Community gardens, green roofs, and living walls are also vital role in creating a vibrant and healthy public realm.

The above ideas are examples of "urban acupuncture." Individually, each of these projects are relatively small, like the individual acupuncture needle, and relatively cheap, when compared with the cost of building and maintaining a larger green park space. A stretch of alleyway here, a few parking spaces there are each like a single acupuncture needle.

But it's the use of many small needles that heals the body in the practice of acupuncture. Likewise, the each small, strategic redesigning of existing street space into open space combines to transform the whole city into an integrated public realm that welcomes people and builds community.

It's important that we think outside the box as we plan for the Santa Monica of tomorrow. We can reinvent the right-of-way that past generations have so readily surrendered to the car and transform these spaces into a new and reinvigorated public realm.

Laurie Brenner, Simone Gordon, Judy Abdo, Dwight Flowers, Tim Harter, Elena Christopoulos, Richard Brand, Valerie Griffin, Jason Islas, Jerry Rubin, Frederick Zimmerman, Craig Hamilton, Leslie Lambert, Cynthia Rose, and Daniel Shenise for Santa Monica Forward. Read more at santamonicaforward.org.

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TUE

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Palisades Park

New Studio Artist-in-Residence at the Camera Obscura Art Lab

Beginning January 2016, the Camera Obscura Art Lab at 1450 Ocean welcomes new Studio Artist-in-Residence Patricia R. Mitchell, who will be working onsite through April 13, 2016. During her tenure, Mitchell will create prints and images through a variety of techniques with an emphasis on alternative and environmentally safer methods of printmaking. Her special focus will be a multistep project to upholster an inherited piece of furniture with hand-printed fabric using traditional woodblock printing and photo transfers. Mitchell's work investigates the intersections of medium and content, with an emphasis on feminist themes and the commercial use of printmaking.

"The mass-produced printed image has long been an integral part of the home, and wallpaper, fabrics, kitchen items, etc. have long been part of the feminine domain. My work investigates the dual roles inherent in the nature of printmaking; its commercial and fine art applications, and its sometimes contradictory roles in contemporary 'women's work.' For this residency, I envision creating a tapestry of printed imagery that becomes both a landscape and portraiture, continuing my ongoing investigation into the connection between inner and outer worlds," said Mitchell.

Mitchell is a visual artist living and working in downtown Los Angeles. She has been making art for over 20 years, and was a printer at Gemini G.E.L. where she worked with artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Elizabeth Murray and Richard Serra. She was a professor at Kendall College of Art and Design where she ran the Fine Art Printmaking department for four years. In addition to her studio practice she currently makes props for motion picture and television. More information at patriciarmitchell.com.

The Camera Obscura Studio Artist Residency program connects the public with artists and artisans working within and between the worlds of fine art and craft. Artists-in-residence share their work with the public informally and through workshops and master classes.

Located at 1450 Ocean Ave, Camera Obscura is open Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. & Sat 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information call (310) 458-2239, email communityclasses@smgov.net or visit http://smgov.net/camera

- SUBMITTED BY NAOMI OKUYAMA, CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUPERVISOR

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Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press

Citywide

Residents can apply for $3,000 for earthquake safety

California homeowners have through February 20 to apply for up to $3,000 in funding for retrofits to protect their homes from catastrophic earthquake damage. The Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program has opened the registration period for $4.8 million in seismic retrofit funds, including $3 million from the State of California.

The California Earthquake Authority (CEA) estimates that more than 1.2 million houses in high-hazard areas in Northern and Southern California are particularly vulnerable to earthquakes because of the type of construction. These are pre-1979 houses that aren't bolted to their foundations, include a crawl space and have unbraced "cripple walls" (low walls between the foundation and first floor). In a strong earthquake, the crawl space is vulnerable to collapse, causing the home to slide off its foundation.

In the relatively moderate 6.0-magnitude Napa earthquake of August 2014, houses with this type of damage received estimates of up to $300,000 for repairs including lifting the house while the foundation is rebuilt.

For this type of home, retrofits can be a relatively simple and cost-effective way to reduce the risk of catastrophic damage. Typical retrofits cost between $2,000 and $10,000 and involve bolting a house to its foundation and adding bracing around the perimeter of the crawl space.

