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Bowling for a cause

Santa Monica Kiwanis sponsor 20th annual Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser for Westside Coalition

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

April's Bowl-a-Thon will mark the 20th anniversary of the fundraiser supporting the Westside Coalition.

The annual Bowl-a-Thon is the only fundraiser supporting the Westside Coalition, a non-profit partnership of 42 organizations providing advocacy and coordinating homeless care and services in Santa Monica.

"The Bowl-a-Thon is a fun charitable event where our entire community comes together in teams of five people to compete against their friends, coworkers, neighbors, and rival companies for awesome raffle prizes, swag, trophies, and more!," the Westside Coalition said in a press release. "Pizza and soft drinks are provided and a full bar is on site."

The Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica, who has sponsored the event several times in the past, will be the lead sponsor again this year. The president of the Santa Monica Kiwanis, Jessica Handy, said the organization is very proud to be the title sponsor of the event once again.

"We have sponsored and participated for over 10 years and it is so fun that every year our members fight to get on the team!," Handy said in a statement. "It is an event that brings our community together for a great cause that is unique to our community. With the Westside Coalition's focus on child and young adult health, crisis pre-

SEE **BOWL** PAGE 3

100 YEARS AGO:

Scandal embroils Santa Monica schools leadership

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This monthly feature uncovers Santa Monica's history by compiling notable city happenings from a century ago. The stories are found in old newspaper archives.

The local Board of Education was mired in scandal 100 years ago this month after a recently hired site administrator was granted three months of leave.

Santa Monica High School Principal A.F. Wood was reportedly heading to Indiana to be with his mother, who was ill, but critics believed he was being forced out by Superintendent Horace M. Rebok.

"Both Supt. Rebok and Mr. Wood deny that there is any friction between them," reads an archived Los Angeles Times article.

Meanwhile, a petition calling for Rebok to be replaced as superintendent garnered 450 signatures.

Rebok and Wood both reportedly attended a closed session at a special school board meeting following the public flare-up, but board members refused to disclose what took place.

"Everyone present had been admonished to say nothing about the meeting except the two principals to the peculiar situation that has arisen in school affairs here in the last few days," a Times brief reads.

Wood was scheduled to leave for Indiana the day after the private meeting. Rebok was soon re-elected for a four-year term following a 3-2 vote by the board.

SEE **HISTORY** PAGE 3









NEW LEADER

Matt Hall editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Elks Lodge #906 installed its new leadership committee on March 24. Irma Santiago was named Exalted Ruler for the year. The Elks are a patriotic, fraternal organization with a focus on supporting active duty troops and veterans. The 108 year old lodge is located at 1040 Pico Blvd. For more information, call (310) 452-3557 email smelks9061904@yahoo.com or visit www.elks906.org.

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER

HOLY THURSDAY: MARCH 24
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 pm
Adoration at the Altar of Repose following the 7:00 pm Mass until Midnight
Night Prayer at Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY: MARCH 25
Solemn Liturgy at Noon and 7:00 pm
(with Holy Communion & Veneration of the Cross)
Living Stations of the Cross at 2:30 pm

HOLY SATURDAY: MARCH 26
Easter Vigil Mass from 7:00 to 10:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY: MARCH 27
Mass in the Church
6:15 am, 7:45 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:15 pm, and 5:30 pm
Mass in the Gymnasium
9:30 am and 11:30 am
Mass in the Grand Pavilion
9:45 am, 11:30 am, and 1:15 pm

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, March 26

Lucky Diaz & The Family Jam Band

2013 Latin Grammy winners for Children's Album, Lucky Diaz & The Family Jam Band lights up the stage with a hip-shaking, head bopping dance party that PEOPLE Magazine described as "The No. 2 in coolest kids music." Santa Monica Pier, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

24th Annual Peter Rabbit Day

The Santa Monica Junior Chamber (Jaycees) will host the 24th annual Peter Rabbit Day. Peter Rabbit Day is a free community event. Families will enjoy egg hunts (separated by age groups), egg dying, sack races, face painting, balloon animals and more! Westside Family Health Center will host a healthy eating game and the Easter Bunny and local law enforcement will be making an appearance. Families are encouraged to come early as activities are on a first come, first served basis. Douglas Park, 2439 Wilshire Blvd., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Polyester Plate Lithography with Patricia Mitchell

Try this quick and inexpensive way to create non-toxic drawn and photographic prints. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/48734. Cost $5. 1450 Ocean Ave., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Natural Egg Dyeing (and eating!) with Chef Rachael Narins

Learn how to dye and decorate eggs - for Easter or any occasion - with all-natural ingredients such as beet juice, coffee, turmeric and more, letting the farmers market be our inspiration. The class will also discuss safe food handling and learn to make (and sample) a simple and delicious recipe for an open faced egg salad sandwich with crème fraiche and spring herbs. Please bring an apron; gloves will be provided. You will also need an empty egg carton or basket to transport your creations home. 1450 Ocean Ave., 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Reading Mentors @ Pico Branch

Need reading practice? Join our read-aloud program, led by volunteers. Limited space; call to register. Grades K - 5. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 4 - 4:45 p.m.

Santa Monica Conservancy Walking Tour

Come along on a Saturday morning stroll through the streets of Downtown Santa Monica and learn about the Santa Monica you never knew. Hear the stories of the dynamic men and women who shaped our town. Meet at 1436 Second St., 10 a.m., $10 general admission, $5 for Conservancy members. Reservations: Email: dwt@smconservancy.org or call (310) 496-3146.

Sunday, March 27

Library Closed

All library locations are closed.

