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GIRLS WATER POLO:

Champions!

Samohi snags first section title in program history



Courtesy Photo

WINNERS: **The girls water polo team took first place in the CIF Southern Section Championship.**

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Members of the Santa Monica High girls water polo team held hands as they jumped into the pool for their biggest game of the season. When the game was over, they got to hold a piece of history.

The Vikings seized the program's first-ever CIF Southern Section championship Saturday at Woollett Aquatics Center in Irvine, defeating Pasadena-Westridge 8-6 in the Division 6 title game.

It was a landmark accomplishment for a squad that was ranked atop its competitive division for much of the season and a major achievement for a program that had engineered numerous deep runs in the postseason without any hardware to show for it.

After the finals on Saturday, players gripped a championship plaque and held up their index fingers as they posed for photos. They'll have more evidence of their success at Samohi soon.

"It was awesome," coach Matt Flanders said. "It's going to feel good to hang that banner up in the gym."

The Vikings (30-3) had put together a stupendous season even before the playoffs began, defeating Division 3 powerhouse Manhattan Beach-Mira Costa and topping Division 2 stalwart Dana Point-Dana Hills. Flanders guided the team to its fourth consecutive Ocean League championship.

After losing several key seniors to graduation last season, Samohi players improved their skills in the club ranks during the offseason. And as they cruised through the regular season, they remembered what it felt like to lose in the section semifinals a year earlier.

"The girls who remained formed such a great bond," Flanders said. "They built up the teamwork and all the cooperation necessary so that our team was really a team. ... When we got to this year, they were ready to go. They were in

SEE **POLO** PAGE 3

YWCA to close

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

YWCA Santa Monica/Westside will permanently close on June 30.

The organization announced its impending departure to staff on Feb. 26 and to the public on Feb. 29 citing a persistent funding shortfall.

"Over time, community needs and funding priorities have shifted. During the last few years, we have explored many options that might allow us to continue to operate and fulfill our mission, but in the end it became clear that our operation was no longer sustainable. We are proud of the exceptional staff who have served our community well. We are grateful for our amazing community of participants and supporters, and we will miss you. All of our programs will continue through June 30, 2016, and we hope that you will continue to take advantage of the services we offer until then," said a letter signed by interim executive director Judy Spiegel and board president Anne-Marie Spataru.

YWCA operates on a franchise model. Each local branch is a standalone non-profit with its own board of directors. All fundraising and policy decisions are made at the local level and it was the local board that ultimately decided to shutter the facility.

YWCA Santa Monica opened in 1929. It focused on eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Programs included early childhood development; K-12 life skills and academic enrichment; transitional housing and education; young adult networking and career-building; par-

SEE **YWCA** PAGE 3

Lions Club to hold free eye screening event, give away glasses

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

On March 19 the Santa Monica Lions Club will attempt to outdo itself by helping even more people during their Lions Eyes Across California event than they did last year.

"Last year was the Lions Clubs of California's first year with this statewide initiative," president of the Santa Monica Lions, Susan DeRemer, said. "They decided that all the Lions Clubs, on the very same day, would do something related to vision. That we would all participate throughout the state."

SEE **EYE** PAGE 7

Do transfer students impact socioeconomic balance?

School board considers amending intradistrict enrollment policy

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

When parents move their child from one campus to another, they likely have their child's academic and social needs in mind. They're not necessarily considering the effects of the transfer on the demographic makeup of the campus they're leaving.

But officials in the Santa Monica-Malibu school district are

SEE **STUDENT** PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, March 1

Lita Ford: 'Living Like a Runaway'
Author Lita Ford discusses and signs her new memoir, "Living Like a Runaway." Diesel Bookstore, 225 26th St., 6:30 p.m.

Teen Time
A space just for teens. Stop by and play board games, make some crafts, play music, do homework or just talk to your friends. Refreshments will be provided. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 – 5 p.m.

GED Prep Class
Get prepared to take the Social Studies subject test of the GED. Class will be held in the Annex, next to Pico Branch Library. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 6 – 8 p.m.

Ocean Park Film Program: 'Casino' (1995)
Film historian Elaina Archer screens and discusses this Martin Scorsese film about crime and punishment. Starring Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone, Joe Pesci and James Wood. (Film runtime: 170 min.) Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Celebrate with fun crafts and activities inspired by your favorite books. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 2 – 3 p.m.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Party
You're invited to play party games and eat cake! Free giveaways. Limited space; free tickets 30 minutes before program. Ages 4 & up. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting
Meeting of the Planning Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 6 p.m.

SCBWI Westside Writer's Mingle
A monthly gathering for anyone interested in writing for children and young adults. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 7 – 8:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 3

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

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

How To Keep Passion Alive After 45 with Judith Claire & Frank Wiegers
Frank and Judith, authors of 'So That's Why They Do That: Men, Women, and Their Hormones' discuss how to create harmony in your relationship, build deeper levels of intimacy, and revitalize passion no matter how old you are. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 - 8 p.m.

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POLO

FROM PAGE 1

shape, and they had all the communication down. It was awesome to see it all come together like that."

The Vikings clinched their return to the semifinals with relative ease, crushing Pasadena-Poly 22-2 in the opening round at home Feb. 18 and blanking Santa Ana-Segerstrom 17-0 in the quarterfinals on the road Feb. 20.

Samohi secured a spot in the championship game by topping Lompoc-Cabrillo 7-3 in the semifinals Feb. 24 at Valley High School in Santa Ana.

"It was a little bit of a monkey off our back because we've been to the semis so many times," Flanders said. "To get past that was a relief and a validation that we could do it."

The Vikings strung together one of their best performances of the season in the final, limiting opportunities for the two best Westridge attackers after giving up the first goal of the game.

Samohi made its push in the second quarter. Trailing by one with 5 minutes 59 seconds left in the half, the team took a 4-2 lead with three consecutive goals by juniors Kalen Lehmann and Audrey Hattori and senior Olivia Schwartz.