"You wouldn't feel safe driving a car that has no seat belts, and you shouldn't feel safe living in a house that hasn't been bolted to its foundation," said Janiele Maffei, Chief Mitigation Officer of CEA and Executive Director of EBB. "To protect their families and most valuable asset, all Californians should ensure their homes are properly braced and bolted."

In June 2015, the California legislature passed and Governor Jerry Brown signed a budget allocating $3 million to bring the EBB program to more homeowners in earthquake-prone areas across California during 2016. The $3 million comes in addition to $1.8 million in funding from the California Earthquake Authority's Loss Mitigation Fund.

The 2016 program is available for homes in more than 100 ZIP codes in 18 cities including Los Angeles, Santa Monica and West Hollywood.

Registration is open from today through February 20. Eligible homeowners can apply for funding to retrofit their homes at EarthquakeBraceBolt.com, where they can find information on the specific type of retrofit including videos, program rules and the full list of eligible ZIP codes.

"Our communities will recover more quickly after a major earthquake if this type of structural damage is prevented and people can remain in their homes," said Tina Curry, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. "We are proud to be a partner with CEA in this important effort to make homes safer and increase community resilience."

"We know that cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles are aggressively preparing for the next big one, but the State of California is also stepping up," said Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco), who authored a bill last year that helped with the successful effort to secure $3 million in additional funding for EBB. "We will continue working to support and expand initiatives to strengthen our homes against earthquakes that are a fact of life in California."

"Retrofitting single family homes is an important part of San Francisco's 30-year earthquake safety implementation program," said Patrick Otellini, San Francisco's Chief Resilience Officer. "For San Francisco residents with vulnerable homes, the relatively small cost of a retrofit is the single best thing they can do to protect their investment. We urge them to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the Earthquake Brace + Bolt program."

EBB is working to build awareness and momentum for residential retrofits. It promotes the use of standard plan sets, works with local planning departments to streamline the permitting process, and encourages contractors to become trained in seismic retrofits.

EBB's website offers a list of contractors who have successfully completed FEMA seismic retrofit training. Ninety-five percent of program retrofits are completed by contractors listed in the EBB Directory. Contractors interested in doing residential retrofits are encouraged to register on the EBB website and complete the free training available there. As of December 31, 2015, more than 400 contractors had completed the FEMA retrofit course, up from 140 a year earlier.

Established by the California Residential Mitigation Program, EBB offers up to $3,000 to help California homeowners retrofit their houses to reduce potential damage from earthquakes. A residential seismic retrofit makes a house more resistant to earthquake activity, such as ground shaking and soil failure, by bolting the house to its foundation and adding bracing around the perimeter of the crawl space. For more information, please visit http://www.EarthquakeBraceBolt.com.

CRMP was established in 2011 to help Californians strengthen their homes against damage from earthquakes. CRMP is a joint powers authority created by the California Earthquake Authority and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. For more information, please visit http://www.CaliforniaResidentialMitigationProgram.com.

- SUBMITTED BY PAUL M. SHERER

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AUDIT

FROM PAGE 1

minor with a fiscal impact of less than $10,000, according to Marcy Fimbres, who detailed the issue to the local Board of Education at its meeting Jan. 21.

Districts are shouldering more responsibility in handling state education money through the Local Control Funding Formula, which is based on part on attendance figures, student participation in free and reduced-price meal applications and levels of student involvement in English language learning programs.

Looking at data for a sampling of 21 students at Santa Monica High School, Fimbres said, accountants found an error in how one student was categorized. Analysis led the firm to believe that the same error could have affected the tracking of as many as 31 students.

The issue likely occurred because the timelines for reporting student enrollment in school lunch programs are different at the state and national levels, Fimbres said. The district submits data for the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) as well as to the federal government.

The district's chief financial officer, Jan Maez, said the district will get back to the state on how it plans to improve on reporting student data in the future.

"It was just a mistake or oversight," she said. "I think it was learning and an interpretation of ... the free and reduced meal program, what the timing is, because there are different timeframes. We need to be able to reconcile that and make sure we're accurately reporting on our CALPADS."

