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Skaggs eager to make return with Angels

Samohi grad enters spring training after 18-month recovery from Tommy John surgery



Courtesy of Angels Baseball

SKAGGS

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

It was a year and a half that felt like an eternity.

The anticipation to this year's Major League Baseball season begins 18 months after Tyler Skaggs underwent elbow surgery, and the former Santa Monica High School star is yearning to get back on the mound.

On Feb. 15, he'll head to Arizona for spring training with the Los Angeles Angels. A few days later, he'll go through physicals and work out with the pitchers and catchers. The whole team is scheduled to meet for practice Feb. 24.

Skaggs can hardly wait.

"I'm really looking forward to this year," he said. "This last year

SEE **ANGELS** PAGE 8







Robert Hernandez, UCLA

VALENTINE

Therapy dogs, part of UCLA's People-Animal Connection program (PAC), delivered handmade Valentines to sick children at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica on Friday. The dogs, already comfortable with hospital visits, were happy to take breaks to be petted and play with by the young patients.

American Chemical Society to recognize SMC chemistry club with 'outstanding' recognition

BY GRACE SMITH
Special to the Daily Press

What do you get when you put together a group of students and professors with a passion for one of the oldest scientific disciplines, and a desire to do good? It's a winning solution called the Santa Monica College (SMC) Chemistry Club.

On March 13, the American Chemical Society (ACS) Committee on Education will recognize this student-run SMC club - which became a recognized student chapter of the world's largest scientific society in 2012 - with an 'Outstanding' recognition, ACS's highest. It's an honor not even their counterparts at UCLA can claim.

"When I found out that we got this recognition, I was over the moon!" says Jennifer Hsieh, PhD, SMC chemistry professor and the club's faculty advisor. "It took a lot of work from many dedicated students - and I can't tell you how

SEE **SMC** PAGE 6

New study shows Santa Monica teens find it 'somewhat,' 'very easy' to get alcohol

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

A new survey released this week shows that 86-percent of Santa Monica youth find it "somewhat" or "very easy" to obtain alcohol.

The survey of underage drinking is part of the Westside Impact Project, an effort to reduce alcohol-related problems in Santa Monica, led by the Institute for Public Strategies (IPS). Through an assessment effort conducted by IPS's evaluation partner, Harder+Company Community Research, nearly 200 surveys were completed in July 2015 by Santa Monica teens and young adults, ages 16 to 20.

The findings showed that, in the past year, more than half of the teens surveyed attended at least three house parties where alcohol was available; 37-percent had at least one drink in the last 30 days; 15 percent reported binge drinking (five or more drinks within two hours) at least one day in the past month; and almost a third (28-percent) of those who have ever used alcohol report blacking out at least once.

"The reality is underage drinking is truly a problem across the country," Sarah Blanch, director of the Westside Impact Project, said. "It's concerning, and I think most people would be surprised at the percentage of youth that, not only are they drinking frequently, but the data show that a lot of times when they drink it's in the form of binge drinking."

However, Blanch said that the project wasn't surprised to see the statistics.

"We do have comparisons with

SEE **ALCOHOL** PAGE 3


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

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.

Sunday, Feb. 14

L.A. Marathon

Race enters SM on SanVicente Blvd. at 26th St., continues west to Ocean Ave. to end at California Ave. Soft closure of streets: 4:45 a.m. Hard closure of streets: 5:30 a.m. 1st wheelchair/handcycle expected in SM: 8 a.m. 1st runner expected in SM: 9:30 a.m. Streets reopened on a rolling basis starting at east end of SM around 1pm. 5 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (Main St.)

The Main Street market hosts a variety activities including bands, a bi-weekly cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts, a face painter, a balloon animal designer as well as seasonal California grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, meats and cheeses. 2640 Main St. @ Ocean Park, 9:30 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.

LA Marathon Recovery Event

Forster Physical Therapy, the exclusive physical therapist for the LA Marathon, is holding a free Recovery Event in Santa Monica just blocks from the finish line. There will be free nutrition, hydration, massage, injury assessments and snacks along with discounted B-12 shots and hydration drips. 427 Wilshire Blvd., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

TheGROOVE Dance

TheGROOVE is a simple fitness class that anyone can do! There are no fancy steps or choreography to memorize. Just a couple of simple steps that make you dance to the music and get into TheGROOVE. Cost: $10. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/47476. 1450 Ocean Ave., 12 - 1 p.m.

10th Annual Tea Lovers Festival

Join the Tea Lovers Festival for a tea-time afternoon on Valentine's Day, the organization's exact 10th anniversary, as it celebrates a decade as a public event of spreading the love of tea through education and diverse cultural experiences. $10 a person, free for children under 12. Event tickets and info at http://TeaLoversFestival2016.eventbrite.com/. Fowler Museum at UCLA, 308 Charles E Young Dr., 2 - 5 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 15

Library Closed

All Library locations are closed today.

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

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Police Department and City TV awarded $57,000 grant funding

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) and City TV have been awarded a $57,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long, outreach campaign to foster public awareness in the prevention of pedestrian and bicyclists related deaths and injuries. The funding will be used to pursue the city's pledge to the US Department of Transportation "Mayor's Challenge" for "safer people, safer streets."

"It has been proven that an effective communications strategy when coupled with proactive enforcement efforts is exponentially more effective in bringing about awareness and promoting overall roadway safety," said Chief of Police Jacqueline Seabrooks.

California's Office of Traffic Safety contribution will help Santa Monica move closer towards Vision Zero's laudable goal of no crashes, no deaths and no injuries. The police department and City TV are collaborating with various stakeholders to identify effective ways to create a culture of traffic safety in our community. The importance of rolling out this multi-channel, public awareness campaign is heightened with the impending arrival of the Metro Expo Line into our city.

Available statistics from OTS for year 2013 show that pedestrians and bicyclists accounted for nearly 30% of roadway fatalities in California. "Overall, California's roadways are among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and accessible transportation objectives, we have to reverse this recent trend in order to reach our common goal - zero deaths on our roadways."

- SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT RUDY CAMARENA,

Citywide

Santa Monica Youth Orchestra Performs 360° Video Tribute to Grammy Artist Kendrick Lamar

In a music video tribute to Kendrick Lamar, Compton's hometown hero, currently nominated for 11 Grammy awards, members of the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra (SMYO) recently joined musical forces with multi-instrumentalist and composer, Sly5thAve, to perform selections from Lamar's most critically acclaimed project, "To Pimp a Butterfly." The music video was released Wednesday, Feb. 10 on YouTube.

