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PREP SPORTS:

Local teams featured in CIF-SS playoffs



Photo by Morgan Genser

UNDEFEATED: The Samohi boys basketball team entered Division 1A playoffs Wednesday night.

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Heading into the CIF Southern Section playoffs, the Santa Monica boys basketball team hadn't lost a game in more than two months. But now is when the winning streak really matters.

The Vikings, who stormed their way to an Ocean League title with an undefeated record in conference play, entered the Division 1A playoffs Wednesday night at home against Long Beach-Cabrillo. Results were not available at press time.

The winner advances to Friday night's second round against either Rialto or Moreno Valley-Valley View.

This year's postseason would give Samohi (24-2) an opportunity to distance itself from the 2014-15 campaign, when it fell to Los Angeles-Roosevelt in the first round of the Division 1AA bracket.

The ascent of senior Jonah Mathews has made the Vikings a formidable opponent this year. So has the team's attention to detail in its defensive rotations, the star guard said. And so has the squad's cohesiveness.

"Everybody has bought in," said Mathews, who will play at USC next year. "Last year, we didn't buy into what we had to do. ... We share the ball. We're all a family."

Two other local boys basketball teams qualified for postseason play.

Crossroads (10-16), which earned an at-large bid from the Gold Coast League, faced Long Beach-St. Anthony on the road Wednesday night in Division 4A. The winner advances to the second round Friday.

New Roads (9-8), the fourth-place team from the Coastal League, met Santa Barbara-Laguna Blanca in the Division 5A first round Wednesday. The second round will pit the winner against San Juan Capistrano-Valley Christian.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Three local teams advanced to the CIF-

SEE SPORTS PAGE 3

Pier board welcomes new members

Developer, former Metro exec join city-appointed panel

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica Pier is one of the most Instagrammed places in the world, visited by thousands of people every year. But not everything about the popular tourist destination is picture-perfect.

Parking, pedestrian access, earthquake preparedness, event planning — they're all ongoing issues for the local agency that is tasked with addressing those and other matters relating to the Santa Monica landmark.

SEE PIER PAGE 6

Neo-conservation is the focus of Matrix 2.0

Governments release new framework for regulating non-drinkable water

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Non-potable water everywhere, but not a drop you should drink. But you can use it for other things, and as of Tuesday, you should have a much better idea of how.

On Feb. 16, representatives from several local, environmentally-minded organizations, government agencies and non-profits gathered at the Pico Branch

SEE WATER PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 18

Recreation & Parks Commission meeting
Regular Meeting of the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission Council Chambers, City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7:30 p.m.

Financial advice for women
Women today have careers, start businesses, run households, raise children, and help aging parents — all competing priorities that can get in the way of planning for a comfortable financial future. Jonalyn Habil, financial advisor with Waddell & Reed, addresses these concerns in this workshop, which focuses on personal finances from a woman's perspective. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 6:30 - 8 p.m.

GED prep class
Get prepared to take the Reasoning Through Language Arts subject test of the GED. Class will be held in the Annex, next to Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 6 - 8 p.m.

Housing Commission meeting
Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Housing Commission, Santa Monica Main Library Community Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 19

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15 a class. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 - 10 a.m.

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

Main Library docent tours
Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library's collection. Docents are able to adapt the tour to fit your interest and time. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 20

Three Centuries of Music for Flute and Guitar
Flautist Daniel Kessner and guitarist Jordan Charnofsky come together for a captivating hour of classical and popular music. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 - 4 p.m.

Master Gardeners at the Market
Master Gardeners provide free gardening tips, solutions to gardening problems, seeds and seedlings as well as their technical expertise based on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program which provides intense gardening training emphasizing organic gardening and covers vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, trees, soils, composting, pests and harvesting. The Master Gardeners of Los Angeles visit the Pico Farmers Market on the third Saturday of each month 9:30 a.m. - Noon. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave

Stencil making with Patricia Mitchell
Learn techniques and materials to create your own stencils for use in a variety of ways. From traditional stenciling for arts and crafts using brushes and sponges, to quilting templates, to the aerosol stencils used in graffiti art, we'll go over the various ways to make multiples using this technique. Come away with a stencil or two of your own. 1450 Ocean, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., cost $5, https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/48729

Munchkin Matinee
Join us for a screening of the film "Tangled". The program is for children of all ages and is free. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 2 - 4 p.m.

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

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 1

SS girls basketball playoffs.

Crossroads (17-11), an at-large bid from the Gold Coast League, will play Thursday at Carpinteria in the first round of the Division 4A bracket.

St. Monica Catholic (17-8), the No. 2 team out of the Camino Real League, enters the Division 4AA bracket at home Thursday against Rowland Heights-Southlands Christian.

Pacifica Christian will battle Canoga Park-Faith Baptist in the Division 5A first round Thursday. The Seawolves (6-8) made the postseason as an at-large selection from the Liberty League.

Winners advance to Saturday's second round.

GIRLS WATER POLO

In the final poll of the season, the Santa Monica girls water polo team was ranked No. 1 in Division 6. Now it's up to the Vikings to prove their standing.

Samohi (26-3), which cruised to a fourth consecutive Ocean League title, enters the playoffs Thursday afternoon at home against either Morro Bay or Pasadena-Poly. The winner advances to Saturday's quarterfinals.

The Vikings are seeking an extended postseason run after falling in the semifinals last year.

GIRLS SOCCER

A third-straight conference title was nice, but the Santa Monica girls soccer team feels there's more work to do.

After securing another Ocean League championship, the Vikings (12-6-3) will enter the first round of the Division 4 playoffs at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at home against La Reina.

The winner advances to the second round Feb. 23.

St. Monica Catholic also qualified for the postseason, falling 3-1 to Sierra Madre-Alverno in a Division 7 wild-card match Feb. 16.

BOYS SOCCER

Crossroads boys soccer coach Federico Bianchi said earlier this season that his team is young but experienced, and so far he's been right.

The Roadrunners (14-2-3) won the Gold Coast championship and will will host St. Genevieve on Friday afternoon in the first round of the Division 5 playoffs. The winner plays Feb. 24 against either Hemet or Lawndale-Environmental Charter.

jeff@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Big Blue Bus service changes on Feb. 21

Big Blue Bus (BBB) is embarking upon the second phase of major service and stop changes as part of the Evolution of Blue campaign, which is BBB's service integration with the upcoming Expo light rail launch. The first phase of the Evolution of Blue plan to integrate BBB's service with the Expo Light Rail Line rolled out in Aug. 23, 2015, and the second phase, which will include changes on several routes, will begin on Feb. 21, 2016.