NEW EXPENDITURES TOP $1.3 MILLION

The school board on Thursday approved nearly $1.4 million in new purchase orders and an additional $390,000 in facility expenses.

The consent calendar includes a payment of $500,000 to Pillsbury for legal counsel. The district has spent millions of dollars on consultants and legal fees since the discovery of polychlorinated biphenyls at Malibu campuses more than two years ago. Malibu activists and SMMUSD critics have said they believe replacing the contaminated materials would have been less expensive.

Also on the list of new purchase orders is $296,000 for rolling window shades, which are being installed across the district in an attempt to control classroom temperatures.

The list of new purchase orders also includes $45,000 to Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP for legal fees; $42,000 for graphic calculators at Samohi; an additional $40,000 in legal fees to Orbach Huff Suarez & Henderson LLP; $26,000 for a Yosemite science program for John Adams Middle School students; $25,000 for ballroom dance instruction; $22,000 for bus repairs; $20,000 for valuation of the Doubletree hotel, which sits on district property; and $13,000 for a new Malibu High School website.

The list of facility-related costs includes more than $110,000 to Apple for technology and curriculum services and nearly $107,000 to NSI LLC for software support.

jeff@smdp.com

COOKIE

FROM PAGE 1

entrepreneurs, " Gold said. "I have seen girls that have been so shy they could not look you in the eye. And then they get behind a booth and say 'Do you want to buy Girl Scout Cookies?' And it's hard to say that, and these girls just do it. And people will ask them about the program and then they just light up."

Communications manager for Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, Melanie Larsen, said a big reason the Cookie Program is so important to the organization is it develops the girls' financial literacy.

"Studies have shown that girls are really interested in learning how to manage money, but only 12 percent of girls say they are confident in making financial decisions," Larsen said. "We need to empower girls in making business and finance decisions."

Larsen said there are 27 financial literacy and Girl Scout Cookie Program badges Girl Scouts can earn, including: Money Manager, Philanthropist, Cookie CEO, Business Owner, Savvy Shopper, Budgeting, Business Plan, Customer Loyalty, Financing My Future, Good Credit, On My Own, P & L, and more.

The Cookie Program also funds STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activities, camps and field trips for the girls; as well as Girl Scout-funded community service projects.

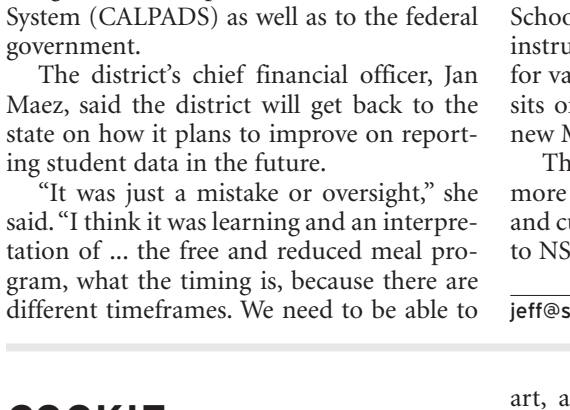
"I would say it's a feel good treat buying Girl Scout Cookies," Larsen said. "It's helping girls gain really important life skills: goal setting, business ethics. You're also providing support for girls leadership programs. You're really empowering girls. And the Greater Los Angeles girls specifically. So when you buy Girl Scout Cookies, you're really investing in your community and projects that improve the community."

Girl Scouts use a direct sale model for the whole season, meaning girls have cookies in-hand from the start. Starting on Jan. 24, the girls grabbed their wagons, or "cookie mobiles," and headed door-to-door to start selling to friends and family.

Booth sales in front of local storefronts will begin Feb. 5 and go through March 6. To find a cookie booth near you visit girlscoutcookies.org.

There are seven Girl Scout Cookies offered this year including Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, Do-si-Dos, Savannah Smiles and Rah-Rah Raisin. For the second year in a row, Girl Scouts in Greater Los Angeles is also offering the gluten-free Toffee-tastic cookie. Girl Scout Cookies are $5 a box, except for the gluten-free Toffee-tastic, which is $6.

jennifer@smdp.com









SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.4°**

TUESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
The old WNW swell fades out, while long period energy of a new WNW swell starts to creep in - possible larger sets showing before dark. New but very small SW swell. Good AM wind.