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market

The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market is a well balanced blend of Certified California Farmers, tasty prepared and packaged foods, entertainment and children's activities as well as local retail. 2640 Main St., 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Guest House Open

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

Monday, March 28

Social Services Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Social Services Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St., 7 p.m. www.smgov.net/Departments/CCS/content.aspx?id=31958

Preschool Story Time @ Montana Branch

Story time series for 3-5 year olds. A ticket is required to attend each session. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, 15 minutes before the program, at the Information Desk. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Toddler Time at Pico Branch

Stories, songs, and rhymes for toddlers ages 18 to 35 months, accompanied by an adult. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 10 - 10:20 a.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Retreat to Set Affordable Housing Priorities

The City of Santa Monica Housing Commission will hold a Commission Retreat from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, in the Multipurpose Room of the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard. The Housing Commission, a seven-member board that advises the Santa Monica City Council on affordable housing issues, will formulate its priorities and direction for 2016 at the retreat. Members of the public are invited to attend.

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

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

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

The Pier

Pacific Park Is Now Hiring For New Employees

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier is now hiring for new employees, effective immediately.

Pacific Park looks for fun, outgoing, energetic team members to work in areas that include rides, games, retail and security, among others.

Potential employees can visit Pacific Park to submit an application in person or apply online at http://www.pacpark.com. Pacific Park is an equal opportunity employer.

Pacific Park offers seven great reasons to work at the two-acre amusement park:

Work outdoors, 40 feet over the ocean, on the beach.

Make new friends and develop job skills.

Earn extra cash while having fun.

Promotions and pay raises possible in just 60 days.

Work around school schedules.

Great perks: employee parties, movie tickets, free meals, park discounts, free ride wristbands, and discounts on-one-of-a-kind stuffed animals.

Specialized on-the-job training, teaching real-life skills.

"Spring and summer are now upon us and we are gearing up for a season of fun," says Jeff Klocke, Vice President at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier. " Pacific Park encourages individuals to join the team to help make lifetime memories for our guests."

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, LA's only admission free amusement park, offers 12 amusement rides, 14 midway games, an oceanfront food plaza and retail shops. In addition to the Pacific Wheel, the world's only solar-powered Ferris wheel, Pacific Park's signature rides include The West Coaster, a steel roller coaster that races 55 feet above the Santa Monica Bay; and Inkie's Air Lift Balloon Ride, the high-flying, family-sharing kids' ride.

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier is located at 380 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401. For additional information and hours of operation, call (310) 260-8744, visit www.pacpark.com, follow on Twitter: @pacpark and Like at Facebook: facebook.com/pacificpark

SUBMITTED BY CAMERON ANDREWS, PIER COMMUNICATIONS

HISTORY

FROM PAGE 1

Allegations were made that the superintendent was "a drinking man," according to a Times article.

PIER CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Construction of a "gigantic amusement pier" in Santa Monica began a century ago this month.

The project just south of the existing municipal pier was being orchestrated by Charles I.D. Looff, an amusement baron who had already constructed recreation complexes in San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Texas and Rhode Island.

Looff's pier was reportedly going to be 247 feet wide, bringing the total deck width to nearly 300 feet, according to a Times article. The new pier would extend 700 feet out into the ocean and be supported by creosoted piling.

The project was expected to cost roughly $400,000, or approximately $8.7 million in 2016 currency.

Meanwhile, speculation persisted about what E.P. Benjamin and B.N. Moss were planning to do with the rest of their beachfront property.

"The two developers have also made a roadbed for an extension of the Pacific Electric's air line from Sixth and Main streets," the article reads.

HIT-AND-RUN SUSPECT COMMITS SUICIDE

A Santa Monica man killed himself a hundred years ago this month after learning that the victim of his hit-and-run accident was in critical condition.

Fred White reportedly fled the scene in his car after hitting William Sambro near the intersection of Pico Boulevard and Ocean Avenue.

Sambro was "standing at the corner when the White machine suddenly swerved, felled him, and then fled down the street," a Times article reads.

White was arrested and released. But he became "despondent" after reading newspaper accounts of the incident and finding out that Sambro was gravely injured, according to the article.

White bought a revolver and took his own life behind his house in the 1700 block of 25th Street.

SHERIFF'S OFFICER DIES

Funeral services were to be held a century ago this month for a popular sheriff who died in Santa Monica.

William Durkee Reynolds passed away Feb. 29, 1916, at his daughter's home in the 1400 block of Berkeley Street, according to a Times brief.

Reynolds "was one of the most popular employees of the Sheriff's office and bore a high reputation as an officer and was greatly esteemed by his numerous friends," the brief reads.

Before joining the sheriff's office, Reynolds held positions in the Santa Monica Land and Water Company and the Southern Pacific railroad company.

LOCAL MAN DROWNS

A Santa Monica man drowned 100 years ago this month, and his friend nearly died while trying to save him.

With George O'Neil "caught in an undertow," James Hannigan "braved the waves and made an effort to bring his friend to shore," according to a Times brief.

O'Neil's body reportedly sank as lifeguards arrived. Hannigan was taken to a local hospital and resuscitated.

jeff@smdp.com

BOWL

FROM PAGE 1

vention and response, their mission aligns perfectly with ours in supporting children and families in need. The event is also a great reminder of how much fun it is to bowl!"

Event organizer, Brittney Seeliger believes that the Santa Monica community wants to make a difference and events like the Bowl-a-Thon give locals an opportunity to raise funding for the Coalition.

"In years past, the Santa Monica Fire Chief and Police Chief have participated in a friendly 'Chief's Challenge,' and this year, we are looking forward to the bowl-off between Assembleymember Richard Bloom, Congressman Ted Lieu, Senator Ben Allen, and [Los Angeles] Councilman Mike Bonin," Seeliger said. "Creating team spirit and buzz within the hotels, and bars and restaurants in the area, we will have a special evening 'hospitality' trophy, with teams from across the city and sector competing for bragging rights until next year."

