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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY
01.28.16
Volume 15 Issue 62

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE .....PAGE 2
PLANETARIUM SCHEDULE .....PAGE 3
TALES FROM HI DE HO .....PAGE 4
LETTER TO THE EDITOR .....PAGE 5
MYSTERY PHOTO .....PAGE 9

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ST. MONICA VICTORY

Morgan Genser

The St. Monica High School girls varsity basketball team hosted St. Jose's in a Camino Real League basketball game and won 48-46 to improve to 4-0 in league play and 15-5 overall. Pictured are Elena Kostadinov, Molly Tomlin, Sara Gobrial and Gloria Scipioni.

The park with no name

Council postpones naming of buffer park

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

It's not quite back to the drawing board for the name of buffer park, but naming the facility is back in the community's hands.

The City Council declined to officially name the park at their Jan. 26 meeting. Instead, they asked staff to return at a later date with a proposal that would officially name buffer park and also rename Stewart Park in a simultaneous motion.

The double naming was proposed as a compromise that would hopefully allow the City to recognize two local veterans, both of whom had been suggested as potential namesakes for the buffer park project.

The park was created to separate the residential neighborhood along Exposition Boulevard from the new

SEE **PARK** PAGE 6



Andrew Dale

GOOD AUDIENCE

Legendary comedian, writer, singer, and dancer Dick Van Dyke surprised students at Lincoln Middle School when he attended their production of Mary Poppins. Van Dyke played Bert in the classic Hollywood production and was invited to the show by the grandparents of Ethan Dale, the student portraying Bert in the school production. Van Dyke gave the kids notes backstage after and even sang "Let's Go Fly a Kite" with the cast. Lincoln Middle School Drama is guided creatively by Theatre31 and funded through generous donations from parents and the Lincoln PTSA as well as a grant from SMMEF.



SMMUSD mulling turf replacement projects

Talks accentuated by community concerns about crumb rubber

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

On a recent tour of Airport Park, Santa Monica-Malibu school district officials got what might have been a glimpse into the future.

SEE **TURF** PAGE 7

How the Porter Ranch gas leak affects SMMUSD

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Behind the scenes, officials in the Santa Monica-Malibu school district's transportation department do what they can to have school buses running smoothly and on time. Sometimes, weather or traffic conditions on Pacific Coast Highway cause route delays.

SEE **GAS** PAGE 7

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WISE & Healthy Aging is a nonprofit social services organization.

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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 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.

Friday, Jan. 29

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.

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

Ashland Hill 1 Year Anniversary
In honor of their first anniversary, Ashland Hill is giving away the house with $1 House Drafts, as well as food and wine specials. There will be a toast to AH at 10:30 p.m. 2807 Main St., 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.

Fireside at the Miles - The Colonials Present: An Evening of Shakespeare
$10 for general admission, $5 for youth age 18 and under, adults age 55 and over and students of any age. 1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 - 10 p.m.

"Private Eyes," a play by Steven Dietz
This is a comedy of suspicion in which nothing is ever quite what it seems.

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

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

CORRECTION
In a photo caption this week, the Daily Press misidentified the school affiliation of a soccer player. Antonia Fuller attends Beverly Hills. Goalie Morgan Affleck attends Santa Monica High School.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown

Santa Monica Place celebrates the Year Of The Monkey

Santa Monica Place celebrates the Year of the Monkey with a Lunar New Year Celebration held on February 12 from 3 - 7 p.m. and February 13 from 1:30 - 4 p.m. and 5:30 - 8 p.m. The Lunar New Year Festival is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.santamonicaplace.com.

"Lunar New Year is special to both our international tourists and local guests," says Shoshana Puccia, Senior Manager, Marketing, Santa Monica Place. "We are thrilled to incorporate the significance of this holiday into Santa Monica Place's shopping experience and this celebration will bring the community together and delight both children and adults."

Also known as the Spring Festival, the Lunar New Year celebration will feature entertainment and presentations based on authentic Chinese traditions including:

The Traditional Dragon Dance will feature 17 performers accompanied by traditional drums.

Live music entertainment by a Chinese classical musical duo using native instruments such as the dizi (bamboo flute), yangqin (butterfly harp) and guzheng (long zither).

Korean Fan Dancers performing traditional dances that represent peace and tranquility. Similar to the Rockettes, the Korean Fan Dance features precise movements by many dancers at once, who combine to create one big connected flow of movement.

Chinese Stilt Walkers dressed in genuine decorative costumes engaging with guests.

A New Year's Wish Tree provides guests an opportunity to write their New Year wishes on a card to be placed in a red envelope then hung on the branches of the tree. Wishes can be purchased for $2 and all proceeds will benefit Families with Children from China Southern California (FCC SoCal), a non-profit organization that is an advocate for adoptive families throughout the Greater Los Angeles area and Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Crafts where children will be able to create and decorate Lunar New Year themed crafts.

A Balloon Twister will make monkeys out of balloons

The Chinese Dough Art artist will mold human and animal figures from clay or glutinous rice flour (a very popular folk art in both urban and rural areas of China).

A Festive Photo Backdrop will be available for guests to capture the magic of the Lunar New Year Festival.

Red Envelopes filled with special offers from participating stores and restaurants.

Live entertainment, cultural presentations and interactive crafts will take place in Center Plaza located on Level 1. For questions about this year's Lunar New Year Celebration log onto www.santamonicaplace.com/lunarnewyear, text the Concierge at (310) 499-2928 or download our Mobile App.

For more information, visit www.SantaMonicaPlace.com.

- SUBMITTED BY CARMEN HERLIHY, M. CRAIG AND ASSOCIATES

Pico Blvd.