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high
New WNW swell fills in further with larger 3-4' sets at standouts in the PM. Very small SW swell. Good AM wind. Incoming tide early.

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Holding WNW swell, larger 3-5' sets at standout spots. Minor SW swell. Good AM wind. Incoming tide in the AM.

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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 DECEMBER 12, 2015, AT ABOUT 10:20 A.M.

Officers responded to Bloomingdale's at Santa Monica Place for a purse theft investigation. A male black adult suspect, Eugene Baird, parked his vehicle on Colorado Ave with the hazard lights on, entered the department store, cut the security cable to several Tori Burch handbags, and ran out of the store to his awaiting car. The suspect then drove away at a high rate of speed. An observant Big Blue Bus driver saw the suspicious activity and provided the license plate of the getaway vehicle to police. Santa Monica detectives believed the man was the same theft suspect from a Bloomingdale's July 2015 incident. Follow up on the license plate revealed it was a rented vehicle. The rental car company assisted with the identity of the renter who was confirmed as the purse thief in both incidents. The suspect was found and arrested during the execution of a search and arrest warrant at his home in Los Angeles on January 14, 2016. No bail was set.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 353 calls for service on Jan 24.

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

Family disturbance, 2400 block of Virginia, 12:04 a.m.
Fight, 3rd Street Prom/Wilshire, 12:58 a.m.
Party complaint, 2800 block of Delaware, 1:11 a.m.
DUI, 300 block of Olympic Dr, 1:17 a.m.
Hit and run, 5th/Arizona, 1:53 a.m.
Battery, Main/Hill, 2:22 a.m.
Death, 300 block of 17th, 6:38 a.m.
Disturbance at a business, 2700 block of Santa Monica, 6:52 a.m.
Vandalism, 1000 block of 19th, 8:58 a.m.
Critical missing person, 1500 block of Ocean Front, 8:59 a.m.
Disturbance at a business, 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom, 9:44 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 300 block of Pico, 9:56 a.m.
Vandalism, 1300 block of Idaho, 10:47 a.m.
Indecent exposure, 800 block of Palisades, 11:07 a.m.
Threats, 700 block of Santa Monica, 11:12 a.m.
Battery, 1400 block of 4th, 11:37 a.m.
Burglary report, 800 block of 5th, 12:24 p.m.
Traffic collision, 6th/Santa Monica, 1:10 p.m.
Assault report, 3000 block of Main, 1:39 p.m.
Traffic collision, Main/Hollister, 2:20 p.m.
Traffic collision, 4th/Colorado, 2:31 p.m.
Domestic violence, 1700 block of Delaware, 2:54 p.m.
DUI, 3400 block of Ocean Park, 3:29 p.m.
Vandalism, 300 block of San Vicente, 3:32 p.m.
Critical missing person, 1300 block of 17th, 3:36 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 1400 block of 2nd, 4:04 p.m.
Hit and run, 1300 block of Wilshire, 5:05 p.m.
Critical missing person, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 5:33 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1300 block of Wilshire, 5:43 p.m.
Battery, 14th/Wilshire, 6:07 p.m.
Disturbance of the peace, Main/Olympic Dr, 7:39 p.m.
Suspicious vehicle, 10th/Broadway, 9:18 p.m.
Family disturbance, 16th/Pearl, 9:37 p.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 1200 block of 3rd Street Prom, 10:08 p.m.
Public intoxication, 300 block of California, 10:28 p.m.
Vandalism, 300 block of Olympic Dr, 10:33 p.m.
Family disturbance, 800 block of 6th, 10:40 p.m.
Suspicious person, 1900 block of Ocean Way, 10:59 p.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold, 1500 block of Yale, 11:28 p.m.
DUI, 12th/Marguerita, 11:37 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 27 calls for service on Jan. 24.

