

New mailboxes deployed to combat stolen mail keys

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Postal Service is fighting mail theft throughout the Los Angeles region, but officials said Santa Monica is no more or less likely to experience theft than

other parts of the area.

Several residents have reported anecdotal stories of mail theft in recent months, but according to the Postal Service, mail theft is a regional problem and not specific to Santa Monica.

"It's a problem for all delivery

companies," said Richard Maher in the U.S. Postal Service Corporate Communications department. "Porch pirates are driving around lifting packages ... they also steal mail looking for checks that they can launder and alter."

The actual theft of the mail is a

crime punishable by fines and up to five years in jail. Crimes like fraud and identity theft can also be linked to mail theft with multiple law enforcement agencies working different elements of the case.

The Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement division of

the Post Office, is a leading federal law enforcement agency in the investigation of identity theft. The Santa Monica Police Department said they sometimes encounter the repercussions of mail theft, such as

SEE MAIL PAGE 6

At Turning Point, an intersection of Samohi grads Ex-Dodger meets fellow alumni during OPCC community service event



Jeffrey I. Goodman jeff@smdp.com

SERVICE: Tim Leary volunteered at a recent OPCC event and where he met other Samohi alumni.



BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Tim Leary wore white gloves as he chopped vegetables in the kitchen at Turning Point, concealing a noticeable bulge on his left hand. It was what brought him to the transitional housing facility in the first place.

Later that day, hands bare and seated in the adjacent communal room at the OPCC center on 16th Street, the former Los Angeles Dodgers

SEE VOLUNTEER PAGE 7

Art show reunites childhood friends Matt Keller's work on display in neighbor's Venice gallery

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

The multipurpose gallery space where Matt Keller will have his artwork on display this month is located on San Juan Avenue in Venice. But the story behind the showing is in Santa Monica, on 21st Street between Ocean Park Boulevard and Pearl Street.

When he was in the market for a new house several years ago, Heller came across a property there and knew the road seemed familiar. It was the childhood block of his friend from Santa Monica High School, Brian Morena, and younger brother Greg Morena.

Heller settled in. Since then, Brian has moved back. And Greg, whose wife was his childhood neighbor on 21st Street, recently sold his house in Venice and returned to 21st Street.

"We see each other and point and laugh," Heller said. "Santa Monica is a small town, but it's not somewhere you need to get out of."

Bringing the connection full-circle is the fact that the Venice art space is run by Greg Morena, a local businessman who has held executive positions for clothing brands The Hundreds and Undeafed. He's currently chairman and president of The Albright restaurant on the Santa Monica Pier.

Heller found out about Morena's art space after hearing about an exhibit featuring the work of Kevin Ancell, a Santa



KELLER

Monica native and surfing aficionado whose art attempts to capture the Westside lifestyle.

"That week I was talking with Greg in front of our houses, and he said he has this new space in Venice," Heller said. "When I saw the space and talked with Greg, it just had to happen. It was exciting to put on my own show in that space."

After attending Roosevelt Elementary and Lincoln Middle schools, Heller graduated from Samohi in 1992 and went to UC Santa Barbara to study art and art history. He found a job in animation, working on video games in the mid-1990s before deciding the field wasn't right for him. Heller

SEE ART PAGE 7



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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Cupid's Message Exhibit
 The Santa Monica History Museum will be holding a special exhibit from Feb. 2 - Feb. 27 featuring vintage Valentine's Day Cards. The display will include cards from the late 19th century and early-to-mid 20th century. 1350 7th St.

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.

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

GED Prep Class
 Get prepared to take the Social Studies 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.

Ocean Park Film Program: "Groundhog Day" (1993)
 Film historian Elaina Archer screens and discusses this film about a not so charming weatherman, played by Bill Murray, who lives the same day over and over again. A perfect movie to see on Groundhog Day. (Film runtime: 101 min.) Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 6 - 9 p.m.

Beach=Culture - Going to Extremes: Women in Opera and Song
 Join soprano Shana Blake Hill, mezzo-soprano Audrey Babcock and pianist

Victoria Kirsch for a concert of arias, songs and duets from Carmen, Samson et Dalila, Aida, Madama Butterfly, A Little Night Music, Happy End and West Side Story, among others. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

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

Library Lovers: Make a Video!
 February is Library Lovers' Month! Create a video about the library using Adobe Voice. Equipment provided. Participants will receive two hours of community service credit. Limited space; call (310) 458-8682 to pre-register. Grades 8 - 12. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Harry Potter Book Night: A Night of Spells
 A family-friendly night of Harry Potter, games, treats and fun. You'll be sorted into houses, play games for points where the winning house wins a prize, and make crafts and tasty treats together. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 - 8 p.m.

Career Prep Series: Test Changes Workshop
 Differences between the New PSAT, New SAT, Current SAT, Current ACT. All of the different tests and which one should students spend their time on. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 7 - 8 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting

SEE LISTINGS PAGE 3

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

LISTINGS
FROM PAGE 2

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

SCBWI Westside Writer's Mingle
A monthly gathering for anyone interested in writing for children and young adults. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601

Main St., 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 4

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.