Latest Comet News And Gemini 50-Year Retrospective at SMC planetarium

The Santa Monica College John Drescher Planetarium invites you to two feature shows - as well as their popular Night Sky Show - on Friday evenings in February.

The evening events are at 8 p.m. and are preceded by **"The Night Sky Show"** at 7 p.m., offering the latest news in astronomy and space exploration, a family-friendly "tour" of the constellations, and the chance to ask astronomy-related questions.

THE FEBRUARY EVENTS ARE:

"Rosetta and Comet 67P" on Feb. 5. Come review the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission and find out what we've learned about comets, the icy emissaries from the outermost reaches of our solar system.

"Gemini 7 and 6: When We Pulled Ahead in the Space Race - 50-Year Retrospective" on Feb. 19 and 26. Our Project Gemini 50-year retrospective will examine the long-endurance flight of Gemini 7-which was punctuated by the twice-delayed launch of Gemini 6 and a space rendezvous-in historical context, with a personal perspective from our lecturer.

The John Drescher Planetarium, which features a Digistar projection system, is located near the elevators on the second floor of Drescher Hall (1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica). Tickets are available at the door and cost $11 ($9 seniors and children) for the evening's scheduled "double bill," or $6 ($5 seniors age 60+ and children age 12 and under) for a single Night Sky or feature show or telescope-viewing session.

For information, please call (310) 434-3005 or see www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or www.smc.edu/planetarium. All shows subject to change or cancellation without notice.

- GRACE SMITH

LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

General admission $23, senior/student $20. 2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30

Coding for Kids!

Code is used to make computers do whatever you want. Learn what you can create! You'll be writing JavaScript, a real coding language, before you know it. Limited space; call to pre-register. Presented by Sylvia Aguiñaga. Grades 3 - 5. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 10 - 11 a.m.

VITA Tax Assistance

VITA at UCLA is a non-profit organization and will be providing free tax services to the community. Qualified volunteers will help you file your 2016 Federal and California tax returns and provide tax consultation. For more information, please visit their site at www.usac.ucla.edu/vita. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

New SAT Practice Test

The SAT is changing in March 2016! This practice test will help you be prepared. Proctored by C2 Education. Limited space; call to pre-register. Grades 9 - 11. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 1 - 5 p.m.

NOMA Annual Meeting

Featured on the program will be Rick Cole, who will reflect on his first months on the job as Santa Monica's new City Manager and answer audience questions, and a panel discussion on the plans for downtown Santa Monica currently being considered in the Downtown Specific Plan. Members of the panel will include Planning Commission Chair Richard McKinnon; Ron Goldman FAIA, architect from SMa.r.t. and NOMA resident; and Kathleen Rawson, CEO of Downtown Santa Monica. Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave., 2 - 5 p.m.

An Armchair Visit to Gardens of Britain

Take a virtual journey with professional tour guide, Sheila Stone, as she shares images of Royal Botanical gardens, cozy cottage gardens, surprising rooftop gardens, and intimate hidden gardens across Britain. This event is free and all ages are welcome. Space is limited and on a first-arrival basis. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 - 4:45 p.m.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Utility Undergrounding and Excavation Construction-Citywide
RFB1004UUC

The City of Santa Monica is soliciting bids for construction rates related to a multi-phased project with incremental utility undergrounding and excavation for a term of 5 years. Parties shall submit construction rate Bid Schedule and Cost Proposal for project phase representative of average construction work order per bid instructions. Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2016, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
None

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,500,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 1825

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **General "A" and Class C-10 Electrical Contractor license at the time of bid submission.** Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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CNPA AWARD WINNER

SQA Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

Geoffrey Wood Patterson II Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Living Level - 3



Courtesy Image

IRAQ: Joshua Dysart has created a comic about the humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

AN L-3 EMERGENCY IS THE UN classification for the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises. The decision to designate an L-3 emergency is based on multiple criteria: scale, urgency, complexity of the needs, and the lack of domestic capacity to respond. At the time of this writing WFP was responding to five simultaneous L-3s: Syria, South Sudan, C.A.R., Iraq, and the West African Ebola outbreak.

Additionally, WFP is responding to emergencies in DRC, Ukraine, Boko Haram affected areas, Libya, Yemen, and the Horn of Africa. Taken as a whole, it is incredibly taxing time for the global humanitarian community and funding shortfalls threaten a reduction of activities in several severely stressed regions.

Joshua Dysart is a comic book author who recently spent time in the Iraq L-3 (His third time in a warzone) and has written a comic about the experience of life under the L-3 designation.

Q: What is your comic, "Living Level-3: Iraq," about?

A: It's about the intersection of several lives in the Level-3 Emergency Zone of Northern Iraq. A Level-3 Emergency is the highest UN designated degree of social disruption a community can experience. There are currently five Level-3's in the world, a sobering fact, and they are stressing the global humanitarian response apparatus. Our story follows a young female American aid worker new to the World Food Programme (the organization that sponsored the book). It also follows a Kurdish family fleeing their town of Sinjar as Da'esh (ISIS) rides in. Their daughter and son are kidnapped, and we tell the story of the captive children as well. The structure of the comic book is fiction, but every single story in it is true.

Q: How did you come about being hired to write this comic?

A: I was contacted by the World Food Programme through a friend of mine, a fellow comic book writer named Andi Parks. I knew immediately that I was the person for this job. I had spent a month in East Africa in 2007 interviewing, in part, child soldiers for a graphic novel series I did for Vertigo called "Unknown Soldier," I think that might have helped get me the job too.

Q: How long did you spend in Iraq? Where?

A: I was in Northern Iraq, in the Kurdish region, for five days. I landed in Erbil, then traveled to Dahouk. Then we went to the Turkish border, pressed on to the Syrian border, and then came back skirting Mosul for reasons both tragic and obvious. We stopped at refugee and displaced persons camps and temporary shelters all along the way, interviewing Kurds and Arabs, Syrians and Iraqis, Christians and Muslims and Yazidi.

