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Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015
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COMICS COVERAGE SEE PAGE 6

11-member group to guide Bergamot Station development

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

BERGAMOT STATION When city planners unveiled a proposal to add a hotel and office space to the Bergamot Station Art Center last year, some residents and gallerists were up in arms.

A year later, City Council has selected a developer (Jeff Worthe Real Estate Group) but the development itself is going back to the drawing board with help from a soon-to-be appointed 11-member advisory committee.

Council decided Tuesday night to expand the committee from

nine members, as recommended by city officials, to 11.

Four members will be residents, appointed by the Neighborhood Council. Four members will be appointed by the Bergamot Station Gallery and Cultural Association, with at least one being a nonprofit. One member will be appointed by

the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. One will be appointed by the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau. And one member will be appointed by the Arts Commission.

The advisory committee will “work with the Worthe Group to refine the conceptual plan for” the

development of the Bergamot Station Art Center, city officials said.

The area served as a railroad station from 1875 through the 1950s. After the station closed it was a manufacturing site. Santa

SEE DEVELOP PAGE 7



SAMOHI IN FIRST PLACE

Morgan Genser editor@smdp.com

The Santa Monica High School girls varsity soccer team hosted Beverly Hills High School in an Ocean League soccer match on Feb. 10 and won 6-0, improving their record to 9-0 in league play and 12-6-2 overall. The Samohi girls had clinched the Ocean League title prior to this game. Pictured are Gabriella Dyrek dribbling past defenders and Emily Arvesen heading the ball downfield.

Turn Off TV Tuesday is one for the books

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE On a narrow, dead-end street off San Vicente Boulevard, the sliding doors on the Toyota Sienna van click shut below a darkened sky. Seat belts swing across hips and shoulders.

Here, in this quiet, residential pocket of Santa Monica, the operation begins.



Jeffrey Goodman jeff@smdp.com

CAUGHT READING: Roosevelt principal Natalie Burton made home visits to check on student readers.

SEE READ PAGE 8

City sues landlord under new law

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL City Hall is suing a landlord who city attorneys say took away the parking space of a tenant with a disability without justification.

The City Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division filed the lawsuit against apartment building owner Solyman Khalili for alleged violations of the new Housing Anti-Discrimination Ordinance and the recently revised Tenant Harassment Ordinance, Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades said in a release.

A tenant at Khalili’s 16th Street property since 1998, was paying \$555 per month thanks to Rent Control laws that restrict the increase of rent, according to the complaint filed by city attorneys.

Khalili offered the tenant \$5,000 to move out but the offer was declined, the suit alleges.

According to the suit, the tenant’s disability requires a parking spot close to her unit. In August, Khalili revoked the tenant’s parking spot, so the woman had to park out on the street.

Khalili is still refusing to give

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 10



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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

February 12

Community Book Swap

Join us for a fun and friendly community exchange. Bring a book, take a book, and enjoy some treats. Books must be in new or gently used condition. Age(s): Adults, 50 and over, seniors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 6:30 p.m.

Rent Control Board

Regular Rent Control Board meeting. For more information, Visit www.smgov.net/Current_Board_Meetings.aspx, City Hall, 1685 Main St, 7 p.m.

I Am Ali

This documentary delves into the life of the celebrated champion boxer and galvanizing social figure who famously refused to enter the military when drafted for service during the Vietnam War, a decision that cost him the title. (Film run time: 111 min.) 1704 Montana Ave., 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Valentine's Day Craft

Join us to make a Valentine's Day craft, ages 10 and up, all materials provided. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 4:45 p.m.

Classic Movie: Carmen Jones (1954)

Dorothy Dandridge and Harry Belafonte star in Otto Preminger's musical update of Bizet's opera Carmen, set on an Army base during the Korean War (105 min.), Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.

February 13

Friday Fun: Animal Valentines

Create heart-themed animal crafts. Ages 6-10. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 3:30 p.m.

Toddler Dance Party

A fun and energetic dance for toddlers

and preschoolers. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.

Fireside at the Miles

Every Fireside Concert features a different mix of contemporary music, opera, jazz, storytelling, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a capellasinging and more. Performances take place beside the large period fireplace with an eco-log fire. Comfy couches, cozy candles, organic beverages and snacks all await you inside the historic playhouse. The Miles Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd., doors 7:30 p.m., show 8 p.m., admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for students, seniors and youth 17/under.

Thenardiers Inn - A Les Miserables Cabaret

A re-telling of the Victor Hugo Les Miserable tale put on by the man himself. Submerge yourself in the dancing, drinks, and girls of the Inn, while singing along with the classic characters and songs, in this 360 degree immersive theatrical cabaret. No admittance under 21, this show features adult content. Creating Arts Studios, 3110 Pennsylvania Ave., 8 - 10 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m., admission: \$15 - \$30.

February 14

Free dance fitness

Grab your friends and join our top instructors for heart pumping follow-along choreography and strength-training moves. Athleta, 1318 Third Street Promenade, 9-10 a.m.

Insomnia

Join modern conjuror Derek Hughes in a private suite at the Hotel Casa Del Mar for his new work. Loosely inspired by the short fiction of Jorge Luis Borges it is a comedy and magic experience that explores the line between waking and dreaming. Ticket includes show admission & valet parking. \$55. Hotel Casa del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way, 5:30 p.m., call (310) 581-5533 for more information.

SEE LISTINGS PAGE 3

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Main Library
Public invited to
retreat on affordable
housing priorities

The City of Santa Monica Housing Commission will hold a Commission Retreat from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 in the Multipurpose Room of the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, California 90401. The Housing Commission, a seven-member board that advises the Santa Monica City Council on affordable housing issues, will formulate its priorities and direction for 2015 at the retreat. Members of the public are invited to attend and provide input.

The meeting room is wheelchair-accessible. If residents require any special disability related accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, etc.), please contact the Housing Division at (310) 458-8702 at least three days prior to the scheduled meeting. An audio recording of the Commission Retreat will be made available on the City of Santa Monica's video

and audio meeting archives at www.smgov.net and on the Santa Monica Housing Division's webpage at www.smgov.net/housing.

For more information, contact the City of Santa Monica Housing Division at (310) 458-8702 or visit www.smgov.net/housing.