How To Keep Passion Alive After 45 with Judith Claire & Frank Wieggers
Frank and Judith, authors of 'So That's Why They Do That: Men, Women, and Their Hormones' discuss how to create

harmony in your relationship, build deeper levels of intimacy, and revitalize passion no matter how old you are. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Comic Books and Comedy
Hosted by Alex Kojfman, with Grant Lyon, Nate Williams, Nikki Bailey, Rhune Kincaid, Nina Manni, and special guests. Free admission. Hi De Ho Comics, 1431 Lincoln Blvd., 8 - 9:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downtown
Structure fire on 5th St.
At approximately 1:15 a.m. on Feb. 1, five engines, a ladder truck, a Battalion Chief Supervisor, and a hazardous materials unit responded to a reported structure fire at 1530 5th St., in the Downtown Santa Monica area.

The address is a high-rise residential building, known as the Salvation Army, Silver Crest Senior Residence Building. The first arriving units found heavy smoke in a unit on the third floor. Firefighters fought the blaze using standard "High Rise" firefighting techniques, stretching hoses from the buildings standpipes (built in features in high-rise buildings that provide water supplies to firefighters).

Ultimately the fire was confined to the unit of origin, and there were no reported injuries to citizens, or firefighters. Significant salvage and cleanup was required in the fire unit, and the fire floor, to make the building safe for continued occupancy. Also, the floors above and below the fire were checked with gas detectors to make sure the building was safe for continued occupancy. The building manager moved the residents of the compromised unit to a separate vacant unit. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but the fire was reported to have originated in a stove/oven. The Santa Monica Fire Department would like to remind citizens of the importance of smoke detectors in making buildings safe. These detectors played a part in alerting residents, and helping firefighters locate the fire.

- SUBMITTED BY DALE HALLOCK, SMFD PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER / ADMINISTRATIVE CAPTAIN

Citywide
Most Loved Santa Monica Business contest now open
From most loved local surf shop to the favorite Santa Monica farmer, Santa Monica is putting the call out to discover and celebrate the Most Loved Businesses in Santa Monica. Which local business can you not live without? Who puts a smile on your face when you drop in?

The winners will be announced the annual "Santa Monica's Most Loved..." publication, at an awards ceremony at City Hall and will be celebrated throughout the year by the Buy Local Santa Monica campaign and community business partners.

To vote, visit www.buylocalsantamonica.com. Vote all throughout the month of February and share your favorites on social media with the hashtags #most-loved #SantaMonica. Make sure to tag us @BuyLocalSM on Twitter and Instagram.

The Most Loved contest is now in its third year. The contest has grown by leaps and bounds. Last year, nearly 3,000 people (Santa Monica residents, employees, students and visitors) voted for their Most Loved businesses, a two hundred percent increase from the first year. Results will be tabulated with the support of Santa Monica High School statistics students. Everyone who votes and enters their email will be entered to win a raffle prize. The winners will be notified in April along with the announcement of the Most Loved Santa Monica 2016 Business Winners and Runners-Up. To view last year's results: www.BuyLocalSM.com/most-loved.

For more information on the Buy Local Santa Monica Campaign: www.BuyLocalSM.com.

- SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER TAYLOR, BUY LOCAL SM COMMITTEE CHAIR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why consider another theater?
Editor:
Another Arclight? Less parking? Crazy. Why even consider it, City operatives??
I saw a film at the new Arclight at the Mall recently. There were eight people in the theatre.
And we had to pay for parking.
The Arclight in Hollywood validates so the parking there is at least discounted!
Affordable, Santa Monica is not. A Beach Town it is not. Perhaps it is a combination of Manhattan and the Hamptons.

Killeen Pilon
Santa Monica

A mind is responsible
for the traffic light, the blood bank, ice cream,
peanut butter, the doorknob, the microphone, the elevator,
clothes dryer, lawn mower, pacemaker, the typewriter, guided
missile, mailbox, the air conditioner, automatic transmission, curtain
rod, baby carriage, lawn sprinkler, fountain pen, dust pan, the hand
stamp, first open-heart surgery, cataract laser, fire extinguisher, doorstop,
home security camera, the golf tee, fire escape, potato chip, food preservation,
synthesized cortisone, the guitar, railroad telegraphy, envelope seal, printing press,
bicycle frame, rocket catapult, insect destroyer gun, ice cream scoop, window cleaner,
laser fuels, folding chair, gas mask, mop, refrigerator, pressing comb, urinalysis
machine, door lock, electric cutoff switch, telephone transmitter, stair-climbing wheel-
chair, hairbrush, egg beater, eye protector, electric lamp bulb, biscuit cutter, chamber
commode, almanac, horse shoe, lunch pail, motor, lantern, key chain, furniture caster,
ironing board, sugar-refining system, lemon squeezer, portable weighing scales,
wrench, airplane propeller, ore bucket, steam boiler, portable x-ray machine, cotton
chopper fertilizer, street sweeper, cattle-roping apparatus, spark plug, galoshes, casket-
lowering device, clothes wringer, disrail car coupling, riding saddles, and so on
and so on. The list is endless. Indeed, it's time to stop and celebrate the fact
that each and every one of the wonderful innovations mentioned here came
from the mind. The mind of an African American. By supporting minority
education, you keep open the possibility of tomorrow's great ideas.
Because of all the things that the human mind has created,
perhaps the most amazing is the one that has yet
to be created. And that possibility is
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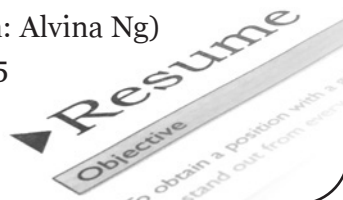
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OpinionCommentary

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

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What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Power Supply and Pete's Paleo, perfect meal prep

THIS IS A FOODIE COLUMN, AT LEAST FOR this week. I have been eating so much awesome food, it's like Santa Monica is undergoing a revolution of foodie heaven.

