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Santa Monica Daily Press



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Paddleboard fundraiser promotes clean water



Benjamin B. Morris

PADDLEBOARD: The Los Angeles Waterkeeper will hold a fundraiser on April 16.

BY **MATTHEW HALL**
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica based Los Angeles Waterkeeper will hold their 5th annual paddleboard race fundraiser, Stand Up For Clean Water, on April 16 and organizers want locals to know there are ample opportunities to sup-



port the cause, both in and out of the water.

The event is actually several races for paddlers of all ages and abilities. There will be a two-mile "fun" race, two-mile relay race, five-mile competitive race and kids stand-up paddle races. Tickets for racers are \$50.

Locals that want to enjoy the festivities from dry land can purchase a spectator ticket for \$25 and enjoy the post-race award ceremony and beach party.

This year's race will take place on the Point Dume State Marine Reserve, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) that is home to aquatic species such as sheephead and rockfish and is along the migratory path for humpback whales.

"What makes this event so special is that in addition to it being a celebration of our beautiful coastline, the race complements

SEE WATER PAGE 6

Suit against SMMUSD can go to trial

BY **MATTHEW HALL**
Daily Press Editor

A lawsuit over the safety of Malibu classrooms can proceed to trial following a March 28 decision by a judge.

The suit is part of the ongoing debate regarding toxic substances in Malibu schools. While the district contends classrooms are safe and have been sufficiently cleaned, a coalition of parents have argued the cleanup efforts are substandard and therefore a danger to parents, staff and students.

The issue of polychlorinated biphenyls or PCB's emerged in 2013. The substance has been used as a common building material for decades but was later banned after

being found to be unsafe. When tests showed PCBs in Malibu schools, the district implemented remediation programs that SMMUSD has consistently described as in keeping with federal standards. However, community advocates have demanded more robust and expanded cleanup efforts. Those advocates sued the district over PCB removal and the district responded with a request for "summary judgment" that would have effectively dismissed the case.

District Judge Percy Anderson ruled against the district and said the case can proceed.

"In reviewing the admissible evidence, and drawing reasonable

SEE PCB PAGE 7

Average snowpack could prolong California water conservation

RICH PEDRONCELLI & SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

A nearly average spring snowpack in the Sierra Nevada will likely prolong tough water conservation measures in drought-stricken California - although the restrictions could be loosened in some areas after an El Nino storm system drenched the northern half of the state this winter, officials said Wednesday.

"The message is still very strong: Conservation measures are still going to be important," Frank Gehrke, chief of the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program, said after he trudged through the snow to manually measure the snowpack at nearly 95 percent of normal.

A year ago, Gov. Jerry Brown

stood on the same spot - then a dusty patch of ground with no snow - to announce that the dire drought required residents to cut back water use by 25 percent.

Californians are now under orders to use at least 20 percent less water. To comply, many have let lawns turn brown, flushed toilets less often and taken other measures aimed at saving water.

Northern California has seen the most rain and snow this winter, lifting its three largest reservoirs to above-normal levels. Southern California, meanwhile, saw relatively little precipitation leaving most of its reservoirs low and threatening to further deplete dwindling groundwater.

George Kostyrko of the State Water Board said officials will con-

SEE SNOW PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, March 31

Barbara Williams discusses and signs 'The Hope in Leaving'

Barbara Williams is a Canadian musician and renowned film, television, and stage actress. Early in her acting career, Williams starred in the blockbuster films "Thief of Hearts" and "City of Hope." She won an Emmy Award for Best Actress for the 1996 telepic "Mother Trucker." As a musician, she has performed in the United States and Canada, often in concerts devoted to peace, workers' rights, and the environment. Discussion and signing at DIESEL Bookstore. 225 6th St., 6:30 p.m.

SMC Literary Talks: 'The Sympathizer: A Reading by Viet Thanh Nguyen'

Viet Thanh Nguyen - associate professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, author of "Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America," and co-editor of "Transpacific Studies: Framing an Emerging Field" - will read selections from "The Sympathizer," his critically acclaimed first novel. 1900 Pico Blvd., Humanities & Social Science Lecture Hall 165, 11:15 a.m.

California Yacht Club Yachting Luncheon

The U.S. Coast Guard will be the focus of this luncheon. The USCG Halibut will be at the CYC Guest Dock and open for an on-board visitation by luncheon attendees. Open to all who enjoy yachting and adventure, as a public service of CYC. Cost is \$20, which includes the luncheon, tax, service and parking. Reservations are appreciated at, reservations@calyachtclub.net. California Yacht Club, 4469 Admiralty Way, 12:20 p.m.

Spring Break Escape @ Main! Lego Block Party

Use your creativity to make something remarkable. They provide the Legos, you provide the fun! Ages 4 and up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Cesar Chavez: A Tribute

Celebrate the life of Cesar Chavez with music performance, a gallery, screening of the newly released film Cesar Chavez, and crafts. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 1

Yoga All levels. Drop in for \$15/class or sign up for a series of 4 for \$50, parking included. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 - 10 a.m.

Guest House 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.

Peepsapaloosa Design a Peeps diorama based on a book for a chance to win a prize! Ages 4 and Up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 - 2:45 p.m.

'Mrs. Warren's Profession'

'Mrs. Warren's Profession' performances are from Friday, April 1 to Sunday, May 8, 2016, on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Ticket Prices are: Adults \$20, Seniors and Students \$18. For more information or to order tickets, please call (310) 454-1970 or visit, www.theatrepalisades.org. Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

Saturday, April 2

Baby Sensory & Play A special story time with activities for babies to explore, interact, and discover. For pre-walking infants. Limited space, tickets will be handed out starting at 10:00 a.m. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Toddler Dance Party @ Main

A fun and energetic dance for toddlers and preschoolers! Put your whole body in and shake it all about to get your Saturday off on the right foot! Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 - 11:45 a.m.