- SUBMITTED BY CARRIE LUJAN

Main Library
Screening of
Free Angela and All
Political Prisoners

Santa Monica Public Library celebrates Black History Month with a screening of the documentary Free Angela and All Political Prisoners on Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Main Library's MLK, Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Free Angela is a gripping historic account of the events that catapulted a young University of California philosophy professor to the position of a controversial political icon in the turbulent late-1960s. Angela Davis joins the Communist Party, protests with the Black Panthers, and becomes a princi-

pal spokesperson for the burgeoning prison reform movement. As a result, she finds herself fighting to keep her job, characterized by her many detractors as a dangerous subversive menace, and by her supporters as a strong leader challenging authority and boldly advocating for "power to all people."

This 2013 documentary is a candid and powerful account of the tumultuous times and a woman who challenges a society that is afraid of all that she represents. Filled with elements of intrigue, suspense and conspiracies, the film delivers by empowering and inspiring diverse international audiences with its message of hope and redemption.

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 NANCY BENDER



LISTINGS
FROM PAGE 2

Musical Explorers
This is an interactive music event that stems from New York's legendary Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Audiences can come and experience the world of music that is found everywhere in the world. This is a program that will inspire children to listen, sing and explore a world of music. 11 a.m., 1 p.m., The Broad Stage, 1310 11th Street.

Santa Monica Reads 2015 Kickoff Celebration
Celebrate the launch of this new season of Santa Monica READS with live music, English country dancing, guest caller Judee Pronovost, and refreshments. Pick up a book while supplies last. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m.

Perfumery Workshop & Aromatic Excursion with IAO, Pier Edition
Tour the Santa Monica Pier with per-

fumer Saskia Wilson-Brown, clandestinely investigating the scents from Pier attractions, restaurants and the surrounding seascape. Participants will take scent notes and then rally at 1450 Ocean to create an evocative scent to remember your field trip. 1 - 4 p.m. Cost: \$40. View and Register for classes at <http://ow.ly/IehoU>

Pier Aquarium - Whale of a Weekend
Whale artifacts, whale-themed crafts, movies, puppet shows and more in conjunction with whale migration season through the Santa Monica Bay. Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk 12:30 - 5 p.m. Visit healthsbay.org for more information.

Second Saturday Free Craft Lounge
Come to 1450 Ocean on the second Saturday of every month to work on your projects, take in a mini-workshop, and stretch your craft-legs. Work on projects, trade tips, materials and ideas. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free, open to all adults, reservations appreciated.

Housing Commission Special Meeting
Special Meeting of the Santa Monica Housing Commission. Visit www.smgov.net/Departments/HED/Housing_and_Redevelopment/Housing/Housing_Commission_Agendas/Housing_Commission.aspx for more information. 10 a.m. Main Library Second Floor Multipurpose Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Copper Plate Etching
Experiment with hard ground etching and dry point techniques while working through the historical processes of copper plate intaglio printing. Work on a printed artwork or make a card for your sweetie or pen pal. Very limited spots for this class. View and Register for classes at <http://ow.ly/IehoU>. 1450 Ocean, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Cost: \$5.

Kidical Mass Bike Ride
Kidical Mass is a legal, safe and fun bike ride for kids, kids at heart, and their families. This event's theme is Valentine's Day, wear red, pink, hearts, etc. Please RSVP by February 13 to

Cory.Keen@smgov.net. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Clover Park, 2600 Ocean Park Blvd.

Book sale
The next Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library Book Store Big Sale will feature a selection of books from \$2 and up, including inscribed and signed books, art books, first editions, and barely used recent hardbacks. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m.

Valentine's Concert with Brian Stokes Mitchell
One of Broadway's most sought-after leading men, Brian Stokes Mitchell returns to The Broad Stage for an evening of sultry show tunes and love songs that will steam up any Valentine's Day date. With what critics describe as a "singularly thunderous baritone", Mitchell's exclusive L.A. appearance on the Broad's intimate stage will showcase the best of Broadway, as well as some hand-picked selections that are sure to delight. Tickets are \$69/\$110, www.thebroadstage.com. The Broad Stage, 1310 11th Street, 7:30 - 10 p.m.



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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hellman and McCarthy Feud; Cavett Mediates

IF YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER

Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee’s browbeating of prominent intellectuals in the 1950s, you may be excused for thinking that the play “Hellman v. McCarthy” refers to the Wisconsin Senator’s vicious attack on the political views of the celebrated playwright Lillian Hellman.

That was the devastating inquisition in which Ms. Hellman, in refusing to respond to McCarthy’s insistent questions about her participation in what was at that time considered “radical” activism, famously remarked, “I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year’s fashions ...”

But that is the wrong McCarthy. The McCarthy that playwright Brian Richard Mori is referring to is Mary.

Mary McCarthy, a celebrated author and critic, was only seven years younger than Lillian Hellman, but they lived in two different worlds. While both flirted with Communism in the 1930s - Hellman, by her own account, admitted to having been a “casual member” of the Party - they split their loyalties when Hellman supported the faction that favored Stalin. McCarthy, who moved in “fellow-traveling” Communist circles in the early ‘30s, became a staunch anti-Stalinist later in the decade and favored Stalin’s enemy, Leon Trotsky.

Socially they were worlds apart as well. While both authored numerous books and plays, McCarthy had many friendships with members of New York society, even after she scandalized them with the reports of their hijinks in her book, “The Company She Keeps.” Hellman was friendly with many of the movers and shakers of the day, including writer Dashiell Hammett, with whom she kept up an affair “off and on” for 31 years. She also had numerous lovers, as did McCarthy, but McCarthy wound up marrying four of them.

One thing that the two women did have in common, however, was that they were heartily disliked by many of their contemporaries. McCarthy for her acerbic comments and essays, and Hellman because she was a cantankerous, demanding individual.

Their mutual dislike came to a head,

however, when McCarthy, on Dick Cavett’s popular television talk show, remarked that “every word that (Hellman) writes is a lie, including ‘and’ and ‘the.’” Whereupon Hellman sued her (as well as Dick Cavett and PBS) for libel and demanded 2.5 million dollars in compensation.

At this point, Cavett, who had introduced the play earlier with a witty monologue, a few jokes, and his usual charm, reappeared to shepherd the principals through the preparations for the trial. (And by the way, he has aged handsomely and looks better than ever.)

The lawsuit went on for years while McCarthy searched for incidents that would prove that Hellman really was a liar. And, unfortunately, there were quite a few examples. For instance, the heroic story in “Pentimento” about Hellman ferrying money into Germany for “Julia”, which Hellman claimed was autobiographical and true, proved not to be either and laid open the question of whether there actually was a Julia at all.