Friday I was at the hottest new sandwich place in town - Mendocino Farms on Wilshire. Parking is in the back is off of 7th street, next to Douglas Reed Park; and the first thing you notice when you get out of your car is the dense, sweet, smoky scent of bacon. It's as if you've walked into a smoke-house, and you're not even in the restaurant yet!

Once inside this restaurant it has the look and feel of a sleek deli, and the long line of customers proves it. The line was out to the street at noon on Friday - which is a good sign, but not something I like in general being the impatient person I am.

The good news is the wait allows you time to read the menu and make the hard choice on what to enjoy that day. There are standards and then there are seasonal selections to choose from.

Thankfully they start taking your order when you're just inside the door, then it's off to the land of tastings for your sides. I tried the Spicy Sriacha Potato Salad, the Curried Cauliflower Couscous and the Pesto Macaroni Salad - all were winners in my book.

I had the Steak Sandwich on a soft roll, and it was perfection on a plate.

One of the things to watch out for while you're waiting, though, is the next door neighbor: Sidecar Donuts. They very deliciously are working the line that is waiting for Mendocino Farms with samples of the donuts of the day. You need to have fair warning of this, because these donuts are not your average donuts. We had Butter and Salt, Huckleberry, Bananas Foster and buttermilk donut holes. I'm a huckleberry fan so they had me at that one. Now they're not cheap. These are no 95 cent donuts, they're between \$3.00 and 4.00 apiece, and when you add in the coffee, donuts for the two of us came to \$20.00 with tip. But they have a bacon-crust-ed donut that is really amazing. So that was Friday.

Along comes Sunday and I was invited to attend a house party for Power Supply (mypowersupply.com), which is a provider of table ready meals crafted fresh by local chefs and delivered to you. In the world of diet and nutrition there are many solutions being offered. I've tried the big box of powdered drinks and the pre-packaged processed snacks - I'm not a fan. It was pretty awful actually.

Contrast that with the selection of real food, prepared in the style of the Paleo diet advocates and I was very impressed. I spoke with Stefan Niemczyk who is the local representative for Power Supply about how they use a business model of relying on many

local chefs to fulfill their clients needs and wants. This luncheon was showcasing Pete's Paleo (www.petespaleo.com).

The food was all fresh, even the bacon was house-made and not full of nitrates and sugar. We started with Peruvian drum fish ceviche with purple potato, yams and salsa fresco and yucca chips followed by a golden beet puree and chive oil that was off the charts delicious, it was accented with spicy walnuts to add texture.

The main dish was a duck confit (who doesn't love duck confit!?) salad, a kale and bacon lardon chopped salad, and roasted winter vegetables with shallots and aged balsamic including rutabaga, turnips, squash, celery root and chioggia beets.

My fellow guests were a selection of bloggers, authors and athletes. I had the great pleasure of meeting and chatting with John Durant, author of "The Paleo Manifesto" - turns out he's a really charming caveman.

I learned a lot about fitness challenges from Andy Petranek from WholeLifeChallenge.com; he used to own CrossFitLA and his new venture is here in Santa Monica and, as the website puts it, "The Whole Life Challenge is an 8-week online, community-building, habit-changing game that challenges you and your friends to create happier, healthier lives by making small, daily changes."

In the world of private chefs and custom delivery food, there are many options, some of which I have tried. I was very impressed with Power Supply and their selection of Pete's Paleo as a showcase. I could see making arrangements to have a selection of my meals each week delivered to improve my diet and get away from the quick solutions of not bad food (most of the time) but not great food either. I don't cook, which means that I'm at the mercy for the most part of restaurants and quick serve places.

I think that if I had a regularly scheduled set of meals from these chefs that I would be more inclined to eat better when I was out in restaurants. For a family it could be a good solution to pick up on some of those busy late nights instead of ordering a pizza or just grabbing burgers. If you knew you had almost ready solutions in the refrigerator, you'd probably be more inclined to have a family dinner - which is always a good thing.

This was a great event and I want to thank Power Supply, and Pete's Paleo for expanding my world to the options of food that is the Paleo Diet.

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 Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpizarra.

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Continuing the Santa Monica tradition of fighting homelessness

LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 247 volunteers fanned out across Santa Monica for the City's Annual Homeless Count.

The purpose of the count is to assess the number and ages of homeless people and where they are so that public services can be targeted with the most effect. The volunteers were residents of Santa Monica and L.A. communities, and City staff.

Volunteers reflected a wide range of ages. It was really good to see so many people, young, old, and in between, staying out past our bedtimes to participate in this count.

On Wednesday, teams left the training at Saint Monica at midnight and worked through the night with some still arriving with their counts at 3 a.m. Thursday morning.

The charge to all who participated in the homeless count was "it is OK to come back without finding anyone who is homeless," but as idealistic as that is, we all know that we have many in our community who do not have regular, safe housing.

Wednesday night was, fortunately, a dry, balmy evening and we volunteers could all look forward to returning to our warm beds, but that wasn't true for the many people our team and others encountered sleeping in doorways and alleyways; sidewalk pavement does not provide much protection from the cold and the damp.

The turnout to this essential event is always a heartening and visible reminder of our community's commitment to helping our less fortunate neighbors. More than a dozen businesses contributed to the event and so many members of our community turned out. But, perhaps more than any who turned out Wednesday night, City staff deserve the credit for making this work.