Route 16, which is a new route, will provide service from West Los Angeles (Wilshire Blvd. and Bundy Dr.) to Marina del Rey serving the 26th Street/Bergamot Metro Rail Station along its route. Route 3M will become the new Route 18 with extended southern service from Downtown Santa Monica to Venice's Abbot Kinney. Route 1 routing will change from Ocean Ave. to 4th St. to provide convenient connections to the Expo terminus at the Downtown Santa Monica Metro Rail Station, and provide new service to Marina del Rey. Weekend service will be added on Route 41 along with direct connections to the 17th Street/SMC Metro Rail Station, and new stops adjacent to Santa Monica College. The new Route 42 will provide counterclockwise service to Route 41, seven days a week beginning the first day of Metro Rail service. Additional modifications include regular bus stop changes and schedule changes to Routes 3, Rapid 3, 5, 7, Rapid 7, Rapid 10, 14, and 15. See full details at bigbluebus.com/servicechange.

Transit Director, Ed King said, "The Evolution of Blue continues this February with expanded service to key destinations such as Venice's Abbot Kinney and Marina Del Rey, and more regional service connections to the Exposition Light Rail Stations. We know that Big Blue Bus service making first-last mile linkages to a major light rail line are critical connections for regional mobility. With the imminent opening of Expo Line Phase II, this is a phenomenal opportunity to attract new riders if it is connected seamlessly and in as many convenient locations as possible. Big Blue Bus has positioned itself as one critical piece of the mobility solution by providing north-south connectors approximately every half mile to seven new rail stations along the Expo Line, with origins/destinations to high density areas and job centers. We expect that these phased service changes will increase system-wide ridership, providing true mobility freedom, flexibility and choice."

To stay on top of these service changes, BBB has updated its entire suite of customer information products. The award winning "Little Blue Book" transit guide, which includes schedules for each BBB route and a large foldout System Map, is now available on board, at the Transit Store and at public counters such as local libraries and senior centers. To ensure they get the new version, customers can look for the lime green band showing the new effective date of Feb. 21, 2016.

Customers can also find a comprehensive bilingual brochure onboard all buses summarizing the changes they can expect on Feb. 21. Additionally, customers may now preview new schedules and interactive maps by selecting the route of their choice at bigbluebus.com/servicechange. The new maps show the full complement of bus stops on each route, which is especially useful with the many changes taking place over Evolution of Blue. The NextBus real-time mobile application and GTFS-realtime data will reflect new changes so that customers have access to the most up-to-date data informing them of bus locations, arrival and departure times. Lastly, BBB provides regional seamless fare payment as customers can now pay with TAP cards.

Big Blue Bus fares are $1.25 per ride on all routes with a $1.25 upgrade fee on the Rapid 10 Express to Downtown Los Angeles. Regularly-priced monthly passes are $50. All BBB passes are available on TAP cards and can be purchased online at taptogo.net.

- SUBMITTED BY JENNIE CAMPOS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

11th St.

Santa Monica College to screen 'Heaven Is A Traffic Jam On The 405'

Santa Monica College will present a free screening of "Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405" - the newly released documentary on artist Mindy Alper by producer/director Frank Stiefel - at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20. An audience Q&A featuring Alper and moderated by Stiefel will be held after the screening, followed by a dessert reception.

The film event is hosted by the Santa Monica College Foundation (santamonicacollegefoundation.org), with a dessert reception provided by Seasons 52 (www.seasons52.com) and Humanitas Wines (www.humanitaswines.com). The event is free and held in The Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center (Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street). Seating is limited and on a first-arrival basis.

To attend the event, please RSVP by sending email (with "RSVP" in Subject line) to Foundation@smc.edu or calling (310) 434-4792.

Mindy Alper is a 56-year-old artist who explores how the artist has emerged from darkness and isolation. After a 35-year career as an executive producer, responsible for the production of thousands of TV commercials, Frank Stiefel decided to become a director of documentaries. He is also a member of the SMC Foundation Board of Directors.

The Santa Monica College Foundation - established in 1956 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization - advances the mission and goals of Santa Monica College by attracting contributions from individuals, businesses, and public and private foundations. The funding is used to provide students with enhanced learning experiences and opportunities, as well as motivate students through scholarships and other awards to excel at SMC and continue their pursuit of higher education at a four-year college or university.

For more information about the SMC Foundation or the film event, please call (310) 434-4792.

- SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH, SMC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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



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Public Notice
Santa Monica Rent Control Board

At its regular meeting on January 11, 2016, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended Regulations 2007, 12070, and 13001 regarding establishment and registration of the maximum allowable rent for a unit upon the lapse of an exemption.
The amendments will become effective the day after publication of this notice in the newspaper. Copies of the amended regulations will be made available at the Rent Control Agency in Room 202 at City Hall and at www.smgov.net/rentcontrol.

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Culture Watch

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

The Ten Commandments: Take Two

AS PREDICTED, IT'S A LAUGH A MINUTE AT the Ahmanson Theatre, with the body of actor Sean Hayes taken over by God in "An Act of God."

The writer, David Javerbaum, who won 11 Emmy Awards for his work on Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show," proves his worth as blasphemer in chief, focusing his satirical barbs on the mayhem mankind has made of its relationship with the Almighty. It's also been tailored to suit the Los Angeles audience, with a lot of show biz jokes.

Why Sean Hayes ("Will and Grace")? God asks and answers Himself. Well, "We're both with William Morris," just one of the countless one-liners that made the house roar.

One hilarious moment on opening night included God berating latecomers who were being seated more than a few minutes after the curtain rose. "El Nino traffic?" He sneers.

But as He tells us, like poor Don McLean, forever identified with the song "American Pie," the Ten Commandments were never intended to define Him, so He's back to reinvent and improve a new set of instructions for human behavior.

Hayes is exactly right for this role of the most irreverent God you'll ever encounter. With the help of his "wing men" (yes, they do have wings), archangels Gabriel and Michael, God allows the audience to a few pointed questions. Not too challenging though; He has a way of getting around the answers.