Westridge cut its deficit to 7-6 with 1:58 remaining in the game, but junior Shanna Stevenson gave the Vikings insurance with a goal just 10 seconds later. Stevenson and Lehmann led the squad with two goals apiece.

Junior goalkeeper Amalie Luneng-Solli anchored a Samohi defense that gave up just 11 total goals in four playoff games.

"The girls played the most intense four quarters of water polo I've seen them play in a long time," Flanders said. "This team surprised me continually. They rose to every occasion."

jeff@smdp.com

YWCA

FROM PAGE 1

ent support; and personal and professional renewal.

Spiegel said addressing the transitional housing, a program that provided housing and life skills to disadvantaged young women, is a top priority.

"One of our high priorities is the young women in the transitional housing and working program," she said. "We will not close that program until ever girl is placed in a facility or situation of her choosing, that is one of our highest priorities in making sure that happens."

Spiegel said expenses simply outpaced revenues for the YWCA. She said they evaluated across the board rate increases for all programs but found doing so would drive away too many participants. At the same time, grant money has become more competitive, donations have dropped, and attempts at merging with other local agencies fell through.

"During the last few years, we have explored many options that might allow us to continue to operate and fulfill our mission, but in the end it became clear that our operation was no longer sustainable," said the announcement letter.

According to Spiegel, some of the YWCA programs might find homes at other organizations or branch out into standalone offerings, but nothing of the YWCA organization will remain. Programs that can't find alternate homes will cease.

The organization employs about 32 full and part time staff. The Santa Monica branch owns its property at the corner of 14th and Pico. Spiegel said the property would be for sale in the near future and money from the sale would be donated to other charity organizations that share the YWCA's mission.

editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Denise Anderson-Warren named city clerk

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, the Santa Monica City Council announced Denise Anderson-Warren as the City's new city clerk. A 21-year veteran of the City Clerk's Office, Anderson-Warren brings vast knowledge of the department to her new role. She has served as assistant city clerk for the past five years.

"Denise is uniquely poised to run the City Clerk's Office with her depth of experience managing elections and public records," said Mayor Tony Vazquez. "She is widely respected within the department, City and the regional clerk community. Denise will serve our community with integrity and a strong vision for the future."

Anderson-Warren began her career in the City Clerk's Office as a staff assistant III, and has held various positions, including: deputy city clerk, records management coordinator, and records and election services manager.

"I would like to thank the City Council for providing me with this opportunity. I look forward to continuing to provide excellent customer service, and strengthening the relationship between the City Clerk's Office and members of the public. Making documents easier to access, promoting elections, and finding better ways to provide input at public meetings, are some of my future goals."

Anderson-Warren has a Bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Redlands, with a minor in political science. She currently serves on the Executive Board for the Southern Division of the City Clerks Association of California as awards and recognition director.

As Santa Monica City Clerk, Anderson-Warren will receive a base salary of $15,269 a month.

- SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

Annenberg Community Beach House

Celebrating architect Julia Morgan at the Beach House

On Sunday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Annenberg Community Beach House, the Santa Monica Conservancy will celebrate Julia Morgan, California's first woman architect. Morgan, who produced over 700 projects in nearly five decades of practice, was posthumously awarded AIA's 2014 Gold Medal recognizing her brilliant and pioneering work. Morgan created the cohesive grace of the grouping of buildings built in the late 1920's by William Randolph Hearst for his paramour Marion Davies, her 'beach house.'

At 11 a.m., Karen McNeill, Ph.D. will present Julia Morgan and Phoebe Hearst: Building Legacies Together. Dr. McNeill is currently writing a biography of Morgan, and has lectured extensively on her work in the San Francisco area. From 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. guests may tour the Marion Davies Guest House and view the historic pool to see Morgan's work first hand.

The event is free, reservations are requested. Seating for the presentation is limited. For more information and to RSVP, visit JuliaMorganlegacy2016.eventbrite.com or call 310-458-4904. The Annenberg Community Beach House is at 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Parking is $3 per hour, $8 per day.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant. For disability related accommodations, please call Guest Services at 310-458-4904.

- SUBMITTED BY NAN FRIEDMAN, ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE

Citywide

Aquatics club swimmers push through the cold for workouts

Two swimmers, Bob Beresh and David Walters, are opposites when it comes to skill-level. Beresh, a beginner, started attending organized, coached workouts about two months ago. Walters, a national standout, competed on the U.S. 4 x 200 freestyle relay with Michael Phelps in the 2008 Olympics.

But they both share a struggle that anyone trying to exercise can relate to: getting moving during the winter months. In particular, jumping in the water in weather that makes most people want to grab a sweatshirt or umbrella.

"Just show up. That's my advice," Walters said. He also holds the American record in the 100-meter freestyle. "The relief of accomplishing it motivates you to make it to the next workout."

After his last competition in 2012, Walters took a break from swimming. Although he enjoyed surfing, he found that it did not provide the same intensity he was used to in a workout. Finally, as a New Year's resolution, he started swimming with the Southern California Aquatics (SCAQ) club in Santa Monica.

Walters said when he returned he was not in the fast lane. "I'm taking it one day at a time. It seems like everyone at SCAQ is trying to improve so it's very motivating. We push each other."

Even though Beresh is new to the water, he has already found a home with SCAQ in Santa Monica. When he first started attending workouts, around the same time as Walters, he couldn't make it to the other side of the pool without getting winded, such that he had to stop and couldn't make it back. Now he can swim 1,000 yards without stopping. His wife, Robyn, is a "superstar swimmer" who has been with SCAQ since 2009. At first Bob was worried that he would be invading her territory, but now they can attend workouts together.

Winter may seem like an odd time to pick up a water sport, but Beresh has friends who keep him grounded.

"All of them are open-water swimmers who don't wear a wetsuit, so they would've laughed at me if I complained," he said. "There's a real beauty to swimming in conditions that aren't ideal."

For more information on Southern California Aquatics, visit www.swim.net/scaq.cfm.