According to the Westside Coalition, the homeless population on the Westside of Los Angeles is in dire need of housing, food, and health care services. "One of the biggest gaps and barriers to service for the Westside's homeless is that Los Angeles County funding for homeless services is directed primarily to Skid Row and what little money is available is divided among various non-profits with diverse missions and few resources," the press release stated.

"The Westside Coalition overcomes this barrier by collaborating and coordinating intake and services so that individuals can access the full spectrum of specialized services available through the 42 partners including integrated mental health; medical and substance abuse teams; services for youth and the elderly; veterans; victims of domestic violence; food insecurity; services for the highly disabled; and the Coordinated Entry System, which has transitioned over 400 individuals to permanent housing."

The fundraiser will take place Wednesday, April 27, from 12:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Bowlmor Santa Monica (234 Pico Blvd.).

To participate in the event, register online at www.bit.ly/bowlathonregistration by April 1.

Prizes are given to the team and individual raising the most money for the Westside Coalition at www.crowdrise.com/westsidebowlathon.

For more information, contact Britney Seeliger at (213) 663-9660 or westsidebowlathon@gmail.com

To learn more about the Westside Coalition on Housing, Hunger, and Health contact Darci Niva at darci@westsideshelter.org.

jennifer@smdp.com

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SMart Thinking

By SM a.r.t.

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Questions about LUVE

BY NOW, MOST OF YOU MAY HAVE HEARD of the LUVE initiative. LUVE stands for Land Use Voter Empowerment. It is a citywide initiative started by Residocracy to allow residents to vote on major city development issues and projects. Signatures are now being collected to place it on the November ballot. This initiative is in direct response to several recent controversial development projects that have been approved or are being processed without much resident buy-in or approval.

Naturally, in anything as complex as a citywide initiative that is designed to give residents a say in how their city is being developed, there are many details that need explanation. Understanding the initiative is critical to its success, so this week's SMa.r.t. column is a list of answers to your frequently asked questions:

DOES THE INITIATIVE PROHIBIT EVERY PROJECT HIGHER THAN TWO STORIES?

No. Projects higher than 32 feet (two or sometimes three stories) would go through a more extensive permit process, including approval by the voters. Voters could approve a project that is higher than 32 feet (the City's predominant baseline height), or they could reject it. There are important exemptions to this requirement, as detailed below.

WHAT ARE THE DETAILS OF THIS NEW EXTENDED PERMIT PROCESS?

The new permit process for projects higher than 32 feet would be called a Major Development Review Permit. Such projects would be initially reviewed the same way they are today by the Architectural Review Board, the Planning Commission and the City Council. Then, after approval by City Council, the projects would need to be approved by voters either in a special election or in the general election.

ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS TO THIS NEW PERMIT PROCESS?

Yes. Projects that would be exempt from the new Major Development Review Permit process include: 100 percent affordable housing projects of 50 units or fewer; projects that exceed the 32-foot height limit only because of state-required height and density bonuses for affordable housing; projects that include on-site affordable housing in compliance with the City's Affordable Housing Production Program; and single-family homes.

These projects would simply need to comply with the zoning code, so if a 100-percent affordable housing project (of 50 units or fewer) were designed to be higher than two stories, it would be approved as long as it complied with the height allowed in the zoning code — no voter approval needed.

WILL EVERY COMMERCIAL PROJECT ABOVE TWO STORIES REQUIRE A SPECIAL ELECTION?

Every commercial project higher than 32 feet would be submitted for voter approval at an election unless it fits the list of exemptions in the initiative. City Council would decide whether a project that requires voter approval would go to a special election, or alternatively, would be put on the next election's ballot.

WHO WOULD PAY FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION IF THE CITY COUNCIL CHOOSES THAT OPTION?

The project's developer would pay for that special election.

HOW ABOUT MARKET-RATE HOUSING PROJECTS? WOULD THOSE REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL?

Those projects would require approval only if they exceed 32 feet in height and don't fit the list of exceptions in the initiative. A project could be exempt for a number of reasons. For example, a project higher than two stories (or 32 feet) could avoid voter approval if the reason it exceeds that height is only because of height and density bonuses required by the state for affordable housing. A project could have market-rate housing that brings its basic height to 32 feet, and then be allowed extra height for inclusion of affordable housing (as specified by state law).

IS VOTER APPROVAL NEEDED JUST FOR PROJECTS THAT ARE HIGHER THAN 32 FEET?

No. Two additional items would also require approval by the voters:

1. All major amendments to various city land-use plans that control how and where development takes place. For example major changes to the LUCE (Land Use and Circulation Element), the Zoning Ordinance, the Districting Map, Neighborhood Area Plans and Specific Plans (except for an Airport Land Specific Plan allowing only park and open space use) would need to be approved by the voters. Major changes include, among others, increases to the number of housing units that could be built on a given site, increases to height limits, changes to the size of commercial projects that would be allowed, and repeals of any planning policy documents.

2. All Development Agreements would need voter approval except as noted below. A Development Agreement is a contract between the City and a developer, in which the city agrees to approve a project under certain conditions. Development Agreements are used to build taller or bigger projects than otherwise allowed by law.

WHICH DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM APPROVAL BY VOTERS?

Development Agreements that would not require voter approval include: 100-percent affordable and moderate-income housing projects; 100-percent senior housing projects; projects in the Coastal Zone that comply with the height and density limitations in the Local Coastal Program when adopted (the Local Coastal Program must be certified for these projects to be exempt); projects on sites listed in the City's Housing Element (which is part of the City's General Plan), with minimum residential percentages and maximum floor-area ratios as specified in the Housing Element. There are 77 such sites throughout the city, and they are listed in the initiative. This requirement would last until 2021, or until a new Housing Element is adopted.

Development Agreements for all other types of projects would require approval by the voters.

WOULD THE PROPOSED PROJECT AT 5TH AND BROADWAY BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN VOTER APPROVAL?