Q: What were the most powerful stories you heard during your time in Iraq?

A: They are all powerful. There are nearly three million displaced people in Northern Iraq. They are either fleeing the war in Syria or the rise of Da'esh in Iraq. Every single one of those people has a story of loss to tell. Da'esh has taken everything from them. They have taken their homes, cleaned out their bank accounts, stolen their daughters and murdered their sons. The stories are relentless.

Q: Were there moments where you felt in danger?

A: No. I was traveling inside the UN: WFP security bubble. None of us had any guns or anything, WFP travels unarmed as part of their neutrality position, but our routs were constantly monitored, our hotels were vetted and barricaded, and we carried PPEs at all times (Personal Protection Equipment - the blue bullet proof vests and white helmets). Also, Kurdistan is a stable and functioning society. Of course there were signs of the war all around us, coalition jets flying overhead, Peshmerga deployments, that sort of thing, but I never felt like I was in any danger. This was my third time in and around an active combat area, but it was the first time I'd been embedded with a unit that had a security element, so it was a little easier to move around than it has been for me in the past.

Q: How is the comic being distributed?

A: Currently it's free to read online at Huffington Post World where all four chapters are up. Meanwhile, lots of people and organizations are translating for other markets; Russian, Slovakian, Kurdish, that sort of thing. We don't have any firm plans for physical publication yet but we're looking into it.

SEE **COMIC** PAGE 5

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

There is something we can do

Editor:

I applaud your commentary article on the melting of the polar ice cap. The authors did an excellent job of explaining the effects of global warming. Hopefully articles like this will begin to convince those readers who are still "climate change deniers", for these changes are occurring in our own lifetime and will certainly have an even greater effect on the lives of our children and grandchildren.

Unfortunately, many of those who do understand the science of global warming feel there is nothing that they can do as individuals to head off its impact.

But there is something we can all do. Each of us can lobby our federal representatives to support the legislation currently being considered by Congress that places the true economic cost of carbon-based fuels.

Barry H. Engelman
Santa Monica

COMIC

FROM PAGE 4

Q: Why tell this story in the medium of comics?

A: Because comic books are the finest way to get your point across. They are visual, but don't cost millions to produce or require any more equipment than a pencil to create. They use text, but the visual element helps easily conquer language barriers and literacy issues. They are emotionally powerful. They are beautiful and peaceful to engage with in an age where every flat service streams motion and sound at you. Studies have shown that readers have a higher retention rate when reading comics than they do when reading novels or even watching films. Comic books are a way to tell a story and communicate an idea that is both inviting to look at and exciting to read. And also, because I love comics. I've spent 20 years trying to figure out how to make good comics, I'm still learning, but it's my medium of choice.

Q: What do you hope people will say/do after reading 'Living Level 3'? How do you hope to influence the readers?

A: I hope the book helps to neutralize this idea of "the other." We didn't know it when we started work on "Living Level-3: Iraq," but we ended up telling a prelude story of the European migrant crises. The family in our book, I now see them as being part of the teeming multitudes that have crossed international borders in the hopes of finding a better life. It's inherently hard for us to image all of the struggle and hardship that strangers face. It's hard to imagine their stories or to humanize them the way we have our friends and family. It's much easier to let the worst aspects of ourselves take over, to fear them or to demonize them, to imagine that they're different than us. But the truth is, as people, we are all far more the same than we are culturally or ethnically different. We all love the same, we laugh the same, and we all hope for the best for our families. It's a truth we all already know, we just have to be reminded of it now and again. And that's what I want this little comic book to do. The WFP feeds people. I tell stories. Food is, of course, the primary sustainer, but I think the feeling that your story is part of the human conversation, that you haven't been forgotten, is an important kind of sustenance too. Where people don't have a voice or personal agency, it is our job as storytellers to deploy in the same way WFP deploys.

Q: Is there anything you'd like to see changed in the way Level 3s are managed?

A: I'm currently working in partnership with WFP - the world's largest humanitarian organization and the UN's first responder during times of geopolitical or natural calamity - and I am in awe of what these people do. Of course there are difficulties and problems, and maybe I'll create future work about that, but for now, I don't feel comfortable judging how these zones are handled. I'm just an observer of humanity.

Along with author Joshua Dysart, Alberto Ponticelli drew the book, Pat Masioni colored the book, and Thomas Mauer lettered the book.

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

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rainn Wilson provides a Pain-ful monologue

ALL THE LIGHTS GO OFF AND THE THEATER is plunged into a blackness so intense that you feel you can reach out and grab it.

After a few long moments you sense that there is someone on stage. Whoever it is, after waiting another long moment, produces a flame so small as to be nearly invisible and attempts to light what might be a cigarette. Then, only his eyes reflecting the tiny light, he turns to the audience and, peering through the darkness, says, "Good to see you." And the stage lights blast on.

This is our introduction to Thom Pain, as portrayed by Rainn Wilson, who is best known for his nine seasons of badgering Steve Carell on the American version of the British television sitcom "The Office."

Wilson's current show, which opened earlier this month at the Geffen Playhouse, is actually titled "Thom Pain (based on nothing)" and that tells you everything you need to know about the play.

As presented by Wilson, the dialogue is as full of long pauses as anything by Pinter and as convoluted as most of Beckett. It encompasses a disconnected stream of non-sequiturs and "gotcha!" moments as Wilson veers from one topic to another in the story he is determined to tell.

His story begins with an introduction to a small, strange, deformed boy playing the violin and then watching a dog being electrocuted while drinking from a mud puddle that a wire has fallen into. The boy, we are told, has a heart full of wonder and love.