An inspiration to area at-risk youth, Lamar grew up in Compton amidst dangerous street activity, but seemed more influenced than harmed by it, recording his keen observations as lyrics to be communicated through his powerful musical style. His far-reaching musical success has served as motivation to many young musicians, including the members of SMYO, a tuition-free music education program supported through the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Clubs.

Influenced by Lamar's evocative "Alright" music video and using 360° virtual video technology, producers Brandon Gerard and Ashley Shanté wanted to create a setting where the viewer could almost become a part of the orchestra. This short clip marks the first collaboration with Los Angeles-based production companies, Arbor Films and Butcher Bird Studios, and provides a first look at an interactive television/social music project entitled "RE/CHORD," debuting online in Spring 2016.

"We are excited to launch this video in the days leading up to the 58th Grammys on Feb 15. Kendrick is an artist who cares deeply about people and is involved with several youth/community organizations, so I wanted to involve young musicians from diverse LA backgrounds as much as possible," said producer Brandon Gerard.

Gerard's path intersected with that of Shab Fasa, founder of the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra, when he first contacted Sylvester Onyejiaka, better known as Sly5thAve after seeing some recent work he did with the Club Casa Chamber Orchestra for Lamar's popular song, "BDKMV" on YouTube. Fasa had also recently contacted Sly5thAve for a position as music director for the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra so the timing was serendipitous for collaboration.

"Connecting with Sly and Brandon brought this project full circle," says Fasa. "Kendrick Lamar's music really resonates with the kids and their enthusiasm over Sly's arrangement of Kendrick's music shines through in their performance."

The young members of SMYO's youth chamber group were excited to perform the tribute to the Compton performer who has inspired their musical journey.

"I thought that Kendrick Lamar's music is simple but fun to play and very interesting. The whole time was a blast for me," said SMYO member Vincente Puga. "The whole experience was amazing and I had so much fun and wish I'll do something with Kendrick Lamar's music and another project with Sly in the future."

In addition to the chamber group featured in the video project, SMYO also has a 140-member full orchestra and two choirs. Established in 2012, SMYO uses music to celebrate Santa Monica's cultural and socioeconomic diversity and performs themed community concerts throughout the year. For more information, visit www.smbgc.org or www.santamonicayouthorchestra.org or email info@santamonicayouthorchestra.org.

- SUBMITTED BY MARY DICESARE, MAYERSON MARKETING

ALCOHOL

FROM PAGE 1

our numbers and statewide, but in general Santa Monica does have higher rates, which is not surprising in some ways. It's a beach community, there is a lot of really easy access."

National and local research studies published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Journal of Studies on Alcohol have repeatedly identified house parties as the primary source from which minors obtain alcohol.

"Experience has shown us that house parties provide our youth with easy access to alcohol. These findings help clarify what steps we as a community need to take in order to prevent our kids from engaging in harmful behavior, which oftentimes leads to negative social consequences," stated Sgt. Rudy Camarena of the Santa Monica Police Department in a press release.

The survey also concluded that alcohol use is highly correlated with risky behaviors, such as driving while under the influence, getting in the car with someone who is under the influence and buying or selling alcohol on school grounds.

Dana Sherrod, prevention coordinator for the Westside Impact Project, found the easy access teens have at house parties, as well as the correlation between alcohol and marijuana usage, the most concerning findings.

"A common concern with house parties and teens accessing alcohol is that adults may believe it is a controlled environment," Sherrod said. "But even if there are parents home that doesn't completely mitigate the danger … What was most surprising was that alcohol and marijuana use is directly correlated. That other substance abuse is taking place makes for a really volatile mix."

According to the Westside Impact Project, one strategy to keep alcohol away from teens is social host ordinances, which assess administrative fines, combined with high-visibility enforcement, to deter potential hosts from providing a venue where alcohol is available to minors.

"Communities across California and the U.S. have passed social host ordinances to reduce underage drinking and, more specifically, the incidence of house parties," said Blanch in a press release.

To date, more than 150 cities or counties and 24 states have adopted social host laws, including many throughout Southern California according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Social host ordinances have demonstrated positive results. Redlands, California, a similar sized city to Santa Monica, saw its police calls for service related to house parties drop by a third after passing and enforcing a social host ordinance, according to the Redlands Daily Facts.

"We want to be shining a spotlight on what youth are saying and that there are strategies such as social host and a range of community level strategies that can reduce underage drinking," Blanch said. "There will always be underage drinking, but our goal is to reduce it. And we think it is possible if the community comes together and cares about it enough and rallies behind some possible solutions.

To learn more, contact the Westside Impact Coalition at (310) 215-9924, westsideimpactproject.org or by email at impact@publicstrategies.org.

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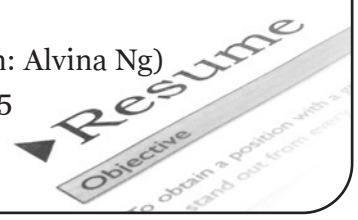
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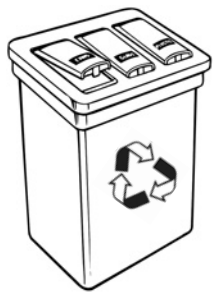
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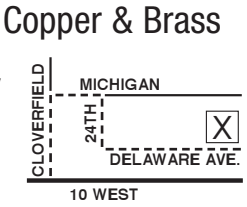


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SMart Thinking

By SM a.r.t. Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Romancing Santa Monica

IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR A CITY TO PROVIDE its residents mobility, affordable housing, places of worship or profitable businesses. These are essential but minimal standards. Our City should also feed our highest aspirations which are among others and in no particular order: to have a childhood, to be in love, to engage in lifelong learning, to age well, and to realize our dreams whatever they may be. So for Valentine's Day, SMart wanted to know if Santa Monica is a good City to be in love? Regardless of your age, is our City a romantic place? Everyone has a personal favorite of the most romantic place, sound, site or smell of Santa Monica, but we went searching for the ones that almost everyone recognizes.

Searching the zoning code (looking for love in all the wrong places), there is surprisingly, no district zoned for cupid, but we do have twice the number of cinemas and florists, and five times the number of sex shops per person than the average American City. So we are already a city with many romantic opportunities.