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

Automatic alarm, 2300 block of Broadway, 1:12 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of Ocean, 2:00 a.m.
EMS, Main/Ashland, 2:22 a.m.
EMS, 1500 block of 6th, 6:08 a.m.
EMS, 300 block of 17th, 6:28 a.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 7th, 6:30 a.m.
EMS, 3300 block of Barnard, 7:47 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 11th, 8:29 a.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 6th, 9:04 a.m.
EMS, 500 block of Olympic, 12:01 p.m.
EMS, 600 block of Pico, 12:07 p.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 9th, 12:19 p.m.
EMS, 16th/Santa Monica, 1:14 p.m.
EMS, 600 block of Santa Monica, 1:33 p.m.
EMS, 100 block of Hart, 1:47 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of Olympic, 2:15 p.m.
EMS, 4th/Colorado, 2:30 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Ocean, 2:53 p.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Delaware, 3:02 p.m.
Elevator rescue, 1400 block of 4th, 3:58 p.m.
Elevator rescue, 2700 block of Neilson, 5:30 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 1000 block of 6th, 6:03 p.m.
EMS, 1900 block of Pico, 6:46 p.m.
EMS, 600 block of Ocean, 6:52 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 1000 block of 6th, 7:07 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 12th, 7:10 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 14th, 8:00 p.m.

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CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

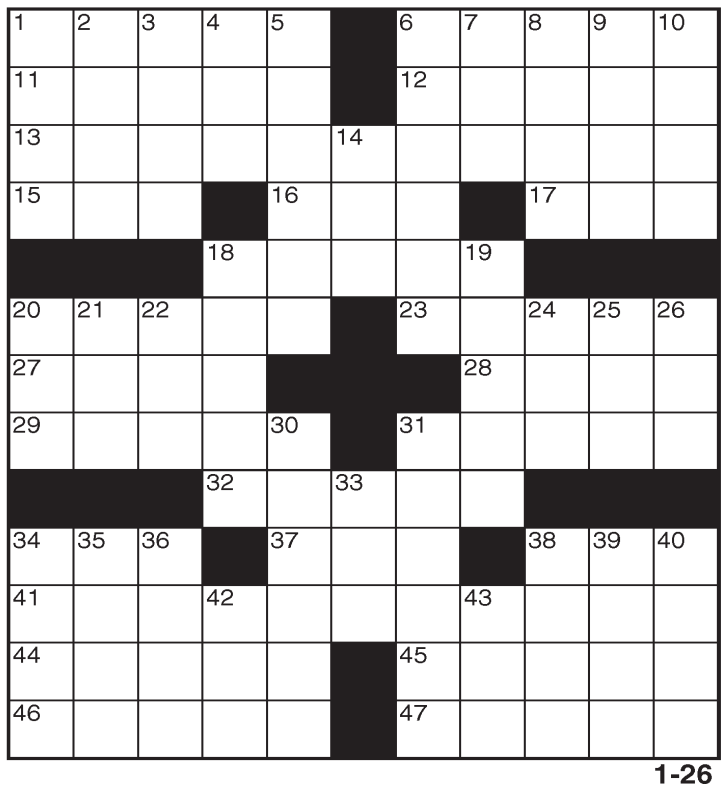
ACROSS
1 Stylishly quaint
6 Esau's twin
11 Mermaid's home
12 Bush's successor
13 Meredith Wilson show
15 Junior, to senior
16 Major no-no
17 Early hour
18 Spells
20 Two-faced god
23 Judge's wear
27 Midterm, for one
28 Yen
29 Credit's opposite
31 Play setting
32 Reagan nickname
34 Cry loudly
37 Gettys-burg loser
38 Pub pint
41 Billy Joel nickname
44 Like bar beer
45 Leaning
46 Fence supports
47 Transmits

DOWN
1 Goes bad
2 Canyon sound
3 New driver, often
4 Flock father
5 Burdens
6 Door frame maker
7 "Modern Family" network
8 Hunting garb, for short
9 Yemen neighbor
10 Cause of ruin
14 Caret's key
18 Like a green-house
19 Compass point
20 One of the Clampetts
21 Log chopper
22 Collar
24 Lingerie item
25 Nest item
26 Look upon
30 Dutch blooms
31 Fra-grances
33 Brewed beverage
34 Halt
35 "Dear me!"
36 Wagers
38 Grace finish
39 Touch down
40 Finishes
42 Touch lightly
43 Bauxite, for one