"Whatever," Wilson remarks while rambling from one digression to another.

"Feel free to feel anything," he advises.

Suddenly he announces enthusiastically, "It's time for the raffle!" and darts offstage. He disappears for a long moment and returns to say, "There is no raffle" and to congratulate himself for perpetrating one of his first "gotchas": "I got you all to rummage around looking for your theater stub," he chortles.

He speaks sporadically of a woman who arouses his passion. They have "a wonderful time" and then he tells her "I'm going to take you home and go somewhere else." He confesses to the audience, "She felt, wrongly, that she could tell me anything."

He returns to the misadventures of the little boy, now being stung by a huge swarm of bees.

He returns to the story line of the woman, confiding, "I disappeared in her and she, wondering where I went, left."

And so it goes. There's a message there somewhere-of a man without focus trying to fathom the unknowable. A man who has been described by the playwright as "Just like you, except worse." But happily, there is very often laughter.

Wilson does a fine job of deadpanning his way through 80 minutes of the meaningful inanity and inspired lunacy of his long-time friend, the award-winning playwright Will Eno. This play was a finalist in the competition for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and has been produced around the world more than 100 times. It premiered at the Edinburgh Festival in August 2004, where it won a First Fringe Award, moved on to London in September 2004, and on to New York in February 2005.

Its director, Oliver Butler, has worked with Eno before, winning an Obie for direction of Eno's "The Open House," which also won the Lucille Lortel award for Outstanding Play and the Drama Desk Ensemble Award. Butler, in working with Wilson in "Thom Pain," exquisitely directs the actor through a quirky and taxing performance of a marvelously ingenuous play. But it demands that you pay attention!

"Thom Pain (based on nothing)" will be performed in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles, Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., with additional performances Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Feb. 14.

Call (310) 208 5454 for tickets, or visit the website at tickets.geffenplayhouse.com.

CYNTHIA CITRON has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.

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PARK

FROM PAGE 1

Expo Maintenance Facility. As part of the project, staff solicited potential name ideas from the community and 135 names were submitted. Among the most popular were Toypurina Park (16 submissions); Exposition Park (or similar variation; 9 submissions); George Ishihara Memorial Park (or similar variation; 6 submissions); Santa Monica Park (5 submissions); People's Park (4 submissions); Hachi Park (3 submissions); Nisei Park (3 submissions); Vida Park (3 submissions).

After the outreach process, community members came forward with the suggestion of Gandara Park and the recommendation before council on Jan. 26 was to go with the Gandara name.

"The name Gandara Park is recommended by the Recreation and Parks Commission to memorialize and honor Private Joe Gandara, a Santa Monica native who was fatally wounded by enemy fire in World War II at the age of 20. Although hailed a war hero, he was passed over for awards and medals at the time of his death due to his Hispanic heritage. In March 2014, Private Joe Gandara was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama in recognition of his heroism and valor," said the staff report.

Gandara's niece, Miriam Adams spoke during the meeting to express the family's support for naming the park after her uncle.

However, another local veteran also had support among the crowd.

George Ishihara, a Pico Neighborhood resident, fought in the highly decorated Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. Ishihara moved to Santa Monica in 1958 and lived here until his death in 2009.

"Japanese Americans lived in Santa Monica for over 100 years and contributed to its wealth and diversity," said Crystal Anderson during the meeting. "This, and for numerous other reasons, would suggest Santa Monica should recognize its Japanese American residents by naming the park closest to the highest number of this ethnic group after one of its residents, George Ishihara."

Councilman Kevin McKeown said he wanted to recognize supporters of both individuals and suggested the compromise.

"I'm going to recommend we name the buffer park Ishihara and concurrently give a direction to staff tonight, because it's not on the agenda, to return with a resolution renaming Stewart park as Gandara Park," he said.

While some councilmembers supported the concept, others were critical of the process saying any new discussion over renaming Stewart Park should have a new public input process.

"I guess I'm not convinced this is a good compromise," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor.

Karen Ginsberg, director of Community & Cultural Services, said the discussion would now return to the Recreation and Parks Commission for additional discussion and public input.

While some councilmembers might have a preference for naming the parks after the veterans, no decision on actual names was made this week. The new hearings will allow the public to discuss any names they want with a new set of recommendations forwarded to council.

Councilwoman O'Connor eventually voted against the motion saying she thought the council had stacked the deck prior to community engagement.

"It sounds like Council really is giving direction tonight and it should be a much more open process than it seems to be," she said.

editor@smdp.com

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TURF

FROM PAGE 1

The City of Santa Monica's recent renovation of the park's turf field came amid mounting concerns about the potential toxicity of crumb rubber, which had been used as an infill, and now the local school district is mulling what to do about its own synthetic surfaces.

District staffers are developing a plan and budget to replace synthetic turf fields at SMMUSD sites, according to a recent memo by facility director Carey Upton, who will likely present suggestions to the Board of Education in the near future.

The proposed plan includes replacing the synthetic turf on the north section of field at John Adams Middle School this summer, a project that would involve diverting drainage to 17th Street as opposed to having the entire field drain to 16th Street.

Renovation of the field, track and lights at Lincoln Middle School is tentatively scheduled for summer 2017. The project, which would require an environmental impact report, "is highly desired by the school and the City," according to the memo.

The synthetic football and softball fields at JAMS would be replaced in 2018, according to the proposed plan. Crumb rubber, which some believe to be carcinogenic, is used as an infill for the synthetic fields at Santa Monica High and John Adams Middle schools.

"The surfaces under our play structures are wearing out and will need to be replaced in the next few years," the memo reads. "Facilities staff recommends continued use of the current play structure surfaces until they require replacement. At that time, we should consider replacing the rubber surfaces with other products that do not threaten our waterways and environment."