But unquestionably the most romantic place in Santa Monica is the beach. Whether you are watching beautiful athletic bodies performing on the rings at muscle beach, surfing in the waves or just sunning themselves, you' re always uplifted and leave amorously inspired. If your journey home takes you along Palisades Park to watch a glorious sunset, to have a picnic, or to walk your dog and meet other dog lovers, the beach and the ocean still cast their magic spell. From above the beach you might occasionally look down on the drama of Summer twilight concerts or of the multi spiraled big top of Cirque de Soleil or (rarely) of the twinkling lights Santa Monica's Glow Festival, but you can always see the Pier's flashing rainbow of lights or the Carousel's distinctive roof to recapture the feeling of young love and fun. Finally Palisade Park's sweeping view from Malibu to Palos Verde and Catalina, often dotted with sailboats, frees your mind to travel perhaps to Hawaii or to Tahiti or other romantic destinations.

Love lifts us up and Santa Monica has many ways to get us above it all: from sitting on the top of the Ferris wheel (solar powered of course), to the glass elevator of the Huntley Hotel, or to taking off into the golden sunset from Santa Monica airport. Likewise love makes it easy to move through life. We already have the next generation of easy mobility: Uber, Hulu Bicycles, and soon the EXPO Light Rail to get us around, but they are as yet too new to have acquired that patina of romance. However, that feeling of easy movement is nowhere more apparent than on San Vicente Blvd. With its gentle curves, gentle slope, gorgeous red coral trees, flanked by gracious homes, graceful joggers and bicyclists, San Vicente is probably the most romantic boulevard in Santa Monica.

The movies, like love, also transport us out of the ordinary and Santa Monica has always basked in the glamour and romance of Hollywood. Not only do we have about two dozen theaters, including the new Arclight over Santa Monica Place, and the deep vaults of Vidiots for new and old movies, but we have landmarks such as the Marion Davies Guest house on the beach, Chez Jays, the Georgian Hotel's Clark Gable suite, the Civic Center Auditorium (1960s Academy awards) all of which are directly linked to our larger than life movie loves.

For the more intimately inclined, we have dozens of romantic hideaways where lovers can meet: the Galley, the Little Door Restaurant, by the fireplace at the Kings Head Inn, a cozy corner booth at PF Chang's, for a drink at One Pico Restaurant, not to mention dozens of wonderful coffee shops. We also have many places where the passion of diverse devotees are on display from Bergamot Station to the Broad theater, from Mc Cabe's, to Angels Attic, from dance to yoga classes where you can fall in love with artists, dancers, musicians, actors, teachers and performers of every sort. Finally what is more natural than the love of nature? From the dolphins playing in our surf, to seagulls in the lilies in front of City hall, to the bower of Merihew Gardens, and simply sitting in the shade of Morty, the big fig, in Tongva Park, we have an abundance of natural inspiration. Living close to nature is romantic!

For the morning after, you might wander down to the farmer's market and pick up breakfast from among many treats and voluptuous fruits and vegetables on display. You might repair to a local coffee shop like the Urth Café, the Ocean Park Café, or the Novel Café' and enjoy immersing yourself in the Sunday newspaper. In the afternoon, you might window shop on Main Street, Ocean Park Blvd, Montana or the Third Street Promenade. Unfortunately bookstores such as Midnight Special, the late Hennessey & Ingalls, and even Borders are gone, but on a great walk you can always find something amusing, interesting or beautiful to share with your lover.

These lovers' meanderings imply an abundance of time, which is essential to love: it simply needs time to grow. This is the most romantic aspect of Santa Monica: with its vacation ambiance, fed by its long tradition as a beach resort, we are invited, like the tourists that surround us, to spend our time leisurely and not sprint from one to-do item to another. We are encouraged to move a little slower and to have the time to recognize and enjoy the beauty of those around us and perhaps fall in love with them. This casual beach town ambiance is a precious thing that needs protection, but its there for your enjoyment: Happy Valentine's Day!

MARIO FONDA-BONARDI, AIA for SMa.r.t.

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The Library Lowdown

Ann Wagner
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Love in Many Languages

¡TE AMO! JE T' AIME! ICH LIEBE DICH! Mahal kita! (That's "I love you" in Spanish, French, German, and Tagalog.) Throughout the world, in many languages, there are words to express love. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone learned to say "I love you" in as many ways as we can? February is the month of love. February is also Discover Languages Month, according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

What does research show about the benefits of language learning? Well, besides filling the world with a bit more love, three major areas have been identified. (More details and study sources can be found on the ACTFL website at www.actfl.org.) Language learning supports academic achievement. It correlates with higher academic achievement on standardized test measures and students' ability to hypothesize in science, and is beneficial in the development of students' reading abilities. Language learning provides cognitive benefits to students. There is evidence that early language learning improves cognitive abilities, and that bilingualism correlates with increased cognitive development. There is also a correlation between bilingualism and memory skills and problem-solving ability. Finally, research suggests that language learners develop a more positive attitude toward the target language and/or the speakers of that language.

The Santa Monica Public Library currently has world language collections for adults in eight languages: Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish. Our world languages collections for children include seven languages: Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Russian. These materials include books [both fiction and nonfiction] and audiovisual formats. We also have materials for babies and children to learn sign language. Our extensive Spanish language collection includes books for both adults and children, DVDs for kids, music CDs, audiobooks, Ebooks and downloadable audiobooks. For children we also have Biblioteca TumbleBook, a digital collection of illustrated children's books in Spanish (some of which are bilingual English/Spanish) that you can read, and read along with, on your computer or tablet. Our World Book Encyclopedia digital resources include Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos, for Spanish-speaking students. Also available is the LearningExpress Library database, which offers test preparation in Spanish and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) study guides, as well as other study guides for school and career.

We invite you to explore the shelves in both the children's and adult nonfiction areas for language learning tools. Need a Chinese-English dictionary or an English-Farsi phrasebook? You'll find them in the stacks in the 400s (that's the "call number," the book's address on the spine label). You can also search digital dictionaries via the library's website. Merriam-Webster online dictionary includes "Spanish Central," Brittannica English-Arabic translation, and English-Spanish/Spanish-English translation. The Hoopla streaming service, which can be used on a computer, tablet or smartphone, also includes language learning titles for both children and adults.