In the end, the suit was finally dismissed in 1984, when Hellman died. But it makes for a wonderful play, superbly directed by Howard Storm and made even more wonderful by the appearance of Marcia Rodd as Mary McCarthy and Dick Cavett as Dick Cavett.

But special kudos have to be given to Flora Plumb as the crotchety Lillian Hellman and M. Rowan Meyer as her marvelously obsequious manservant, Ryan.

“Hellman v. McCarthy” will be presented at Theatre 40 through Feb. 28 on Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on Feb. 14 and 21 and Feb. 8, 15, and 22.

Theatre 40 is located at 241 S. Moreno Drive in Beverly Hills, on the Beverly Hills High School campus. There is ample free parking beneath the theater.

For reservations, call (310) 364-3606 or go to www.theatre40.org.

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



Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

When Cultures Clash

MORE ABOUT THIS EVENT IN DAYS TO COME

but a landmark opera is coming to The Broad Stage in Santa Monica. “Dead Man Walking,” a modern classic that has become one of opera’s most performed contemporary works, will be presented in a re-orchestrated performance on March 7 and 8 by San Francisco’s Opera Parallèle.

Based on Sister Helen Prejean’s book about a nun who comes to the aid of a death row inmate, and adapted into the film that won Susan Sarandon her Best Actress Oscar, the libretto is written by playwright Terrence McNally and composer Jake Heggie.

Jake Heggie calls it a journey of the heart. “It is a powerful, dramatic story of love, loss, murder, vengeance and redemption. Terrence McNally and I made it our business not to preach or to take sides - but to tell the story well and draw people in. Musically, it touches on gospel, blues, rock and roll, pop, jazz and classical opera. I find that very American and terribly exciting.”

Two performances only. More information at www.thebroadstage.com or the Box Office at (310) 434-3200.

CHAVEZ RAVINE

Do make a point of catching “Chavez Ravine: An LA Revival” with the inimitable Latino theatre troupe, Culture Clash. It’s onstage at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City through March 1.

Originally produced in 2003 at The Mark Taper Forum this revisited and reimagined production tells the story of how generations of Mexican Americans who had settled in a valley a few miles east of downtown (named in honor of the first Mexican American LA County Supervisor) were upended, their homes demolished, to make way for what might have been a somewhat enlightened public housing project.

But initiated during the era of the great “Red Scare,” the Housing Authority chief who planned the project was accused of being a Communist. With powerful private and political figures behind the scenes manipulating the takeover of the land, instead of public housing we have Dodger Stadium.

There are many laughs, some history and even some “flying” in this new production, energetically performed by Ric Salinas, Herbert Siguenza and Richard Montoya, with live music and photographic projections that enhance the action.

The first act is tighter and funnier than the second, but framing the action is a ballgame at Dodger Stadium where superstar Mexican pitcher Fernando Valenzuela is on the mound in 1981 when he is visited by the

ghosts of Chavez Ravine.

We are taken through the history of the self-sufficient communities that thrived there and meet inhabitants of the three main neighborhoods, Palo Verde, La Loma and Bishop. Here, community members ran their own schools, built their own churches and grew their own food. But forces beyond their control would wrench all this away in the name of “progress.”

Culture Clash productions feature comedic references to events of the time and today and in the end, the play is a lightly phantasmagoric imagining of what really happened.

This is well worth your time and might even make you want to seek out the history of Chavez Ravine and maybe even listen to Ry Cooder’s first concept album of the same name.

For info and tickets, call (213) 628-2772 or www.CenterTheatreGroup.org.

SMOKE AND MIRRORS

If you missed it in Santa Monica, you can still see Albie Selznick’s unique and personal show about his life in the world of magic at the Odyssey Theatre in West Los Angeles.

An autobiographical play with lots of magic effects, Selznick tells the tale of his father who shared his love of magic and the great Harry Houdini with him. His death makes a lasting mark on the young prestidigitator, who sets out to make magic his life, in hopes that it will somehow reunite him with his dad.

Along the way, you’ll see doves appear and disappear, experience an impossible “psychic” reading of audience cards submitted in advance, revealing greatest fears and favorite toys, plus the mid-air suspension of the beautiful female assistant who, positioned over two straw brooms, is lifted and tilted with no visible means of support.

It’s both touching and amusing, and I had the opportunity to watch Albie perform his show accompanied by an American Sign Language interpreter. Despite having injured a foot at an earlier performance, Albie managed to be engaging and entertaining with this very personal professional story. Bring your greatest fear and a sense of wonder.

“Smoke and Mirrors” is scheduled through March 15, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays. The Odyssey is located on Sepulveda Blvd. at La Grange; visit <http://smokeandmirrorsmagic.com/> for more info and tickets.

SEE CULTURE PAGE 5

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Your column here

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This Nightmare Could Happen to You

I'VE LIVED IN OCEAN PARK FOR 25 YEARS and it's been wonderful until early 2012. That's when Jerry (not his real name) who lives in the building next door, committed acts of domestic violence on his girlfriend. (Neither of who were on the lease.) It all culminated when the girlfriend hanged herself in the carport in front of his truck.

With Jerry's mother being the leaseholder, Jerry was raised in the apartment. Unfortunately, over many years he's shown dangerous signs of psychotic behavior. Jerry was in a lock-down mental hospital in the valley and we thought our nightmare was over but, like a bad horror movie, Jerry, even though he's been evicted, is back in the neighborhood harassing residents.

In 2012 Jerry began screaming, ranting and swearing incoherently at no one in particular. He would rage at all hours of the day or night. My neighbors and I called the police but they wouldn't arrest Jerry and noted that he would be out the next day.

The yelling escalated and was then accompanied by Jerry's destroying his apartment by breaking walls, windows and doors. Meanwhile throughout the day and night, Jerry would get in his truck, race down the driveway and speed recklessly along the streets to purchase drugs. Neighbors witnessed actual purchases as Jerry seemingly went from drug dealer to drug addict.

Unfortunately, the police were limited in what they could do because of state laws that protect the mentally ill. So residents went to Jerry's landlord who owns several buildings in Santa Monica. But, he apparently saw this as an opportunity to get rent controlled tenants to move so he could raise the rents to market level.

In fact, the landlord told residents, "If you're not happy, move." (Meanwhile in a neighboring building that landlord hit the jackpot as seven rent-controlled tenants moved and the rents doubled.)

Frustrated with the police and Jerry's landlord, we then went to Rent Control. But we were told that a tenant can't complain about another tenant and tenants of neighboring buildings have no standing. They suggested we go to the City Attorney.

