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Right place, write time

Creative types tap into community of support through local collective



Courtesy Photo

WRITERS: **Writers Blok provides regular support for local writers of all kinds.**

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff "Writer

The sound of fingers tapping on laptop keyboards reminds Paul Shirley that he isn't alone.

The former professional basketball player moved to Southern California about five years ago to pursue writing, but he found it a lonely enterprise. He'd go to coffee shops, buy a drink and a scone and see how much time would pass before he got sidelong glares from the staff. He figured he could do better.

"I wanted to create a space — that sounds so millennial — a place where people would feel like they were welcome," he said. "It's hard to find people who care, and it's helpful to be around other writers who know the struggle of sitting down and getting to work when you don't know if the thing you're working on is going to see the light of day."

It led him to establish Writers Blok, a Santa Monica-based group of authors, screenwriters, poets and playwrights who meet twice a week to flesh out ideas, solicit feedback and commiserate.

And the collective has spawned a variety of projects. The group includes author Scott Bly, a Santa Monica resident whose middle-grade suspense thriller "Smasher" was released in 2014. Earlier this year, Kerry Kletter released a young-adult crossover novel entitled "The First Time She Drowned" that was crafted partially at Writers Blok gatherings.

The Moth storyteller Matteson Perry, a longtime member, will host a reading and Q&A session as part of the collective's meeting June 6.

"It really exists to build a community of writers," member Katie Savage, a Santa Monica resident, said of the group. "It's a place to write

SEE **WRITE** PAGE 9

Council authorizes budget increase for new City Services Building

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

As Kermit the Frog knew, it's not easy being green, and based on the cost of a new wing of City Hall, it's not cheap either.

Council approved an additional $17.6 million for the new City Services Building at their May 24 meeting, bringing the total of the proposed structure to $74.5 million. Staff said a countywide construction boom and the use of cutting edge technology are the primary culprits for the cost increase, but the building could help the city save about $3 million per year in current lease costs.

The proposed 50,000 square foot addition to City Hall would be built between the current building

SEE **CITY HALL** PAGE 7

Community rallies around family of Will Rogers parent

Fundraising campaign launched following mother's brain aneurysm

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Parents at Will Rogers Learning Community were accustomed to seeing Silvia Crespo-Jarquin on campus, whether she was dropping off two of her four children for school, attending meetings or helping out at the annual Cinco de Mayo festival.



CRESPO-JARQUIN

SEE **FUNDRAISER** PAGE 6

Maez raise approved by SMMUSD board

School district CFO to make more than $196,000 next year

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

As the Santa Monica-Malibu school district's chief financial officer, Jan Maez manages millions of dollars in government funds, tax revenues, voter-backed bonds.

And she gets paid pretty well to do it.

The local Board of Education last month approved a raise for Maez, who serves as the district's associate superintendent of busi-

SEE **CFO** PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, June 1

Annenberg Community Beach House Gallery

On View: "Space, Scape and Scope." Hours are subject to change; please call 310-458-4904 to confirm. 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mindfulness Meditation

Enjoy a pause in the day in which to refresh yourself by simply sitting and paying attention to your senses, feelings, and thoughts. You are welcome to stay for 5 minutes or for the entire 30 minutes. Natalie Bell, Mindful Wellness consultant, will guide the session, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Planning Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7 p.m.

SCBWI Westside Writer's Mingle

A monthly gathering for anyone interested in writing for children and young adults. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Thursday, June 2

NOMA meeting

North of Montana Association (NOMA) monthly meeting. What Expo Means So Far for The Neighborhood; reports from working groups on Bergamot Arts Station, The Downtown Community Plan; and the return of "monster mansions" will be among topics discussed. All welcome. For further information about NOMA, see www.smnoma.org. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.

SMC Percussion Ensemble Recital.

Ensemble conducted by Megumi Smith presents a creative, unique performance of percussion music, covering a variety of styles. Free. Complimentary tickets are available at the SMC Music Office in Room 211 of the SMC Performing Arts Center. The Edye, 1310 11th St., 11:30 a.m.

Read a play

Discover great plays while uncovering your inner actor. This new monthly group will read through a different play each month, with each in attendance taking part in the read through. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 7 - 8:30 p.m. June play: "Fences" by August Wilson.

Friday, June 3

Annenberg Community Beach House Gallery

On View: "Space, Scape and Scope." Hours are subject to change; please call 310-458-4904 to confirm. 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Annenberg Guest House Open

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Beach Community House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

"Gemini 9: Backup Crew, an Angry Alligator, and a Spacewalk Nightmare"

SMC Planetarium continues its Project Gemini 50-year retrospective with a look at the flight of Gemini 9, flown in June 1966 by the backup crew of Tom Stafford and Gene Cernan after the primary crew was lost in a jet crash. The mission's many difficulties included an almost disastrous spacewalk, which was a closer call than NASA publicly admitted at the time, but offered many lessons directly benefiting the Apollo lunar program. Tickets are available at the door and cost $11 ($9 seniors and children) for the evening's scheduled "double bill," or $6 ($5 seniors age 60+ and children age 12 and under) for a single Night Sky or feature show or telescope-viewing session. The John Drescher Planetarium, 1900 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.

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





COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The Pier

Rusty's Emerging Artist Competition names finalists

After seven nights and two rounds of competition, the lineup for the June 23 finals of the 15th annual Emerging Artist Competition at Rusty's Surf Ranch is set, with The Freedom Ledges and Cunao joining the Jake Davis Band, which qualified during competition last week.

Although The Freedom Ledges was selected as the top band in the second semi-final match-up at the popular pier nightspot last Thursday, it was the band Cunao who had the most to celebrate.

Cunao had narrowly missed qualifying for the final second round battle. But when the band Future Lovers became unavailable for their scheduled set, as the top alternate, Cunao was called in to play with little more than 24-hour's notice. The six-piece Latin folk band was up to the challenge, utilizing excellent vocal harmonies and an impressive array of instruments: guitars, violin, accordion, ukulele, junkyard percussion - even a melodica.

The Freedom Ledges performance was equally impressive in taking the top spot of the week with driving beats underlined by an occasional brass section. The group's two lead vocalists and quality all-around sound provided a strong base for an interesting selection of original bluesy rock tunes with infusions of country, jazz, pop and more.

The three finalists will battle one last time Thursday, June 23 to determine who wins top honors and the right to open for one of this year's Twilight Concert Series dates. Cunao will start the evening off at 8:30 p.m., followed by The Freedom Ledges at 9:30 p.m. and the Jake Davis Band at 10:30 p.m. Plan now to help determine the winner by attending what has shaped up as a great night of music for the final round of competition.

Continuing a tradition that began in 2011, when the Rusty's EAC winner opened for the band Dawes, the winner of the competition will open one of this year's 10 Twilight Concert Series summer dates. The EAC first runner-up will win a $500 showcase gig on Rusty's stage.