The count was very well organized thanks to the staff of the City's Community and Cultural Services Department and other City departments including the City Manager's Office, Big Blue Bus, Fire, Police, Community and Government Relations, Office of Emergency Management, Office of Sustainability, Public Works and the Public Library.

SMPD officers and Park Rangers were there in large numbers to accompany teams going into downtown parking structures and certain parks.

Staff from other City departments were also there as volunteers. Their attendance was not required; instead they were there out of a commitment to Santa Monica and helping us all collecting information necessary to meet the needs of our homeless population.

These volunteer staff persons received no overtime for their attendance, and most were back at their desks on Thursday morning.

Too often, City staff unfairly bear the brunt of public criticism about the City, but it is our observation that Santa Monica is fortunate to have such a highly qualified and committed staff working for all of us.

Biennial homeless counts are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a condition for receiving federal funds targeted to addressing the needs of the homeless. Santa Monica decided in 2010 to go above and beyond what was required and to begin conducting our

homeless count every year to more rapidly identify and respond to the needs of people in our community experiencing homelessness.

Last year, volunteers counted 738 people sleeping in the streets, shelters, or in their vehicles, a reduction from the 2014 count of 742.

However, the number of unsheltered people bedding down on our streets was 402, an increase of 16 percent since 2014. The number of individuals sleeping in vehicles also increased, from 57 in 2014 to 73 in 2015. The 2015 decrease from 2014 was due to fewer individuals in shelters and institutions (336 in 2015 and 396 in 2014). These data are more than just statistics; they represent people and thanks to our volunteers who carry out these counts, we know where the needs are and our City officials can take the steps necessary to fill those needs.

We are thankful for a City Council that provides more than lip service to addressing the needs of our homeless residents. Aside from the numerous City staffers and ordinary residents who turned out, several elected officials and appointed commissioners pulled together to help make the night a success.

Whether it is providing funding for the outreach and fully-integrated supportive services provided by OPCC, financing the development of permanent supportive housing by nonprofits like Step Up on Second, or numerous other homeless service programs, our City is a leader in helping the most vulnerable among us.

The City's Homeless Action Plan, which is updated regularly, is available on the City's website and establishes a vision statement, guiding principles, and refinements to the City's homeless service system. The City's approach is multi-pronged with strong interdepartmental coordination, which is the most effective way to address the need.

The results of the 2016 Homeless Count will be available in late February. Those of us participating for the first time will surely be there next year. The success of this volunteer effort makes us all proud to live in a city where the human needs of those less fortunate matter.

As this column is being written it is a very cold and windy night in Santa Monica. We are worried about those we saw sleeping in doorways, on the beach and throughout the city without shelter in the early morning hours of last Thursday. This is a problem that demands a solution; as we focus on those who do not have housing, we should also remember that while the challenges of affordable housing impact the people we count in this annual effort, they also impact those who are working, struggling, or otherwise seeking to find housing in our increasingly unaffordable city.

We as Santa Monica residents, in our warm homes tonight, must all commit to finding those solutions.

Leslie Lambert, Jason Islas, Judy Abdo, Carl Hansen, Jerry Rubin, Elena Christopoulos, Richard Brand, Craig Hamilton, Frederick Zimmerman, Cynthia Rose, and Jeremy Stutes for Santa Monica Forward. Read more at santamonicaforward.org.

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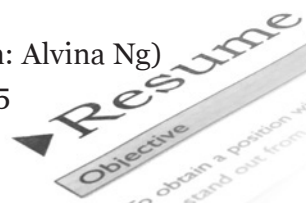
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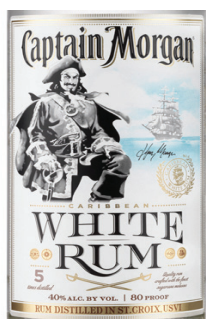
Production Manager for online retailer.

Must have MSc in Industrial Technology or HR Development & relevant experience.

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800 Apollo Street, El Segundo, CA 90245
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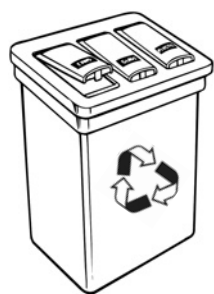


CITY OF SANTA MONICA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #68 STREET SIGN INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE
• **Submission Deadline is February 16, 2016 at 12:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: [Planet Bids](http://PlanetBids.com) or <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm>. There is no charge for the RFP package.



RECYCLE NOW!

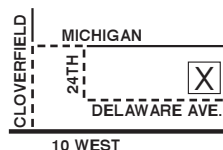
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\$1.65 per pound
with this coupon expires 2-29-16

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Cardboard White/Color/Computer Paper 🗑 Copper & Brass

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SANTA MONICA

MAIL

FROM PAGE 1

fraud investigations that center on checks taken from mailboxes, washed and illegally reused.

Maher said mail theft has followed state trends for non-violent crime and that Southern California is a hotspot for mail theft. He said there have been a rash of Los Angeles area thefts using counterfeit mailbox keys.

"We do have a problem with centralized boxes and counterfeit keys, I can't go into detail because I don't want to let people know how to do it," he said.

He said there are multiple ways to compromise some kinds of mailboxes.

"To respond to the epidemic, the postal service is in the process of removing them and replacing the master locks with newer locks that are much more secure and not as easy to counterfeit," he said.

Maher said the replacements are occurring statewide and the postal service does not disclose the replacement location or schedule.

"We are replacing these as quickly as we can, but again, it's not going to happen overnight that all of a sudden all the locks are replaced," he said.