- SUBMITTED BY ANNE ARTLEY, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AQUATICS

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SMart Thinking

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

New Plan, Old Concerns

THE DRAFT OF THE NEW DOWNTOWN Community Plan has now been made available to the public for input. This draft is the result of years of effort, re-writing and reconfiguring. Now, after the arrival of our new City Manager, an attempt has been made to simplify the plan and reduce its size to something more manageable and easier to understand.

At first glance it appears to be a worthy effort, with many excellent improvements. However, questions persist about many of the Plan's details, and about how well some of its specific proposals align with concerns expressed in our community. Here are a few of them.

1. The Plan would allow certain projects containing up to 100,000 square feet to attain approval through the Planning Commission and then City staff, and not by City Council. This process, called Development Review, includes public review and approval by the Planning Commission, and then by the staff of the Planning Department, without any additional community input at all. A project of this type would be nearly double the size of City Hall. Imagine multiple City Hall-sized projects in the downtown area approved only by the Planning Commission and City staff without any additional review!

In the past, large projects were subjected to a process that included an agreement with the developer to add so-called "community benefits" in exchange for additional height and size. These Development Agreements have been harshly criticized for allowing excessively large buildings with relatively meager community benefits. California law allows these Development Agreements to be challenged by citizens through the ballot box, via the referendum process. That's what happened with the Hines project. However, under the draft Downtown Community Plan, projects up to 100,000 square feet would not be subject to a Development Agreement, except for the seven "Opportunity Sites". Residents would be blocked from challenging them via the referendum process.

The City and many residents have said that they would prefer to phase out Development Agreements in order to help clarify the rules for the benefit of both developers and residents, and to avoid "backroom" deals. However this large a project, double that of City Hall, should be not be approved before going through City Council, at the very least.

2. The Plan allows the height of many new buildings in the Downtown area to be more than triple that of most existing properties. And yet a continuing theme in the Downtown Community Plan is the intent to maintain the character and charm of the downtown district. For example, the introductory chapter cites the "quality and charm of its buildings", and the second chapter suggests that we "maintain the 'Our Town' character of Downtown Santa Monica" and "preserve and enhance Downtown Santa Monica's charm and character by requiring new development to contribute high standards of architecture, urban design and landscaping." How can the City hope to maintain the character of the downtown area while allowing new buildings to be three times as tall as most existing ones?

3. The accuracy of certain parts of the Draft Community Plan is questionable. For example, the plan states that the majority of the existing buildings in our downtown are 3 and 4 stories, when the actual number is less than 30% (as confirmed by a windshield survey conducted by our colleague Ron Goldman). The Plan also says that the City is not a major landowner in the Downtown area, and yet it owns several very large properties, including the Big Blue Bus yards, the 4th/5th & Arizona site across from the old Post Office (and now the subject of a controversial and huge new project), and the site for the proposed new ArcLight movie theaters (which will replace a soon-to-be demolished parking structure, near the Promenade). These spots could be suitable for cultural facilities, including museums and theaters, which are listed as important community benefits. Instead the city is processing plans for hotels, movie theaters and other uses on these city-owned properties. Is this the best use for city-owned properties in the Downtown area?

Will the large number of new residents expected to live in the Downtown area have children? If so, as the Plan states, they will likely be attending school at Roosevelt Elementary and Lincoln Middle School - not exactly within walking distance. We wonder how those children will get to school every day.

4. The Plan rightly suggests that alleys are important for added pedestrian access, but it proposes no building setbacks for those canyon-like areas. Consider that recently completed developments hover 60-70 feet above those relatively narrow passageways. It is hard to see the charm and character of those near-tunnels as they provide entryways to the pedestrian-oriented Promenade and areas alongside it.

Other open-space suggestions in the Plan cover the importance of sidewalk setbacks, parklets and mid-block "paseos." However many of these are suggested simply as community benefits to be negotiated with developers. There is no specific plan to implement these improvements through zoning. The City controls and determines the zoning rules in this area (one purpose, after all, of the Downtown Community Plan), so why not ensure the viability of these types of spaces by requiring them outright?

5. The infrastructure component of the plan needs to have internal contradictions and inaccurate information revised. As we've written here before (on January 23, 2016 and December 5, 2015), the Plan counts on habit-changing water-use policies to "expand the capacity of the water system." Habit-changing water conservation policies should be taken only to conserve water, and not to provide increased capacity for development, especially when the new habits that result from those policies may change along with the weather. The Plan anticipates an increase in demand for sewer capacity, and that always comes with increased demand for water (on the principle of "what goes in must go out"). As we stated earlier, at some point we must acknowledge that more users will require more water, no matter what habit-changing conservation measures the city takes. That water will have to come from

SEE **SMART** PAGE 5

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Parking Perplexes Pisarra

I HAD LUNCH THIS WEEKEND AT REAL Food Daily, the meal was fine and I had great company. The service was great and the environment was lovely all of which highlighted an interesting question. Why don't I eat there more?

The fact that this place is vegan is not really the issue, it's pricey to be sure, but that wouldn't stop me, after all it's not a $100 per person type place. So what stops me from dining there? Two things, the first is that there is almost always a line. So this is my living embodiment of the Yogism that "No one goes there anymore, it's too crowded." The second reason why I am hesitant to go there is the lack of parking.

RFD is located on Santa Monica Blvd just across from and west of the Santa Monica Public Library. That stretch of the street has little easy public parking, sure there are some metered spots and if you're there at the right time you can use the Library's parking for a fee, but in general there is a deficit in the parking.

As we become a more dense city we have to deal with this issue and the answer of Hulu green bikes, and buses are not going to be the main solutions. They may offset some of the traffic and for those who are using these alternative means of transport the city may be more fluid - but for those people who use their cars we need to have a more comprehensive plan and solution.

I park downtown often, maybe two times a day, sometimes four. I pay for the parking at the city lots when I go over the first 90 minutes that is free. Each month I contribute on average probably an additional 25 dollars in parking fees when I add in the 50 cents here for a meter and $4.50 there for a late night dinner with friends. That's not an insubstantial sum when you consider that I also pay the random parking ticket or two each year that I collect.