He recounts that He needed "a break from eternity" (it got boring) and so he decided to "take a week out to create the Universe." Day two: he makes "the firmament in the midst of the water. Slow day." By day five: He creates the fish and the birds but His original game plan called for the birds to be in the sea and the fish to be in the sky. Asked "Did you not have a plan for the Universe?" He responds, "Yes but I'm not afraid to riff."

While editing most of the existing commandments, two will remain: The first, "I am the Lord thy God … thou shalt have no other Gods before me." Well, as He points out, there was no one before Him!

And number 3 "Thou shalt not take my name in vain" is also a holdover. Of course it is: "I'm a brand! Bowing down and thanking me after making a touchdown cheapens the brand!"

Oh, and by the way, in referring to Jews, He says, "Celebrities are my chosen people. Of course, there's a lot of overlap." And, oh yeah, He's not above engaging in celebrity "Godsip" - like laughing at "Lindsay Lohan enjoying penne ala vodka, without the penne."

Of course politics plays into the rap-ture; for number 4 the revise is "Thou shalt separate me and state." There is "no God-given right to guns, what part of the Bible does that appear in? The part with all the guns in it?"

And to those who claim that God has chosen them to run for office: "I don't drop into the brains of right wing candidates telling them to run for President. Ted Cruz says 'God loves me.' No, I don't!"

Number 5 now reads "Thou shalt not seek a personal relationship with me," because He made mankind in his image and He is a self-declared "a**hole. There's something seriously wrong with me!" He admits to having "wrath management issues," given his mix of "incompetence and omniscience," citing the Book of Job as funnier than "The Book of Mormon" to Him.

By the time we reach number 10, "Thou Shalt Believe in Thyself," we get the idea. "Belief and faith are no excuse for abandoning reasonable, logical judgment."

Sometimes it takes laughing at our foibles to understand the truth. "An Act of God" is at The Ahmanson Theatre through March 13 only. For tickets call (213) 972-4400 or reserve online at www.centertheatregroup.org

MEET THE ARTIST

Raymond Saunders started exhibiting his art the year I was born (no I won't reveal that here!) and he made a name for himself in the 1960s, declaring in a pamphlet that "Black is a Color," not a political, social or ideological burden on art. "Art," he wrote," projects beyond race and color, beyond America. It is universal, and Americans - black, white, or whatever - have no exclusive rights on it."

Pittsburgh-born but California-based, Raymond Saunders' work is abstract, often using collaged and found materials, and while he is a proponent of art as universal, his pieces often take into account the black urban experience.

He was a professor of painting at the California College of the Arts in Oakland, his work has been seen in numerous national and international gallery and museum solo and group exhibitions, and is part of many important collections.

You'll have a chance to meet the artist this Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Pete and Susan Barrett Gallery at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, also the home of the Broad Stage in Santa Monica. An exhibition dedicated to his recent works is on view now through March 26.

A reception for the artist takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. but if you get there early, you'll be privileged to hear a gallery talk and take a walk-through with Saunders beginning at 5 p.m. Admission is free; for details and gallery information, call (310) 434-3434.

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

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Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

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

Deadpool: Mercenary, Trauma Survivor, Cinematic Superstar

DESPITE HIS RELATIVELY RECENT CREATION - he celebrates the 25th anniversary of his first appearance in New Mutants #98 this year - Marvel's anti-hero Deadpool has become just as valued and beloved as many other, much older comic book creations in far less than half the time. To an entire generation, he's as beloved as Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, Wolverine and the Hulk.

But who is this affably amoral mercenary, and which of his comics should you seek out and read if you enjoyed the film?

To some, Wade Wilson is merely a lunatic Pagliacci, the epitome of the sad clown who can't make himself laugh due to his own severe depression. To others, his neurologically atypical status has made him easy to identify with. Still others are grateful for the character's very clear pansexuality; the character may have a tense marriage with the succubus Shiklah and past romantic relationships with women like the X-Man called Siryn, but he's expressed clear attraction to many other characters with varying gender identities and orientations as well, including Cable, Spider-Man, Wiccan, Hulkling, the Punisher, late Golden Girls stalwart Bea Arthur and The Grinder star Rob Lowe. His deep experience with trauma, abuse and loss is yet another element of the character that connects with his fanbase, and his struggle to be a good man - what he calls a "hero" - is universal in these morally gray times.

Originally just a (barely) trademark-safe version of DC's Slade Wilson, the Teen Titans and Green Arrow villain Deathstroke, Deadpool, created in 1991 by Rob Liefeld and Fabian Nicieza, quickly developed into his own beast, a fourth-wall-breaking, wise-cracking gun for hire, a cancer survivor whose treatment left him scarred but imbued with a healing factor. His first ongoing series, initially captained by writer Joe Kelly and artist Ed McGuinness - now the creative team of the instantly-successful of the new Spider-Man/Deadpool ongoing series - catapulted the character to instant stardom after a few hit mini-series with contributions by industry legends like Mark Waid. Kelly's run on the series is still considered by many to be the character's finest hour almost twenty years later and can be read in individual volumes of the Deadpool Classics trade paperbacks, as well as in the Deadpool by Joe Kelly Omnibus.

His next series, Cable & Deadpool, teamed Wade with his best frenemy Cable, the time-traveling former X-Man and leader of X-Force, and was written by Fabian Nicieza, his co-creator. The series lasted for fifty issues between 2004 and 2008. Though their partnership struggled at its start (they even took separate sides in the Marvel crossover Civil War), the two leads eventually developed a mutual respect for one another, and, some could argue, even a deep bond. Cable, often played straight as a mutant messiah-type, began an earnest quest to save the world that terrified many of the world's heroes, including Nick Fury, the X-Men and the Silver Surfer. Cable is bound for big-screen glory in the already-greenlit sequel to the Deadpool film, and this, what I firmly believe to be the best run in either character's history, could serve as a terrific template for the follow-up movie. Characters from the film, including Weasel, show up throughout the series' run, and recurring comedic relief and Deadpool mole Bob (who makes a cameo of questionable legality in the film's climax) makes his debut in this series. This run can be read and enjoyed in two forms, both retitled from the original printings: the three-volume "Deadpool and Cable Ultimate Collections," and the "Deadpool & Cable Omnibus," which contains the entire run in one hardcover volume.