- SUBMITTED BY MATT ZENTENO

Citywide

Drugging with intent to commit a felony

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) is seeking the public's assistance in identifying any additional witnesses or victims in connection to this investigation.

On Thursday, May 26, at approximately 6:15 p.m., SMPD officers responded to a radio call of suspicious circumstances at the Fig Restaurant located at 101 Wilshire Blvd. The suspect, Michael Hsu, was seen by several witnesses dropping an unknown substance into his female companion's unattended drink while she was away in a nearby restroom. The witnesses informed the victim as well as staff members of their observations. The establishment notified SMPD.

Officers responded to the location and conducted a preliminary investigation into the allegation. Hsu was ultimately placed under arrest and transported to SMPD jail. The victim's drink, along with other items, were recovered as evidence. Santa Monica Police Department detectives subsequently executed a search warrant at Hsu's residence.

On May 31, Hsu was charged with one felony count each of administering a drug and assault with intent to commit a sex crime.

Hsu's recommended bail is $1 million. If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of six years in state prison. Hsu remains in custody at SMPD jail.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Nicole Sierra at (310) 458-8941, Sergeant Sal Lucio at (310) 458-8760 or the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8495.

- SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT SAUL RODRIGUEZ, SANTA MONICA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Citywide

Learn "Hands Only" CPR in 10 Minutes with "Sidewalk CPR" June 2

Ninety percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. It takes 10 minutes or less to learn how to keep a cardiac arrest victim alive until paramedics arrive. Local fire agencies, including the Santa Monica Fire Department, are once again coordinating free hands-only CPR training on Sidewalk CPR Day, June 2, at over 50 sites across Los Angeles County to help improve cardiac survivability. Last year, more than 10,000 people in Los Angeles County learned how to save a life in just a few minutes with a quick lesson from local firefighters and medical professionals. This year, the goal is to train at least 10,000 more.

The Santa Monica Fire Department will host its event from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the main courtyard at Santa Monica Place (395 Santa Monica Place). The free demonstrations will be provided by local firefighters.

Providence St. John's Health Center and Bowers Ambulance will also offer the demonstration at St. Monica's church, 725 California Ave. from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Both events will offer brief (10-minute) classes on compression only CPR.

"Bystanders are the first link in the chain of survival when every minute counts," says Cathy Chidester, director of the County EMS Agency. "Learning Hands-Only CPR empowers anyone to be able to save a life when someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest. With 70 percent of all cardiac arrests occurring at home, family and friends can double or triple their loved one's chance of survival by learning CPR."

Hands-only CPR focuses on the first few minutes following a cardiac arrest, since the lungs and blood contain only enough oxygen to keep vital organs healthy for that amount of time. While emergency responders are on their way to the scene, chest compressions using hands-only CPR will provide the ongoing blood flow needed to give the patient a much better chance of survival once responders arrive. Once trained, citizens are encouraged to download the PulsePoint mobile app for iOS and Android to receive notifications that someone nearby is in need of CPR. To learn more, visit the PulsePoint Foundation website at www.pulsepoint.org.

For a list of training sites, visit www.fire.lacounty.gov/sidewalkcpr or call (310) 458-8761 or more information.

- EDITED BY MATTHEW HALL



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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Head south, find Love in Venice Sunday night

I'VE LEARNED A THING OR TWO, I HOPE, since high school, about writing for print.

One is that sometimes you have to come straight to the point. With news stories, of course - always. The inverted pyramid. Who, what, when, where, why. Oh, yeah, and how. I always forget how. Maybe it should be wow, so it goes with all the other "w" words. What is the wow factor? - so important now that journalism has become infotainment. (Don't get me started.)

Columns and other opinion pieces are a different animal. You tell stories, and often you hold back the punch line. But here it is: There is a rock and roll show this Sunday evening that is also a rare cultural/historical event, on our doorstep at 52 Windward Ave. in Venice, and my heartfelt admonition to you, dear reader, is to not blow it. We don't often get a second chance in life. Santa Monica, Westside, L.A., this is yours. No excuses, no crying come Monday, only huge grins and gosh, thank you, Charles!

Your first chance was a year ago when Love Revisited (that's their official name, but I'm going to call them just Love) played, of all places, the Moose Lodge on Ocean Park Blvd. They performed the entire landmark 1967 album "Forever Changes" start to finish, note for note, with live strings and horns. It was transcendent. Right there in the Moose Lodge.

TOP 5

Rolling Stone magazine in 2003 named "Forever Changes" the 40th greatest album of all time. Mojo readers (UK), 11th. Me? Top 5. At least. This local gig will be a warm-up for their UK tour this summer, including a music festival in Liverpool. "It's said you can't go anywhere in Liverpool without being 200 yards from a copy of 'Forever Changes,'" wrote the festival promoters. "That may be a slight exaggeration, but it illustrates the influence that California band has had here."

Your second miracle opportunity for Love takes place now in a likewise unlikely venue, the cozy classy old Townhouse in Venice. 101 years old this year, during Prohibition the Townhouse basement, hidden under Menotti's grocery store, was a speakeasy, and that's where the music and other entertainment (comedy, jazz, burlesque, Mahalo Mondays, bluegrass, reggae, DJs) takes place now. I've heard some good bands there, and the atmosphere is cool.

Love advertises they will be playing songs from their first three albums (but also, I've learned, a couple from the fourth, "Four Sail"). So we can walk to a concert that the English have been hoping for for at least 10 years. On the band's website some guy from Miami said he was flying in for this Venice show because it was cheaper than a plane ticket to England. And you're not sure you're going to go?

I know I'm really going out on a limb by being so gung ho. It puts my rep on the line. But I'm not worried. I know what these guys can do. I know every note, from the albums. If you close your eyes, at the show, you won't be able to tell you haven't walked through a time warp onto Sunset Strip, late '60s. Nostalgia is not the goal, of course, it's this band playing these great songs.

Founder/songwriter/vocalist Arthur Lee (died 2006, leukemia) had a distinctive, if not unique voice. (The Johnny Mathis comparison is naive.) When you hear Love/Lemonade's Rusty Squeezebox sing, you will be amazed. Mike Randle de javus the distinctive guitar parts, along with original founding member Johnny Echols. Only Echols? It's enough.

CRITICAL OVERLOAD

I spent most of my writing life as a music critic - whoa, stop right there! I can hear what you're thinking. You... critics... tell me that album I love and play over and over is worthless trash. You… you... you're trash! And you stink besides!!

See? See why I got out of that game? Even though I always got paid, the rewards were too few (though swag, free albums and guest lists can be pretty cool), and the punishments frequent, and sometimes harsh. I don't need that. (I finally decided.) (After decades…)

But with that lifelong background and too much bad experience, I am hesitant to recommend reformed bands. Caution, red flag, where is the exit, please!

Love is different. They didn't have even one hit. They were be-Loved in L.A. and more popular in England ("Forever Changes": #24) than the U.S. (#154). But today's Love consists of the L.A. band Baby Lemonade, who became Arthur Lee's longest-lasting Love lineup after he heard them open for him at Hollywood's infamous dive Raji's, and promptly fired his own band and crowned them the new Love, in 1993 - only one year after they formed! Another demonstration of Lee's formidable music instincts.