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

Yesterday's answer

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



1-26

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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 ★★

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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 1/23
22 32 34 40 69
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 75M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/22
21 25 40 46 56
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 48M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/23
12 14 22 30 32
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 11M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/24
17 20 29 30 33

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/24
MIDDAY: 0 5 6
Draw Date: 1/24
EVENING: 6 8 0

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/24
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:44.86

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WORD UP!

cupidity
1. eager or excessive desire, especially to possess something; greed; avarice.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1956 – Soviet Union hands Porkkala back to Finland.
1958 – Japanese ferry Nankai Maru capsizes off southern Awaji Island, Japan, 167 killed.
1960 – Danny Heater sets a worldwide high school basketball scoring record when he records 135 points for Burnsville High School (West Virginia)
1961 – John F. Kennedy appoints Janet G. Travell to be his physician. This is the first time a woman holds the appointment of Physician to the President.
1962 – Ranger program: Ranger 3 is launched to study the Moon. The space probe later misses the moon by 22,000 miles (35,400 km).
1965 – Hindi becomes the official language of India.
1966 – The Beaumont Children go missing from Glenelg Beach near Adelaide, South Australia.
1978 – The Great Blizzard of 1978, a rare severe blizzard with the lowest non-tropical atmospheric pressure ever recorded in the US until October 2010, strikes the Ohio – Great Lakes region with heavy snow and winds up to 100 mph (161 km/h).
1980 – Israel and Egypt establish diplomatic relations.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Weird News One Can Actually Use: In November, a perhaps-exasperated Centers for Disease Control attempted once again to tout a startlingly effective anti-HIV drug -- after a recent survey revealed that a third of primary-care doctors said they had never heard of it. So, FYI: Truvada, taken once a day, said the CDC, gives "better than 90 percent" protection from risky gay sex and better than 70 percent protection from HIV acquired from the sharing of needles. Truvada is the only FDA-approved retroviral drug for retarding HIV (but its maker, Gilead Sciences, has declined to advertise it for that purpose).

■ Oklahoma Justice: In 2004, abusive boyfriend Robert Braxton Jr. was charged with badly beating up the three children of girlfriend Tondalo Hall, 20, with injuries ranging from bruises to fractured legs, ribs and a toe. Braxton got a deal from Oklahoma City prosecutors, pleaded guilty, served two years in prison, and was released in 2006. Hall's plea "bargain" resulted in a 30-year sentence for having failed to protect her kids from Braxton, and she's still in prison -- and in September 2015 (following a rejected appeal and a rejected sentence modification), the Pardon and Parole Board refused, 5-0, even to commute her sentence to a time-served 10 years.

Be near music tonight, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Your efficiency and graciousness will be tested. You simultaneously could offer your assistance to both a friend and a loved one. You might decide that the facts are being misrepresented. Deal with anger directly, and you will feel better. Tonight: Out late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your creativity saves the day. You might see a confusing situation emerge around a friendship. The facts seems to change, depending on who is telling the story. A close loved one easily could lose his or her temper. Tonight: Remain gracious, no matter what happens.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ There is no way around a problem; you must find the right path. The information you're receiving might be far from correct. Ask the right questions, and you will get answers. You will need to learn the lay of the land, and then you'll know what to do. Tonight: Head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You'll make an extraordinary effort to communicate with someone who can be vague and difficult. Your ability to figure out what's going on will emerge. Don't ignore common sense and straight facts. Tonight: Keep asking questions about what you are seeing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You could see a somewhat deceptive situation evolve. A key person is telling you only what he or she wants you to know. Lie low, if you can, and wait for more information. A solution will appear, given some time. Tonight: Decide if you can afford a new household item.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your energy is at its peak. Focus on key matters that need to be cleared up. You will accomplish a lot of work as a result. A loved one might add a very caring tone to your day. Be careful with someone you don't know very well. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ You don't often let others take the lead, but right now you are inclined to do just that. Avoid channeling your disappointment into a shopping spree or some other kind of overindulgence that helps you forget what ails you. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You know what you want. You are willing to fight, cajole or manipulate in order to make a goal possible. Your sense of direction makes it nearly impossible to stop you. A loved one might be feeding you the lines you want to hear, but is not being authentic. Tonight: Be near music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your performance counts far more now than your ideas and leadership skills do. You might be disappointed that you are not being appreciated. Look at the situation positively. Your instincts are right-on. You have no control over how others think. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take an overview and, with newfound detachment, again look at a situation that is affecting your home life. You could be surprised by how close you are to manifesting a special offer or opportunity. Don't stop. Go full speed ahead. Tonight: Brainstorm with a buddy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ One-on-one relating marks your day. For this reason alone, you'll have a big smile on your face. Your instincts about a relationship and how you project yourself will help you hit a home run. Someone could be angrier than you had thought possible. Tonight: Make nice.