Deadpool makes good on his promise to become a hero in the Rick Remender-written Uncanny X-Force, which featured glorious art by such modern luminaries as Jerome Opena, Esad Ribic and Phil Noto. The series followed a black-ops team of X-Men lead by Wolverine that sought out threats to mutantkind and attempted to eliminate them before they could enact whatever plans they had in the waiting. But with a team consisting of the manipulative Fantomex, the lunatic Psylocke and the mind-controlled Archangel, it's easy to see how Deadpool could - and did - become the team's moral center, especially as the team's own issues - both from within and without - threatened to destroy their own missions. Currently available in the two-volume "Uncanny X-Force by Rick Remender: The Complete Collection," it's not just one of the best X-Men stories of all time, but, at its heart, one of the best Deadpool stories ever written.

There's so much more to Deadpool than these runs and the film; there's the great, though sadly out-of-print, "DeadpoolMAX" by Stray Bullets creator David Lapham and Illuminati artists Shawn Crystal, a more real-world, adult-oriented take on the character; the still-ongoing Deadpool run co-written by Gerry Duggan and comedian Brian Posehn; his current adventures in the pages of Uncanny Avengers and the aforementioned Spider-Man/Deadpool; and no doubt, much more to come as the world at large has cannonballed (it's an X-Force joke, leave me alone) into the 'pool.

So why not Wade in (I'm sorry, I'm awful)? There's a Deadpool for everybody; I promise you this as much as I promise that Deadpool isn't going to shoot me for all of these awful puns and I am certainly not typing this at gunpoint.

He is, though.

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

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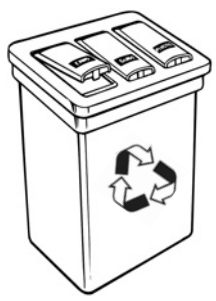
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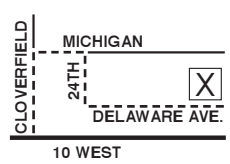


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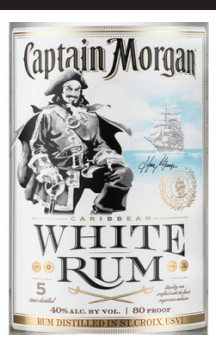
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Big Bang in Barcelona

IT ALL STARTS WITH A BIG BANG. NOT THE astronomical one.

The sexual one.

An attractive middle-aged Spaniard (Carlos Leal) picks up a blonde American (Betty Gilpin) in a bar in Barcelona and invites her back to his apartment. They are already physically entangled as they enter and they proceed, in the dark, to continue their activities on a table, on the floor, and wherever else he can pin her down. Which is not easy to do with his trousers flopping around his ankles.

She, Irene, is demonstrably drunk and she never stops talking throughout the 90 minutes of the play. Her conversation is disjointed and banal, but playwright Bess Wohl has provided her with a hero that is every woman's dream: a man who listens.

Eventually, he, Manuel, lights a few lamps around the immense room and she is able to focus on the setting. They are in a penthouse apartment with a striking view of the city of Barcelona - the city which, in fact, is the name of the play.

From his floor-to-ceiling wall of windows they look out at the twinkling panorama that includes architect Antoni Gaudi's iconic Sagrada Familia, one of the most famous, and quirky, churches in the world. This church has been a-building for 134 years and is eternally shrouded in scaffolding - waiting for the next alteration or addition. It is facetiously regarded as the "Monument to Perseverance."

The never-ending construction of the church is in depressing contrast to the impending fate of Manuel's building. That skyscraper has been abandoned by all its tenants and is scheduled for demolition when this night is over.

Which explains the presence of all the half-filled packing boxes scattered about the room. And the shifts in his mood as he waits for the wrecking ball.

In addition to that, he is a staunch hater of Americans, the reasons for which are revealed later in the play.

Acknowledging his feelings, she says plaintively, "I hope I didn't ruin your ambience…"

And so she rattles on, her voice annoyingly shrill and her conversation bouncing from one non sequitur to another, while he alternates polite patience with reactions that are disturbingly menacing.

Eventually she tells him how she happens to be in Barcelona. She and several of her friends are participating in a bachelorette party and she is the bride-to-be. In two weeks she will be marrying Todd, a deacon in the church who "doesn't tolerate any kind of human fuckups."

As Manuel sees her wavering in her description of Todd, he gently helps her to sort out her feelings. And she in turn offers him comfort and surprising insight. Which he rewards by telling her, "You're so much smarter than you seem!"

Director Trip Cullman has handled this obvious clash of personalities with a light and sensitive touch, and in the end you wind up rooting for both of these attractive, troubled, and often funny, characters.

"Barcelona" will be onstage at the Geffen Playhouse, 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles, Tuesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. through March 13. For tickets call (310) 208 5454 or visit www.geffenplayhouse.com.

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

PIER

FROM PAGE 1

And after a couple years of interim status, the Santa Monica Pier Corporation Board has finally achieved a measure of stability. Tonight's meeting of the pier board, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Ken Edwards Center (1527 4th St.), is its second with a seven-member group that includes three new appointees and four people from the previous panel.

The three new appointees have four-year terms. The four holdover members of the board were given two-year terms.

Abby Arnold, Christopher Foster and Allan Lipsky are recent additions to the board, a City-appointed nonprofit corporation that works closely with City staff on a variety of pier issues.

Arnold, a longtime Santa Monica resident, has worked as a budget analyst and grant writer for nonprofit organizations and government agencies. She currently serving as executive director of the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College Foundation.

Foster, a developer with strong ties to Missouri, is new to public service.

"Having grown up at Lake of the Ozarks and been involved in projects that balance the needs of both tourists and residents I feel I have a lot to offer the pier board," Foster recently told LakeExpo.com, a Missouri-based news service. "One of the board's primary goals is to make the pier more accessible for the locals while still attracting tourists."

Lipsky, a real estate management consultant, is a former Planning Commission candidate who served on the old Pier Restoration Corporation. He was once the chief operating officer of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the agency overseeing the extension of the Expo Line to Santa Monica.

"When there's a change in membership, there can be changes in emphasis," board chair Judy Abdo said. "But the charge, really, is to operate the pier and to market and brand the pier and create events that are appropriate for the pier to bring local people there. Those ideas have not changed. The people who were appointed all expressed support for those kinds of tasks."