The musicians of Baby Lemonade, when they are Love, eschew showing off their own chops and instead take the utmost pride in reproducing those Love songs in the most accurate way possible. Which takes a helluva lot of musicianship, along with controlled egos. We benefit, gloriously.

Love in Santa Monica! If you cruise on by our own True Tone music store on Santa Monica Boulevard, you will find Mike and Rusty there, selling axes, guiding musicians of all levels. Surely they have some great stories - they played with Arthur for some years - but my interview with them got barbecued. Maybe next year? But Johnny Echols, who co-founded Love and saw the good, bad and ugly in the early years, has agreed to an interview before crossing the Atlantic. That should be fun. Stay tuned.

FOR THE RECORD

I love the train. Congratulations all around. Even you, Pam. (Oh c'mon, I'm teasing!!) In spite of all my misgivings, many of which remain. I rode it in for the opening ceremonies, and rode it back from downtown L.A. that night after a great show at the Teragram (best club in L.A.) by King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard (you heard me).

Best quote from the ceremonies: L.A. mayor Garcetti's "praise" of MC County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas for running the dais - "Doing a great job, our master of ceremonies, Mark Ridley Thomas - best MC money can buy." Pretty droll. I think he's aiming for the White House Correspondents' dinner.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "If you love Love or even know Love, it's clear you are a real music person." - William Black

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 30 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com.

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

Doctors describe shark bite wound after California attack

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

The semi-circular shark bite stretched from Maria Korcsmaros' shoulder to her pelvis, with teeth marks visible in the shredded flesh of her arm and torso.

Korcsmaros was training for a half-triathlon over the weekend off the coast of Newport Beach, California, when she "felt something hit her," said Dr. Phillip Rotter of Orange County Global Medical Center, where she was treated after the attack.

Surgeons repaired the massive wound with a shape that Rotter described as "obviously a mouth."

"You could see individual marks from individual teeth," he added.

The 52-year-old Korcsmaros also suffered fractured ribs, lung lesions and damage to the muscles and skin of her upper arm and abdomen. She was expected to survive, but it was too early to know whether she will regain full use of her arm.

The bite likely came from a large great white shark, said marine biologist Chris Lowe, director of Shark Lab at California State University, Long Beach.

Though difficult to draw a definitive conclusion, he said a large single bite suggests the shark is over 10 feet long. A white shark - also known as a great white - would be the most likely candidate lurking in Southern California waters, he added.

Scientists believe the white shark population off California has been increasing, Lowe said. The latest attack didn't surprise him, and he noted that the public needs to be educated about how to interact with predators in the sea.

"This is the sort of thing we expect to see increase," Lowe said. Still, he pointed out that such attacks remain rare.

Korcsmaros was not immediately sure it was a shark. Lifeguards in a boat who saw her struggling about 100 yards offshore found her gushing blood, doctors and fire officials said.

They saw the last part of the attack and knew she didn't get hit by a boat or watercraft, said Rob Williams, chief lifeguard of the Newport Beach Fire Department's Marine Operations Division.

She was swimming in a wetsuit just outside buoys marking a protected swimming area near a boat route.

Lifeguards pulled her from the water, and she was rushed to the emergency room, where she appeared alert and "remarkably calm," Rotter told reporters at the hospital.

The press conference got interrupted when someone in the audience apparently fainted as doctors described Korcsmaros' wounds.

Lifeguards and city officials could not confirm a shark bit the mother of three but still moved to protect beachgoers. They kept thousands of people out of the water over the holiday weekend and searched miles of shoreline for the shark.

Lifeguards and officials in Newport Beach were meeting Tuesday to decide whether to reopen Corona Del Mar State Beach.

The ban on entering the water stretched for several miles from the Balboa Pier to the city limits at Crystal Cove State Beach. While people were welcome on the beachfront and pier, lifeguards asked anybody entering the water to return to shore.

AP writer Christine Armario contributed to this report.

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FUNDRAISER

FROM PAGE 1

Her absence has sent the school community into a scramble to help her family.

Crespo-Jarquin suffered a brain aneurysm last week and was on life support Tuesday at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, according to school parent Lana Negrete. Her condition was not expected to improve.

On behalf of the Will Rogers parent community, Negrete on Thursday launched a crowdfunding campaign through GoFundMe that had raised more than $6,800 as of Tuesday afternoon.

The $100,000 drive is intended to provide a measure of relief for Crespo-Jarquin's husband and four children, including a 20-month-old.

"He was crying in the waiting room and saying, 'I never knew my wife knew all of you,'" Negrete said of Crespo-Jarquin's husband. "He's totally overwhelmed with the support. He's so appreciative."

The sudden nature of Crespo-Jarquin's health decline has forced the family and volunteers to act swiftly as they prepare for what's ahead.

Negrete has been in touch with numerous government agencies as she's tried to arrange for Crespo-Jarquin's parents, who live in Mexico, to see their daughter before she dies. Will Rogers parents had stepped up to pay for their transportation, although immigration issues have complicated the process, Negrete said. She was working with elected officials to obtain humanitarian parole.

Crespo-Jarquin's husband, who works at both Santa Monica Seafood and a local Rite Aid, will likely have to cut back on work hours to care for the children, which will mean a significant reduction in income.

Negrete said volunteers are working with the Community Corporation of Santa Monica in an attempt to find more affordable housing for the family.

The community has arranged summer care through the city's CREST program for the two Will Rogers students, a 2nd-grader and a 4th-grader. Volunteers were working to find care for the 20-month-old through Child Development Services. Their father was preparing to explain to them that they won't have their mother anymore.

"We want to keep the kids distracted in a positive way," Negrete said.

The crowdfunding campaign will help the family cover medical and burial costs, Negrete said. Money could also be used to set up trust accounts for Crespo-Jarquin's children. Members of the Will Rogers community are organizing meals and other assistance for the family.

"I saw her every morning with her beautiful smile, and I was so touched by this story," Negrete said. "She's such a nice woman ... There's just something about her. She was CEO of the household and I felt like, 'Who's going to fight for them and make these phone calls? Who's going to be there to pick up the pieces when it's really hard?' I just wanted to make sure that [Crespo-Jarquin's husband] knew the support wasn't just immediate."

To donate to the fundraiser, visit www.gofundme.com/267qwv8.

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CITY HALL

FROM PAGE 1

and the Public Safety Facility. City staff currently housed in leased offices will be combined in the new wing, reducing ongoing costs and improving customer service by locating similar services in a central location.

Current leases cost City Hall about $2 million per year with costs expected to increase by 3-5 percent per year.

"The project would save the City money over time by eliminating expensive leased spaces housing staff in various locations and relocating 239 staff to a new building immediately adjacent to City Hall, thereby creating a City Hall campus resulting in a more centralized and efficient customer experience," said the staff report.