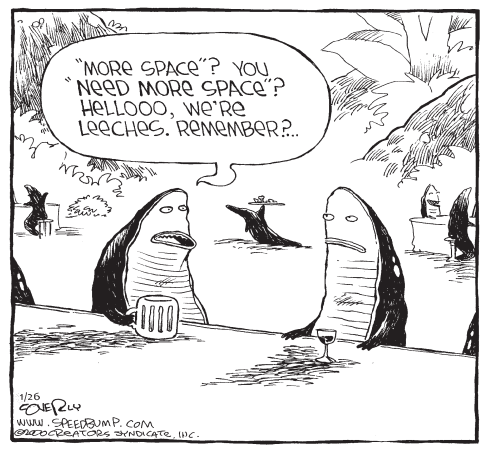
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ The smart move is to defer to someone else. You might not agree with this person, but you still should listen to what he or she has to say. Consider the ramifications of heading down your present path. Just because it's not your way doesn't mean it's the wrong way. Tonight: Say "yes."

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

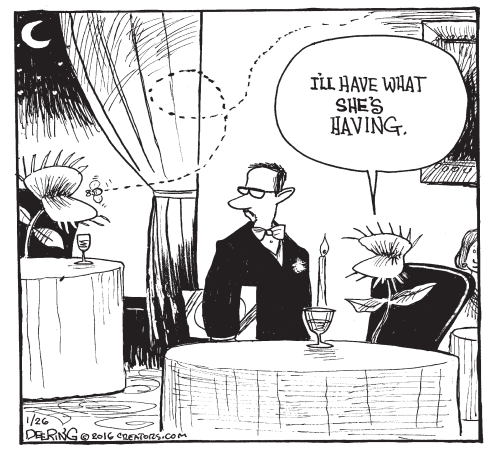
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year the quality of your interpersonal relationships becomes an even higher priority than it has been in past years. You will fight for what you want, to the point of causing a problem in the long run. Careful. Your leadership skills come to the forefront. If you are single, your charisma speaks for itself. You will have many admirers; which one will you choose? If you are attached, the two of you have a memorable year together. Your bond not only endures, but it also strengthens. The two of you will plan a special trip or vacation together. VIRGO is fussy, but you understand him or her well.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



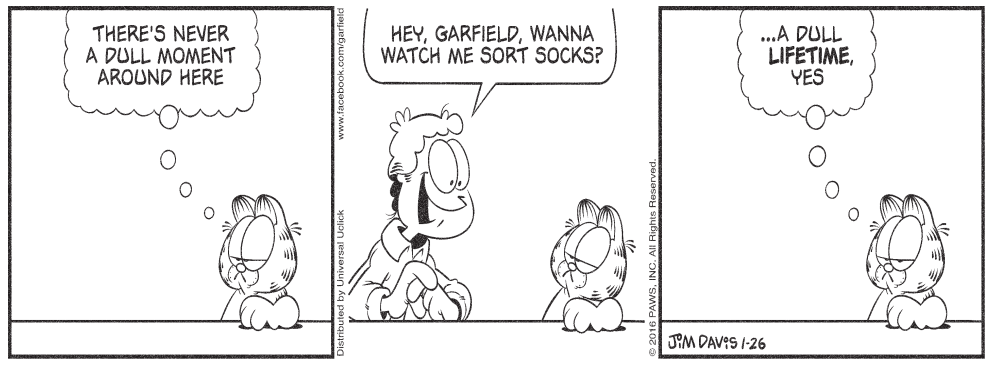
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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