The district is testing a new synthetic grass surface at Franklin Elementary School and Washington West Preschool. Compared to rubber, the coated silica infill is "strongly preferred" but twice as expensive, according to the memo.

Community members have expressed concerns about the health risks associated with crumb rubber, which is typically made of recycled tires. Upton acknowledged the ongoing debate over the issue, saying the science is inconclusive.

He added that district officials are worried that the rubber pellets could end up in the ocean, where fish could mistake it for food.

"There is potential for the district to be significantly fined if this occurs," the memo reads.

Concerns about crumb rubber have grown since Amy Griffin, a former U.S. women's national soccer team player, began keeping a list of goalkeepers and other athletes who have been diagnosed with cancer after playing on synthetic turf.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is currently studying "the potential health impacts associated with playing on synthetic turf fields," according to an October memo. Public meetings will be held throughout the $2.9-million study, which is scheduled for completion in mid-2018.

The state's current study will build on two previous investigations into the effects of the chemicals used in crumb rubber. The examination is being funded by CalRecycle, a state agency that has awarded millions of dollars in grants to cities and schools for the installation of crumb-rubber turf fields.

jeff@smdp.com

GAS

FROM PAGE 1

Other times, mechanical issues force them to call for backup vehicles.

In recent weeks, though, department director Neal Abramson and his staff have been dealing with a more unusual obstacle: the Porter Ranch gas leak.

The massive methane leak at Aliso Canyon Oil Field in an area of Los Angeles County between the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys has led to the evacuation of hundreds of homes amid public health concerns and prompted Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency earlier this month.

The leak has also led officials to close Los Angeles Unified School District campuses in the area, meaning hundreds of students are being transported to other sites. And the urgency of the situation has given L.A. Unified priority over SMMUSD and other districts for bus scheduling.

The strains on transportation have been felt in the local school district since the start of the semester, spokeswoman Gail Pinsker said. Three trips for February are being rearranged, and transportation officials are working on future reservations as issues arise.

The leak has complicated SMMUSD transportation scheduling for extracurricular field trips, including sporting events. It has also impacted bus logistics for students traveling within the district, like when Malibu students travel to Santa Monica for honor band rehearsal.

"With our resources of companies, this has not caused the cancellation of any trips, only some challenges with making sure all our needs are covered," Pinsker said. "We expect as they get more into a routine that the impact of this situation will lessen and go away."

SMMUSD does not have long-term contracts with school bus and tour bus companies because it is a relatively small district, so it typically books individual trips a month or two in advance. But the Porter Ranch gas leak has caused some local scheduling to get "bumped" as bus companies address L.A. Unified's needs, Pinsker said.

"We are committed to safe and timely travel by bus and parents need not be concerned about this added challenge," Pinsker said. "We can assure parents that bus transportation continues as planned and, as in the past, if there is an issue they will be contacted. This is only unique because it is potentially ongoing for a little bit of time and not just a one-time issue to resolve."

The gas leak has not impacted home-to-school transportation. The district uses its own fleet of buses to provide that service for students with special needs as well as for about 300 children who ride from home to Malibu schools.

SMMUSD doesn't offer home-to-school bus service for interdistrict transfer students. Many of the students with interdistrict permits have parents who work for the district or the City of Santa Monica, Pinsker said.

"We have a few interdistrict transfer students who take one of our regular buses from Santa Monica to a Malibu school, but they are picking up at a regular stop within our district boundaries," Pinsker said.

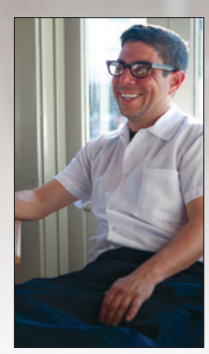
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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.2°**

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

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high occ. 5ft
New, long period WNW swell builds on top of older, easing WNW swell.
Larger sets possible late in the day.

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high occ. 5ft
Longer period NW swell continues. Stay tuned.

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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 13 AT ABOUT 1:30 A.M.

Officers were driving in the area of Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard when they observed a late model white Nissan van driving in front of them. They conducted a random check of the vehicle license plate and found the van was stolen in Los Angeles three days prior. The officers performed a high-risk traffic stop and detained all three occupants of the vehicle. Officers searched the vehicle and found the steering column was pried apart and the van was running without a key in the ignition. They additionally found several other pieces of evidence indicative of auto theft, narcotics usage, and other stolen property. The officers placed all three occupants under arrest for the violations. Edward Martinez, 21, Panorama City, had bail set at $25,000; Oscar Alvarez, 28, Panorama City, did not have bail set; and Martha Gonzalez, 18, North Hills, had bail set at $25,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 354 calls for service on Jan 26.