Arnold, Foster, Lipsky and Abdo are part of a board that also includes Misti Kerns, Susan McCarthy and Barbara Stinchfield.

At tonight's meeting, the board is expected to hear an update from city beach administrator Judith Meister, discuss Colorado Esplanade construction and review progress on capital improvement projects.

Abdo said the board will also likely move forward with an orientation for its new members and assign members to subcommittees following the recent reconfiguration. Previous working groups have focused on governance and transportation, among other issues.

"We'll have to be clear about what the next deliverables might be," she said.

jeff@smdp.com



Photo by Jennifer Maas jennifer@smdp.com

ENTERING THE MATRIX: City and county organizations join in the signing of Matrix 2.0.

WATER

FROM PAGE 1

Library to present a new roadmap that will give municipalities, businesses and homeowners clear guidelines on the use of non-potable water indoors and outside.

The Los Angeles Department of Public Health, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, City of Santa Monica Office of Sustainability and the Environment, TreePeople, Heal the Bay, and the Natural Resources Defense Council created these voluntary guidelines, known as Matrix 2.0, which officials said are the first of their kind for the county, and possibly even the state of California.

Comprised of rainwater, graywater, stormwater and blackwater, cooling tower blow-down water, condensate, and foundation drainage, non-potable water is water that is not intended for drinking, but is still of import for the many ways it can be used.

Among those who spoke at Tuesday's press conference and signing of Matrix 2.0 was Mayor Tony Vazquez, who addressed how the guidelines will help the City of Santa Monica reach its sustainable water master plan of 100 percent local self-sufficiency by 2020.

"This matrix is an important standard and step toward helping us achieve this goal," Vazquez said. "While harvesting and using graywater, rainwater, stormwater and recycled water are legal, we have lacked a clear, comprehensive, consistent and streamlined regulatory process so that alternative water supplies are attractive for private and residential users.

"Besides our water solutions on site, rain harvesting eliminates stormwater, which carries pollution to our bay and helps our cities meet clean water acts requirements of the NPDES permit. This strategy is especially important for our new permit, which includes enhanced watershed management plans that emphasize the use of low-impact development solutions working with nature to keep local rain for beneficial uses."

Vazquez believes that the new standard set by Matrix 2.0, which expands the uses of alternative water to indoors, is a "critical factor."

"Outdoor use is fine, but during this winter when it rains, hopefully pretty soon, we do not need to use our harvest rainwater for irrigation. Better to use indoor when our landscapes are wet, as well as store rainwater for the drier spring and every summer."

Vazquez also took the time to praise the location of the press conference for its underground cistern project, which supplies water for indoor toilet flushing.

"Standing here in front of this library, which is one of our models and our starships … the strategy behind it is to capture a lot of our rainwater and harvest it for graywater, flushing, and many of the irrigation that you see here on the parks; as well as this parking lot is set up to capture a lot of our rainwater and retain it on site without going into our storm drains."

Vazquez hopes going forward other cities will begin to follow suit with similar guidelines to Matrix 2.0 and Santa Monica's water sustainability goal.

TreePeople founder, Andy Lipkis, believes Matrix 2.0 will have a "huge impact" in helping the City of L.A. reach its goal of 50 percent local water and Santa Monica reach its "ambitious" 2020 plan.

Lipkis referenced how Australia dealt with its decade-plus drought as a way to look at how the local community can ban together.

"The goal here is to get everyone involved, because we need everyone to play," Lipkis said. "[Australia] went through a 12 year drought that was devastating for the country, and in reorganizing their water systems and engaging the public fully, with everybody playing a role as manager of the water, they got through. And by distributing the responsibility and opportunity and job to the whole population, where people could capture water at home, they really stepped up. In some cases harvesting that rainwater nearly doubled their supply."

Lipkis emphasized the importance of the matrix in reducing the expense of importing water, in every sense of the word, calling it "expensive because of energy, expensive because of the cost of pumping, expensive because of the destruction to the environment."

"All the water that we bring in from the southwest, as we harvest rainwater, that represents almost half the water that the City of L.A. needs and maybe even more of what Santa Monica needs. As we harvest that locally and put it toward multiple uses, we begin to truly protect the environment and live sustainably."

According to a press release, Matrix 2.0 provides governments with a real, tangible standard to follow for collection and treatment, giving the public a way to design a non-potable water system that can actually be approved for use; safeguards the public health while promoting decentralized, on-site alternative water use; establishes monitoring and testing parameters to ensure a system functions over time; compliments standards found in the NPDES Clean Water Act permit and EWMPS (enhanced watershed management plans) water quality standards through the use of non-potable water; and develops a simple, effective process of approving plans and inspecting systems to encourage the public to build the systems, and allow jurisdictions to approve them.

End users of the guidelines can expect to save money and energy resources by expanding use of alternate water to indoor uses, in addition to outdoor use and harvest rainwater on-site to eliminate runoff, which carries pollution to the ocean.

"I know it sounds really nerdy the way we're talking from all our agency perspectives but [Matrix 2.0] really does represent an incredible breakthrough moving forward," Lipkis said.

jennifer@smdp.com







SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS WATER TEMP: **62.1°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high
WNW swell builds, showing more size in the PM. Problematic winds/conditions. Deep AM high tide.

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high
WNW swell mix to top out - more size for winter focal points. Improving conditions. Deep AM high tide.

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Old WNW swell fades. Favorable winds. Deep AM high tide.

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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 9, AT ABOUT 5:49 P.M.

A patrol officer responded to the intersection of Main Street and Hill Street regarding a report of a suspicious person walking northbound on the east sidewalk. A concerned citizen told dispatchers that a male, Black, in his 30s, wearing black clothes and carrying two backpacks was acting erratically and making statements about killing people and dogs. The officer located the male, later identified as Damien Dodd, in the 2500 block of Main Street. Dodd admitted he was on probation and submitted to a search of his person and belongings. Dodd was in possession of a glass pipe used for smoking methamphetamine. He was arrested for possessing drug paraphernalia and for violating his probation, and transported to the Santa Monica Jail for booking. Bail was set at $10,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 358 calls for service on Feb. 16.