A fun and useful language learning resource is Mango Languages, an online database accessible for free to anyone with a Santa Monica Public Library card. Mango offers online lessons for 71 languages-including Biblical Hebrew, Ancient Greek, Shakespearean English and even Pirate! Also on Mango are lessons in English as a second language (ESL). And Mango is not just for adults! A special section called Little Pim offers language learning fun for kids in Russian, German, Arabic (Levantine), Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Italian, Hebrew, Spanish (Latin America), French, and English. Many Mango lessons are supplemented by videos or conversational units geared toward specific situations, such as Legal Spanish or "Wine and Cheese" French!

The library offers help for English language learners as well as for those wishing to learn to speak Spanish. The Brainfuse HelpNow database, also available free to anyone with a valid Santa Monica Public Library card, includes a Language Lab where you can connect with a live tutor for help with your Spanish lessons. For English language learners, Brainfuse HelpNow offers live tutors who speak Spanish and can help you with a variety of subjects for students in Kindergarten through College. Adults can use the Brainfuse HelpNow Adult Learner resources for help in Beginning, Intermediate and Advance ESL subjects including Reading, Writing, Grammar, College Application Information and preparation for the TOEFL-everything from what to expect on test day to practice test questions. Both Brainfuse HelpNow and Mango Languages are available as apps for iPad, iPhone, and Android.

All you need to access these language resources is a valid Santa Monica Public Library card, which is free for anyone who lives in California. Come to your local branch to sign up. For more information, visit smpl.org.

So, spread the love. Greet your sweetheart and say, "¡Tu eres mi amor!"

ANN WAGNER is a Youth Services Librarian at the Santa Monica Public Library. She studied Spanish, German, and a little bit of French in college. Her latest language is Pirate, which she learned on Mango Languages so she could present a "How to Speak Pirate" program at the Main Library.

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SMC

FROM PAGE 1

proud I am of them."

Elsa Avila, SMC alum and freshman at Cal Poly Pomona, was one of those students. She became the club's outreach and activities coordinator after its "rebranding" as a student chapter of the ACS, which included adopting a constitution that reflects the society's values, with three main goals of outreach, professional development, and promoting chemistry. Avila helped organize outreach trips to Kenter Canyon Elementary School in Los Angeles, and to Franklin Elementary School in Santa Monica (outreach like this is a large part of the reason for the club's recognition by the ACS).

"What the kids were experiencing seemed completely new to them," says Avila. "Their expressions were priceless." Last year, the club also organized outreach to Will Rogers Elementary School, just a stone's throw away from SMC's main campus. SMC students demonstrated concepts like density - using smelly cooking products and fake eyeballs - to fourth and fifth graders enrolled in the Childcare, Recreation, Enrichment, and Sports Together (CREST) after school program at Will Rogers.

Elmer Landaverde, a programs coordinator for the City of Santa Monica, says that the opportunity the elementary school students got - to experience something that may spark an interest in science - is priceless. This year, the club also plans to host students from John Adams Middle School in one of SMC's labs for a "Science Saturday", a day involving fun with science.

Co-advisor and SMC chemistry professor Travis Pecorelli, PhD, points out also that the club is not just for chemistry students. Last spring, he and Hsieh took club members to an academic conference organized by the Association for Women in Science, as part of the club's professional development. "They had no idea what was going to be involved," says Pecorelli. "But they really, really enjoyed it."

Within just three years of becoming a student chapter of the ACS, the SMC club has "hit their stride", says Hsieh. Highlights include inviting prominent speakers to campus, like Kevin Grazier, science adviser to the Academy Award-winning movie Gravity and the TV series Battlestar Galactica, among others; and Amy Berg, a science fiction writer.

The club also hosted a first-ever "Chemistry Olympics" and - by its third year - had redesigned their outreach program from a chemistry "magic show" demonstration to a smaller, safe project that an elementary school student could set up with a little help from SMC students, and take home to share with their parents. At Will Rogers, the children who participated in the club's density demonstration took home Mason jars filled with a "witch's brew" of molasses, honey and cooking oil topped off with a fake eye-ball - just in time for Halloween.

"The thing I am most proud of is that we've created this family," says Hsieh. "Club members keep in touch, even after transferring to universities, and continue to support each other. What more could we ask for?" The club plans on continuing with "great programming" at their weekly meetings, and hopes that their outreach events will evolve into something campus-wide, says Hsieh. "Maybe something where families in the community can come to campus for a day of science."



Photo by Adam Thomas

CHEMISTRY: Santa Monica College biochemistry major Azra Azvar demonstrates density to Will Rogers Elementary School students at an outreach event in November 2015, organized by the student-run SMC Chemistry Club. The club will be receiving an 'Outstanding' recognition - in large part for its educational outreach - from the American Chemical Society on March 13.

Along with SMC, 54 student chapters from other colleges and universities will also receive the 'Outstanding' recognition at the 251st ACS National Meeting in San Diego. The Chemistry Club is one of approximately 70 student clubs at SMC.

For more information on the chemistry club, contact **JENNIFER HSIEH** at Hsieh_Jennifer@smc.edu or call (310) 434-4887.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Civic confusion

Editor:

I have been following the Civic Center Working Group and the various sports field proponents' efforts with some confusion. City Council selected and provided the guidelines for the task of the working group. Although they stated on Tuesday night that the field was always a given, no one in the working group seemed aware of this. Nor, when it was repeatedly brought up during public input the last 18 plus months, was it given real consideration. The Early Childhood Education Center was a "given" and that was clear from the beginning. So, if this was just a misstep from City Council, that concerns me. If it is an error on the part of the Working Group's efforts, that concerns me. But, my real confusion is with the direction given the consultant who was hired and worked with the group. Our tax dollars paid upwards of $400,000 on a consultant who had the wrong information. And when that consultant began to hear the community's impassioned plea to correct this error, ignored them and motored thru the process. So, now all that time and money has been wasted. Did no one really see this while it was happening? Or has someone profited from the mistake and the do over that will occur?

William Martin
Santa Monica



FILM REVIEW

TUMBLEDOWN

Rated R
105 Minutes
Released February 5th

Tumbledown is the passion project of husband and wife team Sean Mewshaw and Desiree Van Til. Van Til had worked in film development in Los Angeles for years. Mewshaw got his start as a production assistant with Martin Scorsese's Gangs of New York, and had directed some short films. They made a decision to move back to the simple life of Van Til's small hometown in Maine. That's where the story of this film takes place and where the journey of the making of the film began. As told in the panel with Mewshaw and Van Til that followed my screening, Van Til had lived the heart of the story and had a great loss on which it is based. She wrote the screenplay. Mewshaw was inspired to outline the story and direct the film. It took eight years to get the film made. They never gave up.