The Postal Inspection Service made 206 mail theft arrests in 2015. The department does not provide additional information on historic arrest rates but said cases of theft in Santa Monica are not an outlier among the region.

"It's a big problem in Los Angeles and Southern California area," said Maher. "We all need to be aware of this and be vigilant."

Stacia Crane, U.S. Postal Inspection Service public information officer said they rely on information from customers in their investigations.

"Every day, the U.S. Postal Service safely and efficiently delivers millions of checks, money orders, credit cards and other valuable items," she said. "Unfortunately, such items are also attractive to thieves. That's why Postal Inspectors across the country are at work to protect your mail. But with deliveries to more than 150 million addresses, we can't do the job alone."

She said the data gathered from complaints can help Postal Inspectors determine if the problem is isolated or part of a larger trend. Thefts can be reported directly to the Inspectors office via an online complaint at postalinspectors.uspis.gov or by phone at (877) 876-2455.

Crane said residents can take steps to protect themselves from theft. She said mail should be removed from a mailbox regularly and those boxes should be properly secured.

Additional tips include:

Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.

Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery. Or ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail if you're expecting high-value items.

Have your Post Office hold your mail while you're absent from your home for a period of time. You can do this online at usps.com.

If you don't receive valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.

If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.

Consider starting a neighborhood watch program.

If you have concerns about security in your neighborhood, place mail in a collection box in another area, in a secure receptacle at your place of business, or at a Post Office.

If you become a victim of an identity crime:

■ Place a fraud alert on your credit reports by contacting one of the three credit reporting bureaus. (One call places an alert with all three bureaus.)

EQUIFAX

(800) 525-6285
equifax.com
P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

EXPERIAN

(888) 397-3742
experian.com
P.O. Box 9701
Allen, TX 75013-9701

TRANSUNION

(800) 680-7289
transunion.com
Fraud Victim Assistance
P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

■ Once you report you're a victim of ID theft and a fraud alert is placed on your credit file, you'll receive a letter from each credit reporting agency with instructions on how to obtain a free credit report, which you're entitled to under federal law. Order the report from annualcreditreport.com.

■ Contact banks and creditors by phone and in writing to report a crime.

■ Change PIN codes and passwords immediately. Instruct banks and creditors to contact you if there's unusual activity on your accounts. Check if fraudulent accounts were opened without your consent. Check your accounts for accuracy.

■ Check monthly financial statements regularly for accuracy.

■ Start an ID theft file with names and phone numbers of people with whom you discussed your case, original reports, and supporting documents. Accurate and complete records will help resolve your problem. Keep track of how much time you expend.

■ File a complaint online with the FTC or by calling (877) 438-4338. Request a complaint reference no., ID theft affidavit password, and a copy of the FTC memo to law enforcement. An email will be sent with a link to your identity theft affidavit and the FTC memo to law enforcement.

■ File a police report. Bring to the police station the ID theft affidavit, FTC memo, proof of your identity, and proof of the crime.

Maher said thefts from public collection boxes usually occur over night and customers can further protect themselves by checking the collection time on the box and depositing mail before the last collection.

"This does happen everywhere," he said, "with this criminal element that pursues this type of activity."

According to Maher, observant citizens are an important line of defense. He said residents should report any suspicious activity, such as individuals following postal carriers or anyone possibly tampering with mailboxes.

Visit <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov> for more information.

editor@smdp.com



Jeffrey I. Goodman

VOLUNTEER: Locals prepared and served a meal at OPCC's transitional housing facility.

VOLUNTEER

FROM PAGE 1

pitcher held up a fist to reveal what had created that bulge: his 1988 World Series ring.

Leary, a Santa Monica High School alumnus who played baseball at UCLA before embarking on a career in the majors, was visiting Turning Point with other former players, Dodgers employees and Bank of America representatives Jan. 27 as part of a community outreach event during which they prepared and served meals to OPCC clients.

A Santa Monica resident, Leary had heard and read about the social service organization and its work with the local homeless population. But he had never before set foot in one of the nonprofit's housing facilities.

"The ring has a lot of power," said Leary, an alumni member of the Dodgers' community relations team. "This is good for me. And to be able to do something right in Santa Monica is extra special."

What made Leary's visit even more meaningful were his interactions with two fellow Samohi alumni he'd never met before.

Leary was a star with the Bruins in college before being drafted by the New York Mets as the second pick overall in 1979. He made his MLB debut in 1981, following a season in the minors.

But even now, more than a quarter-century removed from his World Series championship, the private baseball instructor remains proud of his Santa Monica roots.

That much was clear as Leary chatted with Viveca Cole, OPCC's volunteer coordi-

nator at Turning Point. She graduated from Samohi in 1977, a year after Leary, but she didn't know the all-CIF honoree.

"We probably passed each other on campus on many occasions," she said.

Cole has become a social worker and community advocate, whether she's speaking to students at the Samohi career fair or engaging with residents at Turning Point. The facility where she works recently completed a \$1-million renovation, and she said it's valuable for people to see OPCC's efforts in person.

"It gives people awareness that homelessness is in everybody's community," she said. "We're here to serve. We're here to get involved at whatever level we can, whether it's working for an agency that provides services or coming in as a volunteer."

Having Leary in the building was a neat experience for Matt Pendergast, 53, a Canadian who graduated from Samohi in 1980.

Pendergast attended Trent University in Ontario and was recently living in Calgary when he and his wife split, he said. The breakup led him to spend his savings on a trip back to Southern California, where his 85-year-old mother lives.