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

Fight 2900 block of Main 1:56 a.m.
Vandalism 1600 block of Ocean 2:16 a.m.
Fight 1000 block of 4th 3:17 a.m.
Construction noise 900 block of Wilshire 5:25 a.m.
Identity theft 2100 block of 4th 7:27 a.m.
Hit and run 1000 block of Lincoln 7:28 a.m.
Hit and run 600 block of Idaho 7:38 a.m.
Fight 500 block of Olympic 8:05 a.m.
Hit and run Lincoln/Pico 8:09 a.m.
Threats 500 block of Marguerita 9:45 a.m.
Drinking in public 2000 block of Ocean 9:49 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1800 block of Oak 9:50 a.m.
Truant juvenile 1400 block of Franklin 10:09 a.m.
Domestic violence 1400 block of 6th 10:12 a.m.
Petty theft 1500 block of Stanford 11:07 a.m.
Grand theft auto 400 block of Broadway 11:09 a.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 3000 block of Santa Monica 11:13 a.m.
Grand theft auto 2000 block of 4th 11:19 a.m.
Fraud 1400 block of Ocean 11:25 a.m.
Identity theft 1300 block of Maple 11:38 a.m.
Vandalism 400 block of San Vicente 11:41 a.m.
Battery 600 block of Wilshire 11:42 a.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of Berkeley 12:03 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of Olympic 12:49 p.m.
Traffic collision 1500 block of Lincoln 12:59 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of 24th 1:01 p.m.
Injured person 1700 block of Ocean Front Walk 1:43 p.m.
Traffic collision 1200 block of 2nd 1:58 p.m.
Critical missing person 1200 block of 20th 2:34 p.m.
Hit and run 6th/Wilshire 2:38 p.m.
Fraud 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom 2:39 p.m.
Petty theft 1700 block of Lincoln 2:42 p.m.
Battery 400 block of Palisades Beach 2:43 p.m.
Grand theft 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 2:54 p.m.
Person down 1800 block of Lincoln 3:02 p.m.
Battery 1500 block of Lincoln 3:13 p.m.
Petty theft 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 3:34 p.m.
Petty theft 2600 block of 32nd 3:45 p.m.
Hit and run 2300 block of Santa Monica 4:22 p.m.
Hit and run Cloverfield/Colorado 4:37 p.m.
Speeding 4th/Pico 4:44 p.m.
Grand theft 2400 block of 16th 4:49 p.m.
Traffic collision 800 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 5:10 p.m.
Hit and run 4th/Pico 6 p.m.
Injured person Lincoln/Olympic 6:21 p.m.
Attempt suicide 600 block of Palisades Beach 6:29 p.m.
Burglary /walk through 200 block of 14th 7:50 p.m.
Fraud 1500 block of Santa Monica 8:06 p.m.
Fraud 1500 block of Santa Monica 8:21 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1500 block of Michigan 8:25 p.m.
Grand theft auto 2600 block of Kansas 9:19 p.m.
Vandalism 2900 block of Pearl 9:21 p.m.
Trespassing 1200 block of 2nd 9:51 p.m.
Petty theft 600 block of Wilshire 10:12 p.m.
Counterfeit money 1800 block of Lincoln 11:19 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 48 calls for service on Feb. 16.

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

EMS 14th/Santa Monica 1:45 a.m.
EMS 1900 block of Pico 4:06 a.m.
EMS 300 block of Olympic 4:50 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block of Pico 6:15 a.m.
Automatic alarm 3400 block of Ocean Park 6:24 a.m.
EMS 2600 block of 28th 6:42 a.m.
Elevator rescue 1200 block of 3rd Street Prom 7:37 a.m.
EMS 2500 block of 22nd 7:39 a.m.
EMS Lincoln/Pico 8:10 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block of 15th 9:48 a.m.
EMS 600 block of Broadway 10:15 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 4th 10:52 a.m.
EMS 500 block of San Vicente 11 a.m.
EMS 2200 block of Santa Monica 11 a.m.
EMS 2200 block of Colorado 11:33 a.m.
EMS 2200 block of Colorado 11:36 a.m.
EMS 1000 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 12:03 p.m.
EMS 1000 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 12:17 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of 2nd 12:21 p.m.
EMS Olympic/26th 12:25 p.m.
Haz mat - level 1 1600 block of Lincoln 1:01 p.m.
EMS 2400 block of Wilshire 1:07 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 20th 1:09 p.m.
EMS Lincoln/Colorado 1:11 p.m.
EMS 1700 block of Ocean Front Walk 1:38 p.m.
EMS 1500 block of 10th 2:05 p.m.
EMS 1200 block of 15th 2:16 p.m.
EMS 1800 block of Wilshire 2:19 p.m.
EMS 1200 block of 2nd 2:21 p.m.
EMS 2000 block of Santa Monica 2:42 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 4th 2:58 p.m.
EMS 1800 block of Lincoln 3:03 p.m.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Delighted
5 Singing groups
10 Carnival attraction
11 "The Godfather" star
12 Test type
13 Connected
14 Fighting rooster
16 It lacks a defined heel
20 Keys in
23 Compete
24 Analyze sentences
25 Fry lightly
27 Musical princess
28 Secular group
29 Keyboard key
32 Emo forerunner
36 Staring
39 Yemen neighbor
40 Game settings
41 New Haven school
42 Take the wheel
43 Sketched