The story follows the widow ("Hannah") of a young singer/songwriter ("Hunter") who had died unexpectedly soon after releasing his first album, a work that showed much promise and gained dedicated fans. The persona of Hunter after death takes on a life of its own.

Rebecca Hall, as the widow, portrays a fierce possessiveness of her husband's memory. She lives in the backwoods house that they had built together, full of remnants of his life. She seems to have channeled her grief into a will to encapsulate the life that they had and shield it from the outside world. Jason Sudeikis plays a professor of contemporary music culture who is fascinated with the effect that Hunter had on his fans and wants to know more. The story is the gradual interweaving of the relationship that these two develop.

Joe Manganiello (Spider-man, Magic Mike XXL) adds warmth and humor to the tale as the town's electrical contractor/"booty call" for Hannah. Veteran character actor Griffin Dunne adds to the film's texture as the aloof intellectual, the owner of the local bookstore where philosophical discussions take place. His character seems to be the only one in town who sees through Hannah's self-inflicted isolation. Another vivid presence, never seen, yet at the center of the drama, is singer/composer Damien Jurado, whose haunting ballads define the "ghost" of Hunter.

For financial reasons the film was shot mostly in Massachusetts rather than Maine. That state's landscape however is a perfect "stand-in." Cinematographer Seamus Tierney captures some magnificent vistas. Director Mewshaw surrounded himself with experienced team members. Editors Sandra Adair and Suzy Elmiger have impressive resumes dating back to the '70's and 80's respectively. Production designer Jane Ann Steward (The Descendants, Sideways, About Schmidt) created rooms that reflected not only the region's culture but also the personality and emotions flowing through them.

There are touching scenes, moments of fun mixed with moments of emotional pain. The story rings true and it develops in a circuitous way. Some things perhaps are revealed sooner than necessary. However, the two main characters (and Hunter's spirit) grow on you, and you become invested in them by the end.

KATHRYN WHITNEY BOOLE was drawn into the entertainment industry as a kid and never left. It has been the backdrop for many awesome adventures with crazy creative people. She now works as a Talent Manager with Studio Talent Group in Santa Monica. kwboole@gmail.com. For previously published reviews see https://kwboole.wordpress.com/

MOVIE TIMES

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Deadpool (R)
9:20AM, 11:15AM, 12:00PM, 1:55PM, 2:40PM, 4:35PM, 5:20PM, 7:15PM, 8:00PM, 9:55PM, 10:40PM

The Finest Hours (PG-13)
10:20AM, 1:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM, 9:40PM

Where To Invade Next (R)
11:10AM, 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM, 10:30PM

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The Boy (2016) (PG-13)
12:35PM, 5:30PM, 10:30PM

Daddy's Home (PG-13)
10:10AM, 3:00PM, 8:00PM

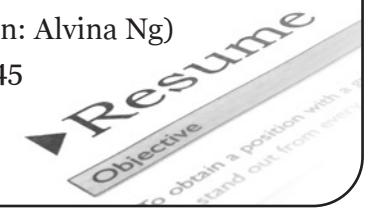
Deadpool (R)
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Pride And Prejudice And Zombie (PG-13)
10:00AM, 12:30PM, 3:05PM, 5:40PM, 8:15PM, 10:50PM

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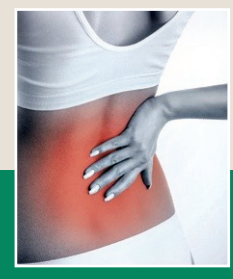
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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.9°**

SATURDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-5 ft** waist to head high occ. 7ft
Long period WNW swell to peak - more size for standouts. Modest SSW swell. Incoming tide in the morning.

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high
WNW swell slowly eases. Modest SSW swell.

MONDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Fading WNW swell. Largest in the AM. Small SSW swell.

ANGELS

FROM PAGE 1

was a long one for me."

The unwanted intermission in Skaggs' career certainly tested his physical resilience. The lefty has gone through intensive rehabilitation, striving to build back his arm power and stamina.

"I feel strong," he said. "My arm feels good. There are days where it feels good and there's days where it doesn't. But I'll be ready to go for spring training."

The more challenging battle, though, was being waged between Skaggs' ears. Sitting in the dugout and unable to contribute, the 6-foot-4 pitcher felt helpless. All he could do was stick to his recovery plan as he counted down the days to this year's preseason camp.

"It was a lot of hard work, more mentally than physically," he said. "I'm just excited to get out there."

The scar on Skaggs' left arm tells the story he hopes to put behind him. On Aug. 13, 2014, he had Tommy John surgery, a remedy for the pain he felt in his arm during a game a few weeks earlier.

"When it happened, I was devastated because you never want to go through an injury," he said. "I knew how long it would take me to get back."

It typically takes pitchers between 12 and 18 months to recover from the operation. With the support of the Angels, Skaggs sat out all of last season instead of trying to rush his rehab.

But the injury abruptly halted what appeared to be a career on the rise. Drafted 40th overall by the Angels in 2009, the same year he graduated from Samohi, Skaggs played in the minor leagues before being traded to the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2010 and making his MLB debut in August 2012.

Skaggs was traded back to the Angels before the 2014 season, when he posted a 5-5 record in 18 starts while recording 86 strikeouts and a 4.30 earned-run average in 113 innings on the hill.

His dream of being an impact player in the pros was coming to fruition.

"It's been very gratifying, but I'm still hungry," he said. "I want to be a guy that's there for a long time. I don't want to just be a flash in the pan, have about 20 or 30 starts and call it a career."

Being back in his hometown puts it all in perspective for Skaggs. It's where he fell in love with baseball, playing in Santa Monica Little League and later with the Vikings. It's where his mother coaches softball. It's where his friends live. And it's where his professionals dreams were born.

Skaggs knows nothing is guaranteed, but he said he feels ready to compete for a roster spot.

"All my teammates are very supportive," he said. "They want me to do well. It's huge to have that positive influence, to know that everybody still has my back and they're rooting for me."

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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 FEBRUARY 4, AT APPROXIMATELY 4 P.M.

