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BOYS BASKETBALL:

Crossroads' Zakarin heading to Kenyon College



Morgan Genser

COLLEGE BOUND: Ethan Zakarin will continue his basketball career at Kenyon College after a successful career at Crossroads.

Versatile 6-foot-5 forward to continue career in Division III

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

With his back to the basket, Ethan Zakarin wards off his defender as he collects a teammate's pass from the wing. He takes one dribble to the left, then quickly spins back to the middle with a graceful drop step, scoring from close range on the opposite side of the basket.

The highlight-reel sequence reveals a sliver of the low-post arsenal that Zakarin has developed during his time on the Crossroads boys basketball team, and it's perhaps a sign of things to come.

Zakarin has decided to continue his athletic career at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he'll join a men's basketball program that competes in Division III as a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference.

Zakarin said the academic opportunities and the chance to make an impact on the basketball court lured him to Kenyon, a 1,600-student campus about 45 miles from Columbus. He'll attend a college whose list of alumni includes former U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes, two Supreme Court justices, award-winning actor Paul Newman and Calvin and Hobbes cartoonist Bill Watterson.

Kenyon also leads all Division III institutions with a total of 60 national championship trophies, according to its website, and Zakarin hopes to help the Lords add to their legacy in sports.

The Brentwood resident is looking forward to improving his skills under coach Dan Priest, who is in his sixth year at the helm of the program. The team, whose roster currently includes two other California products, had logged eight wins through 21 games this season.

"I went for a visit and vibed with the guys, and I had a good open gym," he said. "I looked into the programs they had and saw they had a great academic reputation. It just worked out."

Kenyon will be the next destination for Zakarin in a basketball career that began early in his childhood. He played several sports, including baseball and flag football, but he seemed to have a knack for hoops.

The 6-foot-5 athlete said it probably didn't hurt that he was usually

SEE HOOPS PAGE 5

Council delays decision for an athletic field at the Civic Auditorium

Staff directed to return with additional research at a future meeting

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

An athletic field remains part of the plan for the Civic Auditorium site, but when that field might get built remains an open question.

At their Feb. 9 meeting, the Council said they were committed to a field at the corner of 4th Street and Pico Boulevard, but no defini-

SEE CIVIC PAGE 6

'Pod Tune' album unites art, activism

Whalesong music project produced by Santa Monica resident

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Around late December three years ago, Harold Linde was sitting in a darkened kitchen in Wisconsin and lamenting how Christmas music had largely become so cheesy and clichéd.

"I sort of explored the question of, 'What would special, sacred music really sound like?'" he said. "What if whales were part of it? A humpback whale song stops you. It's interesting. It's special."

But, Linde said, whale sounds

SEE WHALES PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 11

Internet Basics II
Continue to build your Web searching skills to help you locate information and evaluate online sources. Intermediate level. Seating is on a first arrival basis. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call 310-434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Computer Class: Introduction to Typing
This course will guide you step-by-step from the beginning. It will teach you hand position and improve your typing speed through various hands-on tutorials. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 1 - 2 p.m.

Homework Help @ Pico Branch
A separate study area, basic supplies, and volunteers to assist with homework questions. Grades 1 - 5. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Make It: Working with Clay @ Main
Create heart-shaped magnets, just in time for Valentine's Day! Registration required. Sign-ups begin Tuesday, January 19. Grades K-5. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 - 4 p.m.

Chinese New Year Tea Tasting
Find out how to select good tea while learning about the health benefits and history of this famous leaf. Presented by Khemi Hapangama of Hill Country Tea. Ocean Park Branch, 2601 Main St., 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Rent Control Board Meeting
Regular Rent Control Board Meeting. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 12

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15 per class or sign up for the series (4 weeks for $50, including parking). 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.

Drink, Paint & Create
Come join fun-loving artists who will guide you step by step to complete a painting in 2 - 3 hours and you take home your masterpiece to showoff to your friends and family. For more information and to purchase tickets ($40) visit www.itswineyart.com/calendar, call (818) 927-1085 or email itswineyart@gmail.com. 2222 Wilshire Blvd., 7 - 9 p.m.

Fireside at the Miles - Orchestra Santa Monica Woodwind Quintet
Every Fireside Concert features a different mix of contemporary music, opera, jazz, storytelling, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a capella singing and more. Performances take place beside the large period fireplace with an eco-log fire. $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.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Free Craft Lounge
Tiffany Peterson leads a crafting session focusing on the art of tie –dye on upcycled t-shirts and fabric. Bring your own cotton items and experiment with tie-dyeing. Free and open to all adults. 1450 Ocean Ave., 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LA County

Teacher award nominations due Feb. 19

Do you know an outstanding preschool teacher that deserves to be recognized for the meaningful work they do with children every day? Do you have a story of a preschool teacher who is creating an impact on a young child's life? Nominate an outstanding preschool teacher to be a contender for Los Angeles Universal Preschool's (LAUP) 9th LA County Preschool Teacher of the Year Awards.

For nine years, LAUP has honored the achievements of preschool teachers who are making a difference in Los Angeles. As an organization that is dedicated to moving the needle in quality early care and education, LAUP strives to recognize quality programs that are giving our young learners the developmental skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Nomination forms are due Feb. 19.

Each winning teacher is awarded a $2,000 cash stipend through the Elizabeth Lowe / Bob Weekley Award for Excellence in Preschool Teaching endowment, as well as classroom supplies generously donated by Lakeshore Learning Materials. In addition, they will be honored with a celebration luncheon in May at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration and presented with an official scroll from the LA County Board of Supervisors. For more information, visit LAUP.net.

LAUP is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance early education program quality and capacity by supporting the development of the whole child, growing a qualified and diverse workforce, and strengthening family engagement. Create and sustain strategic partnerships and advocate for policies that promote access and program excellence.

– SUBMITTED BY RACHAEL STOFFEL, LAUP COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Citywide

New website for Community Corporation

As part of its ongoing effort to be more accessible and transparent to prospective residents, current residents and members of the greater community, Community Corporation of Santa Monica has completely redesigned its website, www.communitycorp.org. Literally rebuilt from the ground up, the website makes it easier to get know the organization, its buildings, the services it provides, and its ongoing work to advance environmental sustainability in Santa Monica. By providing new information for those interested in applying for affordable housing through Community Corp., the organization hopes to facilitate the application process. Changes to the website include a more user-friendly description of the process, printable forms, FAQ's, as well as relevant and helpful links to housing agencies and community services.