Staff is aiming for a Living Building Certification, considered the highest and most stringent sustainability classification. To achieve the goal, the building aims to produce its own power and use no more water than is provided by annual rainfall.

Power production will be provided by solar panels on the roof of the new building, on City Hall itself and over a nearby parking lot. In addition, the building is designed with low energy features, most significantly an environmental system that will keep internal temperatures between 70-78 degrees using natural ventilation and a radiant heat/cool slab. In times of extreme heat or cold, a traditional air conditioning system will be available.

To reduce water use, the building will use composting toilets and will have a rainwater catchment system installed. It's possible the building could utilize its own well to mitigate drought conditions.

The high tech systems, combined with a booming construction market in the Los Angeles area, have driven up the price since project inception. Construction costs, plus some necessary changes to existing buildings, will be funded through $74,471,629 in lease revenue bonds.

"Initially, debt service and other costs related to building ownership would exceed savings by approximately $3.2 to $3.4 million a year. This cost would steadily decrease until lease savings would equal or exceed the cost of debt service and building maintenance," said the report.

Staff said the building would break even in 18-27 years based on lease rates.

editor@smdp.com

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CFO

FROM PAGE 1

ness and fiscal services.

Maez will earn $196,907 for the 2016-17 school year, according to a contract addendum reviewed by the Daily Press. That's a 7.7-percent increase on the $182,810 she made this past school year.

The increase is calculated on her base salary and a pre-set longevity schedule, according to SMMUSD spokeswoman Gail Pinsker. The spike is in line with other district raises for the upcoming school year.

Maez, who joined the district more than eight years ago, will make a base salary of $184,168 with an incremental longevity bonus of $6,138. Her compensation package also includes $400 per month for transportation and an additional $150 per month for phone service.

When Maez joined the district in 2007, she signed a two-year agreement with a base annual salary of $145,000. The late Dianne Talarico was the superintendent at the time.

Maez then inked contract extensions in 2008 and 2010 before entering a new three-year employment agreement with the district in 2013. In that contract, the district agreed to give Maez annual increases of $5,000 on her 2013-14 base salary of $154,352 in addition to any other raises. Now, three years later, her base salary is 19-percent higher.

Among other responsibilities, Maez is tasked with developing the annual SMMUSD budget and weighing the financial implications of long- and short-term projects in the district. She said in March that the district's financial forecast was looking good but that an economic downturn could alter projections.

"We need to start preparing for a slowdown," she said at the time, alluding to indications she had received from state officials. "They're not at all in a crisis mode. They're not panicking. But they want us all to be aware that that's a potential."

One obstacle to the wide variety of ongoing facility upgrades across SMMUSD is a roughly $30-million shortfall in funds linked to Measure BB, a $268-million bond that voters passed in 2006. That figure included deficits tied to projects at Santa Monica and Olympic high schools, John Adams Middle School and Edison Language Academy.

Maez last year played a role in negotiations with the operator of the DoubleTree hotel, meeting with representatives of the district's collective bargaining units in the days leading up to the school board's September vote to extend the lease.

Maez is listed as a defendant in Malibu activists' lawsuit over the district's handling of chemical testing and cleanup. The district has spent millions of dollars on consultants and legal fees since the discovery of polychlorinated biphenyls in school caulking more than two years ago.

Maez, who attended the University of Washington and California Lutheran University, previously worked in the fiscal department at the Ventura Unified School District. She then worked for 17 years in the Pleasant Valley School District in Camarillo before landing in the local district, where she replaced Winston Braham.

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Courtesy Photo

GROUP: **Local writers have been meeting to provide support for the past three years.**

WRITE

FROM PAGE 1

that's quiet, and everybody's working on their own thing, but the real value is meeting people doing the same thing."

Writers Blok was launched about three years ago. It began informally at the now-shuttered Earl's in Mar Vista with about a dozen people, a donations box and no discernable format.

Then it grew. The group met at Bagel Nosh on Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica for more than a year, a span during which Savage began participating.

She later mentioned to Shirley that her husband, Scott Savage, is the pastor at the Church of the Nazarene at 18th Street and Washington Avenue and that the church has an upstairs room conducive to writing and mingling. It's been Writers Blok's home for about a year.

"I'm not a religious person," Shirley said, "but it hearkens back to my childhood of going to church in Kansas and using the church for other things. It makes it more of a fabric of the community."

Shirley's group meets Monday and Tuesday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. The first couple hours amount to what Savage called a "glorified study hall," during which writers spend time on their own projects.

"I've had a lot of writers say, 'I get more work done here in two hours than I have the rest of the week,'" Savage said. "You're with people who have the same goal in mind. Looking over and seeing the person tapping away at their keyboard is a big motivator. It's the community aspect."

That community aspect is nurtured in the final hour of each meeting, when writers share what they're working on and discuss the challenges they're facing. They also use it as an opportunity to network.

Writers Blok has a stable of close to 50 regulars, and each session typically draws between 15 and 25 people. Membership costs $7 per session or $20 for a month of once-per-week attendance. The funds cover rental fees as well as coffee, tea and other accessories.

One of the most inspiring features, Savage said, is the makeshift bookstore of projects published by current or former Writers Blok members.

"It's cool to walk in and see all of the work that has come out of this," she said.

For more information, visit writersblok-la.com.

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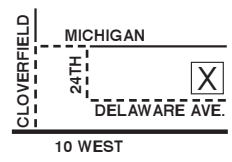


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City of Santa Monica

THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SECOND YEAR OF THE FY 2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S GANN APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

The City Council, Housing Authority, Successor Agency, and Parking Authority of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public budget hearing on June 14, 2016. The Council meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California. All citizens are invited to attend and provide the Council with written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the City's entire proposed budget. At the meeting on June 14, the City Council will also adopt a resolution for the determination of the Gann Appropriations Limit for FY 2016-17. A copy of the documentation used in calculating the limit can be viewed on the internet at http://finance.smgov.net.

The FY 2015-17 Biennial Budget, along with the proposed adjustments for the FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget, can be inspected by the public in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or viewed on the Internet at http://finance.smgov.net. Unless otherwise noted, City Hall is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On alternate Fridays, City Hall is open for limited services only.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

Police departments begin to reward restraint tactics

ERRIN HAINES WHACK
Associated Press

A few police agencies in the U.S. have begun rewarding officers for showing restraint in the line of duty, putting the tactic on par with bravery.

More than 40 Philadelphia officers have received awards since December for defusing conflicts without shooting, clubbing or otherwise using maximum force against anyone. The Los Angeles Police Department recently created a Preservation of Life award. And later this year, the U.S. Justice Department's new Community Policing Awards will recognize officers who prevent tense situations from spinning out of control.

The awards reflect a growing emphasis on "de-escalation" in police work, a trend driven in part by the deadly shootings of blacks in such places as Ferguson, Missouri; Cleveland; Chicago; and North Charleston, South Carolina. The killings have given rise to accusations of excessive force.