An officer was dispatched to the 500 block of Olympic Boulevard in response to the report on an ex-client brandishing a knife and threatening employees. According to staff, the subject, later identified as Roger Kiskaden, 55-year-old transient, was trying to enter the facility after being banned when he was stopped by an employee. Kiskaden began to yell and began to demand that all of his items be returned. The staff member said she feared for her life, as Kiskaden made threats indicating he would stab her with his knife. While conducting a search, officers recovered a knife from his person. A warrant check revealed that Kiskaden had a no bail warrant. Kiskaden began to bang his head against the Plexiglas of the patrol vehicle during transport to the jail; he was transported to the hospital for a medical clearance. While in custody, Kiskaden made suicidal statements, he was taken for a psychological evaluation. No bail was set.

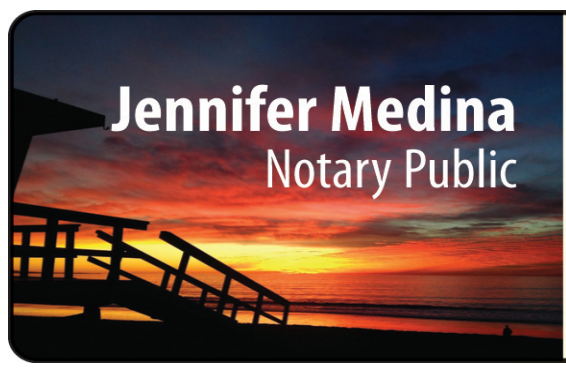
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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 381 calls for service on Feb. 11.

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

Disturbance, 2400 block Wilshire, 12:03 a.m.
Vandalism, 2900 block Main, 12:43 a.m.
Disturbance, 7th/Pico, 1:46 a.m.
Disturbance, 1300 block Princeton, 5:08 a.m.
Trespassing, 2900 block Main, 6:43 a.m.
Burglary, 1300 block Ocean, 7:45 a.m.
Bike theft, 2600 block beach, 7:46 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 600 block Washington, 8:06 a.m.
Defrauding innkeeper, 3100 block Wilshire, 8:49 a.m.
Assault, Centinela/Santa Monica, 8:44 a.m.
Car crash, 1700 block 14th, 8:48 a.m.
Indecent exposure, 3100 block Wilshire, 8:49 a.m.
Grand theft, 1200 block 24th, 8:58 a.m.
Domestic violence, 700 block Pine, 9:59 a.m.
Trespassing, 1600 block Lincoln, 10:24 a.m.
Disturbance, 1500 block 2nd, 11:12 a.m.
Fight, 1600 block Appian, 12:33 p.m.
Domestic violence, 1600 block Ocean, 12:33 p.m.
Person down, 1400 block Ocean, 12:34 p.m.
Assault with a deadly weapon, 2200 block Colorado, 12:39 p.m.
Elder abuse, 1100 block Arizona, 12:47 p.m.
Trespassing, 1800 block 9th, 12:52 p.m.
Hit and run, 1200 block 14th, 12:53 p.m.
Battery, 2600 block Broadway, 1:02 p.m.
Trespassing, 1400 block 17th, 1:06 p.m.
Battery, 1900 block Wilshire, 1:25 p.m.
Disturbance, 300 block SM Pier, 1:50 p.m.
Counterfeit money, 300 block Colorado, 2:12 p.m.
Identity theft, 500 block 11th, 2:52 p.m.
Domestic violence, 500 block Colorado, 3:36 p.m.
Auto burglary, 1300 block Wilshire, 3:52 p.m.
Vandalism, 3rd/Broadway, 4:13 p.m.
Assault, 1200 block Wilshire, 4:20 p.m.
Identity theft, 900 block 12th, 4:38 p.m.
Threats, 2000 block Ocean Park, 4:47 p.m.
Disturbance, 1400 block Lincoln, 5:05 p.m.
Medical emergency, Stewart/Kansas, 6:04 p.m.
Vandalism, 1300 block Grant, 6:26 p.m.
Fight, 2200 block 29th, 6:56 p.m.
Overdose, 1000 block Ocean, 7:33 p.m.
Urinating/defecating in public, Main/Hill, 7:50 p.m.
Grand theft, 1900 block Stewart, 9:48 p.m.
Prowler, 2100 block Oak, 10:50 p.m.
Strongarm robbery, 800 block Wilshire, 11:34 p.m.



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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17 Curator's concern
18 Caffeine source
19 Select smokes
22 Essay
23 African runners
24 Add up
25 Peter Pan's creator
27 Jack Sprat's no-no
30 We count in it
31 Gardner of "Mogambo"
32 Crumb bearer
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39 "Parade" composer
40 Urban pollution
41 Letter after psi
42 Door sign

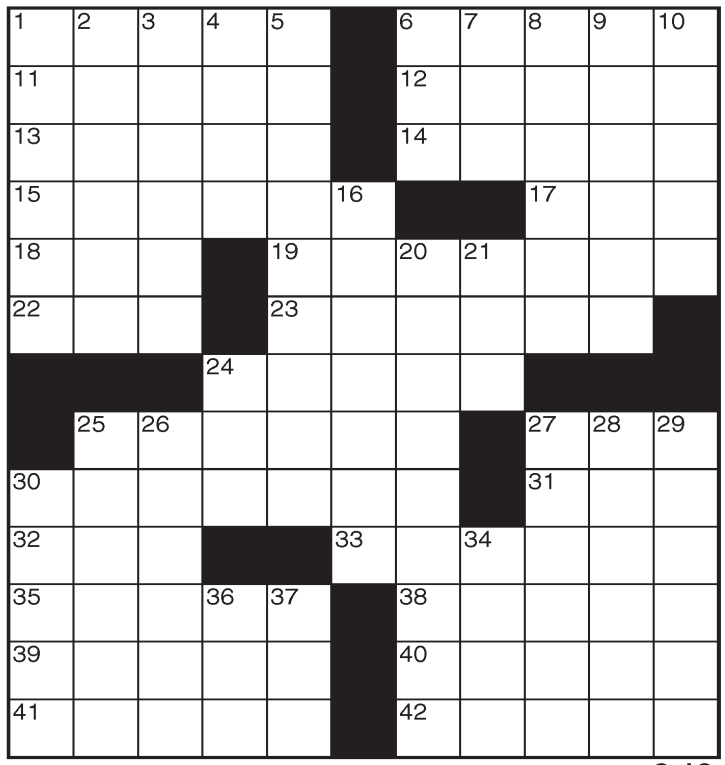
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16 Lollygags
20 Card for a sweetie
21 Some
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25 Diminutive
26 Shrewd
27 Improvise
28 Reluctant
29 Wine expert
30 Low singer
34 Shortly
36 Whopping
37 School setting