A resident at Turning Point for about five weeks, Pendergast said he slept most nights in the previous year at a park in Westchester. Outreach workers put him in touch with OPCC in Santa Monica.

Clean-shaven and upbeat, Pendergast said it was hard to accept moving into a transitional housing facility.

"I'm hoping this is short-term," he said.

jeff@smdp.com

ART

FROM PAGE 1

then transitioned into art for film and TV, a career move that gave him time to develop his own artwork.

And after a stint in New York, Heller returned to Southern California to make a living off his own creations. Thanks to his Santa Monica roots, he said, he has a handful of celebrity clients and is commissioned for much of his work.

"I always made art," he said, "but I didn't realize it would be a career."

Citing Jean-Michel Basquiat as one of his influences, Heller often incorporates text into his visual art. In his "Homage to Music" series, he paints the lyrics of popular ballads like Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run,"

Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" and Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer."

"I transition it into another sense so you're seeing a song," he said.

Using a special method to produce block-like lettering, Heller also writes poetry for his art. His phrases, such as "I will always love you until I don't," are intentionally contradictory and thought-provoking.

"He's an incredible artist," Morena said. "We were talking about doing something [in the space], and this all just panned out."

Morena's art space is located at 201 San Juan Ave., just off Main Street in Venice. Heller's opening reception will be held Saturday, Feb. 6., from 6 to 9 p.m.

For more information about the artist, visit www.matthewheller.com.

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.8°

TUESDAY – FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
NW swell-mix winds down. Improving conditions.

WEDNESDAY – FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft knee to waist high
Leftover NW swell-mix lingers. New WNW swell builds in the PM.

THURSDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft Knee to chest high
Modest WNW swell - plus sets at winter standouts out west.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 356 calls for service on Jan 31.

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

Suspicious person, 500 block of Washington, 12:05 a.m.
Battery, 6th/Grant, 12:37 a.m.
Arson, 1300 block of 2nd, 1:06 a.m.
Party complaint, 400 block of 12th, 1:06 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 1500 block of 2nd, 7:38 a.m.
Disturbance at a business, 2700 block of Santa Monica, 8:17 a.m.
Fight, 2800 block of Lincoln, 8:23 a.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 1400 block of Cloverfield, 8:30 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 8:32 a.m.
Person down, 200 block of Pico, 8:55 a.m.
Vandalism, 1800 block of Main, 10:16 a.m.
Family disturbance, 2000 block of California, 11:48 a.m.
Vandalism, 1000 block of Euclid, 12:01 p.m.
Battery, 1400 block of 4th, 12:01 p.m.
Burglary, 100 block of Montana, 12:28 p.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 200 block of Pico, 12:36 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 3000 block of 2nd, 12:39 p.m.
Battery, 1900 block of Pico, 12:50 p.m.

72 hour psychiatric hold, 2000 block of California, 1:08 p.m.
Traffic collision, 2300 block of Santa Monica, 1:28 p.m.
Overdose, 1400 block of 2nd, 2:19 p.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 1500 block of Palisades Park, 2:33 p.m.
Burglary, 900 block of Santa Monica, 2:54 p.m.
Disturbance of the peace, Ocean/Colorado, 3:05 p.m.
Hit and run, 1800 block of 7th, 3:17 p.m.
Burglary, 1500 block of Princeton, 3:27 p.m.
Person down, 7th/Olympic, 4:23 p.m.
Stalking, 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom, 5:17 p.m.
Public intoxication, 2100 block of Arizona, 6:39 p.m.
Burglary, 1300 block of Yale, 6:59 p.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 900 block of 9th, 7:35 p.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom, 7:59 p.m.
Death, 1300 block of 26th, 8:10 p.m.
DUI, 2nd/Santa Monica, 9:21 p.m.
Suspicious vehicle, 2600 block of Lincoln, 9:53 p.m.
Fight, 20th/Santa Monica, 10:06 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 2000 block of Lincoln, 10:14 p.m.
Sexual assault, 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom, 10:34 p.m.
Suspicious person, 1500 block of Olympic, 11:04 p.m.
Threats, 1100 block of 10th, 11:25 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 44 calls for service on Jan. 31.

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

Miscellaneous outside fire, 1300 block of 2nd, 1:07 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 3200 block of Donald Douglas, 1:09 a.m.
EMS, 1000 block of Wilshire, 1:13 a.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Ocean, 1:13 a.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Michigan, 1:24 a.m.
EMS, 100 block of Broadway, 1:36 a.m.
EMS, 2100 block of Virginia, 4:13 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 17th, 4:42 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 17th, 6:10 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 20th, 7:33 a.m.
EMS, 200 block of Pico, 8:56 a.m.
EMS, 2500 block of Michigan, 9:27 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1400 block of 10th, 9:34 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of Euclid, 10:27 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 16th, 10:34 a.m.
EMS, 1800 block of Cloverfield, 11:28 a.m.
EMS, 1800 block of 20th, 12:43 p.m.