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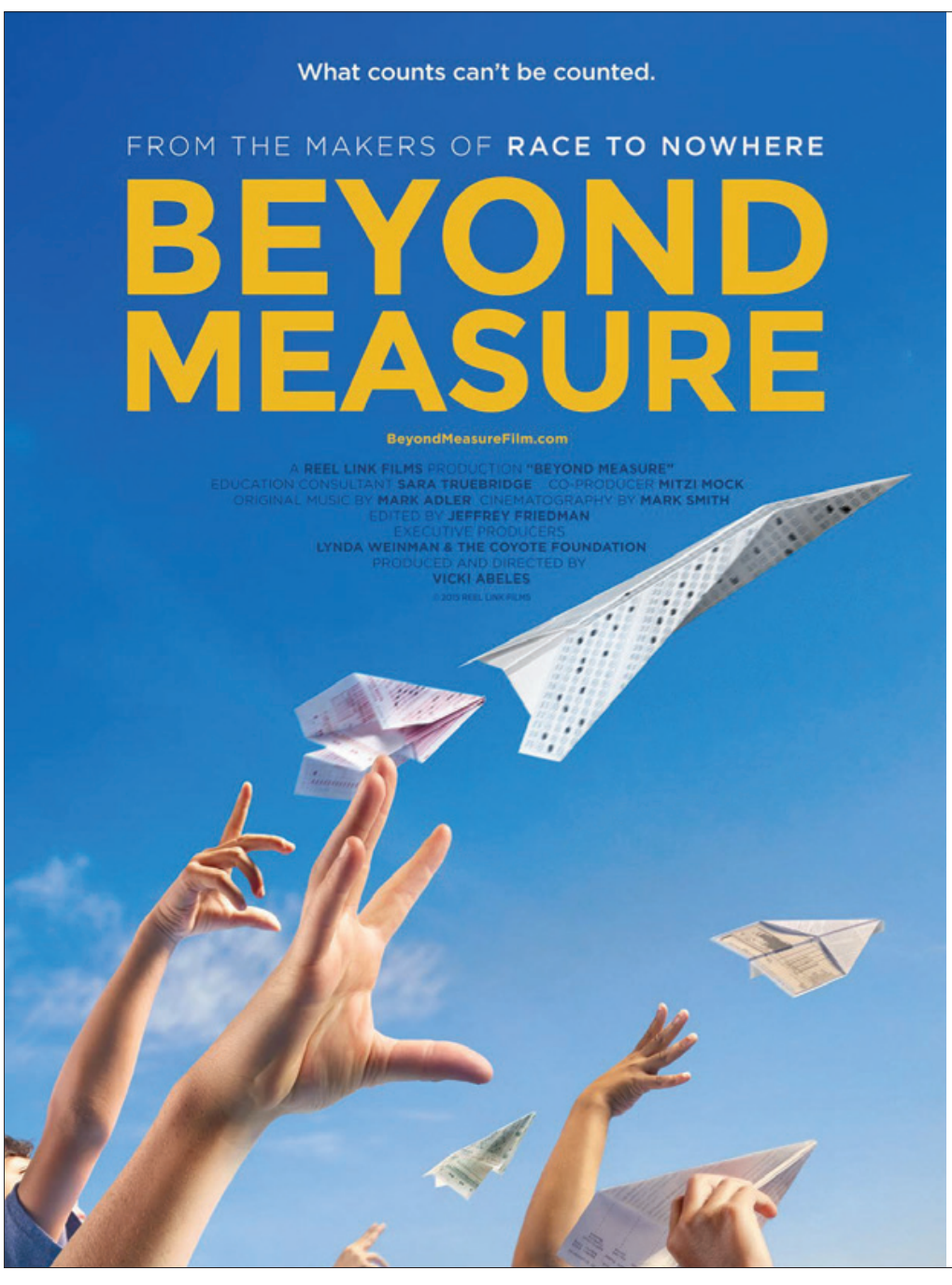
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FROM THE MAKERS OF RACE TO NOWHERE

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