Santa Monica Reads Lecture: The Beginnings of the End: Post-Apocalyptic Fiction

Literature professors Robert Latham (UC Riverside) and Jeffrey Hicks (Cal State LA) discuss the pioneers of post-apocalyptic and dystopian fiction. Seating is first come, first served. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Reading Mentors @ Pico Branch

Need reading practice? Join the 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.

Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

Mauricio Machuca

[Send comments to editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

Setting up a comic book convention in your store

WHEN WE FIRST TOOK CONTROL OF THE store back in late 2014, we knew we had a monumental task ahead of us. Our sheer square footage was a daunting task, alone. 4,000 square feet, a loft and a 10 spot parking lot - there was an awful lot to clean up and renovate.

As we picked through nearly 40 years worth of accumulated comic book related paraphernalia, we would find a lot of random stuff. Original art, expensive single issues, posters, flyers, etc. One piece that really stood out was a poster from the 80's extolling the now-defunct Santa Monica Graphic Arts Festival. A beautiful black and white print of Marvel superheroes.

It fell completely in line with what we wanted to do the moment we took over the shop. We knew we had the space to host a full fledged comic convention within our walls. We cleared out space, refurbished our stage and bought professional audio equip-

ment with an end goal that we would host "Hi De Ho Comic Con."

The first acknowledgement of such came from a premature post on our Facebook page where we simply stated "Hi De Ho Comic Con - Coming 2015". Well, we ended up being a year late on our timeline, but it's for the better. Instead of having the event on a random weekend, we will instead be hosting it during Free Comic Book Day.

Free Comic Book Day is a national annual event that takes place on the first Saturday in May. Publishers provide us with comics for cents on the dollar and we give them out for free to the excited masses. What better day to offer people the chance to come to their first comic book convention? And for free.

Now, with the drive and experience, we have brought together over a dozen publishers and vendors to join us within our walls, Stranger Comics, Aftershock Comics and

Michael Bay's 451 Media, to name a few. Our stage will see music, panels, Q&As and a surprise or two.

We're still over a month out, but the sheer amount of work still has us moving a million miles a minute. There's a lot to coordinate when the number of your guests will be higher than all total employees. And that's before we even get to all of the free comic books.

A great deal of these articles have relied on us answering a single question: Why? The cold-hearted answer is to be successful financially, but that's not the one we would give. Certainly, if you're running a business without having financial success in mind, you won't have to worry about it for long because you'd be closing your doors in a relatively short time.

The real answer is that there is no better time to introduce people from all walks of life to comic books. Besides the multitude of

billion-dollar comic book films, independent comics cover topics that people from all backgrounds can find commonality with. We take pride in pleasing the converted, but there's a sense of satisfaction in getting someone interested into an entire source of media that they have never considered before.

With that, I invite you, especially those who have never come to our store or read a comic book, to come to the 1st Annual Hi De Ho Comic Con on May 7th, 2016, Free Comic Book Day. Let us put some free books in your hands, stay a while and talk with publishers both large and small. Maybe even enjoy a taco with one of the owners, we'd love to point you in the right direction.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Ynez Valley vintners come to Santa Monica to help Los Angeles homeless

The Giving Spirit, an all-volunteer non-profit organization that serves the homeless in Los Angeles, is hosting a Central California Coast Wine Tasting fundraiser on Thursday April 7 from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Audi of Santa Monica, 1020 Santa Monica Blvd. The evening brings some of the finest San Ynez Valley vintners to Santa Monica for an evening of good cheer for a great cause. 100 percent of the proceeds go to The Giving Spirit, to improve the lives of

LA's homeless citizens.

Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com

The Giving Spirit was founded in 1999 on the simplest of ideas - meet the homeless face-to-face, where they live, and provide them with life sustaining items and a human interaction that may change their lives. Twice yearly the Giving Spirit assembles and distributes duffle bags containing over 60 items for daily survival, such as socks, blankets, food, and hygiene products, to people living on the streets. Since 1999 TGS has raised over \$2.5 million in financial support and more in in-kind donations; enough to serve almost 38,000 homeless men, and women and children with the help of almost 12,000 committed

and caring volunteers.

- SUBMITTED BY JACQUIE MCLEAN-JONES, MEDIA RELATIONS

Venice

Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument fundraiser

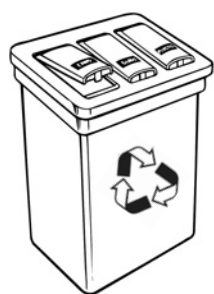
There will be a Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument fundraiser at Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice, California on Wednesday, April 27. Organizers invite you to pre-order bento so they know how many to prepare for lunch. All profits will be donated by Hama Sushi Restaurant to VJAMM. In addition, 10 per-

cent of all dinner sales will be donated to VJAMM, no flyer necessary.

Distribution of the pre-ordered bento will begin at 12 p.m. and end at 2 p.m. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and goes through 10:30 p.m.

Pre-orders for lunch bento (\$20 each) may be emailed to phyllishayashibara@gmail.com, and checks made payable to Hama Sushi may be USPS mailed to Phyllis Hayashibara at 3361 McLaughlin Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066. Dinner reservations may be made directly by calling Hama Sushi at (310) 396-8783. Visit www.venicejamm.org for more information about the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

- SUBMITTED BY PHYLLIS HAYASHIBARA

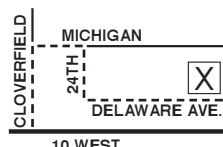


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OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 10,000 on weekdays and 11,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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OpinionCommentary

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Serious theatre and murderous mayhem

FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS LISA

Dwan has blackened the bottom half of her face, put on a blindfold, put in earplugs and manacled her wrists to a piece of wood in order to remain still and sensory deprived. Placing her mouth through a hole so that only her lips, teeth and tongue are visible from the front, she performs a 9-minute feat of verbal legerdemain by Samuel Beckett called "Not I."