The new website also features many of Community Corp.'s award-winning residential buildings which are at the forefront of architectural innovation and green design.

Officials said they wanted to more clearly represent who they are as an organization and make it easier for everyone to get the information they need.

Community Corporation of Santa Monica is a non-profit organization that restores, builds, and manages affordable housing for people of modest means. Founded by community leaders in 1982, Community Corp. has pioneered the development of architecturally significant and environmentally sustainable affordable housing. It has built or restored more than 90 properties throughout Santa Monica, creating nearly 1,700 affordable homes and transforming the lives of more than 4,000 people every year. Our work contributes to the distinct character of Santa Monica, making it a more inclusive, caring, and environmentally sustainable city.

For more information, please visit their website at www.communitycorp.org.

- SUBMITTED BY SARAH LETTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY CORPORATION OF SANTA MONICA

Downtown

Composers Joseph Mitchell and William Roper performing as Judicanti Responsura

The Santa Monica Public Library will present Judicanti Responsura in concert on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Judicanti Responsura, the duo of percussionist Joseph Mitchell and tubaist William Roper, perform a program of original music entitled Beyond Congo Square - The Month of Our People.

Composer/performers Mitchell and Roper began their musical association in the LAPD Junior Band in the late 1960s. They liked beating drums and blowing loud horns. They did not know that their people were once prohibited from doing so. Once they found out, they formalized their rebellion by founding the tuba and percussion duo Judicanti Responsura in 1984, an ensemble which embraces African American improvising traditions. Mitchell and Roper grew up in Los Angeles' South Central and Watts communities and were somewhat politicized by the experience. Their compositions reflect that in their inspiration, titles, content, and presentation. Judicanti Responsura has recorded on the Asian Improv, Tomato Sage Consortium, and Heliotrope Dreams labels.

The title for this event refers to the Louisiana slave code that only allowed drumming by African Americans in New Orleans' Congo Square. February is the month we can officially remember such peculiar institutions and practices. This performance features Joseph Mitchell's "Birmingham Sunday (September 15, 1963)," a setting of Langston Hughes' elegy for the four girls killed in an act of race terror during the height of the Civil Rights movement, and William Roper's "Darkest Night - Balthazar Joins the Sacred Company," which incorporates live performance and a recorded soundscape, imagining the evening the dark-skinned King Balthazar, bearing gifts, follows a star.

This program is part of the concert series Soundwaves, which features innovative music on the third Wednesday evening of each month. Soundwaves is sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first-arrival basis. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For special disabled services, call Library Administration at (310) 458-8606 at least one week prior to event. For more information, visit smpl.org or contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

- SUBMITTED BY JEFF SCHWARTZ, REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

Community briefs are informational items submitted to the Santa Monica Daily Press by residents, businesses or organizations. The name and organizational affiliation of the individual who sent the information is provided at the end of each brief. To submit information, email editor@smdp.com.

LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

Reduction Woodcut Printing on Fabric

Build on what you learned in last week's Reduction Woodcut class, or embark on the technique for the first time. We continue from last week to cut & print multiple colors on fabric. If you missed the first part on 2/6 you can start a woodblock in this class. Those who start their woodblocks in this class may wish to sign up for a Sunday Printmaking Labs to make a print. Cost: $10. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/48728.1450 Ocean Ave., 11 a.m. - 1 p.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.

Free Los Angeles Knitting Meetup

Join members of the Los Angeles Knitting Meetup to hang out and knit or crochet! Admission is free. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/48750. 1450 Ocean Ave., 12 - 3 p.m.

Bhutan: "The Happiest Place on Earth"

Travel to Bhutan with author Lisa Napoli, as she describes her experiences helping the Bhutanese, at the dawn of democratic rule, start up the country's first radio station and get connected to the world. A book sale and signing follows. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 - 4:30 p.m.

BROADWAY
WINE & SPIRITS



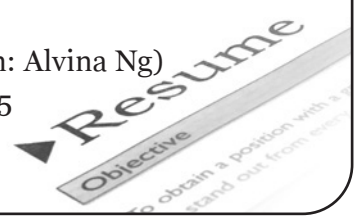
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Culture Watch

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

So much to do!

SOME WEEKS THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH TO do, to see, to absorb. This is one of those weeks.

On Wednesday night I'll attend the opening of "An Act of God," one of the highest-grossing hits on Broadway in many years, now making its West Coast debut with Sean Hayes. He's the multi-award winning comedic actor whose outsized personality was a highlight of the long-running sitcom "Will and Grace."

Written by David Javerbaum, who created @TheTweetofGod, and who won 11 of his 13 Emmy Awards for his writing on Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show," "An Act of God" is based on his book, "The Last Testament: A Memoir by God," which was adapted from the Twitter feed, then re-adapted for the stage.

From the online clips I've watched, it's a laugh riot, with lots of politically incorrect commentary about the existential quandaries of human existence. And some pretty irreverent punch lines.

It runs at The Ahmanson through March 13, and if the turnout on Broadway was any indication (it starred Jim Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory"), it's likely to play to sold-out houses here as well. Visit www.CenterTheatreGroup.org or call (213) 972-4400 for tickets.

On Thursday night, I'll be in the audience for "Barcelona" by Bess Wohl at The Geffen Playhouse in Westwood. This sounds rather more serious; a drunk American woman has a one-night stand with a dashing Spaniard that turns into a complicated cat and mouse game, both funny and frightening.

I'll be happy to see Betty Gilpin, who played the arrogant, hot-to-trot, incompetent first-year medical resident Carrie Roman on Showtime's "Nurse Jackie," in a more serious role. And the play also introduces Carlos Leal, a Swiss-born actor with numerous TV and film credits, to the American stage as the Spaniard.

A friend who's seen a preview tells me it's good - I'll share my thoughts next week. For details and reservations, link to www.geffenplayhouse.com or call the box office at (310) 208-5454, through March 13.

SO MUCH FOOD!

One film receiving a lot of buzz these days is "City of Gold," a documentary about LA Times and Pulitzer Prize-winning restaurant critic, Jonathan Gold. People have been talking about it since it premiered at Sundance in 2015. It will be released this spring.

It's about Gold's love affair with the incredibly diverse food culture of Los Angeles, the writing specialty that led to his Pulitzer.