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Yesterday's answer

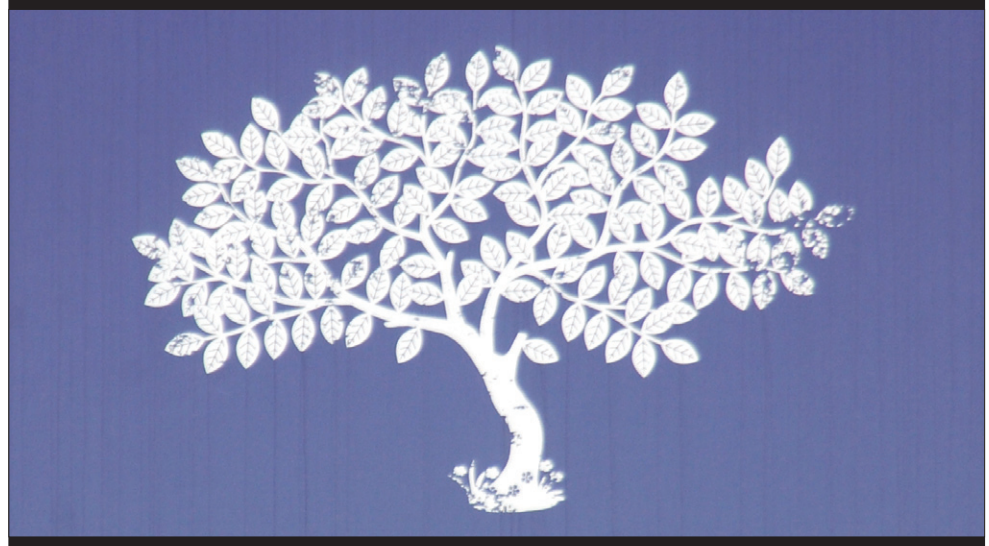
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2-13

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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 2/10
2 3 40 50 62
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 176M

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

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/10
3 8 12 24 30
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 16M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/11
7 11 26 28 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/11
MIDDAY: 9 3 8
Draw Date: 2/11
EVENING: 9 0 6

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/11
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:40.97

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!

calumniate
1. to make false and malicious statements about; slander.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1881 – The feminist newspaper La Citoyenne is first published in Paris by the activist Hubertine Auclert.

1914 – Copyright: In New York City the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers is established to protect the copyrighted musical compositions of its members.

1934 – The Soviet steamship Chelyuskin sinks in the Arctic Ocean.

1945 – World War II: The siege of Budapest concludes with the unconditional surrender of German and Hungarian forces to the Red Army.

1945 – World War II: Royal Air Force bombers are dispatched to Dresden, Germany to attack the city with a massive aerial bombardment.

1951 – Korean War: Battle of Chipyong-ni, which represented the "high-water mark" of the Chinese incursion into South Korea, commences.

1954 – Frank Selvy becomes the only NCAA Division I basketball player ever to score 100 points in a single game.

1955 – Israel obtains four of the seven Dead Sea Scrolls.

1960 – With the success of a nuclear test code-named "Gerboise Bleue", France becomes the fourth country to possess nuclear weapons.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) Kopi Luwak (the gourmet coffee beans roasted only after having been flavored by a trip through the digestive tracts of Asian civet cats) has been a staple of weird news stories for a quarter century, but a New York startup (Afineur) will soon bring to market a synthetic process mimicking the flavoring effects of the civets' gut bacteria. (2) From time to time, when people worry excessively about their stations in life, entrepreneurs create "destruction rooms," where, for a fee, customers get some time with a sledgehammer or baseball bat and pound on junked furniture. The most recent, Tantrums LLC, of Houston, opened in January, charging $35 for 10 minutes.

■ Toshihiko Mizuno, 55, was arrested in Tokyo in June (2011) after three girls, ages 9 and 10, reported that he had talked them into spitting for him so that he could record it on video, to assist with "research" he was doing on "saliva." Police later discovered 26 videotapes, featuring about 400 young girls spitting. According to local media sources, Mizuno has had the obsession for 17 years, successfully getting at least 500 girls to spit, among the estimated 4,000 he propositioned.

Don't push yourself too hard, Sagittarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Be extra careful when looking at a major purchase -- you might be surprised by what comes up. A partner, associate or family member could be set in his or her ways about having what he or she wants. Share your thoughts and logic. Tonight: Stick to your budget.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You often are the voice of reason. Others have listened to you, and now they will observe your reactions to a problem. You are able to look at the long-term benefits of making a dream a reality. A child will let you know how much he or she loves you. Tonight: Just ask.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might be moodier than you realize. If you notice others having an odd reaction to you, consider that you're projecting differently from how you think you are. Figure out what is feeding this mood. Get feedback from someone you trust. Tonight: Read between the lines.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Take your time with responding to others. What could be a knee-jerk reaction or a sarcastic comment might be very different if given some thought. There is no point in hurting someone by making a frivolous comment when you're angry. Tonight: Follow the music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Someone who has the ability to make demands of you needs attention. Until you give this person what he or she needs, expect an earful. You might have plans to go out, so bring him or her along if you can. You could be surprised by how others react. Tonight: Time for fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Sometimes you get into the petty details of a situation and become very critical. Encourage yourself to look at the big picture rather than indulging a habit of making not-so-nice quips; otherwise, you could wind up pushing someone away. Tonight: Treat your imagination.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your natural preference right now will be to visit with one person at a time, so you might choose to avoid interacting with groups. You like the intensity and honesty of one-on-one relating. Most people will be flattered by your attention. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be willing to let others call the shots. You might not want to allow others to take on this role, but you need to. One reason is to test the validity of their actions. You might see that very different paths can provide excellent results. Tonight: In the whirlwind of the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might need to slow down a bit and make better choices. Some of you could opt to try a new type of exercise. Others might decide to change their work hours. A child or loved one continues to be his or her unpredictable self. Tonight: Just don't push yourself too hard.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You come up with the right answers at the right time. You could see a personal matter in a very different light after hanging out with a loved one. Still, you might want to sit on this perspective for a little while before acting on it. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You will want to stick close to home and deal with an important matter head-on. You might wonder what would be best to do under the present circumstances. A partnership remains key to your well-being. Don't take any risks, especially with money. Tonight: Order in.