Dwan calls it "the soundscape of consciousness," and it's the first of three late-career Beckett plays, including "Footfalls" and "Rockaby," that she's combined into her "Beckett Trilogy."

She's been performing "Not I" since 2005, and touring her Trilogy around the world, but when it arrives on April 7, The Broad Stage will be the next-to-the-last-stand for this production. She's ending this physically challenging and injurious run permanently at its final stop in New York.

Why Beckett? While to some his work may be intimidating or incomprehensible Dwan says, "I grew up in Ireland, so Beckett's language and landscape were not foreign to me. I knew the poetry and prisms he was seeing through, I've heard those voices, I know those nuns, and the old crones who walk the roads. So I didn't find him this intellectual mountain, I found him in my world and in my streets."

Except for her bad knees, Dwan might have been a ballet dancer; she wound up acting instead in film and TV, appearing in Irish soap operas and fantasy shows. But she wasn't satisfied.

"As a woman all you hear is 'no you can't.' As a blond haired, blue-eyed performer, people would say, 'The thing about you, Lisa is you don't look how you sound, you need to be this kind of actress,' and you try to squeeze yourself into other people's idea of your identity. Women's roles usually consist of the sidekick, the bitch or the bimbo, and aren't much more nuanced than that."

As she began exploring dramatic literature for better roles, she discovered both the Greek classics and Beckett. And while she doesn't consider him a "flag-waving feminist," she says that, "As the greatest innovator in 20th century theatre, Beckett probably created the most extraordinary roles ever written for women."

About "Not I" she says, "This work is so accessible and honest, I've performed it in Hong Kong, Paris and Germany in English without translation and people 'get' it. These are universal truths that Beckett is telling us. They're not just for lofty intellectual institutions or high art."

Dwan tells a funny story. "When I first started rehearsing 'Not I,' I was doing it at Battersea Park (outside London) as a memory technique, to feel sensory connections to real things like grass and soil. I remember one time finishing the monologue, taking off the blindfold I saw that I'd collected an audience of park bench drunks. They were total-

ly captivated by this piece that seemed to be a reflection of what they were thinking and what their cans of cider were silencing."

And, she said, she rehearsed it at home in front of her "hyperactive 9-year old niece, who watched me with her mouth wide open, didn't flinch a muscle and when her mother asked her what she thought it was about, she said 'everything in the world.'"

Asking what a Beckett play is "about" may not be the right approach. "His themes cover what it is to be a sentient being, to be in despair, why are we still talking and moving about. He's not telling us a story; he's simply putting our minds up there on stage, with all its wounds and dreams."

The late actress Billie Whitelaw, who had no formal acting training, was Beckett's preferred performer, and he directed her in the play's 1973 U.K. premiere. At first Dwan chose not to reach out to Whitelaw. "I knew if I met her right away, I would be intimidated and I didn't want to mimic her. I wanted to find my own access point into this piece."

But after hearing about Dwan's performance, the BBC put the two together for an "In Conversation" program. After that, says Dwan, Whitelaw helped coach her performance. She even shared Beckett's notes with her.

"Billie was an immediate, guttural kind of actress. When I first began to perform 'Not I' I was doing it in an artificial monotone, because I thought Beckett didn't like 'actors.' But Billie said 'rubbish.' She gave me permission to put this work into my own landscape, to connect with what I felt. This play had a profound effect, making us both feel less lonely. She gave me the keys to access my own nervous system."

There are just five performances of Lisa Dwan's "Beckett Trilogy," April 7-10 at The Broad Stage. This is your once-in-a-lifetime chance to see her; call the Box Office at (310) 434-3200 or email boxoffice@thebroad-stage.com.

MERRY MURDEROUS MAYHEM

Don't miss "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," the Tony Award-winning musical now onstage at The Ahmanson Theatre downtown.

It's a laugh riot, the costuming, stage sets and technology are outstanding as are the actors (take special note of John Rapson who plays multiple characters in the D'Ysquith Family). Kevin Massey is Monty, who must murder his way to his long-lost aristocratic inheritance and does so with aplomb...and a lot of creative methods.

It's onstage through May 1. Contact <http://www.centertheatregroup.org> for tickets and info.

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

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

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Sex with the Antaeus Players

IF YOU ARE NOT TOTALLY OBSESSED WITH sex, this play isn't for you. On the other hand, if you want to see some of the best acting in town, this is definitely the play to see.

The seven actors from the Antaeus Theatre Company are beyond wonderful. And with each of them having sex with every one of the rest of them, that makes about three billion permutations, logarithmically speaking. But not to worry. It's mostly verbal, not physical.

It's "Cloud Nine", written by Caryl Churchill and directed by Casey Stangl. First performed at the Joint Stock Theatre Group at Britain's Dartington College of Arts in 1979, it went on to London and then to New York, where it won a 1982 Obie Award for playwright Churchill, another for director Tommy Tune, and a third for performer E. Katherine Kerr.