The Hammer Museum in Westwood is offering a free screening plus Q&A with Jonathan Gold on Wed., Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are required so get to the Billy Wilder Theatre an hour early to pick one up. Parking's just $3 and members of the museum get priority seating and ticketing. For more information about public programs, go to Hammer.ucla.edu.

SO MUCH MUSIC!

Where to begin? Concerts around Santa Monica include the Robert Turner Piano Competition, staged by The Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with the Westside Music Foundation, featuring six exceptionally talented student performers playing one movement of each of two concertos by Mozart.

This all-Mozart program includes the Symphony No. 25 in G minor, Piano Concerto No. 22 in E flat major, and Piano Concerto No. 27 in C major.

Robert Turner was a piano prodigy who trained three generations of students, twenty of whom have given solo performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, now in its 63rd season, is one the oldest community orchestras in the United States, providing community enrichment through music and supporting both medical and musical causes, especially those that help talented young musicians.

The concert takes place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted at the door. Parking is free, too.

Find out more at www.ladso.org.

Although performances are not free, the non-profit Dream Orchestra is a passion project of conductor Daniel Suk that's devoted to promoting and presenting classical music that enriches the community and inspires the next generation of young musicians.

This year's Easter concert features Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and the deeply haunting and tragic Second Movement of "Symphony No. 3, Symphony of Sorrowful Songs" by Polish composer Henryk Górecki. Four world-class opera soloists and the Opera Chorus of Los Angeles will join the orchestra, and local 16-year old soprano Golda Berkman will sing the Górecki solo.

The concert takes place at St. Monica's Catholic Church, 725 California Ave., on Friday, March 4 at 8 p.m. There's a free dessert reception provided by Golda's dad, who owns Urth Caffé. Tickets are $40 general admission and $30 for students and senior citizens. Get the details at www.dreamorchestra.org.

Lastly the very unusual conductor-less and non-profit Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra is performing at First Presbyterian Church. Rumor has it that these concerts are not only mind- and ear-opening, but hipster cool, too.

On Sat., Feb. 27, you'll hear music by Messiaen ("L'Ascension") and Jonathan Russell with the West Coast premiere of the "Bass Clarinet Concerto" performed by Benjamin Mitchell.

As part of its educational mission, Kaleidoscope offers free admission to those under 18. Tickets are affordable, though. Visit http://www.kco.la/#home for details.

First Presbyterian is located at 1220 2nd St. in Santa Monica and it's both architecturally and acoustically divine for music concerts.

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

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No missteps in 'Altman's Last Stand'

FRANZ ALTMAN IS MAKING HIS LAST stand. Which is to be expected, because when a man is 90 years old there probably aren't too many stands left for him to take. Or the energy to take them.

But then, Franz Altman is a unique 90-year old. As portrayed by Michael Laskin, he rambles on at the Zephyr Theatre for 90 minutes, supposedly telling his life story to a reporter from People magazine, a Miss Carmichael (whom he initially misidentifies as Miss Carbuncle).

The play is "Altman's Last Stand" and it is having its American premiere after winning a Fringe First award for Laskin at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and a subsequent run at the Roundhouse Theatre in London.

Laskin, a sturdily built, impeccably articulate actor, plays the Viennese-born Altman, speaking with a classy middle-European accent from his second-hand curio shop, King Solomon's Treasure, in New York. And it is this shop that triggers his latest crisis and provokes his "Last Stand." For he is determined to maintain his shop in defiance of the developers who have bought the properties around him with the intention of erecting a high-rise apartment building on the site.

Altman will not sell, and it is his obstinate refusal that makes him a "celebrity." He is interviewed by Morley Safer on "60 Minutes," which precipitates all kinds of responses, including marriage proposals and invitations from all three major networks to host his own talk show.

Yet, despite the constant interruptions of the telephone, he manages to tell his story, beginning with his psychoanalysis at the age of seven by Sigmund Freud.

He notes that the American Constitution promises the "pursuit" of happiness, but doesn't guarantee its attainment, and as a confirmed atheist he reveals his personal Trinity: faith, fortune and romance.

Though he notes that wars result from religious disagreements, he acknowledges that "benign altruism" drove him to Israel in 1947 to fight as a member of the fierce Stern gang.

But before that, he spent the European war years in three different concentration camps: Teresienstadt, Buchenwald and Auschwitz. "My thirst for justice kept me alive," he says. Years later, however, when he is confronted by an event manager who demands to know why he is not wearing his nametag, he points to his forearm and declares that he does not wear a nametag because his "identity" is always with him.

Charles Dennis has scripted a fascinating one-man monologue, and thanks to Charles Haid's robust direction, your interest in Altman and his story never wavers. And the cluttered shop designed by set and projections designer Yee Eun Nam is enhanced by background projections that illustrate the various topics that Altman embarks upon.

But it is to Michael Laskin's immense credit that he can so effectively pull off this challenging solitary role. It's the masterful equivalent to what they used to say about Ginger Rogers when she danced with Fred Astaire: she not only danced, but she did it backwards and in high heels.

"Altman's Last Stand" will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through March 13 at the Zephyr Theatre, 7456 Melrose Ave. in Los Angeles. Call (323) 960-4412 for reservations or visit www.plays411.com/altman.

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

HOOPS

FROM PAGE 1

one of the taller kids on the court. He's planning to put his height to use this spring by playing volleyball with the Roadrunners.

Zakarin, who attended Wildwood School in West Los Angeles before enrolling at Crossroads for high school, took his game to the next level by playing on the club circuit. He said college basketball became realistic for him early last year, when he participated in a showcase that welcomed scouts from schools with strong academic traditions.

"I figured, 'If they're recruiting me, I guess I'm good enough,'" he said.

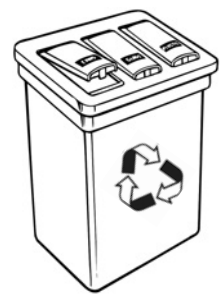
At Kenyon, Zakarin will likely pursue his interest in writing by taking courses in English, journalism and creative writing.

Zakarin said he'll miss playing basketball with his friends at his Santa Monica private school. Among the highlights was a 62-60 win over Santa Monica at the St. Monica tournament earlier this season.

"I don't think anybody expected us to do that," he said. "We've had some unbelievable memories. I'll definitely miss playing in the gym at Crossroads."