Injuries from assault, 300 block of Olympic, 12:59 p.m.
Vehicle fire, 500 block of Bay, 1:09 p.m.
Public assist, 1400 block of 14th, 1:39 p.m.
Request fire, 1400 block of 14th, 1:45 p.m.
Public assist, 300 block of 15th, 1:57 p.m.
EMS, 2200 block of Ashland, 2:05 p.m.
EMS, 3300 block of Barnard, 2:07 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 2nd, 2:20 p.m.
Wires down, 300 block of 14th, 2:25 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of Wilshire, 2:33 p.m.
EMS, 14th/Wilshire, 2:50 p.m.
Wires down, 2500 block of 3rd, 4:19 p.m.
Public assist, 1100 block of Harvard, 5:12 p.m.
EMS, Lincoln/Pico, 6:09 p.m.
EMS, 100 block of Colorado, 6:28 p.m.
EMS, 4th/Pico, 6:59 p.m.
Wires down, 20th/Olympic, 7:03 p.m.
Wires down, 1400 block of 17th, 7:40 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 26th, 8:01 p.m.
Wires down, 800 block of Maple, 8:10 p.m.
EMS, 300 block of 25th, 8:11 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of Colorado, 8:25 p.m.
EMS, 900 block of 3rd, 8:51 p.m.
EMS, 300 block of Olympic, 9:15 p.m.
EMS, 900 block of Lincoln, 10:23 p.m.
EMS, 2200 block of Colorado, 10:28 p.m.
EMS, 2200 block of 23rd, 11:22 p.m.

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Pamphlet-eer Thomas

6 1992 Nicholson film

11 Building wing

12 Land measures

13 Budget watchers

15 Language suffix

16 Squeeze (out)

17 Adam’s mate

18 Out of the workforce

20 Golfer Hogan

21 Rte.-suggesting system

22 Pocket fuzz

23 Fancy neckwear

26 Convenes

27 Rating unit

28 Order’s partner

29 Light touch

30 Time of delivery, perhaps

34 Needle feature

35 Golf’s Ernie

36 Pasture

37 Ones watching streaming TV
- 40 Lesson giver

41 Waken

42 Hard-hearted

43 Made a choice
- DOWN
- 1 Indiana basketball player

2 Win by —

3 Miniature map

4 Butterfly catcher

5 Book bit

6 Despised

7 Fall mo.

8 Giveaway

9 Impassioned

10 Concurs

14 Luau instruments, for short

19 Composer Stravinsky

22 Smutty

23 Features

24 “Don’t come in!”

25 Indulge

26 Orchestra leader

28 Hum-dinger

30 Condemn openly

31 Alaskan native

32 Hardly wordy

33 Moved carefully

38 Oxford bigwig

39 Apex

C	U	T	U	P		S	L	A	B	
A	R	O	S	E		M	I	N	E	D
L	I	N	E	R		A	L	T	A	R
L	A	G		S	A	L		O	R	E
S	H	A	D	O	W	L	A	N	D	S
			O	N	E		L	I	E	S
G	I	F	T	S		C	A	N	D	Y
A	C	R	E		T	O	M			
S	H	A	D	O	W	B	O	X	E	R
M	A	G		M	O	B		E	L	I
A	B	I	D	E		L	I	N	U	S
N	O	L	A	N		E	R	O	D	E
	D	E	N	S		D	A	N	E	S

Yesterday’s answer

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

2-2

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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 1/30
5 12 16 31 43
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 112M

Draw Date: 1/29
20 28 49 51 52
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 63M

Draw Date: 1/30
2 31 33 36 38
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 13M

Draw Date: 1/31
5 6 21 26 32

Draw Date: 1/31
MIDDAY: 4 8 5
EVENING: 0 3 7

Draw Date: 1/31
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:42.10

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WORD UP!

nonce

1. the present, or immediate, occasion or purpose (usually used in the phrase for the nonce).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1920

- France occupies Memel.

1922

- Ulysses by James Joyce is published.

1925

- Serum run to Nome: Dog sleds reach Nome, Alaska with diphtheria serum, inspiring the Iditarod race.

1933

- Working as maids, the sisters Christine and Léa Papin murder their employer’s wife and daughter in Le Mans, France. The case is the subject of a number of French films and plays.

1934

- The Export-Import Bank of the United States is incorporated.

1935

- Leonarde Keeler tests the first poly-graph machine.

1942

- Oswald Group is responsible for the first, active event of Resistance [against the German occupation of Norway] when Østbanehallen (at present-day Oslo Central Station) was blown up to protest the inauguration of Vidkun Quisling.

1943

- World War II: The Battle of Stalingrad comes to conclusion as Soviet troops accept the surrender of 91,000 remnants of the Axis forces.

1957

- Iskander Mirza of Pakistan lays the foundation-stone of the Guddu Barrage.

1966

- Pakistan suggests a six-point agenda with Kashmir after the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Weird Japan, Again: (1) Among the sites Japan has submitted for 2017 United Nations World Heritage status is the island of Okinoshima, home of a sacred shrine with which Shinto gods have been “protecting” fishermen as long ago as the fourth century. (The island is so sacred that females have never been allowed on it – judged either too delicate to make the trip or menstrually unclean). (2) A current Tokyo craze, reported an Australian Broadcasting correspondent, involves “stressed out” professionals and office workers publicly outfitted in colorful, full-body lycra suits (“zentai”) in a rebellion against the nation’s stultifying conformity. Said one, “I’m a different person wearing this. I can be friendly to anyone.”

■ Crescent City, California, drug dealer James Banuelos pleaded guilty in January in exchange for a lighter sentence (three years in prison), thus avoiding for police the airing of an embarrassing hidden-camera video of the raid showing arresting officers stealing the dealer’s money and valuables. “Multiple” officers were shown laughing and helping themselves, and a gold chain belonging to Banuelos wound up for sale a few days later on Craigslist. As part of the plea agreement, the prosecutor agreed to give all Banuelos’ stuff back to him.