But it's not that easy to get to talk to the City Attorney. We were referred to a liaison who sent us to Code Enforcement. But Code Enforcement insisted they were waiting for the City Attorney's office to send an order. Total runaround! Meanwhile, every night

Jerry's madness escalated. The police came out numerous times but appeared powerless.

It seemed the only person who could get Jerry arrested was a neighbor whom he frequently threatened. Unfortunately, she too was a drug user and didn't want to see Jerry get arrested but rather that he get mental help. And several times the police sent Jerry to UCLA Santa Monica Hospital for an evaluation but each time, inexplicably, the doctors let him out within a day.

Finally, with the help from the SMPD Community Officer and all our complaints combined, the landlord managed to evict Jerry. But, as of this writing, has not been willing to get a restraining order. The truth is Jerry needs mental help but the funds for those services have been reduced in past years. Thus, it's very likely that Jerry will be back living with his mother who recently got an apartment in Santa Monica.

So what's the moral to this story? Everyone seemingly passed the buck, the result being greedy landlords were able to triple their rents while causing unbelievable mental stress to tenants in almost an entire city block.

It turns out that Jerry's antics and complaints from his building resulted in untold numbers of police visits on various matters including weapons charges, domestic violence and disturbing the peace. In fact, Jerry's address was the #2 most visited by the police in 2014 in the entire city. I can only imagine what #1 was.

The bottom line is landlords profited from tenant turnover due to continuous noise from an out of control neighbor exhibiting abusive conduct. Thankfully Mayor McKeown, and Community Officer Erik Milosevich intervened and in part helped resolve this nightmare. Although since he's back driving recklessly on our street it's clearly not entirely resolved.

Everything above is true and factual. I've purposely left out names and addresses in respect to people's privacy. I realize that our situation was complicated by state laws and there were no easy answers. You can decide for yourself who's to blame and what you might do if, God forbid, this happened in your neighborhood. In the meantime, I've been able to get this nightmare off my chest. For that I'm grateful.

The Daily Press has agreed to withhold the name of the author due to concerns of personal safety.

philanthropists and collectors together with the newest generation of emerging artists.

All proceeds from the party will be donated to UNICEF's Tap Project for clean water to help the world's most vulnerable children.

Your \$125 contribution gets you into the VIP party with an advance preview of the art, along with cocktails and caviar, at 5 p.m. and includes one \$100 art piece as well. For details and tickets and the list of participating artists, visit unicefusa.org/artparty.

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 reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

CULTURE

FROM PAGE 4

ART FOR A CAUSE

Who knows? For \$125 you might just get your hands on the next Andy Warhol or Jackson Pollock. That is if you attend the first annual UNICEF Next Generation Art Party on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 800Main, the event space in Venice.

This benefit for UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) will feature works by such name artists as actor and Renaissance man James Franco along with a donation from the late Dennis Hopper's Trust. But the focus is on bringing both the next generation of

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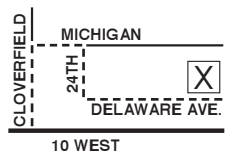
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A secret identity - for now...

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hello from Hi De Ho

The owners of Hi De Ho comics will be contributing a new feature to The Daily Press about the art, culture, business and joy of comic books. The column is as yet unnamed and the writers are soliciting name ideas from the public. To suggest a name, visit the store at 1431 Lincoln Blvd. or send your suggestions to editor@smdp.com.

GEOFFREY WOOD PATTERSON II

I was born into comics. My father opened Geoffrey's Comics in Gardena in 1978 — I was born 4 years later. Growing up, dad never took me to a babysitter — he took me to work, where a comic book store became my day care. My first words after "mom," "dad" and "hot dog" were "Superman," "Batman," "Flash" and "Magneto." My dad taught me to read using Richie Rich comics. My first-grade teacher had to send a note home that I was not allowed to wear superhero costumes to school. Comic books have literally been part of my life since I was born. Growing up, I wanted to have a bunch of jobs — I wanted to be Superman, then I wanted to be Batman, then I wanted to have my brain transplanted into a Transformer, then I wanted to be Dr. Emmett Brown and invent a time machine. Not much has changed since then — I still want to be all of those things and I found the one place where those dreams come true — a comic book store.

EDDIE DEANGELINI

For me, it all started with a nerdy little kid who was always teased and made into the outsider. His name was Peter Parker, aka Spider-Man, and he easily could have been me or any one of us. I was hooked from my first exposure to the red and blue costumed superhero, and I soon blossomed into a comic collector. As an adult, my collecting turned into "investing" when I began adding rarer, higher-ticket comics to my collection. What was never lost was the childlike glee

that I felt when finally acquiring a long-sought-after gem. After decades of collecting, my boyhood dream of owning a complete collection of Amazing Spider-Man, from his 1962 first appearance in Amazing Fantasy #15 to the then-final issue #700, was eventually realized. I thought nothing could top that accomplishment until given the opportunity to co-own a comic book shop, but it would take sacrifice. My entire collection was recently sold, and the funds were used to become a co-owner of the historic Hi De Ho Comics in Santa Monica. Much like my journey into comic book collecting, this new journey was thanks to a nerdy little kid named Peter Parker.

MAURICIO MACHUCA

By the time I was 18, I had only read about four comic books in my life, but that didn't stop me from walking into Geoffrey's Comics in Gardena and asking for a job. It's then that I met my future business partner, Geoff. I got to see a whole new four-color world through new eyes, and I've never looked back. As I worked at the shop I picked up everything that looked good (and some things that didn't) and was pleased to share my love for the medium with my future wife, Cristhian. When I spent a few years teaching middle school literature, I made sure to include comic books as part of the curriculum. While I have since moved to professional writing, my love of comics continues to this day. There is just something so cool about seeing a story I read when it first came out be adapted into a big screen picture — "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." I'm looking at you.

GEOFF, EDDIE, AND MAURICIO are the new owners of Hi De Ho Comics at 1431 Lincoln Blvd. Hi De Ho Comics and Geoffrey's Comics are the two oldest comic book stores in the Los Angeles area.

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DEVELOP

FROM PAGE 1

Monica officials bought the land in the late 1980s and Bergamot Station opened as an art center in 1994. Over the years it grew into a world-renowned arts haven. It is home to the Santa Monica Museum of Art.

Council also approved six guidelines for the committee to consider when shaping the direction of the development.

Mayor Pro Tempore Tony Vazquez was the only member of council to give specific direction as to what he'd like to see on the property, noting that he'd be open to adding a mid-range hotel to the property but not office space.