"An officer going home is of paramount importance to us, but everybody should have an opportunity to go home if that presents itself," Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross said. "This is an effort to slow down situations for the sake of everybody concerned."

Advocates say that encouraging de-escalation as part of police culture can help establish trust with the public and that such tactics can be especially useful in handling suspects who may be mentally ill or on drugs.

But critics warn that the emphasis on de-escalation could lead officers to hesitate in life-threatening situations.

Philadelphia Officer Eric Tyler was recognized for using a stun gun instead of a firearm on a suspect who threatened to shoot Tyler's colleague in February. Tyler, who has never shot anyone in his 12-year career, said he considered using deadly force but made a split-second decision not to.

"I thought better of it, and our training took over," Tyler said. "With everything that's going on in policing, sometimes you have to think to de-escalate things. Somebody has to be a calming force."

The suspect turned out to be unarmed.

The Police Executive Research Forum, a law enforcement think tank, has found that officers receive significantly less training in de-escalation than in firearms or self-defense.

Increasingly, agencies are discussing and adopting de-escalation tactics, including slowing down confrontations and using distance and cover to defuse situations.

The establishment of Philadelphia's award was one of the recommendations issued by the Justice Department after it investigated a 2013 increase in shootings by the city's police.

Such awards are key to changing the mentality inside law enforcement, said Phillip Goff, director of the Center for Policing Equity, a think tank.

Ronald Davis, director of the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, said more local agencies should institute such an award: "It says that force should be a last resort and that we value this."

The idea has met resistance from critics in law enforcement who fear officers might second-guess themselves with tragic consequences. The Los Angeles police union called the award "a terrible idea."

"It suggests that officers must go above and beyond their normal activities to avoid harm; or put another way, that officers will be penalized for resorting to an appropriate, lawful use of force," the Los Angeles Police Protective League's Board of Directors said in a blog post in November.

"This award will prioritize the lives of suspected criminals over the lives of LAPD officers and goes against the core foundation of an officer's training."

Rich Roberts, spokesman for the International Union of Police Associations, said his organization supports de-escalation techniques, provided they don't interfere with an officer's ability to make split-second decisions if those efforts don't work.

Tyler said his de-escalation training hasn't made him hesitate on the streets.

"I was put in a situation where I thought using a Taser was better," he said. "If a different situation arises ... I won't second-guess myself, because I have to protect myself and my fellow citizens."



Clinton scores prized endorsement from Gov. Jerry Brown

MICHAEL R. BLOOD & LISA LERER
Associated Press

Hillary Clinton landed a coveted endorsement from California Gov. Jerry Brown Tuesday, patching up a strained relationship between the two Democrats as she seeks to deliver a final blow to Bernie Sanders' campaign.

Clinton heads into California and the other end-of-the-line primaries June 7 with the Democratic nomination virtually locked up - she needs just 71 delegates to reach the required threshold at the party's summer convention in Philadelphia. But Sanders is staging boisterous rallies across the state and running TV ads in hopes of delivering an upset that he says would strengthen his claim to the nomination, despite the numbers.

While Clinton's campaign has been looking to California as the triumphant conclusion to her primary run, her lead appears to have vanished in recent days. Polling last week showed a race that's nearly tied.

Clinton is still expected to lock up the nomination before the polls close in the Golden State, but a loss in California would amount to a deeply symbolic wound in a state she carried in the 2008 presidential primary against then-Sen. Barack Obama. It would also encourage Sanders to make good on his promise to remain in the race until the party convention in July, hampering Clinton's ability to unify her party and sending her limping into the general election.

While the state has a pronounced Democratic tilt, a Clinton defeat could also embolden Republicans who would love to see her have to defend ground in a state that hasn't sided with a Republican presidential candidate since 1988.

At this point, Clinton is eager to devote her time and money to the campaign against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump. But the unexpectedly tough race in California, and her determination to win it, is highlighted in her upcoming schedule - starting Thursday, she's planning events for five consecutive days. She's also running a series of ads targeting black, Latino and Asian-Americans in the state, spending cash she'd hoped to conserve for spots going after Trump.

"I'm feeling very positive about my campaign in California," Clinton said, in an interview with MSNBC on Tuesday. "We are working really hard. I want to cover as much of the state as I possibly can."

With Brown's blessing, Clinton has the support of virtually every major Democrat in California.

In a written statement, the governor stopped just short of saying Sanders should step aside. Instead, he called Clinton's lead "insurmountable," pointed out she had amassed about 3 million more votes than Sanders and argued it was urgent for Democrats to begin focusing solely on Trump.

He said Clinton "has convincingly made the case that she knows how to get things done and has the tenacity and skill to advance the Democratic agenda.

"This is no time for Democrats to keep fighting each other," Brown wrote. "The general election has already begun."

Brown and Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, were bitter rivals in the 1992 presidential contest. During the campaign, Brown at one point said Bill Clinton was becoming "the prince of sleaze."

In one Democratic debate, Brown accused Bill Clinton, then Arkansas' governor, of funneling state business and money to his wife's law firm. The Clintons strongly denounced the accusations.

And at the party's national convention that year, Brown supporters chanting "Let Jerry speak" twice interrupted remarks by Hillary Clinton at a California delegation meeting.

The governor's campaign had similarities to Sanders' outsider bid - a point made by Brown in his endorsement of Clinton. As a candidate in 1992 he railed against America's "corrupted" politics, a line that echoes in Sanders' daily assaults on the intersection of big money and government. Brown called his outsider bid "a cause ... a movement," another line often heard from Sanders in reference to his campaign.

Brown's late-coming endorsement has a practical side. Trump's attacks on the validity of climate change would undercut one of the pillars of Brown's agenda - global warming.

Recent polling finds Clinton is in a virtual tie with Sanders in California; a year ago, by comparison, the Vermont senator registered in single digits in the state. In stop after stop, Sanders has argued that a big win in California would open a pathway to the nomination.

Sanders was planning on rallies in the Democrat-rich areas of northern California Tuesday - Santa Cruz and Monterey.