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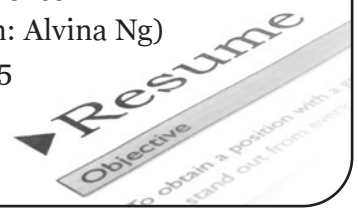
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Mark Berman, MD, FACS

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Call
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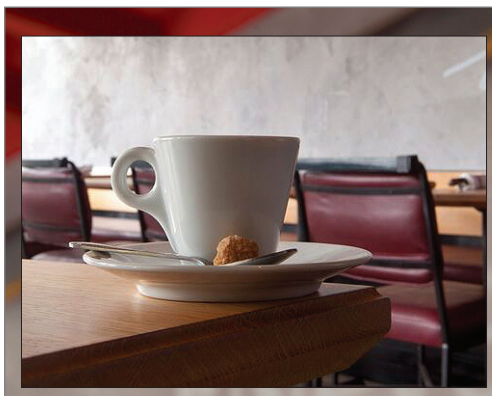
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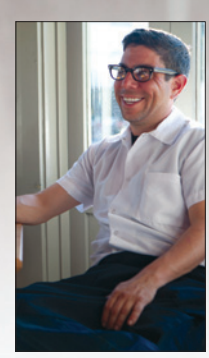






art's table

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CIVIC

FROM PAGE 1

tive action was taken to begin work on a field. Instead, Council directed staff to return with some kind of cost estimate, potential funding sources and a plan to work with community partners on a field project.

The discussion was scheduled to discuss recommendations from the Civic Working Group (CWG) regarding plans for the Civic Auditorium and while the agenda item wasn't specific to discussion of a field at the location, an outpouring of concerned residents refocused the debate on the City's need for additional play fields.

More than 100 individuals filed requests to speak and in over four hours of public comment almost every speaker asked for or demanded construction of a field on the current site of a parking lot at 4th and Pico. Students, parents, coaches, neighborhood representatives, private citizens, members of the school board, college board representatives, members of the CWG and just about everyone else asked for a commitment to a new field.

City Hall has been trying to redevelop the property for decades with several plans failing to come to fruition. The most recent document, drafted in 2005, specifically calls for a field on the site, but residents were concerned the field was in jeopardy due to a recommendation from the Civic Working Group that acknowledged the community desire for a field, but fell short of mandating a field as part of the potential reopening of the Civic Auditorium.

Councilman Terry O'Day praised the CWG for their work and said the way the council created the CWG was partly to blame for the concern over the field.

"When the working group was established they were given the task to consider the future of the Civic as the hub of a new mixed-use cultural district, and perhaps that is partly how the process got a bit off track and I just want to acknowledge our part in that," he said.

Council accepted the CWG report on Feb. 9 with a decision to seek proposals for a private operator to take over the Civic Auditorium, but they also attempted to show their commitment to a field.

State law limits detailed discussion to items specifically outlined on their agenda which in this case referred to soliciting bids to operate the building, however Council did address the concerns of citizens through directions to staff.

In a 6-0 vote, with Councilwoman Pam O'Connor absent, council directed staff to return with financial information related to construction of a temporary field at the site. Staff expect to return to council at or before the May budget process with a detailed consideration of a temporary field including potential partners for the project.

In addition, council have asked for work to begin on a comprehensive plan for field space throughout the city. That effort would include all the current programs already in place and will be a joint effort involving partners such as the school district, Santa Monica College, local sports teams and the Rec and Parks commission.

The council acknowledged their actions were limited, but repeatedly stated the 2005 plan remains in place, including its provision for a field on the site.

In giving direction, several councilmembers went out of their way to say it could take years to develop a comprehensive plan and even a temporary solution would likely take months, if not years, to put in place.

While the council reiterated their commitments to a field, they also acknowledged a lack of progress had angered residents.

"We do have to recognize that it's clear tonight that the community has become impatient with us in regards to the playing field," said Councilwoman Gleam Davis.

In an email, Councilman Kevin McKeown said incorporating language referencing the 2005 plan into the proposal requirements effectively incorporates the field requirement into any future discussions but also said a single field at the Civic site won't solve the bigger problem.

"The City Council Tuesday night made explicit that the Civic Center sports field, already part of the adopted 2005 Civic Center Specific Plan, shall be indicated as a 'given' as we seek partners for rehabilitating the Civic Auditorium," he wrote. "Further, we directed staff to explore a short-term, temporary sports field at the corner of 4th and Pico while longer-term plans are developed. We acknowledged the broad interest in multiple sports, making one field certainly not enough to satisfy the demonstrated interest, and told staff to begin conversations with the School District, the College, non-school sports leagues, and the community on how we can create multiple fields for the pressing sports and playfield needs that have remained unfulfilled."

Councilman Ted Winterer asked for additional information on ways to fund a field at the Civic site and said the City should explore what can be done in the short term while a long-term solution was developed. "We need to give a strong signal going forward that we will pursue this temporary field idea," he said.

Prior to their field comments, council did take action on seeking a new operator for the auditorium. Council chose to solicit proposals that are limited in scope saying the decision was made to maximize the chance of finding an operator who could take on the task of revitalizing the building itself.

"The idea was not to put any configuration or limits to responding to the RFQ," said Councilwoman Gleam Davis. "There's a lot of things that could happen there and the idea is not to put constraints on it so that whoever is responding to the RFQ can use their imagination and think outside of the box as much as possible."

O'Day said past plans for the Civic were doomed by too many requirements and said a more general proposal could actually increase the ability of the City to support uses like a sports field.

"One of the challenges we've had here is it's pretty narrowly defined what the Civic is used for, how it would be used and I'd like to be sure that we're thinking about opening it up significantly to these multiple uses, specifically these ideas around convention uses and sports," he said.

Bidders will be required to demonstrate financial/organizational skills, work within the 2005 plan (including the plans for the child education center, field and parking) and respond to the desire for a performing arts center.

editor@smdp.com

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES on PAGE 10!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

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

FROM ALPHA TO OMEGA:
The Best Comic Books of 2015

IN A LOT OF WAYS, 2015 WAS A BANNER year for comic books and comic book-inspired media. Because I loved so many comics last year, and in light of the recent passing of David Bowie - who influenced more comics and science fiction than most people realize - I'll be awarding several different comics awards named after classic Bowie songs.