Councilmember Gleam Davis asked that the guidelines remain flexible so that the 11-member advisory committee could work more freely.

"I don't want to be a slave to the guidelines," she said. "I don't want to form this working group of these wonderful and then have them say we have this fantastic idea but it doesn't fit the square peg into the round hole of the guidelines. My comment is that we should have them but I don't want to adopt them as though they are somehow cast in stone and there forever."

City Hall's Economic Development Manager Jason Harris said he felt that the guidelines put forth by city officials were sufficiently flexible.

“If we don’t have some level of restriction, I fear that advisory committee might be

in a continual loop of re-questioning some of these objectives and not necessarily having defined expectations," he said.

Ultimately, aside from a few tweaks, council agreed unanimously to the guidelines put forth by city officials. The guidelines are relatively open in terms of dictating what should go in at the site. The staff report, for instance, makes no mention of a hotel or of office space, which were both key components of the previous conceptual plan.

Guidelines include a goal of minimizing the displacement and disruption of galleries and creative businesses on the property. The project should, according to council, include space for nonprofit cultural uses. It will support the nearby station of the incoming Expo Light Rail, including a consideration of a public restroom. It will find a permanent home for the Santa Monica Museum of Art or, if the museum can't find a way to feasibly continue to exist, another museum or large cultural organization. Finally, because the site was initially set aside with plans to generate revenue for the Big Blue Bus, it will maintain and increase ground rents and "generate additional municipal revenues."

If the advisory committee — which will be filled with appointees in the coming months — can stay within those lanes, the development is theirs to shape.

Whatever the committee decides, it will come to council and the Planning Commission numerous times for review before final approval.

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BETTER PLAN?: A new committee will guide development of the Bergamot Station area.

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READ

FROM PAGE 1

Diana Oliver, Roosevelt Elementary School's PTA treasurer, is at the wheel. School parent Lindsay Newlove, who is in charge of a carefully constructed list, calls out the first name and address from the back. Another parent, Marika Spielman, sits in the middle row and scans homes for visible digits. And principal Natalie Burton rides shotgun, a pompom and a plastic hand-shaped noisemaker resting in her lap.

This will not be an ordinary night.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

The van arrives at its first destination, a home on Georgina Avenue. Burton and crew glide up the steps, pass through an entry gate and surround the front door.

Donning jeans, a Roosevelt zip-up jacket and a matching blue hat, the principal knocks. No answer. She tries again, a little more forceful this time. Seconds later, the door peels open.

"Anybody reading in here?" Burton shouts.

The quartet is welcomed into a main hallway that leads to a living room, where fourth-grader Nazaneen Ghorbanali reclines in a small pink chair with a copy of "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

The adults bombard her with cheers, celebrating her commitment to reading. The girl briefly closes her book and poses for a photo. She appears stunned by the spectacle.

Ghorbanali is just the first of 10 homes that Burton and company will visit on Roosevelt Elementary School's third and final installment of its annual Turn Off TV Tuesdays, an evening event that aims to develop students' reading habits outside of the classroom.

Groups of teachers and parents pop in for quick visits at children's homes to catch them in the act of reading and reward them with wristbands that they can redeem for free books at school.

Although the program exists elsewhere, it seems to have taken a particularly strong hold in the Roosevelt community. In fact,

Turn Off TV Tuesdays were already in place when Burton arrived at the Montana Avenue campus about eight years ago.

"I was at a principals' meeting today, and they all looked at me like I was crazy," she says. "They're like, 'You're what? You're going to students' houses?' It's very unique to Roosevelt. ... It builds a real sense of community, and it means so much to the kids. It's something they'll always remember."

TO PROFICIENCY - AND BEYOND

For some of the students at Burton's school, Turn Off TV Tuesdays have the potential to be transformative.

Roosevelt has scored well on state measurements for English and language arts, 87 percent of its pupils ranking as proficient or advanced in 2012-13 - significantly better than the same figures for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (74 percent) and the state as a whole (55 percent).

At Roosevelt, which was one of four SMMUSD elementary schools to receive a California Distinguished School honor last year, more than 90 percent of fourth- and fifth-grade students were proficient or advanced in language arts on standardized tests in 2013.

But, according to the annual School Accountability Report Card, there's room for improvement. Although 87.4 percent of Roosevelt students were deemed proficient or above in English skills in 2012-13, the school did not meet its progress goal of 89.2 percent.

A program like Turn Off TV Tuesdays could help in making up the difference. It's part of a month's worth of special activities during the school's annual Read-A-Thon, when children keep reading logs and help their families raise money for the campus.

Students in the lower grades recently attended a pajama party, where teachers read them stories, and last week Roosevelt's entire student body performed a flash mob in which the lyrics of Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" were rewritten to promote reading.

STAYING SMART

SEE BOOKS PAGE 9



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Santa Monica Daily Press

BOOKS

FROM PAGE 8

When asked if he likes to read, fourth-grader Hollen Song practically bristles at the question.

"Of course," the future history buff says, fiddling with a copy of "DDR Posters: The Art of East German Propaganda" while sitting on his couch.

Song acknowledges that he likes to watch TV sometimes but adds that he understands the importance of reading skills, too.

"We're in the 21st century," he says. "If we only let kids watch televised commercials, think of what our generation - our generation wouldn't be smart, right?"

SCREENED OUT

Having the school principal in your house isn't exactly a common experience for Roosevelt students, so it comes as little surprise when Maddie and Willa Hughes bottle up on a question about their favorite TV shows.

"I have a lot," Maddie allows.

On this particular evening, the sisters eschew Disney sitcoms "Lab Rats" and "Good Luck Charlie" for more educational pastimes. Maddie, a fifth-grader, holds up her copy of "Finally," a contemporary children's novel. Willa, a first-grader, shows off Cynthia Rylant's "Mr. Putter & Tabby Bake the Cake."

Burton and her accomplices pepper the girls with hoots and hollers, leave a few compliments and say their goodbyes. They have more children to see.

They hop back into the van and continue on to the next home, where Burton is expecting to see second-grader Jackson Colby.

The durability of the event seems to strike her when she comes across his older brother, Roosevelt alumnus Cooper Colby, during the visit. Cooper is now a seventh-grade student at Lincoln Middle School.

Time passes. Pages turn. Plots thicken.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Fiona Schweig isn't clutching a book when Burton enters her home. And yet, she's reading.

The first-grader is using a Kindle to scroll through a selection from the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series.