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

City of Santa Monica

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

1444 Third Street Promenade, Conditional Use Permit (15ENT-0018). The applicant, AMC Loews Broadway 4 Theatre, requests a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow on-site sale and consumption of beer, wine, and distilled spirits (Type 47 License) within an existing movie theatre. [Planner: Russell Bunim] **Applicant: Loews Broadway 4 Theatre. Property Owner: Promenade Gateway, a California Limited Partnership.**

500 Broadway, Tentative Map (15ENT-0331). The applicant requests approval of a vesting tentative tract map to create an air-space subdivision to allow the residential and commercial components of the 500 Broadway mixed-use project to be separately leased or financed. The Development Agreement for the project was approved by City Council on May 10, 2016. The map would not create for-sale residential condominium units. The project site consists of two contiguous parcels with a total parcel size of 67,500 square feet. [Planner: Steve Mizokami] **Applicant/Property Owner: DK Broadway, LLC.**

212 Bay Street, Parcel Map (15ENT-0331). The applicant requests approval of a vesting tentative parcel map to create three residential condominium air parcels on a single parcel as part of a two-story, multi-family development with a subterranean garage in the NC (Neighborhood Commercial Main Street) zoning district. [Planner: Steve Mizokami] **Applicant/Property Owner: MLR Ventures, LLC.**

1949 17th Street, Tract Map (16ENT-0016). The applicant is requesting an approval of a vesting tentative tract map to subdivide one land parcel into five airspace parcels for the purpose of creating five residential condominium units in a two-story building with a semi-subterranean parking garage located in the R2 (Low Density Residential) zoning district. [Planner: Rathar Duong] **Applicant: Gantcho Batchkarov. Property Owner: Armour Homes, LLC.**

1920 Colorado Avenue, Conditional Use Permit 16ENT-0018. A Conditional Use Permit (16ENT-0018) to allow for an existing small beer manufacturer/microbrewery (Santa Monica Brew Works) to operate with on-site sale and consumption of beer service within a 2,980 square foot beer sampling area in conjunction with the microbrewery (Type 23 –Small Beer Manufacturer or Microbrewery). The project proposes 60 on-site shared parking spaces as allowed by Section 9.21.180(E). These 60 parking spaces will be shared by all on-site uses due to different hours of operation and lack of conflict with anticipated peak parking demand of all uses. [Planner: Michael Rocque] **APPLICANT: Santa Monica Brew Works, LLC. PROPERTY OWNER: 1920 Colorado Inc.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the Case Planner at (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7 and #9 service the City Hall and Civic Center. "Big Blue" Bus Lines #2 and #8 now run on Ocean Avenue instead of Main Street due to Colorado Esplanade construction. As of May 21, 2016, the Expo Line will be open with its terminus at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 330 calls for service on May 30.

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

Disturbance of the peace, 2700 block of Colorado, 12:03 a.m.
Fire, 1500 block of PCH, 12:54 a.m.
DUI, 20th/I-10, 2:29 a.m.
Traffic collision, Euclid/Broadway, 2:54 a.m.
Disturbance at a business, 1400 block of 2nd, 3:24 a.m.
Identity theft, 1700 block of Ocean, 5:46 a.m.
Grand theft, 400 block of Colorado, 6:12 a.m.
Vandalism, 400 block of 14th, 8:47 a.m.
Hit and run, 1200 block of 2nd, 10:52 a.m.
Battery, 1000 block of 3rd, 11:05 a.m.
Traffic collision, 10th/Washington, 11:18 a.m.
Hit and run, 1000 block of 17th, 11:35 a.m.
Strongarm robbery, 800 block of Broadway, 11:52 a.m.
Battery, 1400 block of Lincoln, 12:38 p.m.
Burglary, 200 block of San Vicente, 12:58 p.m.
Vandalism, 2300 block of 24th, 1:16 p.m.
Traffic collision, 1300 block of Lincoln, 1:19 p.m.
Battery, 2600 block of Main, 2:22 p.m.
Traffic collision, 3rd Street Prom/Broadway, 2:42 p.m.
Hit and run, 1400 block of Stanford, 3:03 p.m.
Critical missing person, 800 block of Ocean, 3:09 p.m.
Hit and run, Lincoln/Santa Monica, 3:37 p.m.
Disturbance at a business, 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom, 3:39 p.m.
Traffic collision, 4th/I-10, 5:22 p.m.
Battery, 2200 block of Colorado, 5:23 p.m.
Missing person, 1400 block of 3rd Street Prom, 5:45 p.m.
Battery, 1900 block of Pico, 6:05 p.m.
Traffic collision, 4th/Olympic, 6:31 p.m.
Grand theft, 1100 block of PCH, 7:08 p.m.
Assault with a deadly weapon, 2600 block of Pico, 7:09 p.m.
Critical missing person, 300 block of Santa Monica Pier, 7:15 p.m.
Fire, 2500 block of Pico, 7:53 p.m.
Sexual assault, 1600 block of California, 8:00 p.m.
Person with a gun, 2800 block of Pico, 8:02 p.m.
Family disturbance, 1500 block of Oak, 8:32 p.m.
Family disturbance, Ocean/Washington, 8:41 p.m.
Assault, Ocean/California, 9:21 p.m.
Party complaint, 1800 block of 7th, 9:53 p.m.
Sexual assault, 1400 block of 2nd, 10:55 p.m.
Family disturbance, 1800 block of 18th, 11:26 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 46 calls for service on May 30.

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

Trash/dumpster fire, 1500 block of PCH, 12:54 a.m.
EMS, Ocean/Broadway, 3:40 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block of Ocean, 6:16 a.m.
EMS, 800 block of 2nd, 6:46 a.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Ocean Front, 9:05 a.m.
EMS, 900 block of 10th, 9:14 a.m.
Flooded condition, 1900 block of 6th, 9:33 a.m.
EMS, 1200 block of 16th, 9:42 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 9:46 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 200 block of 22nd, 10:09 a.m.
EMS, 2400 block of Wilshire, 10:24 a.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Santa Monica, 11:32 a.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Main, 11:45 a.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Arizona, 11:49 a.m.
Elevator rescue, 1400 block of 4th, 11:52 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 12:11 p.m.
EMS, 400 block of Palisades Beach, 12:19 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block of Lincoln, 12:38 p.m.
EMS, 1800 block of Wilshire, 1:04 p.m.
EMS, 100 block of Wilshire, 1:52 p.m.
EMS, 200 block of Arizona, 1:58 p.m.
EMS, 200 block of Santa Monica, 2:02 p.m.
EMS, 900 block of 11th, 2:27 p.m.
EMS, 3rd Street Prom/Broadway, 2:35 p.m.
EMS, 1800 block of 19th, 2:40 p.m.
EMS, 2200 block of 28th, 3:40 p.m.
EMS, 1000 block of Ocean, 3:56 p.m.
EMS, 3100 block of Main, 4:03 p.m.
EMS, Lincoln/I-10, 4:11 p.m.
EMS, 1500 block of Ocean Front, 5:09 p.m.
EMS, 4th/I-10, 5:23 p.m.
Smoke investigation, 1000 block of 12th, 5:34 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of Wilshire, 6:26 p.m.
EMS, 2900 block of Pico, 6:41 p.m.
EMS, 20th/Ocean Park, 7:08 p.m.
EMS, 900 block of 9th, 7:08 p.m.
Injuries from assault, 2600 block of Pico, 7:13 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block of 10th, 7:26 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Euclid, 7:27 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block of Ocean, 7:48 p.m.
Structure fire, 2500 block of Pico, 7:54 p.m.
EMS, Ocean/Colorado, 8:52 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 300 block of Santa Monica Pl., 9:41 p.m.
EMS, 4th/Olympic, 10:11 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 300 block of Santa Monica Pl., 10:35 p.m.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #81 LANDFILL GAS CONTROL SYSTEM SERVICES
• Submission Deadline is June 21, 2016 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bid-search4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