So probably on average I'm adding $500 a year to the infrastructure for parking alone. Estimating the residents of Santa Monica to be around 100,000 that's $50,000,000 a year in revenue. Of course some people don't the $500 each year, but then again some people get more tickets or pay a monthly fee to park in a structure. In any case, it's a lot of money.

With all that money, I want to know why we don't have more parking lots and parking structures. It seems to me that one of the purposes of having government is to provide public assets like roads and sewers, and that parking for the cars that drive on the roads would be a logical extension.

The city spent millions on Tongva park, that's a lot of revenues for a lovely public asset, but honestly fewer people use it than would be using an additional parking structure downtown.

I'm not arguing against the parks, because I love the parks and want more of them, but I'd also like more of the parking that we need. Maybe with the Expo opening in May we'll have a drop off in the need for parking, but I'm not counting on it. I anticipate that if anything, people will take the Expo once, fall in love with the city, and then decide to drive in with their families rather than take the Expo.

Time will tell if I'm right or wrong, but in the interim, it sure would be nice if we could find some solutions. Perhaps that will be next week's column…

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on fathers' rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

SMART

FROM PAGE 4

somewhere.

Finally, the proposed Downtown Community Plan allows for the existing building area in the Downtown district to more than double, but it never discusses or identifies how much development is needed, nor identifies the reasons it is necessary. Many residents have been asking for an explanation. Why is so much extra development needed in our city's downtown? The Downtown Community Plan is the place for this explanation, and it is sorely needed.

Ron Goldman and Dan Jansenson for Santa Monica Architects for a Responsible Tomorrow.

Ron Goldman FAIA, Thane Roberts AIA, Architect, Robert H. Taylor AIA, Mario Fonda-Bonardi AIA, Daniel Jansenson Architect, Samuel Tolkin AIA, Armen Melkonians Civil & Environmental Engineer, Phil Brock Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission

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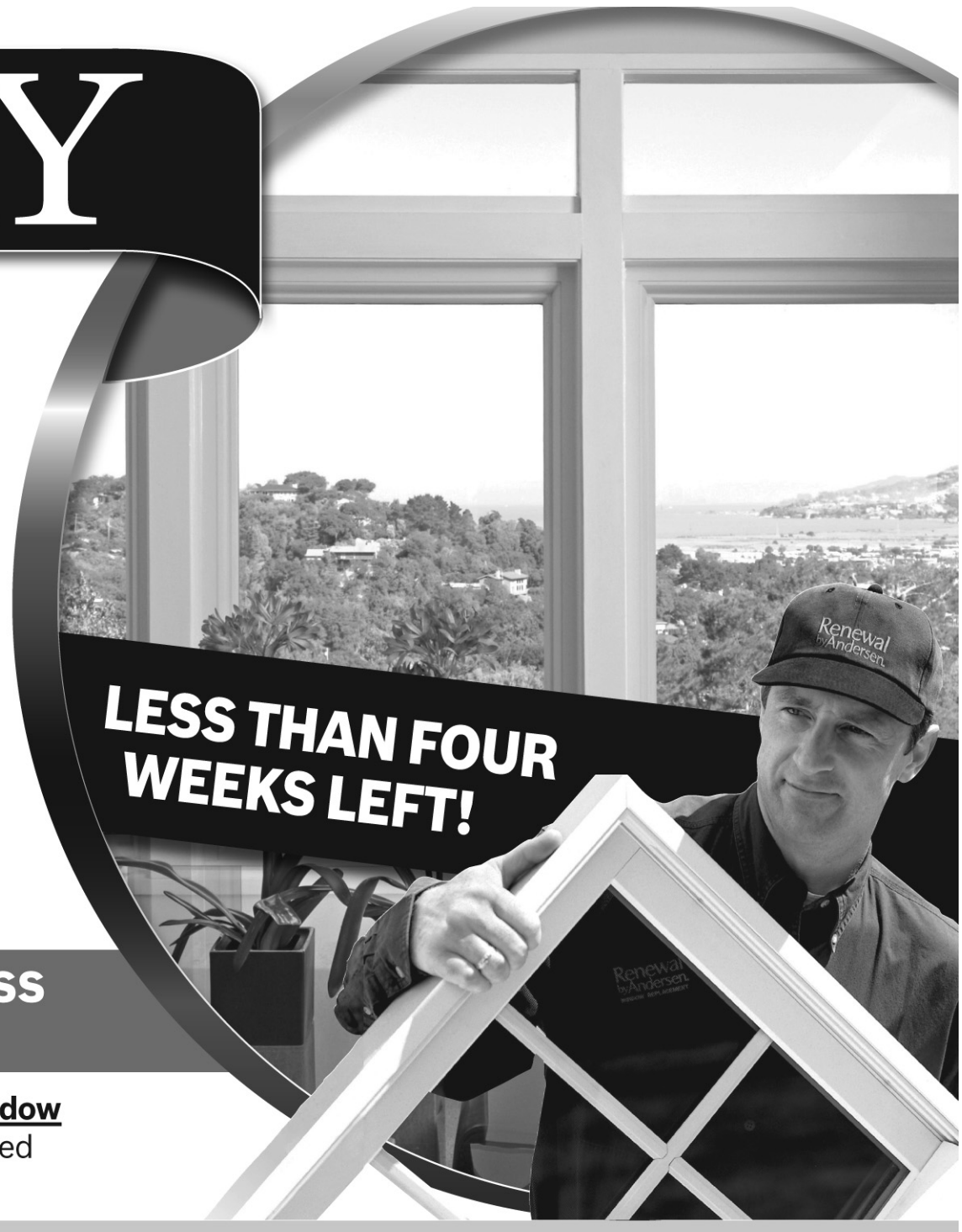
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STUDENT

FROM PAGE 1

doing just that.

The local Board of Education recently discussed adding language to its intradistrict enrollment policy to say that an applicant seeking a transfer "may be denied" if the transfer would increase the proportion of socioeconomically disadvantaged students at the school the applicant is leaving.

The proposed change, prompted by a December discussion, comes as SMMUSD administrators and educators attempt to address longstanding issues revolving around equity, access and student outcomes.