The first act, which opens with a roaring musical tribute to merry old Victorian England, sets the mood and the pace for what is to follow. It's the 1870s in the wilds of darkest Africa, where Bo Foxworth, as Clive, is the British administrator of this "barbarous" colony, ruling with the grandiose mantra "We're not in this country to enjoy ourselves!" He is accompanied by his "thoroughly English wife, Betty" (Bill Brochtrup, in a beribboned frock and corset), her mother, Liza de Weerd, their son Edward (Gigi Bermingham), Clive's African "boy" (John Allee), the nanny and neighbor (Abigail Marks), and the explorer (David DeSantos), who drops in to woo Clive's wife Betty, their son Edward, and anyone else who strikes his fancy. Oh, and there's the baby daughter, Victoria, who is played by a floppy rag doll.

It's not difficult to keep track of the characters as they romp around the stage uttering witticisms, having old-fashioned picnics, and playing hide-and-go-seek. What is confusing is keeping track of the many themes active in that period and equating them with themes that are still prevalent in this century: racism,

anti-feminism, white privilege, and the smothering condescension of those in power to those who aren't. As well as the implied acceptance, at least by the playwright, of gender variations: casting men as women, women as men, and having them all kissing and flirting and taking themselves seriously.

In the second act the themes are played out again, but it's 100 years later and the characters are all scrambled. Bill Brochtrup, who played Betty in the first act, is now Edward, her son, all grown up and struggling with his homosexuality. The rag doll, Victoria, Edward's sister, now a lesbian with a husband and son, has been transformed from Clive's mother-in-law, Liza de Weerd. And the pompous Clive, the mustachioed Bo Foxworth, is now a bratty five-year-old girl.

Complicated as it is, the story somehow makes sense and confirms that change is never easy, obvious, nor permanent. Though some may appear to have achieved a semblance of freedom in this later century, the world itself remains much the same, filled with people who are self-absorbed, xenophobic, and indifferent. And it's just as difficult as it's ever been to know and be true to whoever it is you may become.

"Cloud Nine" is "partner-cast," which means that all the players are replicated by a different group every other night. The group I saw was "The Blighters," but given the quality of the Antaeus players, I'm confident that the other cast, "The Hotheads," is equally wonderful.

"Cloud Nine" will be playing Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 24 at the Antaeus Theatre Company, 5112 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood. For tickets, call (818) 506-1983 or go online to www.antaeus.org.

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

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Local

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Benjamin B. Morris

RACES: There are several races of different lengths as part of the April 16 event.

WATER

FROM PAGE 1

Waterkeeper's successful work to safeguard Marine Protected Areas" said Los Angeles Waterkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik. "Much like underwater national parks, MPAs protect ecologically important areas of our ocean allowing them to replenish and flourish - ensuring future generations will be able to enjoy a thriving coastline teeming with wildlife."

Katiana Johnson, event coordinator for Stand Up For Clean Water, said the event allows participants to do good while having a good time.

"We want people to learn and connect with the ocean and our goal is to promote community stewardship of the coast," she said. "If they only want to come for a beer, food and a beach party, they will inadvertently learn about Waterkeeper. If we can just get more people to the actual event site, and to see how beautiful it is, they don't have to be someone in the SUP or surf industry to come to the event and enjoy the music, raffle, fun and education."

Races start at 9:30 a.m. with the open race. Live music begins at 11 a.m. The beach party also includes a silent auction and raffle with all proceeds supporting Los Angeles Waterkeeper's work to protect and restore Los Angeles coastal waters and inland waterways.

All tickets include lunch, a commemorative beer glass and one beer ticket. The first 200 racers to arrive on the day will get a race bag with additional goodies. Auction and raffle prizes include surf/SUP boards and a customized golf cart.

Johnson said she strongly encourages everyone, racers and spectators, to register before the event. Doing so helps with organization and will allow everyone to access the event without long lines.

"We want to encourage advance registration and we want to encourage spectator registration," she said. "You can register on the day of the event, but you can register in advance so you don't have to wait in line and can just start the party."

Registration information is available online at <http://www.sup4cleanwater.org>, from there tickets for racers and spectators can be purchased after creating an account and selecting the appropriate ticket. Sponsorship information is also available online.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and world-renowned paddleboarder and surfer Anthony Vela will be part of the event. Both celebrities have a long history supporting the Los Angeles Waterkeeper. Kennedy will discuss how the local Waterkeeper connects with the efforts of more than 280 independent Waterkeepers protecting waterways across the globe. World-renowned paddleboarder and surfer Anthony Vela will emcee Stand Up For Clean Water.

Founded in 1993, Los Angeles Waterkeeper's mission is to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay and adjacent waters through enforcement, fieldwork, and community action. Stand Up for Clean Water - one of the largest stand-up paddle boarding events in Los Angeles and a Waterkeeper Alliance SPLASH Series Event is presented nationally by Toyota and locally by Whole Foods Market.

editor@smdp.com

WINE AUCTION

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MALIBU

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PCB

FROM PAGE 1

inferences from that evidence, the court concludes that triable issues of fact exist concerning the continued 'use' of PCBs at the Malibu Campus despite the remediation work performed to date by the district. The court additionally concludes that evidence suggesting that the district has failed to implement and consistently employ [Best Management Practices] as contemplated by the EPA's approvals calls into question the amount of deference the court should give to the district's purported compliance with the EPA's guidelines and approvals," said Anderson in his ruling.

In a statement, SMMUSD spokeswoman Gail Pinsker said the judge was required to view the complaint in the most favorable light when determining if it could proceed to trial.

"The district respects the court's decision and stands ready to introduce evidence at trial to address any questions the court may have about the district's compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) policy, including the implementation of BMPs," she said. "Not discussed in the motion were the more than 1,000 air and wipe samples that fall well below EPA's health-based thresholds for PCBs under its

national policy. The district is confident that once the full extent of its compliance with EPA's policy and requirements, as well as the pending modernization schedule for Malibu High School and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School, are before the court, a proper decision will be reached."