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

Disturbance of the peace, 2800 block of Santa Monica, 12:00 a.m.
Vandalism, 300 block Olympic, 12:40 a.m.
Domestic violence, 1400 block of 5th, 12:47 a.m.
DUI, 2000 block of Ocean, 12:41 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 2900 block of 28th, 1:33 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold, 1700 block of 9th, 4:00 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 1400 block of 17th, 5:57 a.m.
Vandalism, 1000 block of Wilshire, 6:00 a.m.
Vandalism, 2400 block of 3rd, 7:42 a.m.
Domestic violence, 800 block of Santa Monica, 7:45 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 1500 block of Berkeley, 8:19 a.m.
Traffic collision, 1600 block of Cloverfield, 8:36 a.m.
Fraud, 1200 block of Yale, 9:52 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 1700 block of 14th, 9:53 a.m.
Traffic collision, 3300 block of Donald Douglas, 10:22 a.m.
Violation of restraining order, 600 block of Ozone, 10:30 a.m.
Arson, 2400 block of Ocean Park, 11:59 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances, Lincoln/Santa Monica, 12:03 p.m.
Fraud, 1300 block of 4th, 12:20 p.m.
Grand theft, 2000 block of 20th, 12:58 p.m.
Critical missing person, 800 block of Michigan, 1:16 p.m.
Person down, 6th/Broadway, 1:20 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1700 block of Cloverfield, 1:30 p.m.
Battery, 11th/Wilshire, 1:39 p.m.
Overdose, 6th/Pico, 2:05 p.m.
Battery, 1500 block of 11th, 2:08 p.m.
Hit and run, 1400 block of 16th, 2:42 p.m.
Critical missing person, 300 block of Olympic, 2:44 p.m.
Vandalism, 2200 block of Virginia, 2:48 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1900 block of 14th, 3:39 p.m.
Battery, 2200 block of 3rd, 5:21 p.m.
Traffic collision, 2500 block of Wilshire, 5:32 p.m.
Family disturbance, Urban/Pico, 5:40 p.m.
Grand theft, 00 block of Sea Colony, 5:53 p.m.
Hit and run, 18th/Santa Monica, 7:50 p.m.
Hit and run, 1600 block of Bryn Mawr, 8:43 p.m.
Sexual assault, Ocean/Strand, 9:49 p.m.
Battery, 1700 block of Carlyle, 10:04 p.m.
Hit and run, 2nd/Wilshire, 10:29 p.m.
Peron with a gun, 1500 block of 6th, 10:46 p.m.
DUI, 200 block of Pico, 10:57 p.m.
Assault with a deadly weapon, Ocean/Santa Monica, 10:59 p.m.
Vandalism, 2800 block of Santa Monica, 11:44 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 47 calls for service on Jan. 26.

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

EMS, 1000 block of 22nd, 12:12 a.m.
EMS, 300 block of Santa Monica, 12:59 a.m.
EMS, 1500 block of Harvard, 1:41 a.m.
EMS, 2800 block of Santa Monica, 1:51 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of 2nd, 1:57 a.m.
EMS, 100 block of Wilshire, 2:54 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 3400 block of Ocean Park, 3:04 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 7th, 4:08 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1100 block of 4th, 4:48 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 2100 block of Colorado, 6:08 a.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 3rd, 7:00 a.m.
EMS, 700 block of Pier, 7:34 a.m.
EMS, 1500 block of Harvard, 8:06 a.m.
EMS, 400 block of PCH, 8:10 a.m.
EMS, 1500 block of Ocean, 8:30 a.m.
EMS, 200 block of Santa Monica, 8:43 a.m.
EMS, 700 block of Pacific, 8:48 a.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 16th, 8:49 a.m.
EMS, 200 block of Santa Monica, 9:10 a.m.
EMS, 2500 block of Main, 9:14 a.m.
Elevator rescue, 1200 block of 15th, 10:04 a.m.
EMS, Dorchester/Urban, 10:48 a.m.
EMS, 1900 block of Colorado, 10:58 a.m.
EMS, 3000 block of Santa Monica, 12:03 p.m.
EMS, 700 block of Montana, 12:56 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 1200 block of 5th, 1:04 p.m.
Odor investigation, 300 block of 21st, 1:12 p.m.
EMS, 6th/Broadway, 1:21 p.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Cloverfield, 1:29 p.m.
EMS, 600 block of Pico, 1:54 p.m.
EMS, 6th/Pico, 2:03 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 1300 block of 15th, 2:36 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Ocean Front, 2:53 p.m.
EMS, Lincoln/Ocean Park, 3:11 p.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 9th, 3:31 p.m.
EMS, 1900 block of 14th, 3:39 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Lincoln, 3:55 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 20th, 4:22 p.m.
EMS, 2500 block of Wilshire, 6:09 p.m.
EMS, 3000 block of 3rd, 6:50 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of Olympic, 8:44 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 1500 block of Olympic, 9:01 p.m.
EMS, 2600 block of 28th, 9:54 p.m.
EMS, 5th/Colorado, 10:50 p.m.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Potter's stuff
5 Long-legged bird
10 Less common
12 "Houseboat" star
13 In harmony
14 Yucca's kin
15 Belief, in brief
16 Fan
18 Chin cover
20 Suffering
21 Stately trees
23 Hosp. parts
24 Sailing vessel
26 Theater award
28 — up (dress)
29 Ride the waves
31 Before today
32 Sofa's cousin
36 Aquatic mammal
39 Simple card game
40 Hirsch of "Milk"
41 Hackneyed
43 Barber's tool
44 Boom variety
45 Pricey
46 Special talent