"The board expressed concern about actions that could exacerbate achievement gaps," said Mark Kelly, the district's assistant superintendent of human resources. "There was continued interest from the board to have something in there along those lines."

The district received 187 applications for intradistrict transfers this school year and approved 103 of them, according to data in a board memo by student services director Tara Brown. The memo did not include demographic data on the transfers, although SMMUSD tracks that kind of information for each of its schools overall.

Board member Ralph Mechur said he wanted to see demographic data specifically dealing with intradistrict transfer students but added that he generally supported the proposed language.

"Having a more socioeconomically integrated school is to the benefit of lower socioeconomic students and does no harm to, if not benefit, the upper socioeconomic students," he said.

Board president Laurie Lieberman also said it would be wise to review recent figures before approving changes to district policy.

"It's worth understanding the data and being clear on what we're saying," she said. "We're all of the same general mind, but it's easy to get caught up in grand ideas that are somewhat ideological but don't necessarily match what is really happening."

Of the approved transfers this school year, more than half (57) were at the kindergarten level.

Kelly said it's difficult to determine whether incoming kindergarten students are socioeconomically disadvantaged because their parents haven't necessarily applied yet for discounted lunch programs at that point.

"That's a little tricky in terms of the implementation of the policy," he said.

The most popular destination for intradistrict transfer students this year was Will Rogers Elementary School, which accepted 22 permits, down from the 31 approved there in the 2013-14 school year. More than 53 percent of the Will Rogers student body was designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged in 2014-15, according to district data.

Santa Monica Alternative School House (19), Franklin Elementary School (10) and Grant Elementary School (10) were also common receiving campuses in the district. Just 4.4 percent of SMASH students and 5.7 percent of Franklin students were deemed socioeconomically disadvantaged in 2014-15, while that figure jumped to 29.9 percent at Grant.

Kelly said the district could collect more data on the socioeconomic impact of intradistrict transfers and hold off on making any changes to the language.

"I don't know how pervasive this problem is," he said.

jeff@smdp.com

EYE

FROM PAGE 1

So the Santa Monica Lions partnered with the Virginia Avenue Park Farmers Market to hold an event during which they gave out free eyeglasses, performed free eye screenings and collected used glasses. DeRemer said it was a success, with 79 people receiving eye screenings, 125 pairs of eyeglasses given away and over 1,000 used eyeglasses collected.

"All of us kind of came together and it was so popular … even the representative from the Pico Neighborhood group asked if we would do it again and to make it bigger and to try and be able to see more people," she said. "So we are doing it again and we are actually growing it this year to include two other nonprofits, The Center for the Partially Sighted and Vision To Learn."

The Center for the Partially Sighted provides optometric services, assistive technology and independent living training, rehabilitation services, individual counseling and support groups for those who have vision loss that cannot be restored with medicine, surgery or regular glasses.

Vision To Learn, founded in 2012 in Los Angeles, is focused on helping children with vision needs in the classroom by coming to schools and providing eye exams and glasses for free.

DeRemer said that with these organizations helping out, in particular Vision To Learn, the event would be able to benefit even more people.

"Some of the people we saw last year were children. And because we are bringing in Vision To Learn and a mobile screening unit as well, they are going to work with us and do free eye exams for kids, not just screenings," she said. "And if they need eye glasses they will receive them for free to try and help them see and do well in school. So Vision To Learn will handle all of the children, and we will focus more on adults."

And Vision To Learn is happy to be lending a hand.

"Vision To Learn is thrilled to be working with the Lions Club of Santa Monica to bring our services to kids in need. We make sure every child has the glasses they need to succeed at school, and in life," said Vision To Learn founder and chairman Austin Beutner.

According to DeRemer, Lions Clubs International (LCI) is the largest service organization in the world with more than 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs located in more than 200 countries. They are recognized for their service to the blind and visually impaired because of a challenge issued by Helen Keller to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" during the Lions' 1925 International Convention.

DeRemer is hoping that through this event people in the community will see the Lions Club and know a little more about what they do.

"I want people to become more aware of the Lions, or just service clubs in general and how important they are to the community," she said.

This year the Lions Club of Santa Monica will hold their Lions Eyes Across California event on Saturday, March 19 at Virginia Avenue Park. For more information, visit http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/santamonica.

jennifer@smdp.com

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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **62.1°**

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high
WNW swell holds fairly steady through much of the day, easing late. Strongest for winter standouts to far west with occ head high waves - smaller Malibu through Sunset Beach. Light AM wind.

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to chest high
WNW swell eases some. Strongest for winter standouts to far west - smaller Malibu through Sunset Beach. Minimal South swell. Light wind/clean AM conditions.

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
SMALLEST EARLY - BIGGEST LATE with larger sets rising up through the day. New West-WNW swell builds in, while the old WNW swell fades. New swell builds in more quickly Thursday night.

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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 17, AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 A.M.

Officers responded to the alley of 7th and Santa Monica Boulevard in regards to a fight call. Upon arrival, officers contacted the victim whom stated that three weeks prior the subject, later identified as Abel Lopez, 40, of Santa Monica, had given him a bike as a gift because his bike had been stolen. According to the victim, he was frightened when Lopez rammed his bike from behind and began to punch him on the back of his head until he fell off of the bike and then continued to be punched and kicked. When officers made contact with Lopez, he stated that he came to collect his bike as the victim had failed to pay him the $100 he owed him for the bike. Officers conducted a routine criminal history check and found that Lopez was currently on probation. Lopez was arrested for robbery and probation violation. Bail was set at $50,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 348 calls for service on Feb. 28.