During the hearings, controversy erupted when individuals associated with the lawsuit conducted unauthorized sampling and testing of classroom material that the district contended undermined their previous safety efforts.

Judge Anderson reprimanded the plaintiffs over their behavior calling the illegal testing "an outrageous abuse of the judicial process" and said the tests could not be used as part of the case. He also required the plaintiffs, America Unites and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, to pay for repairs and some legal fees.

According to SMMUSD, they expect to go to trial soon.

"As a result of this decision, it is likely the action filed by America Unites for Kids and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility that alleges a violation by the District of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) will proceed to trial in May 2016," said the statement.

editor@smdp.com

SNOW

FROM PAGE 1

sider the difference in those regions while setting new conservation targets in the months ahead.

The snowpack in California - now in its fifth year of drought - is typically at its deepest on April 1 before the snow melts in the warm months, rushing down streams and rivers into lakes and reservoirs.

The melted snow provides roughly one-third of the water consumed by thirsty cities and farms in the nation's leading agricultural and most populous state.

San Joaquin Valley farmer Shawn Stevenson said the nearly average snowpack provided a bit of encouragement after five tough years forced him to cut back his farming operation by nearly half.

"It's certainly not the kind of news where we can breathe a sigh of relief and think the drought's over," Stevenson said. "It's going to take a number of years to recover."

Strong El Nino storms in early March led some water districts to question whether a drought emergency still existed and if residents should still be required to live under conservation orders.

Leaders of local water districts say the state needs to save the emergency declaration for the true emergencies, fearing they will lose credibility with the public the next time drought hits and they are asked to conserve.

Tracy Quinn, a senior policy analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said the state should keep some conservation mandates in place in the south and make other measures permanent.

"It's important to remember we've had several years of exceptionally hot and dry weather and it's going to be a long road to recovery," Quinn said. "We don't know what the next year and several years will bring."

Smith reported from Fresno, California. AP writer Ellen Knickmeyer contributed from Sonoma, California.

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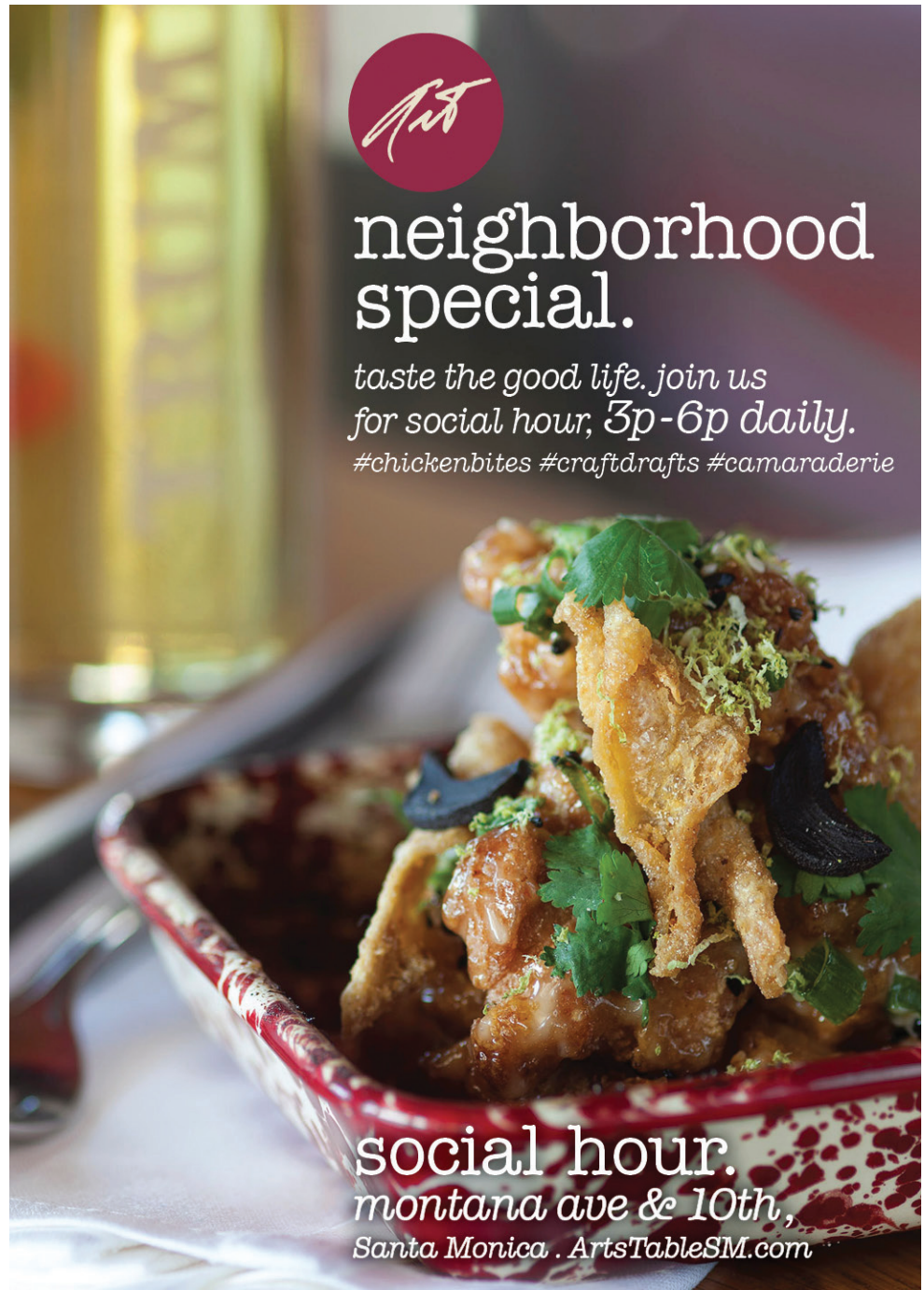
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SURF REPORT



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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.5°

THURSDAY – FAIR TO GOOD – SURF: 3-4 ft waist to shoulder high
More SSW swell, larger sets for focal points. New NW swell showing late in the day.