No. This 8-story, 302,000 square foot project has been already been approved by the Planning Commission, so it is likely that it would approved by the City Council before the Initiative passes. However once the initiative passes, projects such as that one would need voter approval.

WOULD THE CITY-PROPOSED 12-STORY PROJECT AT 5TH AND ARIZONA BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN VOTER APPROVAL?

Yes. This oversize project would need to be approved by the voters. In fact the initiative is designed specifically to deal with such controversial projects by giving residents final say in these over-scaled developments.

FINALLY, WHY IS THE INITIATIVE SO COMPLICATED?

The initiative is complicated because it has to be consistent with State laws, City codes, and with regulations already in place. In addition, it is designed to withstand the expected legal challenges. Each clause or exception is designed to make sure it functions in a robust and equitable way. However, it is really quite simple in its effect, which is to make the City as a whole more responsive to the wishes of its residents by giving them a direct say in choosing which large projects can invade our City.

SMa.r.t. (Santa Monica Architects for a Responsible Tomorrow) Sam Tolkin, Architect; Dan Jansenson, Architect; Mario Fonda-Bonardi, AIA, Planning Commissioner; Ron Goldman, FAIA; Thane Roberts, AIA; Bob Taylor, AIA; Phil Brock, Chair, Recreation & Parks Commission.

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SQA Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

More tennis courts needed

To the editor:

I have enjoyed your articles about tennis history in Santa Monica.

At the present time, there are lots of lessons on the courts for substantial fees. However, there is a great shortage of courts just to play on with friends.

I attended some of the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) meetings and others since then, including the airport-to-park proposal. When I mentioned that tennis courts should be included in some of the planning, the issue received no response and was quickly forgotten. Perhaps this issue could be included in one of your future articles.

Ilse Rosenstein
Santa Monica

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Farewell to Ocean Park's walking Wikipedia



Courtesy Photo

ACCOSTA: Longtime Santa Monica resident Ron Accosta died last week.

MY DEAR FRIEND, RON ACCOSTA, WHO passed away this past Wednesday at the age of 81, was an amateur historian of Ocean Park, and with good reason. He was born in 1934 and raised in a residence on Main Street that was in the back of a cleaners run by his parents. The outgoing and gregarious Ron, a 1951 graduate of Santa Monica High School, was extremely colorful. Even his birth had a "colorful" back story.

Ron's mother had assiduously saved enough money for the doctor and the hospital stay. But Ron's father, more of a bookie than operator of a cleaners, couldn't resist betting the entire $325 on the 1934 World Series. Even though the Tigers were the heavy favorites, Ron's father had come across a "sucker" from St. Louis who was so eager to bet on the Cardinals that he offered even money. Needless to say, the Cardinals won in seven games and Ron's dad, as Ricky Ricardo said to Lucy, "had a lot of splainin' to do."

The "splainin'" took place on the drive to the hospital when Ron's dad sheepishy confessed that the money was gone. But he had a plan. All they had to do was drive around until Ron's mom was actually in labor and, due to the emergency nature, no hospital could turn them down. As Ron would joke later, "My parents not only shouldn't have gotten married, they shouldn't have had a second date." And yet, despite their volatile marriage, somehow Ron turned out to be one of the friendliest and funniest people I've ever known and was also a gifted storyteller.

Because Ron's dad was a bookie, often Ron's bedroom would be used to broadcast the horse races. In a scene reminiscent of "The Sting," Ron, age 5, might be playing with his toys as an announcer with a microphone read from a teletype, "And the horses are at the starting gate," and would proceed to call the race. With a "Closed for Lunch" sign in the window, the front room was converted into a parlor. A dozen or more chairs were set up for gambler Main Street merchants to listen to the race results shouting their approval or disappointment. Obviously, Ron couldn't ever have playmates visit, so at this very young age he walked the neighborhood, a trait that would last a lifetime.

Daily, Ron would visit Main Street merchants and became the street mascot. He would be invited in for food, maybe an ice cream cone and some chat. As a result, he developed extraordinary people and conversational skills for a lad his age and a curiosity about life (and ice cream) that never left him. How he and I became friends was very typical Ron.

One day I received a phone call from a reader (Ron) who, very politely, wanted to offer me insight into Ocean Park I might use in my columns. An ardent walker, he suggested we go for one and talk at 7 a.m. A night owl myself, right away this wasn't going to work. But Ron was persistent, albeit charmingly so, that I couldn't say no. (Not that I didn't try.)

As I could barely keep up on our various walks in Ocean Park, the boardwalk and the Pier, Ron would narrate events and people in the history of the area that would leave me spellbound. He identified brothels, gambling parlors, homes of movie stars and gangsters and described Santa Monica of the 1930s and 1940s like a Raymond Chandler novel.

Ron was so adept at weaving historic tales, he would lead bus tours of Santa Monica and Venice. Once Ron charmed me into spending days editing his promotional video and rewriting copy for a re-shoot. I didn't want to, but it was impossible to say no to Ron and I'm so glad now that I did.

Ron leaves behind three adult children, Steven, Danny and Suzanne, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and hordes of friends. At Ron's request, on Aug. 29, 2013, I wrote a column entitled "Ocean Park Indians Ride Again" about a reunion he organized of 20 or more of Ron's grade school friends (The O.P. Indians) with whom he stayed in touch all his life. Ron was also a favorite of a Facebook group "Venice, Ocean Park and Santa Monica," on which, at the news of his passing, there was an outpouring of sadness and love.

Jim Harris, deputy director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, emailed me the following: "Ron volunteered as a historical tour docent for the Pier. He could seduce an audience with his wonderful stories with an amazingly youthful expression in his eyes. I miss him already." Wiping a tear from my eye, I say amen.

Search "Accosta Venice tour" on YouTube to see Ron's video. **JACK NEWORTH** is at jnsmdp@aol.com.