CAN'T FIND A DAILY PRESS NEWSTAND IN YOUR AREA? WE'LL TRY TO GET ONE TO YOU!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Canyon sound
5 Layers
11 Lummox
12 Repeated verbatim
13 Dissolute fellow
14 Zombies
15 High times
16 Copenhagen native
17 Piano piece
19 Femur's upper end
22 Took to impound
24 Untethered
26 Server system
27 Song for two
28 Massachusetts university
30 Exodus figure
31 Exploit
32 Task
34 Galleon, e.g.
35 Stir-fry pan
38 TV serial
41 Rock's Hendrix
42 Revenue
43 Foot or furlong
44 Pulled in
45 Obtains

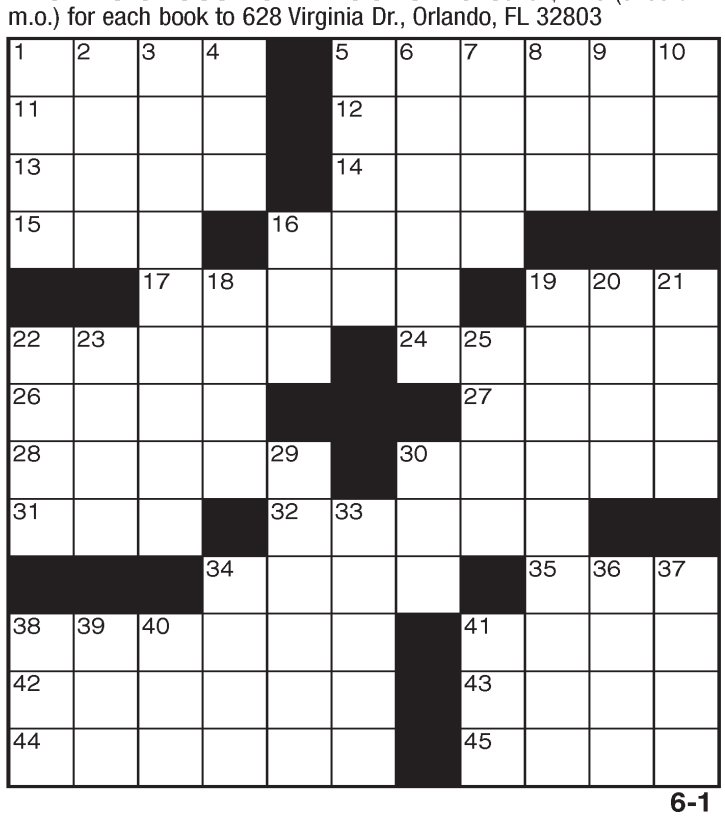
DOWN

1 Grayish color
2 Hoof sound
3 Stay-at-home sort
4 Pindar poem
5 Football team
6 Mountain passage
7 Took the bus
8 Finished off
9 Caffeine source
10 Say further
16 Failure
18 Printed matter
19 Restaurant offer
20 "Got it"
21 Darlings
22 Ballet attire
23 Burden
25 Stench
29 Plot
30 Custodian's tool
33 Took on
34 Location
36 Leave out
37 Young foxes
38 Confession topic
39 Early hour
40 Do something
41 Moonshine holder

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

Yesterday's answer

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



6-1

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



Nicole Rovetto identified the photo as part of the signage at the Annenberg Community Beach House.

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!
Yes, in this very spot!
Call for details
Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com (310) 458-7737

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/28
6 33 34 58 59
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 100M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/27
18 41 50 68 70
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 235M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 5/28
4 10 11 32 33
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 11M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/30
15 18 24 32 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 5/30
MIDDAY: 3 9 9
Draw Date: 5/30
EVENING: 5 2 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 5/30
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:49.50

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!

mugwump
1. a person who is unable to make up his or her mind on an issue, especially in politics; a person who is neutral on a controversial issue.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1974 – The Heimlich maneuver for rescuing choking victims is published in the journal Emergency Medicine.

1978 – The first international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty are filed.

1979 – The first black-led government of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 90 years takes power.

1980 – Cable News Network (CNN) begins broadcasting.

1990 – George H. W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev sign a treaty to end chemical weapon production.

1993 – Dobrinja mortar attack: Thirteen are killed and 133 wounded when Serb mortar shells are fired at a soccer game in Dobrinja, west of Sarajevo.

1999 – American Airlines Flight 1420 slides and crashes while landing at Little Rock National Airport, killing 11 people on a flight from Dallas to Little Rock.

2001 – Nepalese royal massacre: Crown Prince Dipendra of Nepal shoots and kills several members of his family including his father and mother, King Birendra of Nepal and Queen Aiswarya.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

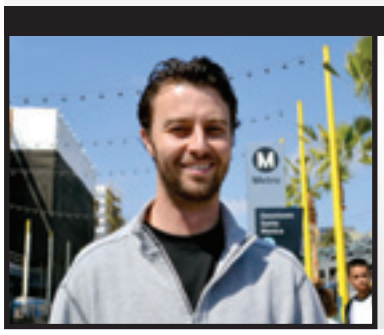
■ King Cove, Alaska, population 923, lies between two massive volcanic mountains on one of the Aleutian Islands, unconnected to other civilization and 625 miles from any medical facility (in Anchorage), "accessible" only by a weather-challenging "puddle-jumper" airplane to Cold Bay for a connecting flight. About two-thirds of the residents have flying anxieties so severe that King Cove has a makeshift vending machine dispensing Valium. U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski has campaigned to build a road to Cold Bay to eliminate the nerve-wracking flights, but it would disturb a federally protected wilderness, and the U.S. Interior Department has so far declined. (Unconsidered: Channel the late Sam Kinison, who implored starving Ethiopians to just "mo-o-o-ove!" since food doesn't grow in the desert.)

■ Michael Blevins, 37, reported to Florida Hospital in Orange City (near Daytona Beach) in May after finally realizing, three days after the fact, that he had shot himself while cleaning his handgun. He said he was on pain medication and besides, was wearing a black shirt that obscured blood stains. He said he had felt a sharp pain but that, mainly, it had aggravated his back injury, causing him to fall and hit his head against a coffee table, and thus was not aware of the origin of the loud noise the .22-caliber handgun made. Deputies investigated briefly but closed the case.

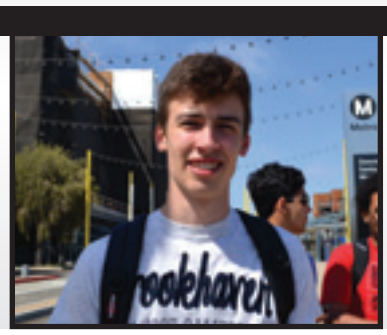
Man on the Street

BY KATIE OSAKI

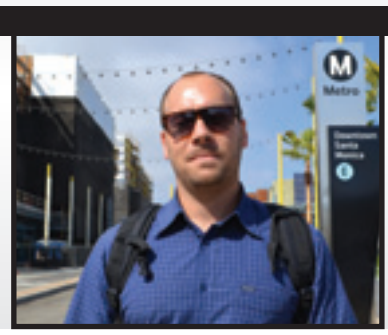
Q: Describe your experience riding the Expo Line?