THE "I'M AFRAID OF AMERICANS" AWARD: "THE OMEGA MEN" (DC)

Undoubtedly the biggest surprise of the year was when former CIA operative Tom King teamed with artist Barnaby Bagenda to revive "The Omega Men," changing the space opera from a post-"Star Wars" adventure property into something more like the early 2000s revival of "Battlestar Galactica:" an allegory for modern times with no direct metaphor on either side. In 2015, the Omega Men were branded terrorists as they tried to take down the Citadel, the once-benevolent but now-despotic galactic theocracy in a comic that was just as fresh, dangerous and important as the characters and situations it depicted.

THE "SPACE ODDITY" AWARD: "BUCKY BARNES, THE WINTER SOLDIER" (MARVEL)

Ales Kot, Marco Rudy and Langdon Foss continued their tale of former Captain America Bucky Barnes' adventures across the stars, using the cosmos of the Marvel Universe to explore the very real concepts of social responsibility, sexual identity, parentage, disability and even the very notion of war orphans. A complex series, and certainly not for the faint of heart, "Bucky Barnes" came to a conclusion that was altogether emotionally fulfilling and intellectually profound.

THE "BECAUSE YOU'RE YOUNG" AWARD: "SPIDER-GWEN" (MARVEL)

Jason Latour and Robbi Rodriguez have created a very different Marvel Universe in "Spider-Gwen," where Gwen Stacy was bitten by a radioactive spider that imbued her with powers that allowed her to become Spider-Woman, and you know what? It's the most fun you could ever hope to have with a superhero book. Addressing the franchise's themes of power and responsibility through a different lens, "Spider-Gwen" puts its heroine through the emotional ringer. Not a page of stylish art or quick-witted dialogue is wasted, and every re-interpreted character or concept has a clear rationale for being thusly altered. If "Scott Pilgrim" creator Bryan Lee O'Malley had created "Spider-Man," it might have been a lot like this.

THE "ALWAYS CRASHING IN THE SAME CAR" AWARD: "STRAY BULLETS - SUNSHINE AND ROSES"

"Bullets" reached its fiftieth issue with "Sunshine and Roses #1," and, if you'll excuse the pun, found David Lapham's Altmanesque crime thriller firing on all cylinders once again. The slow burn is intentional and profound, frightening and anxiety-inducing, and that's why the series has been able to maintain its status as one of the best the genre has ever produced. Characters like Beth, Scott and Monster continue to at once terrify and entertain, and newcomers like Kretchmeyer, with his monologue about transcendental meditation, supplied the kind of terror usually reserved for cable dramas.

THE "MOONAGE DAYDREAM" AWARD: "THE MULTIVERSITY" (DC)

Grant Morrison completed what was probably the finest work of his career - no exaggeration - in 2015 with the conclusion of his long-awaited tour of the Multiverse. In presentation, a universe-spanning tale of heroism, Lovecraftian incursions, industry satire and the fate of everything that ever was, is or will be. In summation, a tale of multiversal gentrification, brilliantly defying the labeling of "the other" by making those who would create the labels more "other" than anything most people could imagine. The jewel of this year's issues was probably "Mastermen," a story featuring a Nazi Justice League in a world where the Allies lost World War II, featuring the finest work of artist Jim Lee's career.

THE "CRACKED ACTOR" AWARD: "PROVIDENCE" (AVATAR)

Alan Moore and Jacen Burrows return with the third and final installment of their Lovecraft trilogy. Perhaps the most personal and daring work of Moore's since "Promethea." "Providence" doesn't try to hide its use of Moore's - and Lovecraft's - standard themes and personal code of ethics. Rather, it embraces them, even when they run contrary to one another, creating the sort of dissonance that possessed Lovecraft himself. Horrifying, heartbreaking, gut wrenching and suspenseful, "Providence" is the best horror comic in years.

THE "FUTURE LEGEND" AWARD: "THE SPIRE" (BOOM!)

Imagine a science-fantasy version of "Game of Thrones" with even more complex politics, a penchant for fart jokes, a smaller cast and the sense of immediacy provided by 9/11 and Sandy Hook and you'd have Si Spurrier's and Jeff Stokely's "The Spire." A mystery wrapped in a political thriller cloaked as a history, "The Spire" fearlessly depicts a lesbian detective with a mysterious past - potentially reaching past centuries - fighting the system from within while protecting it from without. Timely, elegant and memorable, "The Spire" should be more than read, or even cherished - it should be taught.

With a year like that, how can 2016 hope to measure up? We'll just have to see, won't we? All I know is that after the stellar year that was 2015, there is a lot of power in the hands of this year's creators, and with great power comes, well, you know…

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

WHALES

FROM PAGE 1

by themselves are not easily digestible by the listening public, dismissed as either cacophonous and arrhythmic or merely for educational purposes. Those perceptions convinced the Santa Monica producer to pair whale sounds with complementary ambient music for a project that would invite listeners to think about the world around them.

The resulting album is "Pod Tune," a collaborative catalogue featuring real whale sounds and original music composed by artists from around the world. The album was recently made available on vinyl at record stores throughout the region, including Record Surplus, Touch Vinyl and Amoeba Records, as well as Whole Foods Market.

Proceeds from the project will support environmental nonprofit groups such as Ocean Alliance and the Blue Mind Fund, Linde said.

For Linde, a longtime environmental activist, the album advances his goal of finding a new avenue for awareness.

Linde, who studied film at UC Irvine before earning a master's in environmental education from Lesley University in Massachusetts, has spearheaded or worked on outreach campaigns for numerous agencies and advocacy groups, including the United Nations, Greenpeace and Doctors Without Borders.

For his whalesong project, however, he eschewed much of what he had learned from more traditional advocacy efforts.

"I was looking for a new model that didn't position nature as something separate from ourselves, but something that embodied collaboration and mutual dependence," he said. "You can play it in an elevator or doctor's office, but also in an arts show or a coffee shop. Rather than having to pay attention to it all the time, it's something you can drift in and out of whether you're at work, doing yoga or driving in your car. It's this idea that we are living with whales, not that they're just somewhere out there in the deep ocean."

Linde and co-producers Jessica Gardiner and Rob Ganger reached out to whale researchers for their project, obtaining humpback whale recordings from David Rothenberg, Kent Noonan, Paul Knapp and the Macaulay Library. They then enlisted musicians from nine countries to create original tracks with the whale sounds, including Wilco's Mikael Jorgensen and experimental musician William Basinski.