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January 2016

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FILM REVIEW
WHO'S DRIVING DOUG

Not Rated
99 Minutes

Spotlight film at the Santa Monica Film Festival at ArcLight Santa Monica, March 27 at 6 p.m.

One of the exceptional qualities about the film "Who's Driving Doug" is the skillful handling of camera angles, lighting and moving shots. I was not surprised to learn that the director, David Michael Conley, began his career as a cinematographer on a number of films. However, this is his first venture into directing a feature-length film. He first embraced one of the most important tasks of the director, that of "head of human resources," and assembled a great team. His cinematographer, Tom Clancey, has an impressive resume including "Fast & Furious" and "Fast Five." His composer, Chad Rehmann, received the 2011 ASCAP Foundation David Rose Centennial Award and has done excellent work in both film and TV. Editor Bob Mori also has a respectable resume, as does production designer Alexandra Regazzoni. All of them brought a highly professional level of work to "Who's Driving Doug." Michael Carnick wrote this story of handsome wheelchair-bound college student Doug, who is trying to find his identity surrounded by fellow undergrads whom he classifies in his own mind as "normal."

Conley has also chosen his actors with skill. RJ Mitte, who plays Doug, had already portrayed a character with cerebral palsy in "Breaking Bad." He himself has a mild case of that condition so he is able to channel the physical attributes realistically. Within the first few minutes of the film, we come to view Doug as the "normal" character. Ray William Johnson and Paloma Kwiatkowski play the friends that accompany Doug on adventure of his first trip to Las Vegas. Daphne Zuniga is Doug's long-suffering mom who has become fixated on the memory of her late husband. Shanti Lowry is exceptional in a cameo as a high-end Las Vegas hooker.

Zuniga does well with a difficult role. Her character seems to be drawn from the mind of the son, so she's more of a creation of how he sees her than a complete personality. The performance that really stands out is that of Johnson as Doug's new driver, Scott, a laid-back yet intelligent underachiever who sees things as they are even when the sight is not so pretty. Johnson exposes both the flaws and the heroics of his character.

This was somewhat of a biographical work for writer Carnick, who has a rare physical disability that confines him to a wheelchair. While still an undergrad student at UC San Diego, Carnick won first place at the 50th anniversary of the Samuel Goldwyn Writing Awards. Carnick and Conley had previously teamed to direct a short film that Carnick had written, so they knew they could be good partners on a feature.

"Who's Driving Doug" is a well-crafted film on all points, with memorable characters. It brings you into Doug's world so that you can see it from his eyes, and it's just the same mix of tragedy, drama and joy as it would be from anyone else's eyes.

KATHRYN WHITNEY BOOLE has spent most of her life in the entertainment industry which is the backdrop for remarkable adventures with extraordinary people. She is a Talent Manager with Studio Talent Group in Santa Monica. Reach her at kboole@gmail.com. For previously published reviews, see https://kwboole.wordpress.com.

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EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT:
Patti Mehring,
Juan Cabrillo
Elementary School

The Educator Spotlight recognizes those who contribute to the education of local students. Educators were chosen by consulting with site PTA, student government organizations and staff. Educators were chosen for their reputations with students, staff, parents and the community.



MEHRING

Patti Mehring's mother was a teacher, and Mehring "spent many happy hours in her classroom, helping out and learning from her incredible example." Mehring has been teaching off and on since college, but she took about 10 years off to raise her four children. In that time they spent a good deal of time moving around. They've lived in Venice, West L.A., Irvine and overseas in Germany for four years. She and her children have experienced private, public and German schools.

However, she feels "the schools in Malibu provided them a wonderful environment and education, as well as an outstanding preparation for college; all four have graduated."

Mehring has been teaching for about 18 years in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in many capacities: substituting, job-sharing and working in special education in grades K-12. For the last 10 years she's been at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School as part of the K-1 team. She's gained much inspiration and experience from an "excellent role model" with whom she had the "good fortune of job-sharing for five years at Juan Cabrillo: Barbara Morgan."

MEHRING SPEAKS:

"What I love most about teaching is creating an atmosphere in my classroom where my students can't help but learn; a community where they feel safe, respected, and challenged. One of the most exciting things about teaching this age is when they connect the skills needed to begin reading.

"I can't think of anywhere else I'd rather teach. I love working in a community that values their children's education so much, and with a staff that is incredibly talented, experienced, and just fun to work with.

"My daughter is now carrying on in this noble profession and is presently in her first year of teaching. She recently gave me the book "The Element" by Ken Robinson to read. It's filled with wonderful quotes. One is, 'Great teachers have always understood that the real role is not to teach subjects but to teach students.' What I want most for my students to learn is to be good people and to help others."

The Santa Monica Junior Chamber
is excited to host the 24th Annual
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Free Community Event | Family Fun | Egg Hunts
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Santa Monica Junior Chamber

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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **59.2°**

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Small, steep angled NW swell mix. Small SSW swell.

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small, steep angled NW swell mix drops. Minor SW swell.

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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 MARCH 21 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:50 A.M.

Officers responded to the 1100 block of the beach regarding a camp fire. The fire was close to a structure and caused moderate damage to a retaining wall. Upon officers' arrival, the suspect became agitated, walking away and knocking several city-owned trash cans. The suspect made statements about setting the fire deliberately.
Jonathan Curtis Stanley, 31, homeless, was booked on felony arson charges. Bail was set at $50,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 333 calls for service on March 24.