"I like it because it's funny," Schweig says of her digital book. "And there are funny drawings. They have big noses, and there are even some kindergartners who have beards and mustaches."

For Burton, it's a clear example of technology's powerful influence - and something she hasn't seen on nighttime reading check-in before.

Schweig's mother, Jennifer Cowan, says the electronic reader makes it easy to provide a constant stream of options for a girl who loves to read. They frequently rent electronic books through the Santa Monica Public Library.

"She goes through them so quickly," Cowan says.

Back on the road, Burton notes that technology can be extremely beneficial in educational settings. She says many Roosevelt students use Lexia, a computer-based learning tool, although she knows many of them also use screens for entertainment.

"I'm not always there at night to see what they're doing," the principal says, "but I know they're psyched about reading."

Schweig provides a slice of evidence.

"It helps you learn," she says. "It helps your brain. It makes you smarter."



LAY-UP

Morgan Genser editor@smdp.com

Alejandra Lopez of the St. Monica High School girls varsity basketball team jumps into the air as she shoots a basketball in front of Rebecca Ramirez from St. Joseph High. St. Monica hosted the Camino Real league game on Feb. 11 and lost 51-38 dropping their record to 4-3 in league play and 17-7 overall.



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LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

the spot back, the suit says.

The Daily Press was unable to locate Khalili — who, according to the suit, goes by a couple different names — for comment.

"We help tenants and landlords resolve dozens of disability-related cases every year," Rhoades said in the release. "But in the rare situation where a landlord refuses to make an accommodation that's reasonable and needed, we will turn to the courts under our new law."

The law, enacted in November, requires landlords to allow their tenants reasonable accommodations based on their disabilities.

The suit comes after numerous discussions by the City Council and the Rent Control Board about how to curb rising complaints of tenant harassment. Santa Monica's Rent Control law prohibits landlords from raising rents to market rate until a tenant has vacated the apartment. As property values rise the incentive for ousting tenants becomes greater for Santa Monica landlords.

City attorneys have acknowledged that they are getting more complaints about tenant harassment but explained that many of the complaints don't rise to the level of harassment as defined by the law.

Laws were tweaked last year, in theory making it easier for city attorneys to prose-

cute tenant harassment cases.

Residents who spoke at the meetings claimed that landlords had harassed them with the hopes pushing them out and raising rents.

Others said that landlords are filing bogus unlawful detainer, or eviction, lawsuits, in the hopes that tenants won't have the cash or wherewithal to fight the claims in court.

Recently, City Hall filed a lawsuit against a landlord, Barbara Bills, claiming that she harassed tenants by staging phony smoke detector inspections and, upon entering the apartment, began filming and photographing their homes.

Bills' attorney filed a motion to dismiss the case which is still pending.

Last week, a jury denied Bills' attempt to evict one of the tenants that City Hall says was harassed. This case is unrelated to the case brought by City Hall, but could impact it, Rhoades told the Daily Press earlier this week.

City Hall cannot defend a tenant in an eviction case but it can sue a landlord for violating tenant harassment laws, as they are attempting to do with Bills and Khalili.

Bills' attorney Steven Coard, vehemently opposed City Hall's claims against her, stating that city attorneys are trying to pollute the jury pool by speaking to the press about the lawsuit.

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.3°

THURSDAY – FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft knee to chest high
Old W-WSW energy continues to fade; New long period WNW swell to creep in late; Breezy offshore Santa Anas, strongest out West in the region

FRIDAY – FAIR TO GOOD – SURF: 3-4 ft waist to shoulder high
WNW swell to peak; Wind/weather looking favorable at this time

SATURDAY – FAIR TO GOOD – SURF: 3-4 ft waist to shoulder high
WNW swell due to hold, wind/weather looking favorable at this time

SUNDAY – FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft thigh to chest high
WNW swell fades, wind/weather looking favorable

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 30 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 14
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33/20
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5/19

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Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for at least 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Allos creeks.		
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildfire Rd. (private).	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Soldado Canyon at San Becker County Beach.	A+	D
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony Inlet.	A+	F
Surfside Beach (beach location) - daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	ns	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point rem).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 10948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	F
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Tayanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	B
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	B	A+

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A -- F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken



Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria--enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms--that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our sleepers are happy.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica

Lions Gate in stock swap deal with Malone affiliates

Lions Gate and the media heavyweight John Malone have agreed on an exchange of stock that will also see the Liberty Media Corp. chairman join the movie and television company's board.

The deal announced Wednesday could set the stage for broader cooperation between Lion's Gate and Malone, a cable industry pioneer and a powerful figure in the media business.

Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. will exchange 3.43 percent of its common stock for 4.51 percent of Starz stock held by Malone and his affiliates.

Starz was spun off from Liberty Media in 2013. Malone will still be Starz's largest voting shareholder, with about 6.1 percent equity interest and approximately 32.1 percent of the total voting power of Starz.

"We see tremendous value in Starz as well as the potential to explore a broad range of strategic initiatives in the future," Lionsgate CEO Jon Feltheimer and Vice Chairman Michael Burns said in a statement on Wednesday.

Lions Gate's television shows include "Orange is the New Black" and "Mad Men." Its movies include "The Hunger Games" franchise and the first installment in the "Divergent" franchise.

Shares of the Santa Monica, California-based company climbed \$2.58, or 8.7 percent, to \$32.27 in midday trading Wednesday.

Los Angeles

Santa Ana winds gust through Southern California

Gusty, warm and dry Santa Ana winds blowing through much of Southern California have brought summerlike conditions.

The National Weather Service said temperatures Wednesday topped 80 degrees in many cities from Los Angeles to San Diego, with some highs near 90.

Spawned by high pressure over the interior of the West, the northeast winds blowing toward the coast are expected to keep temperatures will above normal through Saturday.

Relative humidity levels plunged with the arrival of the withering winds. The weather service says, however, that moisture levels of live vegetation remain above normal and would offset the potential for large growth of any wildfires.

Despite years of drought, recent rains have greened up Southern California landscapes that have long been brown.