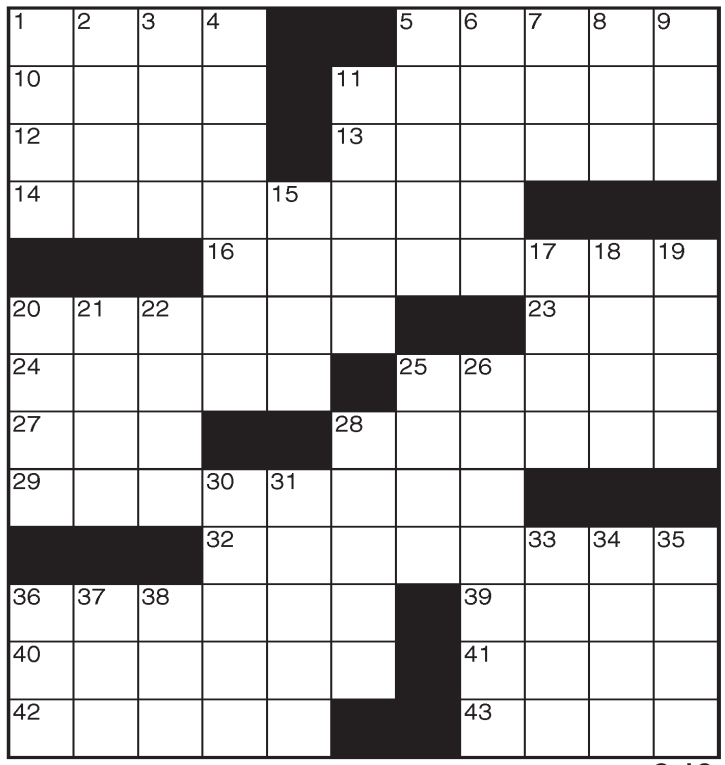
DOWN

1 Sailor's quaff
2 Old Italian coin
3 Eden evictee
4 Takes out
5 Jiffy
6 Puts in order
7 Tattoos, slangily
8 Poem of praise
9 Turf
11 Amorphous masses
15 Make sound
17 Egg cell
18 Refer to
19 Cutting
20 Sweeping story
21 Zip
22 Catch
25 Pillage
26 Dan of "Ghostbusters"
28 Has yearnings
30 Book part
31 Moon-based
33 Poet Khayyám
34 Racer Yarborough
35 Understood
36 Empty talk
37 Trickery
38 Last letter

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

Yesterday's answer

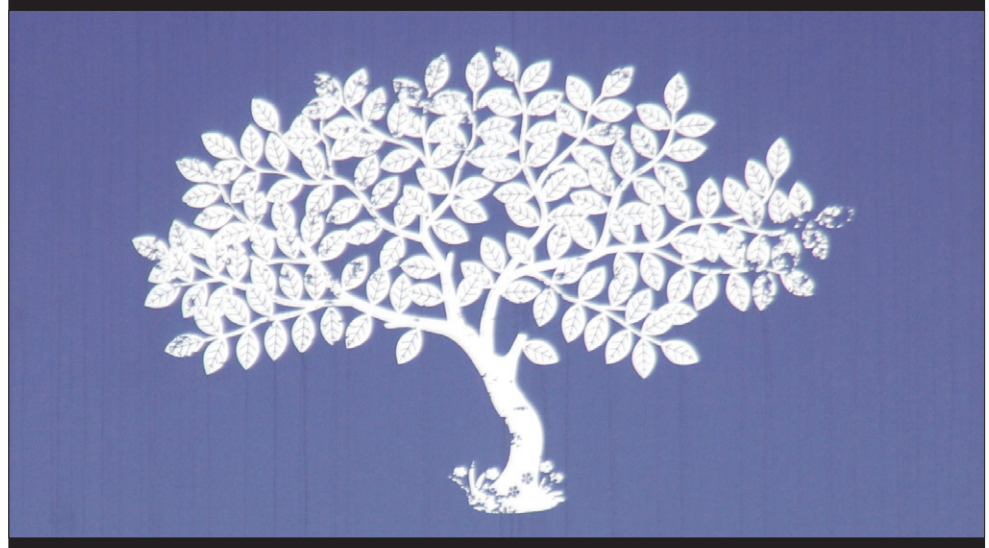
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2-18

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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 2/13
7 15 18 19 36
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 189M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/16
9 31 33 46 64
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 104M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/13
9 13 25 44 45
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 17M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/16
3 7 16 21 27

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/16
MIDDAY: 1 4 4
Draw Date: 2/16
EVENING: 6 3 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/16
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:46.78

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WORD UP!

celerity
1. swiftness; speed.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1954 – The first Church of Scientology is established in Los Angeles.

1955 – Operation Teapot: Teapot test shot "Wasp" is successfully detonated at the Nevada Test Site with a yield of 1.2 kilotons. Wasp is the first of fourteen shots in the Teapot series.

1957 – Kenyan rebel leader Dedan Kimathi is executed by the British colonial government.

1957 – Walter James Bolton becomes the last person legally executed in New Zealand.

1965 – The Gambia becomes independent from the United Kingdom.

1969 – Hawthorne Nevada Airlines Flight 708 crashes into Mount Whitney killing all on board.

1970 – The Chicago Seven are found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

1972 – The California Supreme Court in the case of People v. Anderson, (6 Cal.3d 628) invalidates the state's death penalty and commutes the sentences of all death row inmates to life imprisonment.

1977 – The Space Shuttle Enterprise test vehicle is carried on its maiden "flight" on top of a Boeing 747.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Private Parts: (1) A middle-aged woman reported to a firehouse in Padua, Italy, in January to ask for help opening a lock for which she had misplaced the key. It turned out that the lock was to the iron chastity belt she was wearing -- of her own free will, she said (because she had recently begun a romantic relationship that she wanted not to become too quickly sexual). (2) Firefighers in Osnabruck, Germany, told Berlin's The Local that in two separate incidents in December, men had come to their stations asking for help removing iron rings they had placed on their penises to help retain erections. (The Local, as a public service, quoted a prominent European sexual-aid manufacturer's recommendation to instead use silicone rings, which usually do not require professional removal.)

■ Few matters in life are weirder than the Scottish love of haggis (sheep's liver, heart, tongue and fat, blended with oats and seasonings, boiled inside a sheep's stomach to achieve its enticing gray color!), and in January, in honor of the Scottish poet-icon Robert Burns, prominent Peruvian chef Mitsuharu Tsumura joined Scotland's Paul Wedgwood to create haggis from, instead of sheep, guinea pig. Wedgwood said he was "proud" to raise haggis "to new gastronomic levels."