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

Fight 2nd/Arizona 12:44 a.m.
Missing person 300 block of Olympic 12:47 a.m.
Petty theft 400 block of Santa Monica 1:18 a.m.
Petty theft 2000 block of Olympic 1:39 a.m.
Speeding 200 block of Montana 2:58 a.m.
Overdose 2500 block of Pico 4:11 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1400 block of Broadway 4:57 a.m.
Petty theft 2400 block of Ocean Front Walk 6:24 a.m.
Petty theft 1200 block of 2nd 7:10 a.m.
Petty theft 2400 block of the Beach 7:40 a.m.
Battery Lincoln/Washington 7:50 a.m.
Fight Ocean/California 7:53 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 800 block of 26th 8:27 a.m.
Traffic collision 16th/Ocean Park 8:33 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1700 block of Ocean 9:02 a.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of Lincoln 9:24 a.m.
Traffic hazard Cloverfield/Olympic 9:34 a.m.
Theft of recyclables 1500 block of Grant 9:59 a.m.
Bike theft 2500 block of Main 10:14 a.m.
Petty theft 1300 block of Wilshire 10:20 a.m.
Hit and run 1500 block of 2nd 10:26 a.m.
Traffic collision Franklin/Wilshire 10:29 a.m.
Grand theft 1300 block of 20th 10:36 a.m.
Petty theft 2000 block of Santa Monica 11:22 a.m.
Hit and run 500 block of Santa Monica 11:24 a.m.
Battery 5th/Broadway 11:27 a.m.
Petty theft 1900 block of Pico 11:39 a.m.
Speeding 14th/Colorado 11:59 a.m.
Identity theft 800 block of 20th 12 p.m.
Identity theft 1100 block of 12th 12:25 p.m.
Traffic collision Yale/Santa Monica 1:05 p.m.
Panhandling 900 block of Colorado 1:11 p.m.
Domestic violence 1400 block of Wilshire 1:32 p.m.
Animal related incident 1200 block of 23rd 1:44 p.m.
Animal related incident Lincoln/Ashland 1:45 p.m.
Lewd activity 4th/Broadway 1:45 p.m.
Petty theft 1200 block of 22nd 2:18 p.m.
Grand theft auto 2900 block of Delaware 2:27 p.m.
Petty theft 2200 block of Colorado 3 p.m.
Identity theft 300 block of Olympic 3:27 p.m.
Identity theft 800 block of 20th 4:01 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block of 4th 4:21 p.m.
Burglary 400 block of Santa Monica 5:16 p.m.
Person down 2200 block of Pico 5:30 p.m.
Burglary 2000 block of 6th 5:33 p.m.
Traffic collision 11th/Santa Monica 5:40 p.m.
Fight 17th/Michigan 6:35 p.m.
Panhandling 500 block of Wilshire 6:40 p.m.
Petty theft 2900 block of 31st 6:46 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 1400 block of 2nd 6:51 p.m.
Assault 2nd/Colorado 7:10 p.m.
Traffic collision 2nd/Marine 7:30 p.m.
Petty theft 800 block of 9th 9 p.m.
Traffic collision of Lincoln/Ocean Park 9:02 p.m.
Battery 1500 block of Ocean 9:09 p.m.
Person down 1300 block of 4th 9:20 p.m.
Petty theft 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom 9:28 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 55 calls for service on March 24.

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

EMS 10th/Pico 12:04 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of Colorado 12:19 a.m.
EMS 1200 block of 4th 12:40 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 17th 1:07 a.m.
High rise structure fire 100 block of Wilshire 2:06 a.m.
EMS 2300 block of 16th 3:01 a.m.
EMS 2000 block of Euclid 3:06 a.m.
EMS 600 block of Wilshire 4:02 a.m.
EMS Lincoln/Santa Monica 4:08 a.m.
EMS 2500 block of Pico 4:11 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block of Ocean 4:27 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2900 block of Nebraska 8:21 a.m.
EMS 16th/Ocean Park 8:32 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 1200 block of 24th 8:40 a.m.
EMS 2600 block of Pico 9:01 a.m.
EMS 1600 block of Ocean Park 9:04 a.m.
EMS 2000 block of 20th 9:41 a.m.
EMS 1700 block of Lincoln 10:07 a.m.
EMS Centinela/Arizona 12:05 p.m.
EMS 2600 block of Ocean Front Walk 12:31 p.m.
EMS 300 block of Wilshire 12:48 p.m.
Elevator rescue 1900 block of Pico 12:54 p.m.
EMS 400 block of 24th 1:21 p.m.
EMS Yale/Santa Monica 1:31 p.m.
Injuries from assault 2200 block of Pico 1:36 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of Ocean Park 2:18 p.m.
EMS 2000 block of Santa Monica 2:25 p.m.
EMS 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 3:46 p.m.
EMS 800 block of 2nd 4:29 p.m.
EMS Cloverfield/Broadway 4:50 p.m.
EMS 14th/Pico 5:08 p.m.
Request fire 14th/Pico 5:09 p.m.
EMS 2200 block of Pico 5:31 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of 2nd 5:32 p.m.
EMS 1200 block of 14th 5:38 p.m.
EMS 2000 block of Santa Monica 5:41 p.m.
EMS 1200 block of 14th 5:44: p.m.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Brewery sights
5 Lengthy account
9 Army doc
10 Moves clumsily
12 Old market
13 "Superman" star
14 Rhine siren
16 Cruise setting
17 Cal. abbr.
18 Spring quest
20 Powerful
22 Makes a choice
23 Liner parts
25 Singer Cruz
28 Spring holiday
32 Chinese menu item
34 Boxing great
35 Palindromic nickname
36 Llamas' kin
38 Market buy
40 Ham it up
41 Spine-tingling
42 City of southern France
43 Penn or Connery
44 Close by