- AP

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 1975 Wimbledon champ

5 Blast sound

11 Very bright

12 Scaly pet

13 Circus sight

14 Lab worker

15 Newly arising

17 Porpoise's place

18 Walrus pair

22 Kathy of "American Horror Story"

24 Book part

25 In the style of

26 Rebel general

27 Picture puzzle

30 Ignore the limit

32 Bring to bear

33 Brood watcher

34 One with drive

38 Fail to follow suit

41 Plot unit

42 Muse of astronomy

43 Reclined

44 Physics topic

45 Winter glider

DOWN

1 Price to play

2 Appear

3 Presidential nickname

4 Menu choice

5 Flying toy

6 Hollywood bunch

7 Serious quarrel

8 Granola bit

9 Binary digit

10 Spoil

16 Empty talk

19 Presidential nickname

20 Dandling spot

21 Parrot snack

22 Au naturel

23 English of the NBA

28 Memo stamp

29 Smelly smoke

30 That lady bits

31 Potpourri

35 Equipment

36 Ontario's neighbor

37 Split

38 Grog base

39 History segment

40 D.C. baseballer

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

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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			
44							45			

2-12

MYSTERY REVEALED!

Matthew Hall matt@smdp.com



Alfredo Palma correctly identified the mystery photo as a mural at the corner of Lincoln Blvd and Ashland Ave. Send answers to editor@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	1	6	9	2	4	8	5	3
8	5	2	6	3	1	9	7	4
4	3	9	5	8	7	6	2	1
2	7	4	3	1	8	5	9	6
5	6	1	2	7	9	4	3	8
9	8	3	4	6	5	7	1	2
6	4	7	1	5	2	3	8	9
1	9	5	8	4	3	2	6	7
3	2	8	7	9	6	1	4	5

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 2/7
5 10 21 34 58
Power#: 33
Jackpot: 500M

Draw Date: 2/10
7 42 53 58 71
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 74M

Draw Date: 2/7
6 20 23 24 29
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 7M

Draw Date: 2/10
7 11 15 27 37

Draw Date: 2/11
MIDDAY:
Draw Date: 2/10
EVENING: 2 7 6

Draw Date: 2/10
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:45.30

WORD UP!

sternutation

1. the act of sneezing.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1961

- Soviet Union launches Venera 1 towards Venus.

1963

- Construction begins on the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

1968

- Phong Nh? and Phong Nh?t massacre.

1974

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1970, is exiled from the Soviet Union.

1990

- Carmen Lawrence becomes the first female Premier in Australian history when she becomes Premier of Western Australia.

1992

- The current Constitution of Mongolia comes into effect.

1994

- Four men break into the National Gallery of Norway and steal Edvard Munch's iconic painting The Scream.

1999

- United States President Bill Clinton is acquitted by the United States Senate in his impeachment trial.

2001

- NEAR Shoemaker spacecraft touches down in the "saddle" region of 433 Eros, becoming the first spacecraft to land on an asteroid.

2002

- An Iran Airtour Tupolev Tu-154 crashes in the mountains outside Khorramabad, Iran while descending for a landing at Khorramabad Airport, killing 119.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A miles-long traffic jam on Interstate 20 near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on Jan. 25 and on into the next morning was caused by an 18-wheeler that jackknifed and overturned when the 57-year-old driver took his hands off the wheel to pull out a tooth with his fingers. Efforts to haul the truck from the roadside required an hours-long detour of traffic off of the interstate. (The driver's mission was successful; he had the tooth in his pocket when rescued.)

■ Lame: (1) Briton Roberto Collins, 51, was sentenced to 13 months in jail by Manchester Crown Court in January after being caught standing on a ladies' room toilet and peering into the next stall. He told police he stood up only to better scratch an itch and was in the ladies' room only because, wearing faulty glasses, he thought it was the men's room. (2) Scotsman Dean Gilmartin, 25, actually persuaded a judge at Perth Sheriff Court in January of his "innocence" -- that he might not have been masturbating at the front window of his home. He admitted he was nude (changing clothes), but pointed out that he plays musical instruments and was probably just picking out tunes on his ukulele (rather than "holding" his genitals and moving "side to side," as a neighbor had charged).

CATCH UP ON EMAILS, LIBRA

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You'll have a strong sense of where a partner is coming from. Once you engage in a conversation, you might feel as if this person is too set in his or her ways for you to continue down the same path. On some level, you might feel locked. Tonight: Tap into your imagination.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others seek you out in the morning, and you might feel overwhelmed. Decide whom you want to spend your time with, and go about making it happen. Know when to establish stronger boundaries. Tonight: Tap into your imagination when making weekend plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You'll seek out others as you attempt to get a better grasp on a situation. You could get a lot of information, but you still might feel as if someone close to you is not revealing everything he or she knows. Find out why. Tonight: An older person triggers many thoughts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Prepare to do what you want, but expect to get some impromptu questions and demands. Stay steady, and figure out where you want to focus your energy. Recognize your limits. You might need to say "no" to someone you can't help. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to give in to your fun yet spontaneous personality. Perhaps you are not as sure of yourself as you would like to be when dealing with a loved one. You seem to be withdrawn. Relax, and know that you are well cared for. Tonight: A friend inspires you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to understand what is happening with someone who is instrumental in helping you maintain your well-being. This person might be depressed or holding back. Make a point of finding out what is going on with him or her. Tonight: Make it easy, and order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be somewhat withdrawn as you see what goes on around you. Someone with whom you need to speak also might seem distant. Don't push too hard; let this person have some space. Schedule a massage or join a yoga class. Tonight: Catch up on emails.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to straighten out a money issue before it becomes unmanageable. You know what is possible and what you desire from a situation. Convincing someone who is involved in your finances could be a different story. Tonight: Let your imagination speak.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You could be pushing someone away without realizing how you are coming off. Get feedback from several people who know you well. Try to eliminate whatever seems to be holding you back. Tonight: Respond to an offer that is too good to be true.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Try to maintain better contact with friends and loved ones. There could be some confusion or a misunderstanding about plans. You might want to confirm meetings, plans and anything of significance; you will be a lot happier as a result. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by a meeting or get-together with a friend. Work on being positive about a long-term goal. Your endurance will count. Understand that you might not get there overnight, but your goal is achievable. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could have a difficult time listening to a boss or parent. Your mind seems to be drifting from one interest to another. Be aware of your limits when dealing with others. Leave any difficult or demanding situation for a different day. Tonight: Do what you want.

Thursday, February 12, 2015

This year you will focus on your image and your long-term plans. Your career could be a key issue, as you will demand growth and more financial benefits. When you concentrate on an objective or desire, you tend to hit a home run. If you are single, someone comes strolling into your life and puts a big smile on your face. This year could mark the beginning of a serious relationship, if you are open to it. If you are attached, the two of you often sound and act like two lovebirds. Your sweetie might seem almost perfect to you, and vice versa. SAGITTARIUS makes a great friend and is likely to act on some of your more adventurous ideas!