FRIDAY – FAIR TO GOOD – SURF: 3-5 ft waist to head high occ. 6ft
SSW swell comes up through the day and tops out - more size for focal points.
New NW swell to build further and top out.

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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 22 AT ABOUT 8:45 A.M.
Patrol officers responded to the 2100 block of Stewart Street to assist a motor officer who was detaining a suspect and a victim of an assault and battery. Just minutes before, the motor officer had seen the suspect, later identified as Joshua Hammond, being chased by another male southbound on the east sidewalk of Stewart from Kansas Avenue. When the motor officer told the men to stop, Hammond complied and told the officer he had ingested hallucinogenic mushrooms and heroin and didn't know why the other man was chasing him. After further investigation, the officers learned that the victim, who was the manager of the nearby trailer park, saw Hammond loitering and acting suspiciously and asked him to leave. Hammond became angry and tried to punch the victim in the face, but missed and grazed the victim's shoulder. The officers arrested Hammond for assault and battery, as well as being under the influence of a controlled substance. During a search of the suspect prior to transporting him to jail, the officers found drugs and drug paraphernalia in his pockets. Bail was set at \$20,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 358 calls for service on March 29.

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

Suspicious person, 10th/Michigan, 12:05 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 1000 block of 2nd, 12:30 a.m.
Disturbance at a business, 2100 block of Lincoln, 1:59 a.m.
Family disturbance, 800 block of Bay, 2:19 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 2000 block of 10th, 4:55 a.m.
Urinating/defecating in public, 1600 block of Cloverfield, 6:52 a.m.
Traffic collision, Lincoln/Grant, 7:53 a.m.
Suspicious person, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 8:51 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace, 900 block of Ocean, 9:09 a.m.
Domestic violence, 1300 block of 2nd, 9:25 a.m.
Vandalism, 400 block of Montana, 9:44 a.m.
Battery, 1400 block of Pacific Coast, 9:58 a.m.
Grand theft, 2000 block of Wilshire, 10:02 a.m.
Disturbance at a business, 1900 block of Main, 10:22 a.m.
Family disturbance, 200 block of San Vicente, 10:23 a.m.
Vandalism, 1600 block of 4th, 10:53 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 300 block of 16th, 11:17 a.m.
Urinating/defecating in public, 1600 block of Santa Monica, 12:16 p.m.
Burglary, 800 block of 15th, 12:17 p.m.
Traffic collision, 20th/Olympic, 12:20 p.m.
Public intoxication, 1100 block of Lincoln, 12:21 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 1400 block of Santa Monica, 12:30 p.m.
Hit and run, 2200 block of Delaware, 1:06 p.m.
Identity theft, 900 block of Euclid, 1:14 p.m.
Medical emergency, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 1:18 p.m.
Family disturbance, 1700 block of Ocean, 2:06 p.m.
Burglary, 1100 block of 14th, 2:26 p.m.
Harassing phone calls, 1700 block of Wellesley, 2:37 p.m.
Person down, 900 block of Broadway, 2:40 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1300 block of 19th, 2:52 p.m.
Battery, 3rd Street Prom/Santa Monica, 3:12 p.m.
Elder abuse, 2400 block of Oak, 3:29 p.m.
Grand theft, 1500 block of Wilshire, 3:35 p.m.
Battery, 1100 block of 2nd, 4:26 p.m.
Hit and run, 2500 block of Santa Monica, 4:37 p.m.
DUI, PCH/California Incline, 5:13 p.m.
Traffic collision, 7th/California, 5:48 p.m.
Vandalism, 400 block of Raymond, 6:21 p.m.
Battery, 11th/Santa Monica, 6:21 p.m.
Stalking, Lincoln/Santa Monica, 6:23 p.m.
Traffic collision, 5th/Broadway, 6:58 p.m.
Battery, Euclid/Wilshire, 7:17 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 1700 block of Santa Monica, 7:22 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 43 calls for service on March 29.

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

Automatic alarm, 1000 block of 2nd, 12:23 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 200 block of Arizona, 1:18 a.m.
EMS, 1000 block of 3rd, 3:10 a.m.
EMS, 800 block of Ocean, 4:31 a.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Delaware, 5:11 a.m.
EMS, 600 block of Pico, 5:59 a.m.
Odor of natural gas, 300 block of San Vicente, 7:26 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of Wilshire, 8:17 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1400 block of Montana, 8:58 a.m.
Public assist, 2400 block of Santa Monica, 9:10 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of Franklin, 10:47 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom, 11:04 a.m.
EMS, 2300 block of Kansas, 11:43 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1200 block of 17th, 11:44 a.m.
EMS, 2400 block of Ocean Park, 11:53 a.m.
EMS, 600 block of Wilshire, 11:57 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom, 12:22 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Arizona, 12:34 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 2, Lincoln/Kensington, 12:57 p.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Ocean, 2:14 p.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 16th, 2:19 p.m.
EMS, 2900 block of Lincoln, 2:20 p.m.
EMS, 700 block of Broadway, 2:21 p.m.
EMS, 900 block of Broadway, 2:39 p.m.
EMS, 800 block of 5th, 2:41 p.m.
EMS, 2200 block of 16th, 3:22 p.m.
EMS, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 4:25 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 2800 block of Ocean Park, 5:00 p.m.
EMS, 2400 block of Wilshire, 5:09 p.m.
EMS, 200 block of Santa Monica, 6:00 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of 11th, 6:11 p.m.
EMS, 5th/Broadway, 7:08 p.m.
EMS, 2400 block of Wilshire, 7:24 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1300 block of 15th, 7:42 p.m.