"Our aim is to bring whales into people's lives in an accessible and positive way," Gardiner said in a press release. "We seek to strengthen our connection to the whales in the hopes that more people will choose to take better care of our oceans and all of the life that lives there."

For Linde, a Southern California native who has lived in Santa Monica for the last five years, the coastal city is an ideal setting for his interests in media and environmental activism. He said the opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary experimentation are endless, and he hopes "Pod Tune" has similar effects at a personal level.

"The call to action here is to ... experience the music and be open to the possibility that humans and other species can work together," he said. "It's one person at a time with that awe, wonder and curiosity to really consider the state of things."

jeff@smdp.com







SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.9°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
WNW swell to linger. Small SSW swell. Incoming tide early.

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high occ. 5ft
Long period new WNW swell on the rise. Most size for winter magnets in the afternoon - 5'+ sets.
New SSW swell picks up. Incoming tide in the morning.

SATURDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high occ. 5ft
Long period WNW swell to peak - more size for standouts. Modest SSW swell. Incoming tide in the morning.

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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 FEB. 3 AT APPROXIMATELY 11:15 P.M.

Officers were on patrol when they noticed an automobile with several vehicle code violations traveling in the area of 2900 Pico Boulevard. When the driver, later identified as Justice Moore, 21 of Bellflower, was asked for her driver's license, she provided an ID, stating that she did not have a license on hand. A want/warrant inquiry indicated that she had a warrant for domestic battery from another agency. While conducting a search of Moore's car, officers found gift and credit cards that had other names on them as well as a substance resembling Methamphetamine. Moore stated that she did not recognize the names of the cards and had just picked them up from the floorboard of her car and that she was holding the meth for a friend. Moor was arrested for possession of altered access cards and possession of Methamphetamine. Bail was set at $70,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 357 calls for service on Feb. 9.

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

Disturbance of the peace, 2000 block of Pico, 12:00 a.m.
Suspicious vehicle, 2200 block of Ocean, 12:51 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 1400 block of Lincoln, 1:11 a.m.
Missing person, 300 block of Olympic, 3:17 a.m.
Critical missing person, 1100 block of Yale, 5:51 a.m.
Burglary, 1400 block of Ocean, 7:11 a.m.
Runaway, 600 block of Pico, 8:24 a.m.
Violation of restraining order, 1100 block of 14th, 10:45 a.m.
Hit and run, 1300 block of Oak, 11:14 a.m.
Burglary, 2800 block of Neilson, 11:36 a.m.
Elder abuse, 1500 block of 5th, 11:45 a.m.
Person down, Chelsea/Wilshire, 11:54 a.m.
Traffic collision, 2400 block of Main, 11:57 a.m.
Traffic collision, 20th/Washington, 12:00 p.m.
Family disturbance, 3100 block of Pico, 12:10 p.m.
Hit and run, 17th/Santa Monica, 12:22 p.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 16th/Ocean Park, 12:26 p.m.
Traffic collision, 28th/Pico, 1:41 p.m.
Hit and run, 20th/Ocean Park, 2:04 p.m.
Suspicious person, 2300 block of Santa Monica, 2:11 p.m.
Traffic collision, 11th/Colorado, 2:16 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1500 block of 11th, 2:19 p.m.
Hit and run, 17th/Santa Monica, 2:30 p.m.
Assault with a deadly weapon, Stanford/Colorado, 2:40 p.m.
Burglary, 2200 block of Colorado, 2:42 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1500 block of Ocean, 2:48 p.m.
Fraud, 1400 block of 9th, 3:10 p.m.
Suspicious circumstances, 1400 block of 14th, 3:12 p.m.
Traffic collision, 6th/Wilshire, 3:26 p.m.
Vandalism, 2200 block of Colorado, 3:26 p.m.
Traffic collision, Neilson/Pier Ave, 4:06 p.m.
Battery, 1300 block of Michigan, 4:39 p.m.
Battery, 2700 block of Santa Monica, 5:04 p.m.
Elder abuse, 1100 block of Arizona, 5:25 p.m.
Battery, 500 block of Santa Monica, 5:26 p.m.
Traffic collision, Lincoln/Pier Ave, 6:10 p.m.
Battery, Cloverfield/Michigan, 6:18 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 1000 block of Broadway, 6:21 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 2100 block of Delaware, 6:30 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1300 block of 2nd, 6:45 p.m.
Family disturbance, 1600 block of Michigan, 7:13 p.m.
Suicide, 2600 block of Santa Monica, 7:42 p.m.
Assault, 11th/Ocean Park, 8:48 p.m.
Hit and run, 5th/Santa Monica, 8:52 p.m.
Battery, 2500 block of Pico, 9:14 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 37 calls for service on Feb. 9.

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

EMS, 800 block of 3rd, 12:23 a.m.
Odor of natural gas, 1300 block of 2nd, 2:37 a.m.
EMS, 3000 block of Main, 4:40 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 23rd, 6:56 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1000 block of 4th, 7:02 a.m.
EMS, 200 block of Santa Monica, 7:22 a.m.
EMS, 600 block of 16th, 8:10 a.m.
EMS, 2400 block of Ocean Front, 9:12 a.m.
Wires down, 2700 block of 4th, 9:14 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of 26th, 10:19 a.m.
EMS, 5th/Arizona, 10:51 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of 2nd, 10:54 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of San Vicente, 10:58 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1900 block of 6th, 11:37 a.m.
EMS, Chelsea/Wilshire, 11:54 a.m.
EMS, Lincoln/Pico, 12:16 p.m.
EMS, 300 block of Olympic Dr, 12:57 p.m.
EMS, 600 block of Santa Monica, 1:01 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block of 11th, 2:16 p.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Santa Monica, 2:41 p.m.
EMS, 300 block of Santa Monica, 2:46 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 2800 block of Neilson, 3:17 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom, 3:56 p.m.
EMS, 2700 block of Ocean Park, 4:21 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 17th, 4:39 p.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Montana, 5:29 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block of Lincoln, 5:34 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block of 12th, 5:39 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 14th, 6:17 p.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Santa Monica, 6:21 p.m.
EMS, 800 block of Santa Monica, 7:05 p.m.
EMS, 4th/Broadway, 7:46 p.m.
Elevator rescue, 2200 block of Colorado, 7:58 p.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm, 100 block of Hollister, 8:45 p.m.
EMS, 200 block of Broadway, 9:56 p.m.
EMS, 3100 block of Neilson, 10:27 p.m.
EMS, 1000 block of Pier Ave, 11:30 p.m.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