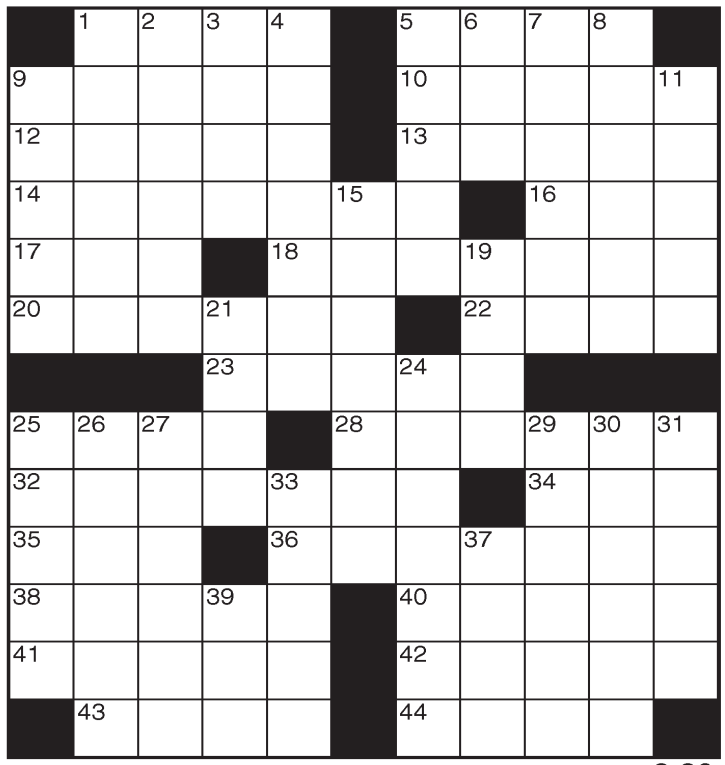
DOWN

1 Chillax
2 Devotee
3 Makeshift swing
4 Triangle type
5 Parsley serving
6 Pub pint
7 Increases
8 Arrival
9 Soda fountain treats
11 Bus units
15 Ovum
19 "Bonanza" son
21 Freshener target
24 "House" actor
25 High-strung
26 Playing marbles
27 Disregard
29 City near Mt. Rainier
30 Click beetle
31 Stands
33 Like the old bucket
37 Parisian girlfriend
39 Spying org.

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

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803



3-26

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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

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

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

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 3/23
5 8 15 22 49
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 101M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/22
6 19 34 38 70
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 35M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/23
5 23 38 43 47
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 9M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/24
9 14 19 20 33

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/24
MIDDAY: 3 3 2
Draw Date: 3/24
EVENING: 4 0 2

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 3/24
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:47.37

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!

vernissage 1. a reception at a gallery for an artist whose show is about to open to the public. 2. Also called varnishing day. the day before the opening of an art exhibition traditionally reserved for the artist to varnish the paintings.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1917 – World War I: First Battle of Gaza – British troops are halted after 17,000 Turks block their advance.

1922 – The German Social Democratic Party is founded in Poland.

1931 – Swissair is founded as the national airline of Switzerland.

1931 – Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union is founded in Vietnam.

1939 – Spanish Civil War: Nationalists begin their final offensive of the war.

1942 – World War II: The first female prisoners arrive at Auschwitz concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

1945 – World War II: The Battle of Iwo Jima ends as the island is officially secured by American forces.

1954 – Nuclear weapons testing: The Romeo shot of Operation Castle is detonated at Bikini Atoll. Yield: 11 megatons.

1958 – The United States Army launches Explorer 3.

1958 – The African Regroupment Party is launched at a meeting in Paris.

1971 – East Pakistan declares its independence from Pakistan to form the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Liberation War begins.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In a suburb of Newcastle, Australia, in February, workers using a crane extracted a 1-ton snake-like mass of sewage (mostly "wet wipes" unwisely flushed down toilets) from an underground pipe – with the gummed-together sludge reaching a height of more than 20 feet when the crane finally yanked the whole thing up. Said a representative of the water company, "(Y)ou'll flush the toilet, and the wet wipe will disappear," and you think (wrongly) it's therefore "flushable."

■ Making Canada Great Again: Syrian refugees arriving at the airport in Vancouver, British Columbia, have been warmly greeted personally in a video by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, but in March some were inadvertently booked into the same hotel that was hosting the fifth annual VancouFur convention of "furries." Anthropomorphic, full-suited tigers, dogs, bears, foxes, etc., roamed the hotel, leading London's The Independent to report that the child refugees loved every minute, playing with the furries and posing for pictures.

■ In rural China, the black market for female corpses – even already-buried corpses -- thrives still (as mentioned years ago by News of the Weird). According to legend dating back 30 centuries, men who die as bachelors will spend eternity alone, and thus their families arrange "ghost weddings," in which a corpse (presumably freshly buried) is stolen and relocated alongside the man. (Perhaps more important to the surviving family is the other part of the legend -- that any bachelor corpse will "return" to haunt the family.)