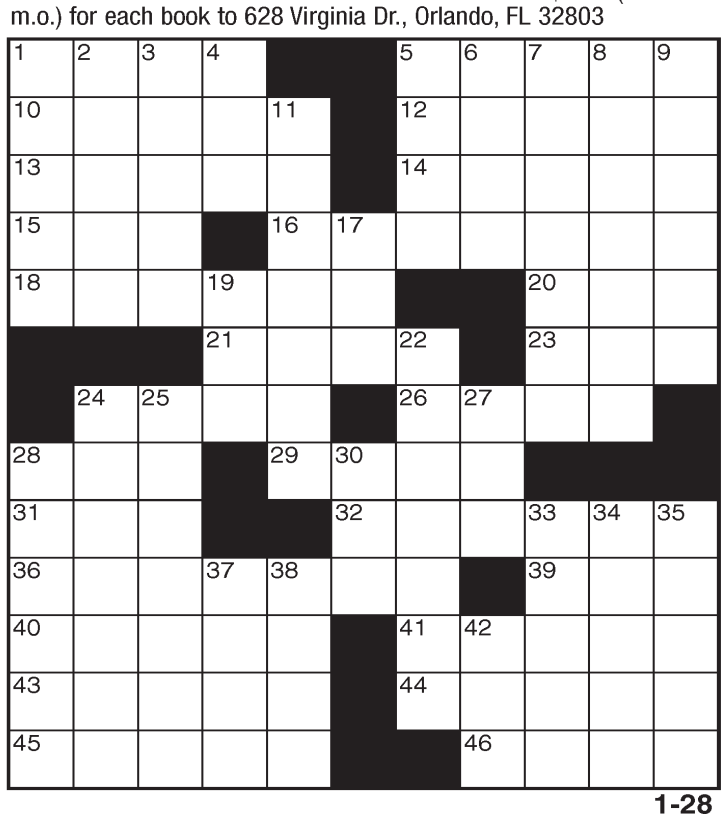
DOWN

1 "Spectre" star
2 Ranch rope
3 Kitchen come-on
4 Hankering
5 European native
6 Fast food request
7 Speech
8 Partying
9 Prepares to propose
11 Gives out new hands
17 Mouse alert
19 Road rescue
22 City routes
24 Spot for a workout
25 Worry
27 Many a time
28 Circus stars
30 Apply
33 Baling need
34 Dine at home
35 Put up
37 Lotion additive
38 Maryland player
42 Hold up

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

Yesterday's answer

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1-28

MYSTERY PHOTO

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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

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

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/26
14 27 39 50 69
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 56M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/26
14 15 18 20 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/26
MIDDAY: 7 2 1
Draw Date: 1/26
EVENING: 7 2 4

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/26
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:48.67

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WORD UP!

pugnacious
1. inclined to quarrel or fight readily; quarrelsome; belligerent; combative.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1979 – CBS News Sunday Morning debuts with original host and cocreator Charles Kuralt.

1979 – Pope John Paul II starts his first pastoral visit to Mexico.

1980 – USCGC Blackthorn collides with the tanker Capricorn while leaving Tampa, Florida and capsizes, killing 23 Coast Guard crewmembers.

1981 – Ronald Reagan lifts remaining domestic petroleum price and allocation controls in the United States helping to end the 1979 energy crisis and begin the 1980s oil glut.

1982 – US Army general James L. Dozier is rescued by Italian anti-terrorism forces from captivity by the Red Brigades.

1984 – Tropical Storm Domoina makes landfall in southern Mozambique, eventually causing 214 deaths and some of the most severe flooding so far recorded in the region.

1985 – Supergroup USA for Africa (United Support of Artists for Africa) records the hit single We Are the World, to help raise funds for Ethiopian famine relief.

1986 – Space Shuttle program: STS-51-L mission – Space Shuttle Challenger explodes after liftoff, killing all seven astronauts on board.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In December, animal protection officers in Halland County, Sweden, confiscated two cats that the officers found being "mistreated" in a home -- coddled (by two women) as babies in "pushchairs" and spoon-fed while strapped in high chairs. Both cats had been encouraged to suck on pacifiers, and one woman reportedly allowed the cats to suckle her breast. The public broadcaster SVT reported that the cats were removed from the home because they were not being allowed to develop "natural animal behavior."

■ (1) A 40-year-old man driving a stolen truck was killed after a brief high-speed police chase on Jan. 14 in Alameda County, California. Police noted that the man had pulled to the side of Highway 238 to flee on foot, but fell to his death off a cliff -- landing on the grounds of the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery. (2) A coroner's hearing in Folkestone, England, in January determined that a 16-year-old boy had died of accidental asphyxiation from spray deodorant. According to the boy's mother, he preferred massive application of the spray instead of bathing, and police recovered several dozen empty spray cans in his room.

Take some time off, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might decide that the ball is not in your court, and you'll be right. However, those who control the ball favor you. As a result, compliments and acknowledgement in some form, such as a pay raise or promotion, become real possibilities. Tonight: With a special person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You've been on cruise control for several days. Others have been impressed by your successes. Don't be surprised by a request that heads in your direction. Clearly, you are very good at what you do and know how to speak to others. Tonight: Take some time off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your endurance will bring you many accolades. Accept all compliments with grace. Tap into your resourcefulness or romantic nature in order to help a loved one feel more. Don't judge what you don't know or have not experienced. Tonight: Enjoy the good life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You will try to reach out to someone over and over, and might not succeed in reaching him or her. Knowing when to let go is instrumental to your success. Decide to indulge yourself for a day. Spend time at home or pursuing a hobby. Tonight: Share news with a dear friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You love indulging others. Someone in your day-to-day environment needs extra caring or perhaps simply a compliment. It takes only a moment to touch base with this person, and it will make all the difference in how he or she feels. Tonight: Do whatever makes you happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Slow down some. You are likely to discover how many people around you have wanted to spend time with you to share some special news. The tone of the day is far different from what you had anticipated. Know that you don't need to be in control. Tonight: Let the fun begin!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be in a very good mood, perhaps even more so than you thought possible. A family member won't hesitate to treat you as you would like and think you deserve to be treated. What could be a simple gracious act will come back to you in multiples. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your body language indicates that you are sincere. Remember this, and you'll get the reaction you want. Others are likely to respond more positively than you could have imagined. Authenticity can't be replaced, nor can it be disguised. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your penchant for the good life can't be restrained for long. You often suppress your feelings and go overboard with spending, whether there is a risk involved or not. Recognize the potential damage of this behavior. At least keep the tags and receipts. Tonight: Be calm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might be so gracious, soft-spoken and delightful right now that others won't be able to stay away from you. Use the moment to move forward with a heartfelt project. If you have been wanting to ask for a raise, the time to do so is now. Tonight: Out on the town.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might not be revealing the whole story about a loved one or a potential sweetie. You can't get powerful feedback if you don't tell the truth and reveal all the facts. Tell it like it is. The advice you receive will be very dynamic and effective. Tonight: Try out a new spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ An encounter with a new acquaintance could affect you more than you might realize. This person could become even more than friends, as long as you are available. The trust that builds between you is likely to happen quickly. Tonight: Out to dinner with a loved one.