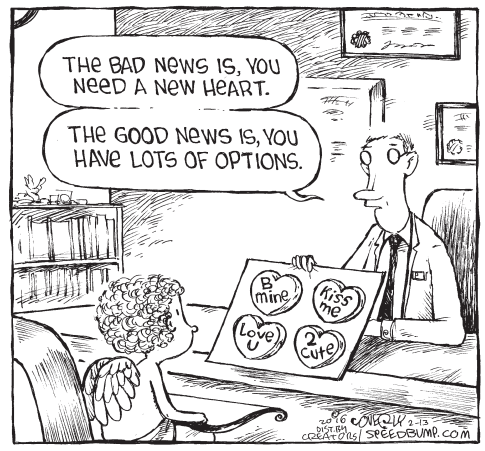
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You are likely to tell it like it is. You could find that your finances are taking a walk on the wild side. Extremes dominate this area; don't count on any matter remaining stable right now. Your discomfort might be evident if you are forced to say "no." Tonight: Join a friend.

Weekend Edition, February 13-14, 2016

This year your focus will be on your domestic life and your family. Many of you might seriously be considering making a move. Opportunities appear from out of the blue. Actively communicate with others to express your ideas and needs. If you are single, you tend to meet people in a most unexpected way. As a result, you could meet an important someone with whom you choose to form a romantic bond. If you are attached, you often share your dreams with your sweetie. Together, you will make one of them come true. TAURUS can be a real stick in the mud!

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

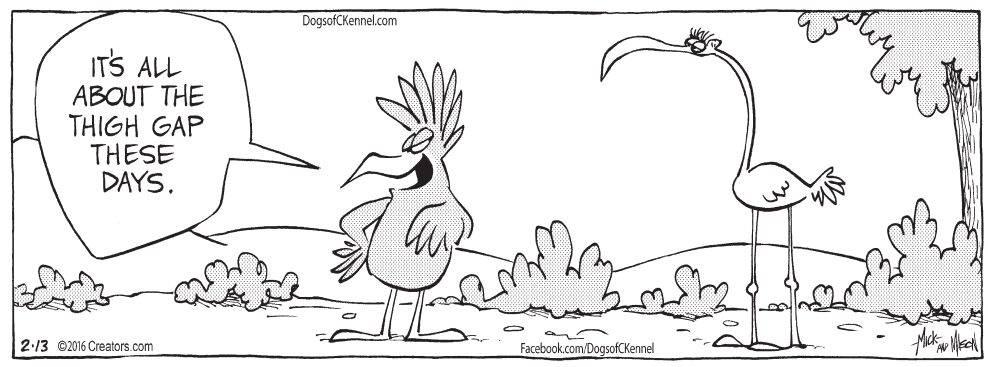
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



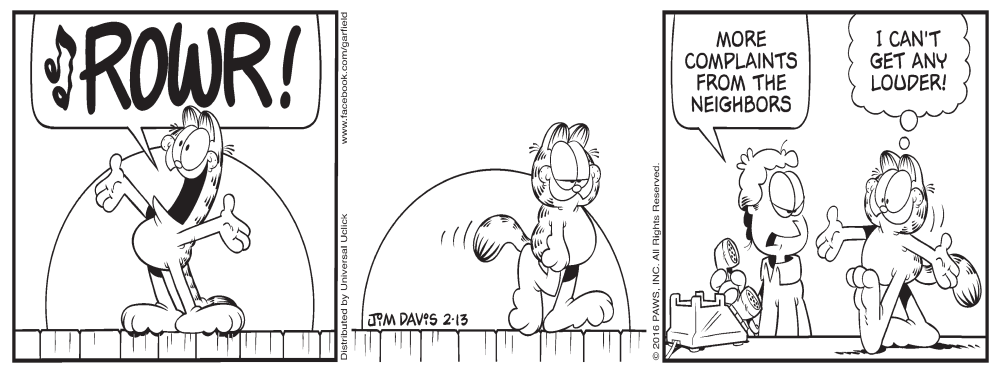
Strange Brew
By John Deering



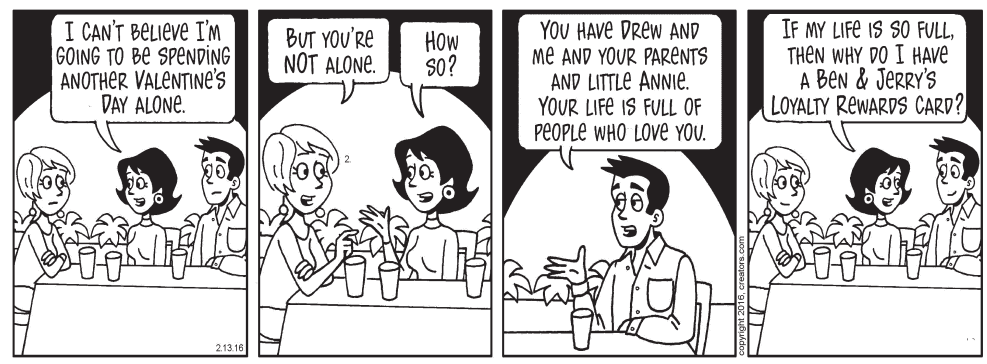
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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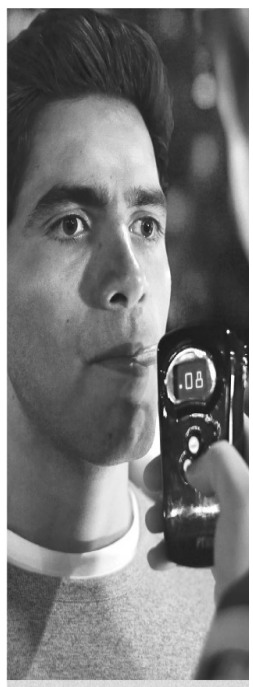
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OLD Schwenker



NEW Schwenker



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buzzeddriving.adcouncil.org
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Announcements

Announcements

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North of Montana
236 23rd Street
$3,300,000
shown by appointment only

Charming, two-story home in the coveted Franklin School District. Wonderful, original features in this 1926 home, include a dramatic barrel ceiling in the living room & original wood floors throughout. Kitchen with sunny family room, opens to generous west-facing back yard. Meticulously maintained home. Main level includes en-suite bedroom with walk-in closet. Master + two family bedrooms up. Large master suite has twin, walk-in closets + sunny office/enclosed balcony. Home was remodeled & enlarged in 1989-1990 with permits. Large permitted 'rumpus room' with fireplace (640 +/- sq. ft.) plus 3/4 bath, workshop and lots of storage and attached to a detached garage.









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