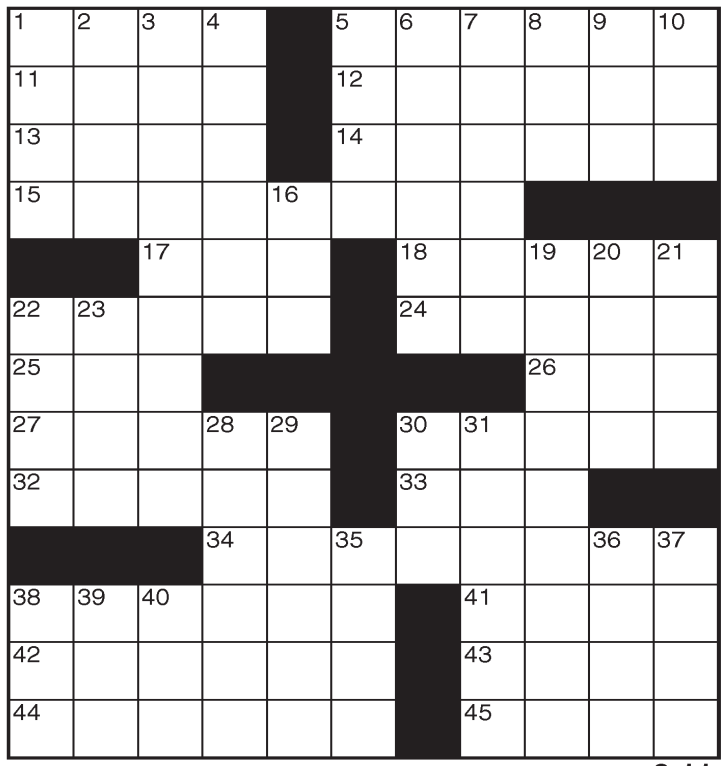
ACROSS
1 Grotto sound
5 Tests for purity
11 Diving bird
12 Platter player
13 Window part
14 Spends time at the mirror
15 Prepares to cash
17 Simple card game
18 Friend of Aramis
22 Graceful birds
24 Connery's successor
25 Model buy
26 Rent out
27 Perfect
30 Deep chasm
32 Audacity
33 De-pressed
34 Combina-tions
38 Son of Poseidon
41 Resting on
42 Take back
43 Gambling mecca
44 Disin-clined
45 Easy gait

DOWN
1 Different
2 Quarter, e.g.
3 Stand up to exami-nation
4 Like some museum pieces
5 Pharaoh symbols
6 Flow
7 Takes care of
8 Verb for you
9 Hankering
10 Urgent call
16 Reading and others: Abbr.
19 Font fill
20 Valuable rocks
21 Hardens
22 Body cover
23 Broad
28 Film set on Pandora
29 Slot machine symbols
30 Maxi-mum amount
31 "Key Largo" star
35 Hand cost
36 Precursor of 12-Across
37 Ocelot feature
38 Refrain syllable
39 Gun
40 Top cakes

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

Yesterday's answer

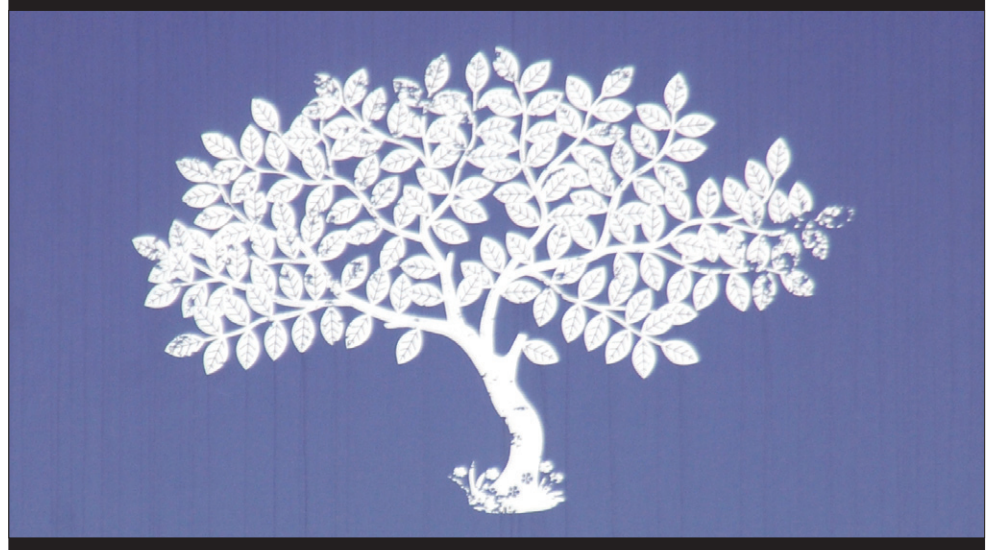
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2-11

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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery — Draw Date: 2/6
4 13 31 36 52
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 157M

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 2/9
3 42 46 56 71
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 87M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS — Draw Date: 2/6
4 20 29 37 45
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 15M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 2/9
4 7 24 29 39

DAILY 3 — Draw Date: 2/9
MIDDAY: 2 4 5
Draw Date: 2/9
EVENING: 5 8 6

DAILY DERBY — Draw Date: 2/9
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:45.11

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

WORD UP!

fubsy
1. British Dialect. short and stout.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1812 – Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry "gerrymanders" for the first time.

1826 – University College London is founded under the name University of London.

1826 – Swaminarayan writes the Shikshapatri, an important text within Swaminarayan Hinduism.

1840 – Gaetano Donizetti's opera La fille du régiment receives its first performance in Paris, France.

1855 – Kassa Hailu is crowned Tewodros II, Emperor of Ethiopia, by Abuna Salama III in a ceremony at the church of Derasge Maryam

1856 – The Kingdom of Awadh is annexed by the British East India Company and Wajid Ali Shah, the king of Awadh, is imprisoned and later exiled to Calcutta.

1858 – Bernadette Soubirous's first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lourdes, France.

1861 – American Civil War: United States House of Representatives unanimously passes a resolution guaranteeing noninterference with slavery in any state.

1873 – King Amadeo I of Spain abdicates.