Thursday, January 28, 2016

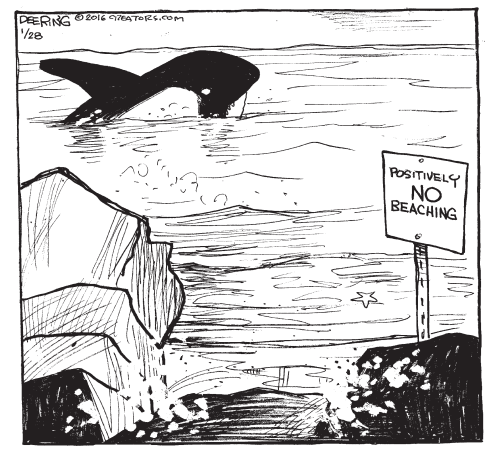
This year you open up to many new ideas that seem unconventional, even to you. Travel or the acquaintance of a foreigner will introduce you to even more cultural differences. You will become more tolerant and less judgmental. If you are single, you could pine for someone yet never let him or her know how you feel. Take a risk, and tell this person. If the feeling is mutual, the two of you could have a blast. If you are attached, you and your sweetie flourish when left alone to your own devices. The more you get away from the here-and-now, the stronger this bond will become. LIBRA can be euphoric, but not necessarily grounded.

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

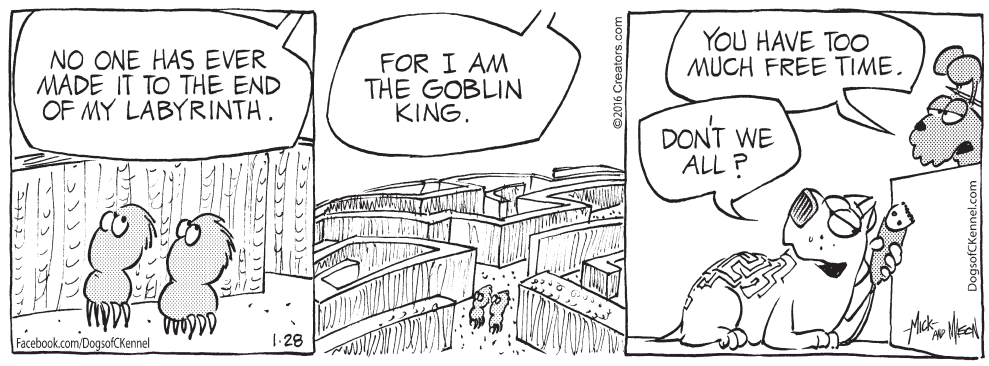
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



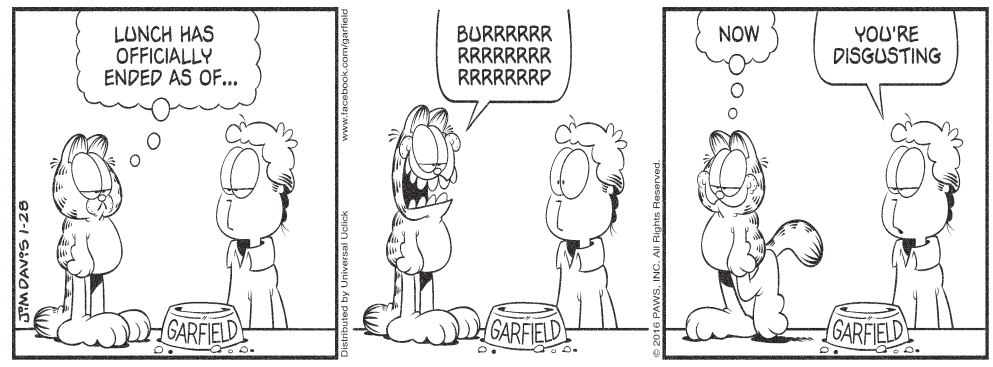
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Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
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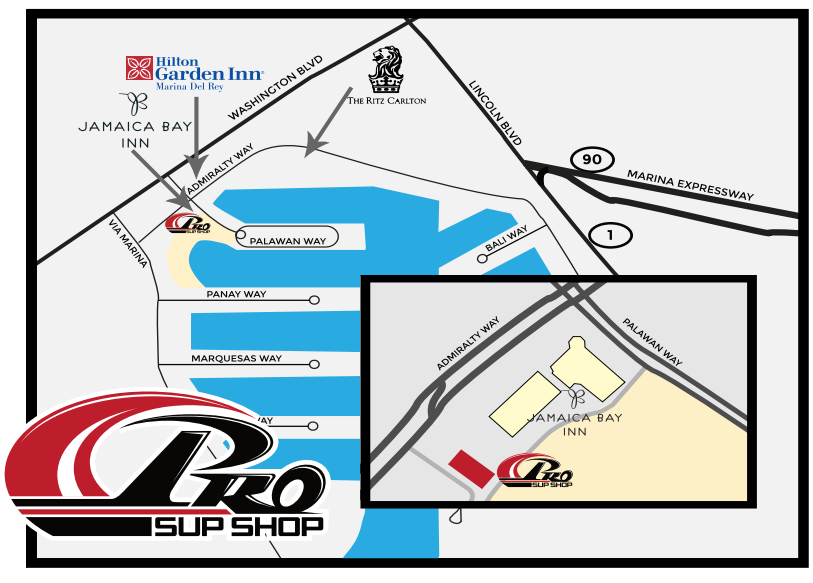
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