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic	★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive	★ Difficult
★★★ Average	

CRIME WATCH

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. 5 AT APPROXIMATELY 5:45 P.M.
Officers responded to an armed robbery investigation at the Santa Monica Police Department Pier Substation. Upon arrival, officers met a victim who indicated that at approximately 5:30 p.m. while at the 1700 block of Ocean Front Walk, he removed and placed his shoes beside him before a work out. Immediately, he observed a 60 year-old black male take and put his shoes on. After the victim requested his shoes back, the suspect pointed a BB gun at the victim. In fear of his life, the victim raised his hands and the suspect fled the location. The victim reported the incident to SMPD and was taken to the Pier Substation to identify a subject detained by officers matching the suspect's description. The suspect, in possession of the shoes, was positively identified and taken to jail. Suspect refused to provide personal information and was booked as John Doe. Bail was set at \$50,000.

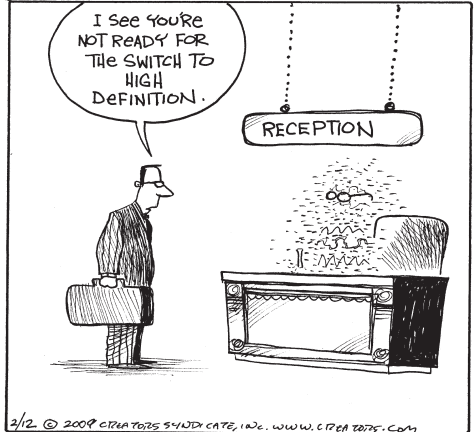
SEE NEWS HAPPENING OR HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT?

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Speed Bump By Dave Coverly

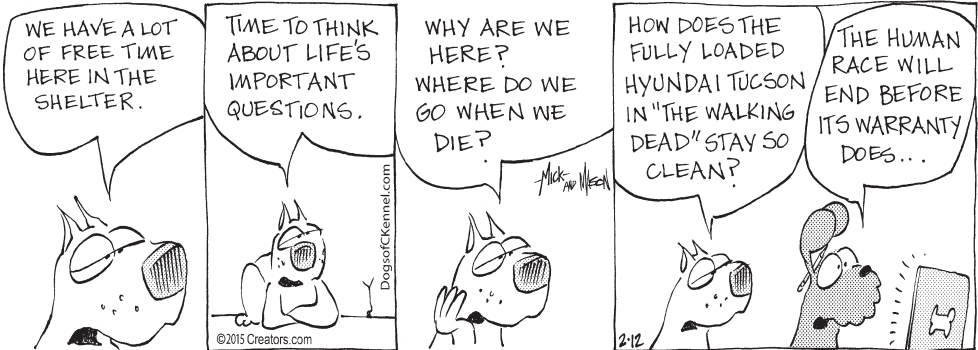


Strange Brew By John Deering



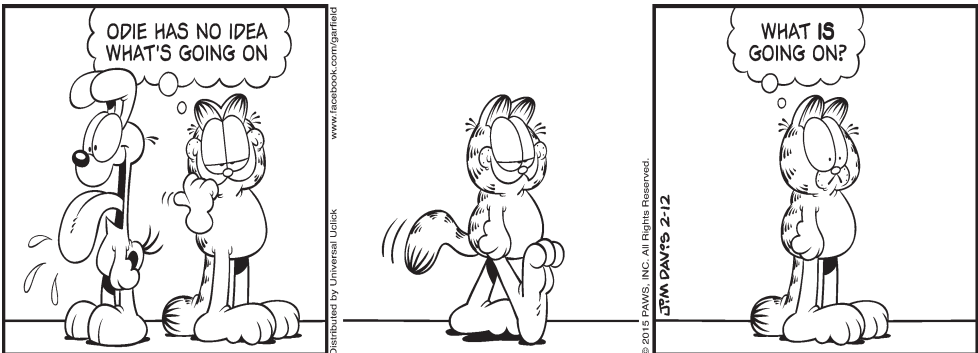
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 394 calls for service on Feb. 10.

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

Disturbance, 100 block Broadway, 12:14 a.m.
Disturbance, 2200 block 4th, 1:55 a.m.
Fight, 3rd/Santa Monica, 4:57 a.m.
Vandalism, 1800 block Lincoln, 5:28 a.m.
Battery, 1300 block 3rd, 5:32 a.m.
Trespassing, 600 block Montana, 6:17 a.m.
Auto burglary, 1700 block 11th, 7:07 a.m.
Trespassing, 1200 block Broadway, 7:26 a.m.
Stalking, 2000 block Ocean Park, 9:03 a.m.
Vandalism, 2400 block Main, 9:10 a.m.
Car crash, 25th/Pico, 9:44 a.m.
Drinking in public, 800 block Ocean Park, 9:56 a.m.
Burglary, 1800 block 11th, 10:03 a.m.

Car crash, Ocean/Pico, 10:04 a.m.
Fight, 1400 block 3rd, 10:12 a.m.
Drunk driving, 2400 block Wilshire, 10:53 a.m.
Trespassing, 700 block Santa Monica, 10:54 a.m.
Vandalism, 1300 block Princeton, 10:58 a.m.
Public intoxication, 1100 block Lincoln, 11:29 a.m.
Petty theft, 1400 block 2nd, 11:53 a.m.
Drunk driving, 7th/San Vicente, 12:16 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 2600 block Lincoln, 12:32 p.m.
Identity theft, 400 block Montana, 12:36 p.m.
Threats, 1300 block 17th, 12:50 p.m.
Burglary, 1700 block 16th, 1:37 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 1000 block Ocean, 2:41 p.m.
Grand theft, 2600 block Lincoln, 2:53 p.m.
Drinking in public, 1100 block 10th, 3:39 p.m.
Burglary, 900 block 3rd, 4:12 p.m.
Identity theft, 14000 block Riverside, 4:23 p.m.
Drunk driving, 11th/Pico, 4:25 p.m.
Disturbance, 1800 block 17th, 4:42 p.m.

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Announcements

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Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln

The Last Paragraph of Lincoln's First Inaugural Address
Monday, March 4, 1861

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica
Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of Early February 2015

		Average Price	# of Listings
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$11,888,000	1
North of Montana	=	\$4,780,636	11
North of Wilshire	=		0
South of Wilshire	=	\$1,223,000	3
Sunset Park	=	\$1,957,000	5
Ocean Park	=	\$1,404,500	2

Statistics updated every Friday

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