OUT AND ABOUT TONIGHT, GEM

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have been complacent in dealing with one person at a time. You will see the results of feeling as secure as you do. Be willing to reach out for someone at a distance. Some of you might opt instead to sign up for a workshop to enhance your knowledge. Tonight: Stay open.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You know how to defer to others, and you do so with a great amount of grace and consideration. How you deal with someone who has a big effect on your life could be significant. Know that a controlling characteristic exists in both of you. Tonight: Chat with a pal over dinner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You'll move into a phase where you enjoy others far more. Networking becomes a very high priority in your plans. Letting go of detailed work, even for just a day, could enhance the quality of your day. You will discover how important breaks are. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You have been daydreaming more than usual during the past few days. The time has come to be more grounded and get into some chores or work. You will feel very good about yourself by the end of the day if you can accomplish what you want. Tonight: Off to the gym.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You come from a secure point of view. Your ability to come up with dynamic solutions marks your day. A loved one could use some feedback from you, so make it your pleasure. You have that magic touch that others seek out when trying to work on a project. Tonight: Playtime.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You have a direct way of communicating. You know what is necessary to push forward in order to make things happen. You will discover that working close to home or from home makes you more successful and efficient than you originally had thought possible. Tonight: Go for cozy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Deal with financial matters in the morning. The sooner you clear up these issues, the more you will enjoy your day. You will smile from ear to ear because you're more relaxed, even if you encounter a problem. Your optimism plays out no matter which way you go. Tonight: Hang out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be willing to let go of some control and allow someone else to follow through on a financial issue for you. You know that this person's expertise counts. Instead of criticizing his or her creative and unusual ideas, absorb the positivity of his or her thinking. Tonight: Make it your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your energy builds in the morning. You could be difficult to stop, as your sense of direction is impeccable. You make the right calls at the right times. You could smile and draw in many different people. You seem to know what to do and when to do it. Tonight: Call the shots.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could be at the end of your patience when dealing with others. You know when you have pushed yourself too hard. You probably need a break, but you don't even realize it. Be more forthright with a family member; know that this person cares. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Know when you can move forward and assume your rightful role as a leader within your group of friends. You often don't have strong feelings about which way would be best for you to go. At this moment, you clearly know where to head. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You are in a position to read between the lines. You know which way to go, and are likely to take action today. Others look up to you and admire your strength. They are quite taken aback by your energy and sense of direction. Go for what you want. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

This year you naturally expand your circle of friends and associates. You know what you want, and you don't hesitate to pursue that course. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone of significance. What role you allow this relationship to play in your life is your choice. If you are attached, the two of you will manage to achieve a long-term goal that both of you have desired. You often can be found celebrating the fulfillment of your life together. SAGITTARIUS makes a great friend for you.

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

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew By John Deering



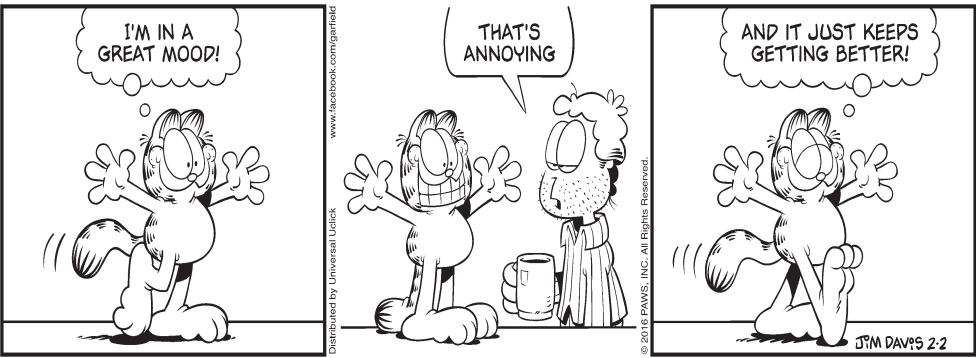
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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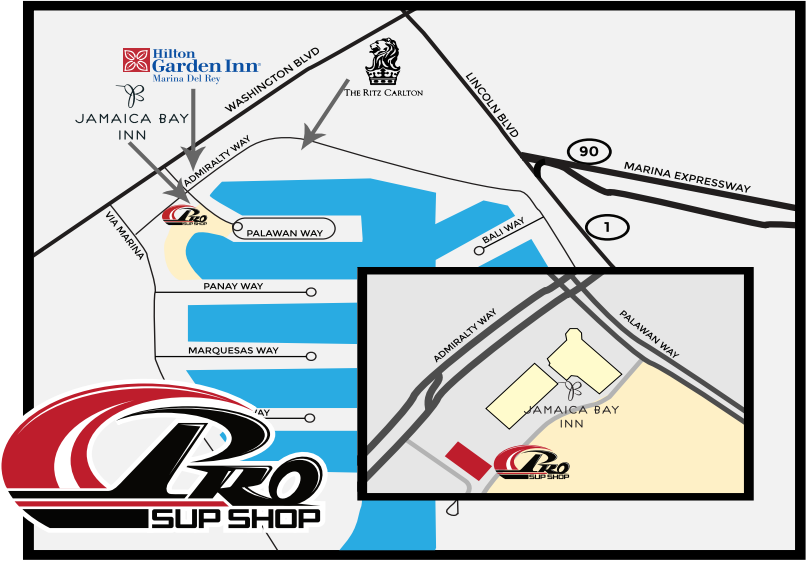
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