Go along with the moment, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could feel as if you are in a pressure cooker, as so many demands seem to head your way. You might feel caught up in a control game, and as a result, you will pull back. A roommate or family member might be quite emotional. Tonight: Get some extra "you" time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You tend to hold a steadfast course, even when others don't. You could hit an obstacle that forces you to slow down and keep your eye on the big picture. Your sensitivity will be enhanced by someone's emotional outburst. Tonight: Weigh the pros and cons of an insight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Be aware of what is happening with others, specifically with their attitudes about spending money. A meeting could form from out of the blue, or a scheduled meeting could change its direction. You might witness emotions running high. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Remain focused and levelheaded. You might need to have a tough conversation with a partner or close associate. This person generally takes direction well, and you can count on that behavior once again now. The two of you work well together. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might want to step back in order to gain a new perspective. You could opt to make some changes to your day-to-day life. Whose decision this is makes no difference, but your choice will revitalize your life. Unexpected news heads your way. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A child or loved one could take a stand and force your hand. You really would like to keep a situation much lighter and more carefree. You might hear news about a financial risk, but it is likely that you will gain from what is happening. Tonight: Go along with the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be tossed into the spotlight before you know it. You might have to make a strong emotional decision quickly. Several people in your life who used to be predictable and loyal could veer in new and unexpected directions. Tonight: Use your imagination well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ How you visualize a changeable matter will transform naturally because of recent events. An unpredictable element runs through your day-to-day life. Emotions runs high right now, especially around long-term goals and close friendships. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You'll want to revisit a decision after having a discussion about your finances. You could feel squeezed by a money matter, but you might not have the solution just yet. You will when the time is right. You generally don't tolerate situations like this well. Tonight: Decide to let go.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Others seem to be full of themselves. They even might ignore you in order to get what they want. You will stand up to them, although initially you might be amused. You are not a sign that appreciates being bullied. You'll let others know the lay of the land. Tonight: Out on the town.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Pace yourself, as you have a lot of ground to cover. If you experience a problem, ask yourself how you could have prevented it and how you can pull out of it without creating too much fuss. You might not be willing to share your thoughts just yet. Tonight: Run some errands.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Whereas others might be stymied by a situation, you seem to flourish and come up with several alternatives. A friend could be quite intense and difficult. This person's opinions can be harsh, but they will be worth listening to! Tonight: Be where people are.

Thursday, February 18, 2016

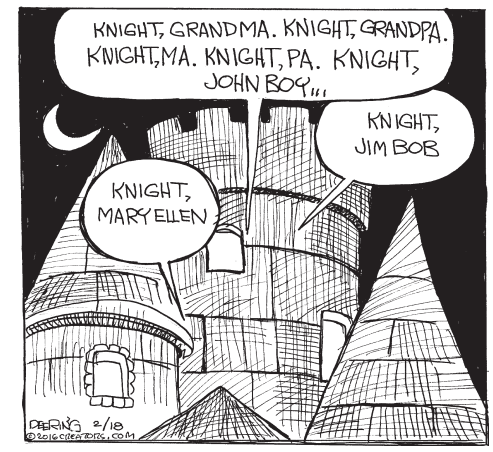
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you often come up with great ideas. Others are not as sure as you are about the wisdom of these ideas, but after some discussion, they seem to warm up to them. You confront insecurities and problems head-on. If you are single, your emotions will get the best of you. Don't move too quickly into a relationship; you might regret it. If you are attached, life within your relationship continues to be exciting. You never know what will happen next. Relax and enjoy the moment! CANCER constantly adjusts for you.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



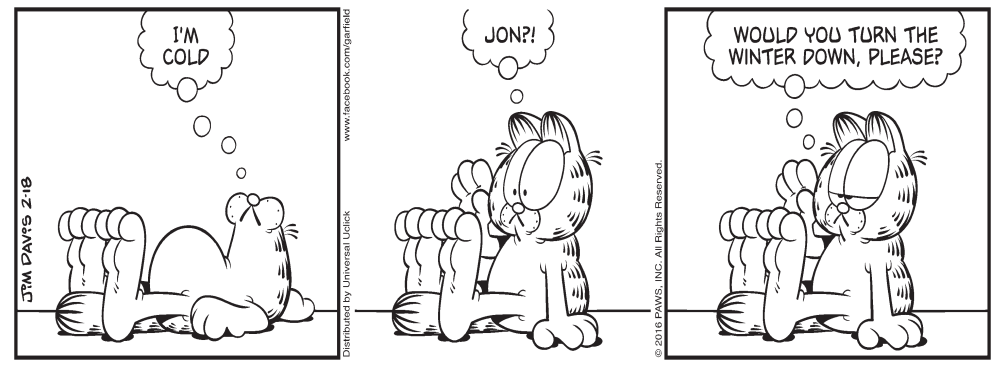
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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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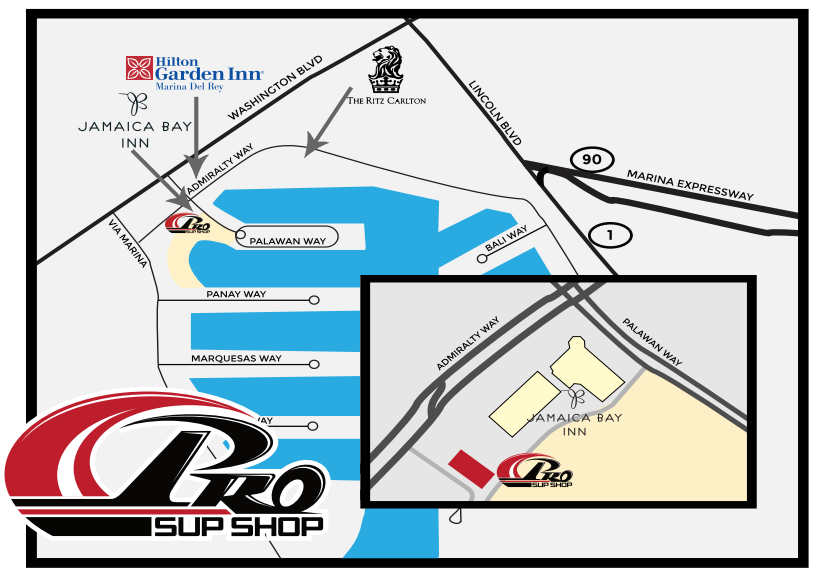
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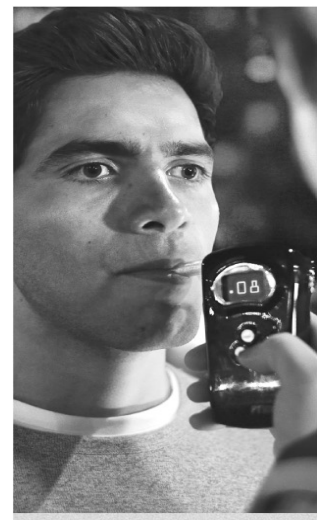
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