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

Fight, 2700 block of Main, 12:01 a.m.
Strongarm robbery, 26th/San Vicente, 12:26 a.m.
Fight, 100 block of Colorado, 12:38 a.m.
Fight, 1500 block of 5th, 1:09 a.m.
Battery, 2nd/Santa Monica, 1:57 a.m.
Family disturbance, 1400 block of 6th, 2:33 a.m.
Domestic violence, 1400 block of 6th, 2:33 a.m.
Loud music, 1000 block of 3rd, 3:17 a.m.
Person down, 200 block of Santa Monica Pier, 4:37 a.m.
Indecent exposure, 1900 block of Lincoln, 5:15 a.m.
Threats, 1000 block of 3rd, 5:18 a.m.
Traffic collision, 11th/Colorado, 7:12 a.m.
Identity theft, 1000 block of 3rd, 8:11 a.m.
Burglary, 800 block of 4th, 8:33 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 2400 block of 4th, 9:22 a.m.
Suspicious person, 1700 block of Cloverfield, 10:39 a.m.
Missing person, 300 block of Olympic, 10:40 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 200 block of 25th, 11:47 a.m.
Harassing phone calls, 1200 block of Montana, 12:54 p.m.
Harassing phone calls, 300 block of Olympic, 1:05 p.m.
Grand theft, 2500 block of Wilshire, 1:08 p.m.
DUI, 1500 block of PCH, 1:18 p.m.
Family disturbance, 1800 block of 16th, 1:46 p.m.
Fight, 1700 block of Lincoln, 2:34 p.m.
Traffic collision, Neilson/Barnard, 2:49 p.m.
Fight, Lincoln/Olympic, 3:24 p.m.
DUI, Main/Ashland, 3:26 p.m.
Fight, Lincoln/I-10, 3:29 p.m.
Person with a gun, 1500 block of Broadway, 3:38 p.m.
Hit and run, Ocean/Colorado, 3:44 p.m.
Hit and run, 500 block of Broadway, 4:10 p.m.
DUI, 1400 block of PCH, 5:16 p.m.
Domestic violence, 1200 block of 12th, 5:36 p.m.
Burglary, 2600 block of 3rd, 6:18 p.m.
DUI, 300 block of Civic Center, 6:27 p.m.
Critical missing person, 1100 block of Arizona, 6:38 p.m.
DUI, Lincoln/Pico, 7:17 p.m.
Threats, 900 block of Euclid, 7:40 p.m.
DUI, 10th/Ocean Park, 8:07 p.m.
Person with a gun, 1400 block of 5th, 9:19 p.m.
Burglary, 2600 block of 3rd, 9:38 p.m.
Threats, 3500 block of Military, 10:34 p.m.
Shots fired, 100 block of Ocean, 11:49 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 35 calls for service on Feb. 28.

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

EMS, 100 block of Colorado, 12:39 a.m.
Injuries from assault, 1400 block of 6th, 2:34 a.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 11th, 2:38 a.m.
EMS, 2800 block of 3rd, 3:21 a.m.
EMS, 2200 block of Main, 5:10 a.m.
EMS, 600 block of 21st, 6:22 a.m.
EMS, 300 block of Olympic, 6:22 a.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Dewey, 6:54 a.m.
EMS, 800 block of Michigan, 9:08 a.m.
EMS, 1000 block of Lincoln, 9:34 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 900 block of 20th, 9:43 a.m.
EMS, 0 block of Bay, 10:13 a.m.
EMS, 700 block of Pico, 10:26 a.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Arizona, 10:29 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 10:33 a.m.
EMS, 400 block of Ocean, 10:55 a.m.
Assist LAFD, Rose/3rd, 11:02 a.m.
EMS, 11th/Santa Monica, 11:49 a.m.
EMS, 3400 block of Airport, 1:34 p.m.
EMS, 1900 block of Pico, 1:43 p.m.
EMS, 600 block of Santa Monica, 1:49 p.m.
EMS, 7th/Olympic, 2:49 p.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
EMS, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 3:26 p.m.
Assist LAFD, Sunset/El Medio, 3:46 p.m.
EMS, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 3:59 p.m.
EMS, Lincoln/Olympic, 3:59 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of 4th, 4:06 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of Broadway, 4:21 p.m.
EMS, 1000 block of 11th, 4:35 p.m.
EMS, 1800 block of Lincoln, 6:04 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 200 block of 16th, 9:50 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 5th, 10:06 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Lincoln, 11:23 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block of Franklin, 11:51 p.m.

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Hindu god of destruction
6 Wrong
11 Tax cheat's worry
12 Jousting weapon
13 Theater spot, for one
15 Old card game
16 Memorable time
17 Turn bad
18 Board the Limited
20 Brewpub product
21 Work unit
22 Flag feature
23 Brief job
26 Gardeners, at times
27 Circus setting
28 Silent
29 Little laborer
30 Gets smarter
34 Purpose
35 Toward the stern
36 One — million
37 Red-eye, for example
40 Sports shoe feature
41 Comic Kovacs
42 Grazing groups
43 Work breaks