Order in tonight, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You'll discover how assertive a loved one can be. You won't mind the direction this person is pushing you toward. Be a little less assertive, and you will enjoy the process even more. Just go with the moment, and don't worry so much. Tonight: Tap into your intuition.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ What others offer as suggestions might seem enticing, yet could be a little off the wall. You'll decide to join in, as you're able to imagine how exciting these adventures will be. Don't delude yourself about someone's reactions to your efforts. Tonight: Add some naughtiness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have a lot to get done, and quickly at that. Your ability to get past a problem emerges when too many invitations tempt you. Prioritize, yet recognize the need to let go. You come from a caring place. Others will understand if you can't make it. Tonight: Invite a friend over.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Allow more caring and playfulness in. You even might feel as if you are a kid again. Letting your inner child out to rejoice and enjoy the moment will be more important than you realize. Tonight: Only with someone you love, out doing something you love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Stay close to home and relax. You might want to get your place ready to do some entertaining. You'll want to invite over a friend or two to keep you company. Your sweetie or a dear loved one will share a wonderful suggestion for what you can do. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by all the ground you must cover. You are more than capable of doing it -- you just have to make a point of diving right in. Recognize someone else's great idea or project for what it is. Go along with the concept. Tonight: Visit with friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Curb a tendency to go overboard. Some of you might try too hard to please someone else. Weigh the long-term ramifications of your present actions. Your imagination might help you to see what the possible outcomes are. Tonight: Treat a favorite person to dinner and drinks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You are fiery and full of ideas. A friend or loved one could change his or her tune, and might retract an invitation. Do not stand on ceremony, if you can help it. Playing a control game right now could disrupt a potentially happy moment. Tonight: Just be yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might feel as if you need to liven up your plans. Be honest with yourself, and know that you have pushed yourself very hard as of late. You might need some time off from your hectic social schedule. Play it low-key and close to home. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You will want to reach out to a loved one or a dear friend who lives at a distance, as you rarely get to see this person. The two of you often get involved in what-if situations and share some fun gossip. Don't you think it is time for a visit? Tonight: Only what makes you happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Pressure from an older person could become overwhelming. As a result, you might find it difficult to even visit with him or her. A dear friend or relative will pitch in and make the situation a lot easier. Let this person know how appreciative you are. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to a loved one at a distance. You could be so out of sorts that you hardly know what to say or do next. Take your leave, and head home to take a nap. Choose to follow a different path if it will help you to chill out. Tonight: Enjoy every moment.

Weekend Edition, March 26-27, 2016

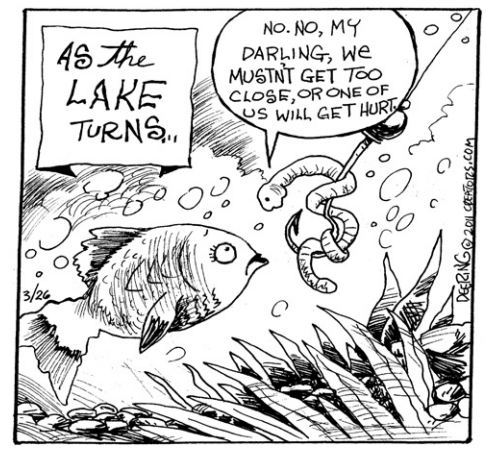
This year you often make an effort to get past issues through one-on-one relating. Detachment will be a goal that you pursue in order to make your life work better. Learn to go with the flow, and accept that changes will occur; you can't stop progress from happening. If you are single, allow yourself to get to know a suitor better before getting too involved. You most likely will be drawn to a relaxed person. If you are attached, you and your sweetie enjoy each other much more when it is just the two of you. Follow your instincts regarding what you can do to please your significant other. SCORPIO understands you very well.

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

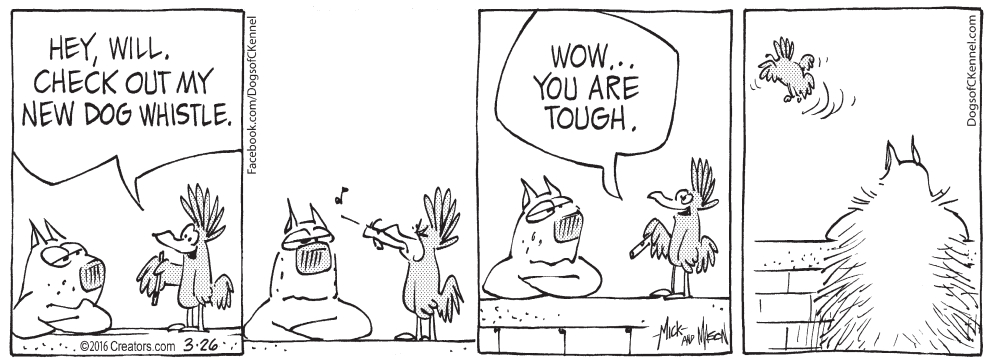
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



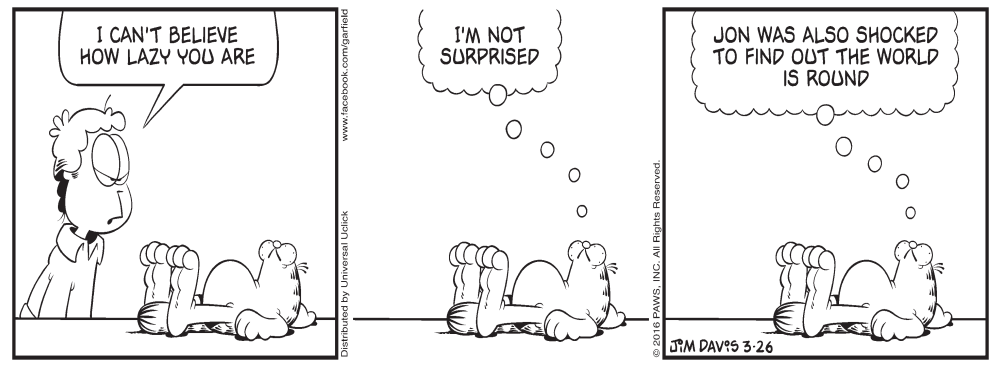
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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LUVE Ballot Initiative Petition signature gathering campaign

You, as a Santa Monica resident, hold the power to stop the overdevelopment of Santa Monica through the LUVE ballot initiative.

While our elected officials have chosen to ignore you as a resident, Residocracy has not. We listened to our Community Network of Residents and heard you when you said that your **number one concern is traffic and the overdevelopment of Santa Monica**. And as a result, Residocracy is launching the LUVE Ballot Initiative Petition to empower residents to take control of major land use decisions in Santa Monica.

We will need to gather **6,500+ signatures** to qualify the LUVE Initiative for the **November 2016 Ballot** so that residents can finally have a say as to how much development is right for Santa Monica.

LUVE Ballot Petitions will be available for pick up for our community network of residents to circulate and gather signatures. Together we can take back control of our City.

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