1889 – Meiji Constitution of Japan is adopted; the first National Diet convenes in 1890.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A former lecturer for Spanish classes at the liberal arts Amherst College near Northampton, Massachusetts, sued the school in December after it failed to renew her contract -- leading the lecturer to charge that the Spanish department had tried to solicit student course enrollment by prostitution. Lecturer Dimaris Barrios-Beltran accused her supervisor, Victoria Maillo, of hiring only attractive "teaching assistants" and encouraging them to "date" Amherst students with the ulterior motive of signing them up for Spanish classes -- to boost the department's profile. (College officials said they could not corroborate the accusation, but a lawyer for Barrios-Beltran said Maillo is no longer employed at Amherst.)

■ William Bendorf, 38, filed a lawsuit in December against the Funny Bone comedy club in Omaha, Nebraska, and comedian-hypnotist Doug Thompson after plunging off the stage and breaking his leg following Thompson's having hypnotized him during his act. Thompson claimed that he had "snapped" Bendorf out of the trance, but the lawsuit claims that Bendorf, instead of exiting via the stairs as Thompson instructed, wandered directly toward his stage-side table because he was still "under" Thompson's spell.

Follow the music tonight, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You will wake up and feel as if you're on top of the world. You quickly might sense that today is your day to push an important project forward or to ask for what you want. Your presence has a magnetic quality; take advantage of it. Tonight: Act is if there were no tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You wake up knowing full well that you would be best served by assuming a low profile. In fact, you might decide that it is so important not to be found that you easily could choose not go to work. Be careful, as there likely will be ramifications involved. Tonight: Vanish quickly!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ A meeting can prove to be very important. Do whatever you need to do in order to make a good impression and persuade others that you know what you're doing. You don't take kindly to interference, though you might have to be OK with teamwork. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might feel extremely frustrated when dealing with a boss. Acting out probably won't work. Instead, take a break and walk around the block. You can be so emotional that it would be best not to let one mood of the moment run the show. Tonight: Feeling your Wheaties.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You have been talking and thinking about taking an important trip or experiencing a new, exciting event. Someone might trigger you, and you could become extremely reactive. You will be best served by detaching and gaining a broader perspective. Tonight: Follow the music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You usually love it when a partner whispers what he or she wants in your ear. However, sometimes his or her request can be very demanding or expensive. You are right to keep your finances in mind before agreeing to anything. Tonight: Snuggle up with a good book.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could feel as if someone doesn't care about what you feel or want. Step away, and reconsider your point of view. How much does your perspective come from your personal history? Detach and think carefully before speaking up. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ As you look around and consider what you must do, you could feel overwhelmed. It appears as if it's all or nothing with you this week, but you will be able to integrate work and play. Stop judging yourself so harshly. Tonight: You're human, and you need a good night's sleep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Yes, it's Thursday, but you are acting and thinking as if it is already the weekend. You might decide not to let others know what's going on with you. Or, you could decide to take an early weekend. Your strategy depends on your personal situation. Tonight: Be a wild thing!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Close your door and screen your calls. You need to get some work done. Of course, how you handle the feeling of being overwhelmed is your call. A situation involving your domestic life might be weighing you down. Be willing to talk about it. Tonight: At a favorite place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing, even if you experience a momentary desire to cut someone off. Honor your feelings, but also consider other avenues of self-expression. Use care when using mechanical equipment; you could be accident-prone. Tonight: Treat yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Curb a tendency to go overboard. This form of acting out could be very expensive and/or addictive. Consider other ways to handle the stressful elements of your life, because the way you're doing it now is only adding to the problem. Tonight: Party the night away!

Thursday, February 11, 2016

This year don't forget that you are the sign of friendship. Often others don't know how to respond, and they become either reactive or more observant. You become even more actively involved with those around you. You expand your immediate circle and professional network. If you are single, this year could be delightful or very intense, depending on what you want from a relationship. You have many potential suitors. If you are attached, one or both of you could opt to take a communication workshop in order to infuse your life with an awareness of what each of you has to offer. ARIES is fun to converse with.

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



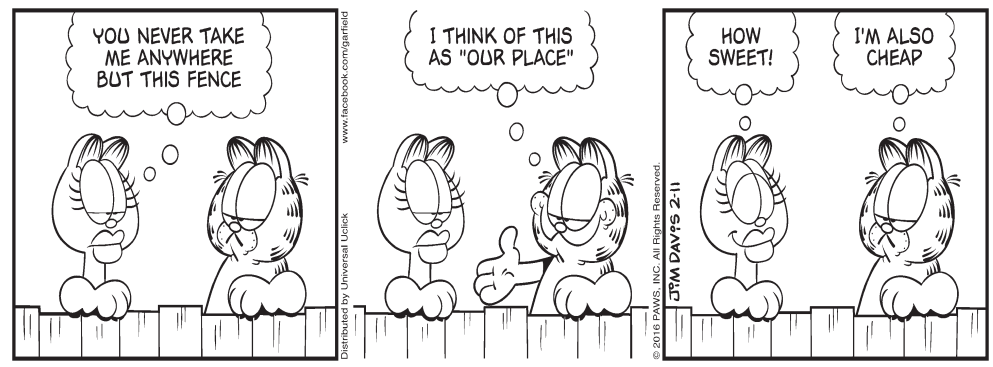
Strange Brew
By John Deering



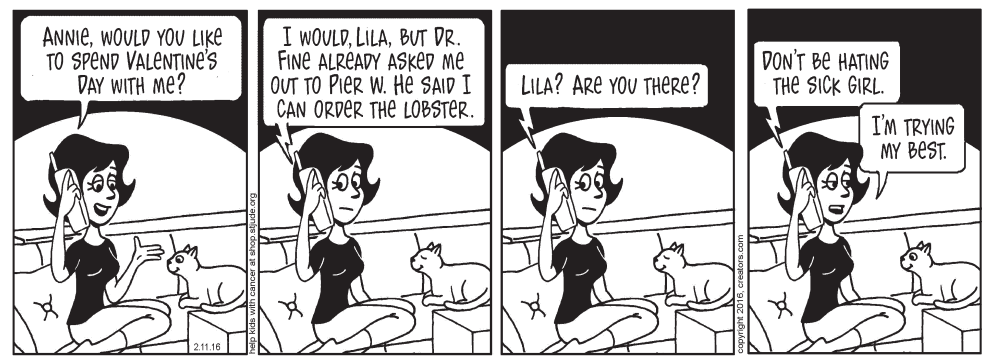
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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Announcements

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