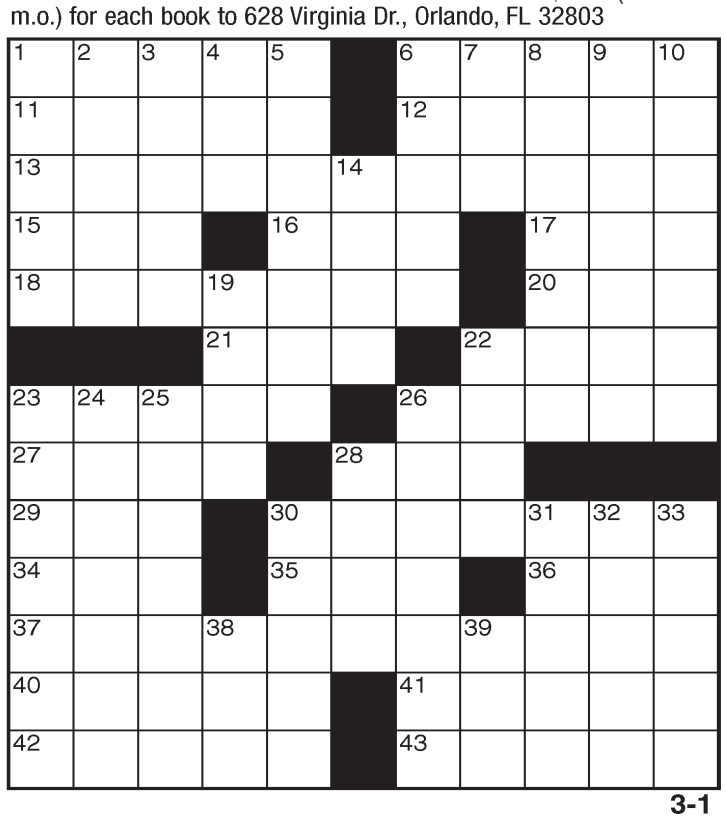
DOWN

1 Dark fur
2 Cheboygan's lake
3 Knucklehead
4 Bookie's charge
5 Basically
6 Poe's middle name
7 Avril follower
8 Thankless person
9 Learned sort
10 Hunting dogs
14 Math course
19 Monthly bill
22 One or more
23 True-blue
24 Kind of strength
25 Whole number
26 Go-getter
28 Tick off
30 Bulb units
31 Zodiac dozen
32 Not struck
33 Noggins
38 Possessed
39 Rage

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

Yesterday's answer

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3-1

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 2/27
10 11 21 22 53
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 292M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/26
3 15 19 62 74
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 135M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/27
2 8 10 28 47
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 21M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/28
2 13 14 32 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/28
MIDDAY: 2 8 8
Draw Date: 2/28
EVENING: 1 0 3

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/28
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:49.36

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!

bissextus 1. February 29th: the extra day added to the Julian calendar every fourth year (except those evenly divisible by 400) to compensate for the approximately six hours a year by which the common year of 365 days falls short of the solar year.

TODAY IN HISTORY

2002 - U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda begins in eastern Afghanistan.

2002 - The Envisat environmental satellite successfully reaches an orbit 800 kilometers (500 mi) above the Earth on its 11th launch, carrying the heaviest payload to date at 8500 kilograms (8.5 tons).

2002 - The peseta is discontinued as official currency of Spain and is replaced by the euro (?).

2003 - Management of the United States Customs Service and the United States Secret Service move to the United States Department of Homeland Security.

2003 - The International Criminal Court holds its inaugural session in The Hague.

2004 - Mohammad Bahr al-Ulloum becomes President of Iraq.

2005 - U.S. Supreme Court rules that the execution of juveniles found guilty of murder is unconstitutional marking a change in "national standards,".

2006 - English-language Wikipedia reaches its one millionth article, Jordanhill railway station.

2007 - Tornadoes break out across the southern United States, killing at least 20; eight of the deaths are at Enterprise High School (Alabama).

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) Chandan Kumar Singh told BBC News in February that his recent lawsuit against the Hindu god Ram was provoked by Ram's mistreatment of his wife in spiritual lore. Said Singh, "(W)e cannot talk about respecting women in modern day India when we know that one of our most revered gods did not treat his own wife with respect." Singh thus wants a court to tell the god to acknowledge he was wrong. (2) After news reports of a male Siberian tiger being playful with a male goat (ordinarily, a tiger's meal) in a Russian safari park, lawyer Alexei Krestyanov pressured the local prosecutor in February to embargo further announcements, claiming that such coverage harmed children by provoking "interest in non-traditional sexual relations."

■ Police in Austin, Texas, said in February they had received several complaints (KEYE-TV reported "dozens") from women about a man who approaches them in public genially, but then turns aggressive and tries to stomp their feet (in one case, telling the woman it was "normal" behavior for him). (The suspect apparently has only little in common with the Arkansas recidivist who holds the record for multiple appearances in News of the Weird -- who merely fondles and sucks women's toes, although without their consent and sometimes after forcefully grabbing the foot.)

Happily head home, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You will hear what someone else says, but you can't seem to make sense of his or her words. If you ask for clarification, you could feel as if this person is speaking gibberish. You might want to consider letting the issue go for now. Tonight: Use your imagination.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others will respond to your inquiries, as long as you ask on a one-on-one basis. If they feel like you are addressing a group, they will not be as likely to reply. A friend might not intend to be irritating, but he or she could come across that way. Tonight: You need to let go of tension.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to others. An associate might have given you the cold shoulder the last time the two of you spoke. Perhaps you'll want to schedule a late lunch or early dinner with this person. You sometimes don't realize how scattered you can be. Tonight: Listen rather than react.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to tame your moodiness and get involved in some work. Confusion surrounds a key matter, but you will gain clarity, given some time. You like to pioneer new ideas, but don't let that interfere with your effectiveness. Stay focused. Tonight: Relax at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You will be on a roll if you allow your creativity to emerge. How you deal with a personal issue could determine your effectiveness during the day. If your mind continues to wander, you might need more self-discipline in order to handle the problem. Tonight: Have fun!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ If you can work from home, do. You might be tense about a situation revolving around your professional life, and you'll feel better at home. You might not be ready for a discussion just yet. Let a loved one take the lead in handling a problem. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LIBRA (Sept.23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your mind seems to be working on two different levels: the actual communication you are dealing with, and the dreamy ideas your imagination triggers. Pressure builds to respond, and you might not be sure which level you should react to. Tonight: Catch up on someone else's news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have been. Finances could spin out of control as you attempt to get a handle on a situation. You might be reacting to the pressure by spending too much. Approach the situation in a more creative way. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You are willing to blaze a new trail, even if you encounter more than your fair share of responsibilities and hassles. You might feel as though you are heading toward a desired goal. Tension builds between you and a family member. Tonight: Happily head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might feel as if you should say little. You have a strong sense that others would be best at explaining what is going on. The more you listen, the surer you will be that your stance is correct. Listen to the whole plan from beginning to end. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Use caution with your finances. You easily could make an error and cause yourself some stress. Choose your words with care when having an animated discussion; otherwise, you could create a problem where there isn't one. Tonight: Catch up on a loved one's news.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Deal with your confusion directly. You might think that someone has said something different from what he or she claims was said. Don't even try to be right, because there is no right or wrong here. It would be a mistake to make more of a misunderstanding. Tonight: Out late.