CROSSWORD
By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Betrayed nervousness
 - 6 Potpourri bit
 - 11 Stay away from
 - 12 Daisy variety
 - 13 Twangy
 - 14 Ignore the limit
 - 15 Designer Pucci
 - 17 Excellent, in slang
 - 19 Rent out
 - 20 Lynx or lion
 - 23 Baltimore player
 - 25 Stallion's mate
 - 26 Shams
 - 28 Scraped (out)
 - 29 Zealous
 - 30 "— Kapital"
 - 31 Debate side
 - 32 Spring month
 - 33 Electronics part
 - 35 Vatican-based
 - 38 Melodies
 - 41 Spanish resort isle
 - 42 Like draft beer
 - 43 Friend of Wendy
- DOWN**
- 1 Signing need
 - 2 Gardner of movies
 - 3 Police paperwork
 - 4 Wax-coated cheese
 - 5 Novelist Don
 - 6 Suggest
 - 7 Trade fair
 - 8 Player's peg
 - 9 Yeoman's "yes"
 - 10 Went first
 - 16 Away from the wind
 - 17 Under sedation
 - 18 Chris-tensen of "Traffic"
 - 20 Window frames
 - 21 Game spot
 - 22 Snappish
 - 24 Ancient
 - 25 Fuming
 - 27 Salad nugget
 - 31 From the Arctic
 - 33 Rat's test
 - 34 Moon goddess
 - 35 Orange seed
 - 36 Homer's pop
 - 37 Deep hole
 - 39 Have something
 - 40 Mole, for one

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

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
		15			16					
17	18			19				20	21	22
23			24				25			
26						27				
28					29					
30				31				32		
			33				34			
35	36	37				38			39	40
41						42				
43						44				

3-31

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall matt@smdp.com



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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from (easiest) to (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 3/26
11 23 42 52 68
Power#: 6
Jackpot: 116M

Draw Date: 3/29
33 38 40 46 49
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 50M

Draw Date: 3/26
3 12 13 26 33
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 10M

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WORD UP!

valetudinarian
1. a person who is excessively concerned about his or her poor health or ailments.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1949 - The Dominion of Newfoundland joins the Canadian Confederation and becomes the 10th Province of Canada.

1951 - Remington Rand delivers the first UNIVAC I computer to the United States Census Bureau.

1957 - Elections to the Territorial Assembly of the French colony Upper Volta are held. After the elections PDU and MDV form a government.

1958 - In the Canadian federal election, the Progressive Conservatives, led by John Diefenbaker, win the largest percentage of seats in Canadian history, with 208 seats of 265.

1959 - The 14th Dalai Lama, crosses the border into India and is granted political asylum.

1964 - A coup d'état in Brazil establishes a military government, under the aegis of general Castelo Branco.

1966 - The Soviet Union launches Luna 10 which later becomes the first space probe to enter orbit around the Moon.

1970 - Explorer 1 re-enters the Earth's atmosphere after 12 years in orbit.

1979 - The last British soldier leaves the Maltese Islands. Malta declares its Freedom Day (Jum il-Helsien).

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Once again, public service personnel were disciplined for violating rules even though perhaps saving a life. In March, a captain and a sergeant in the Falmouth Volunteer Fire Department near Fredericksburg, Virginia, were suspended for rushing an infant girl (who was having a seizure) to the hospital in their fire engine despite rules requiring that they wait for an ambulance (which they ascertained was still 10 to 15 minutes away). The firefighters administered oxygen and delivered the girl safely to the ER 13 minutes after the 911 call, though she had suffered another seizure in the hospital's parking lot. Said the grateful father, "My wife and I

feel terrible for the fallout ... to these two gentlemen."
■ India (especially in Bihar state) has been plagued by legendary school-cheating scandals -- with parents last year even seemingly re-creating the scene of the siege of the Alamo by using tall ladders en masse to climb the walls of a testing center to pass cheat sheets to students. In February, on recruiting day for prestigious army jobs in Bihar, wary officials administered written tests in a field with all aspirants sitting cross-legged and clad only in underpants, balancing exam papers on their thighs. Officials thus avoided needing to frisk the large number of applicants.