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

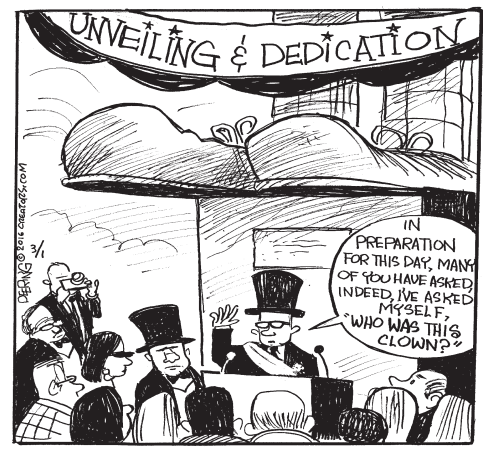
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you are very strong-willed and can be quite disciplined, if you so choose. You often find yourself caught in the crosswinds of expectations and reality. If you are single, you will meet someone just by doing your own thing. You'll have many potential suitors. If you are attached, the two of you often disagree or trigger each other. Do not blame your significant other; instead, find out when this type of response started to bother you. You both will grow and become closer as a result. SAGITTARIUS can be very irritating.

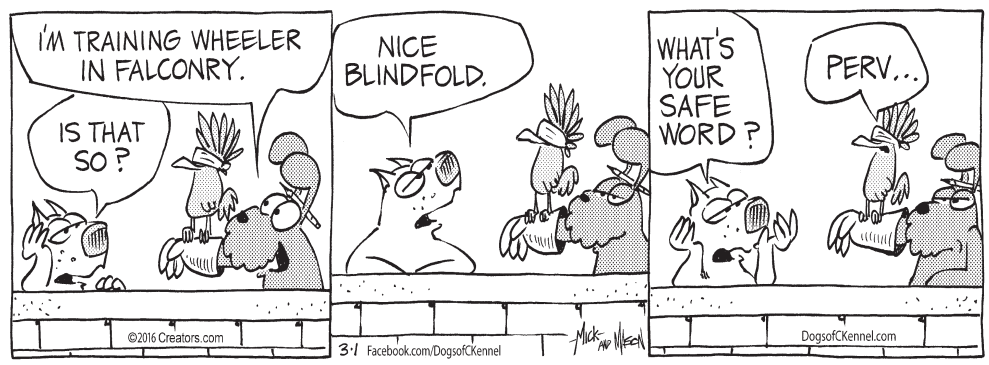
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



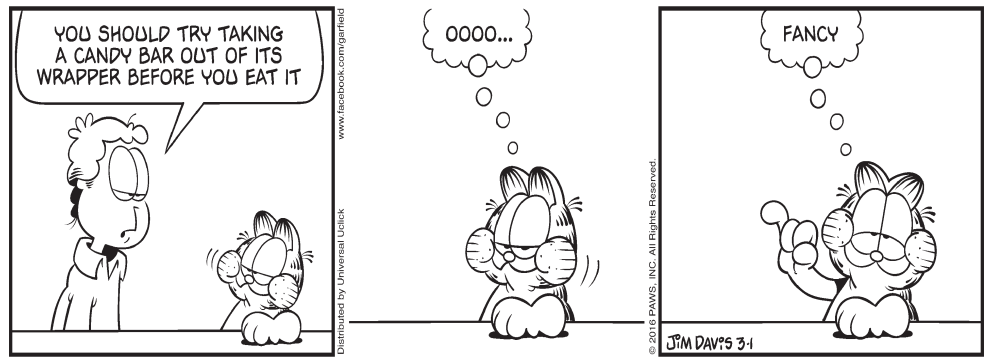
Strange Brew
By John Deering



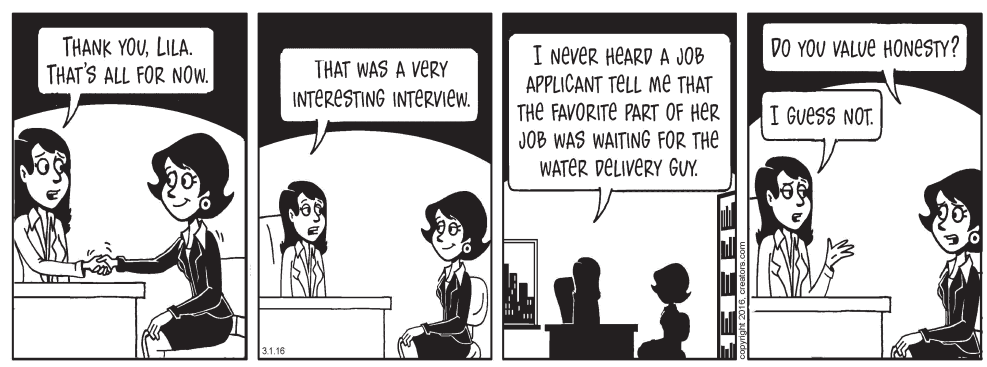
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2016008472 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/13/2016 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BLACKBIRD RAYCING. 23933 COUGAS CREEK RD., DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ANA MARIBEL GARCIA 23933 COUGAS CREEK RD. DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:ANA MARIBEL GARCIA. ANA MARIBEL GARCIA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/13/2016. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 02/09/2016, 02/16/2016, 02/23/2016, 03/01/2016.

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Year of Mercy Concert Series at St. Monica Catholic Church

Dream Orchestra

Opera Chorus of Los Angeles

Rossini
Stabat Mater

Soprano I
Shana Blake Hill

Soprano II
Monica Schober

Tenor
Hak Soo Kim

Bass
Patrick Blackwell

The Hamilton High School Choir - Music Director, **Kelci Hahn**

Górecki
Symphony No. 3 - Mov. II

Soprano - **Golda Berkman**

Verdi
La Forza del Destino Overture

Conductor - **Daniel Suk**

Friday, March 4, 2016 - 8 pm

St. Monica Catholic Church - 725 California Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403

Dream Orchestra newsletter sign-up

Tickets at: www.dreamorchestra.org or www.brownpapertickets.com
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St. Monica Catholic Church

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