HANG WITH A FRIEND TONIGHT, PISCES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Anything can happen when you give in to spontaneity. Others will find you to be exciting. Your willingness to detach yet still find a solution makes you a winner. Stay focused, as you could be accident-prone. Tonight: Play a game online and meet new people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Take an overview of the situation. New options might appear. If you're feeling a vague sense of irritation, dig deep for answers as to why. It might have nothing to do with what you thought was bothering you. Tonight: Someone is likely to surprise you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A friend's idea could inspire you to reach for a goal in a unique way. Try it -- what do you have to lose? You'll feel revitalized as a result. A friend's thoughts will help you to solve a domestic problem. This issue needs some attention. Tonight: Respond to someone's fun idea.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Continue to defer to others. You might not believe what comes out of someone's mouth! In a few hours, you could decide that this person is more rational than you had originally thought. A friend is likely to be possessive. Tonight: Embrace the unexpected; you can't control everything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might not feel up to snuff in the morning. You'll feel better as the day goes on. Taking an overview of a hassle could lead to some very interesting and exciting discoveries. Consider how to increase your income. A controlling associate has several ideas. Tonight: Early bedtime.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ A sudden discovery could change your perspective. Your positive attitude adds to your creativity. A loved one will try unsuccessfully to manipulate you. This person will learn through your resistance that he or she cannot control you. Tonight: Observe, then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Do you believe in love at first sight? You might after today. Love seems to be in the air. You might want to help someone less fortunate than yourself. It could be difficult to keep up with a friend's quick and/or convoluted thinking. Tonight: Be careful with a family member.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A close associate could have a brilliant idea. Give it time to sink in; you just might run with it. A discussion with a friend generates even more positive vibes. A neighbor or sibling could throw a temper tantrum; handle this diplomatically. Tonight: A cozy chat over dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ A project gets a sudden boost today. Your expertise and ideas frequently help others, and they seek you out as a result. A personal matter could encourage some moping, but not for long. Walk out the door and get a breath of fresh air. Tonight: Say "no" to frivolous spending.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You could receive some excellent financial or tax advice from an older, more knowledgeable individual. Be grateful. This person might seem somewhat eccentric at times, as though he or she seems to live in another world. Let your intensity reign. Tonight: As you like it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You might spend much of the day dealing with a personal matter. Nevertheless, a loved one could inspire you to take a risk, but only if he or she knows what is going on. A dear friend will present an adventuresome idea. Are you going to say "no"? Tonight: Make it early.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ A risk could become complicated. Stay financially independent right now, but listen to what others have to say. Remember that you are your own person, responsible only for yourself. Follow your intuition, and have an important talk with a loved one. Tonight: Hang with a friend.

Thursday, March 31, 2016

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

This year you could make some unusual friends who expose you to a unique philosophy about living. Your lifestyle, and even some of your priorities, might transform and benefit from the experience in ways that you never knew were possible. Your enthusiasm and willingness to learn how to communicate in different ways point to an exciting period. If you are single, you could meet someone who is assertive and quick-witted. Hopefully, the two of you will meet on a mental level; otherwise, boredom could set in. If you are attached, your spontaneity and willingness to let go of heavy issues adds to the caring between you and your sweetie. CAPRICORN can be controlling, but also can be wise.

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly

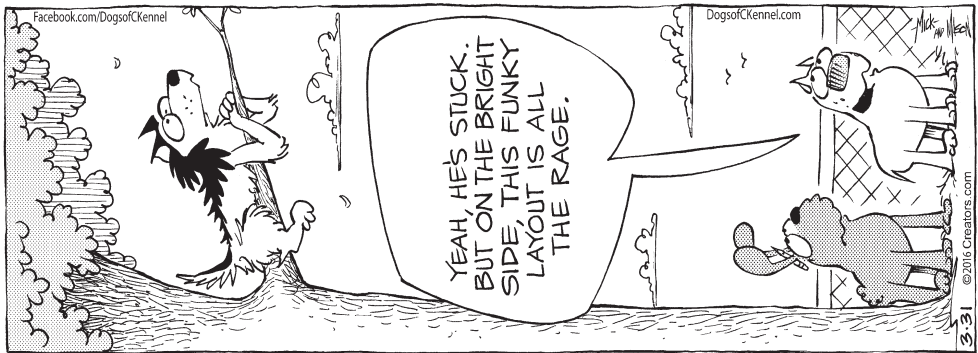
Strange Brew

By John Deering



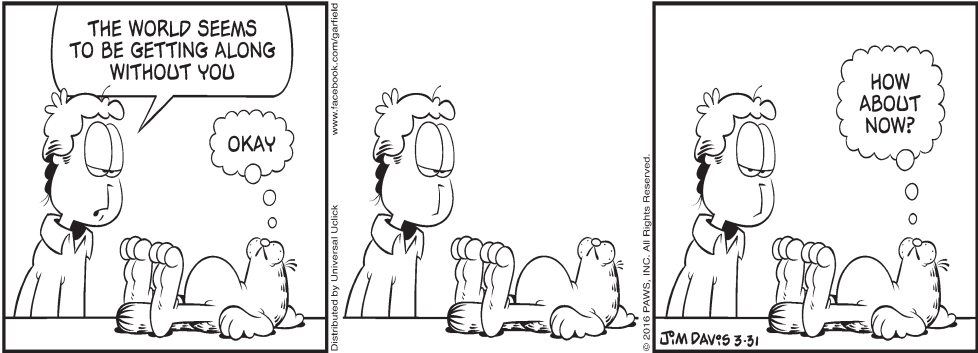
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



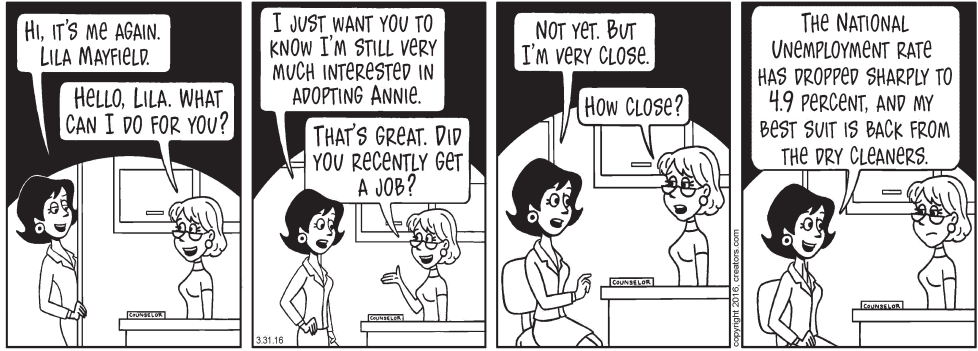
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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