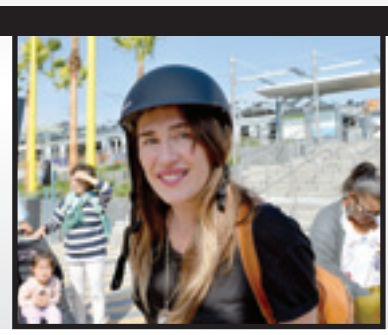
BRENDAN CROSKERRY
It's been a good experience, it connects downtown with Santa Monica and it's very important. I think it's pretty smooth and the stops are all well set up.



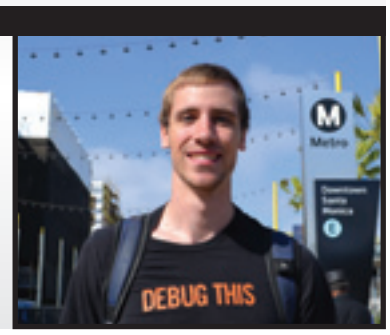
OSKAR KRISTIANSEN
It's been good, I come from Denmark where the trains don't go on time, so it's been quite alright. I've heard some people comment on the fact that it wasn't too good, but when I came here I haven't had any trouble at all. I'm satisfied to be honest.



MATTHEW STEVENS
So far so good, I've taken it many times from Culver City to Downtown and this is actually the first time I've taken it to Santa Monica. It was faster than expected, I actually just took it home from work so it's become a new option for me instead of driving.



SARAH DUGAS
Good, I came from the Fairfax area and it was efficient and there's no traffic so I'm super happy about. The convenience of it is what I'm most happy about.



DAVID BENDER
I just took it once for the first time today, it's pretty good especially how fast it went relative to the traffic.

All smiles tonight, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might feel as if you are in a pressure cooker, with so much to do and so much happening around you. Use unexpected events or news to reorganize your day. Confusion surrounds your efforts. It is best to do what you must by yourself. Tonight: Go with the moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Someone who is in a less-than-great mood is likely to reveal much more of what he or she is thinking. You will need to keep this person's thoughts in mind when making a decision. Tonight: You feel better and better as the night goes on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could be in a position where you would prefer to make an important choice on your own. If you put off making this decision any longer, you will lose the opportunity to make it happen. It is pretty much now or never. Tonight: Be spontaneous, but know when to call it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Reach out to an older friend or relative whom you respect and who often gives you excellent feedback. Listen carefully to what is said, and ask questions if need be. You might need to weigh the pros and cons of a risk. By tomorrow, you'll know what to do. Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could feel as if you need to take action. You are feeling pressured from outside sources. You also are having difficulty coming up with an agreeable solution that makes everyone happy. Know that this might not be possible. Tonight: Reach out to a dear friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ One-on-one relating proves to be important in achieving your goals. You'll need a loved one's support as well. An unexpected response could throw you into chaos. Once you calm down, you will become clearer about what you want to do. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Let others feel as if they have an effect. A close friend could surprise you with a whimsical action. You might be stunned, but look beyond the obvious for the purpose. You'll want to focus on what you want and need. Tonight: Let someone else make the choice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might need to push past a controlling person. Engaging in this situation will not improve any aspect of your life. Move past the immediate issue, and do what you need to do. Use your high energy to reduce stress by eliminating a problem. Tonight: Head home early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your creativity soars when facing financial matters that seem rather dicey. Pull back and give the issue at hand a hard look. Work on being realistic, and don't get caught up in idealistic thinking. Often you can't see the forest for the trees. Tonight: First return emails and calls.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Be more subtle when dealing with a family member. When you are straightforward, you tend to hit a disagreement. Attempt to understand where the other party is coming from. Your sixth sense comes out during a conversation. Tonight: Visit with a neighbor or close relative.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might want to do a better job of listening and understanding what others are saying. You could witness an awkward reaction if you don't acknowledge what you have heard. You need to give more credence to what others say. Tonight: Hang out at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Focus on the long term, and refuse to get derailed by a different topic or activity. You know what you want, and if you pursue the appropriate path, you will land perfectly. Understand what is expected of you, and do your best to make it happen. Tonight: A late dinner.

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

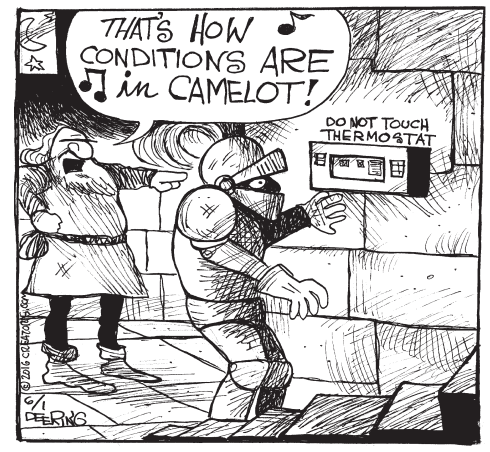
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year others cheer you on when you are heading toward yet another accomplishment. You will want to network and socialize to the max. You have many goals, most of which are dependent upon broadening your immediate circle. You see life from a new perspective because you are able to break past your natural mental filters. If you are single, you open up to many potential suitors. Through a key friendship, you could meet someone quite special. Look to the period after summer for this to take place. If you are attached, you need to bring your significant other into your social world; otherwise, he or she could feel isolated. TAURUS understands you a little too well for your comfort.

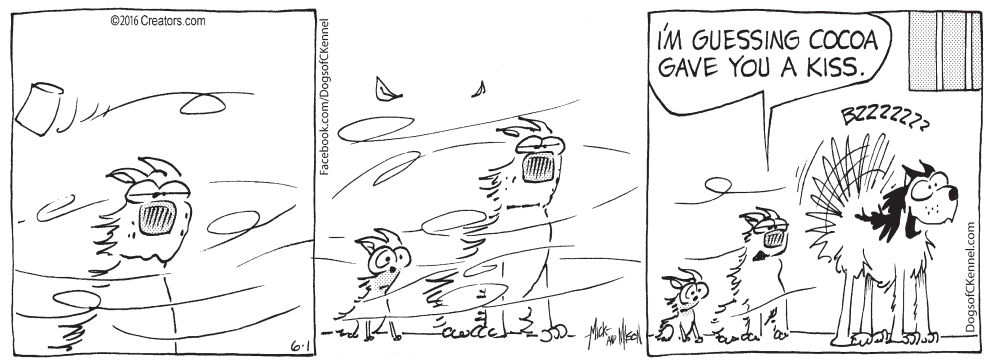
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



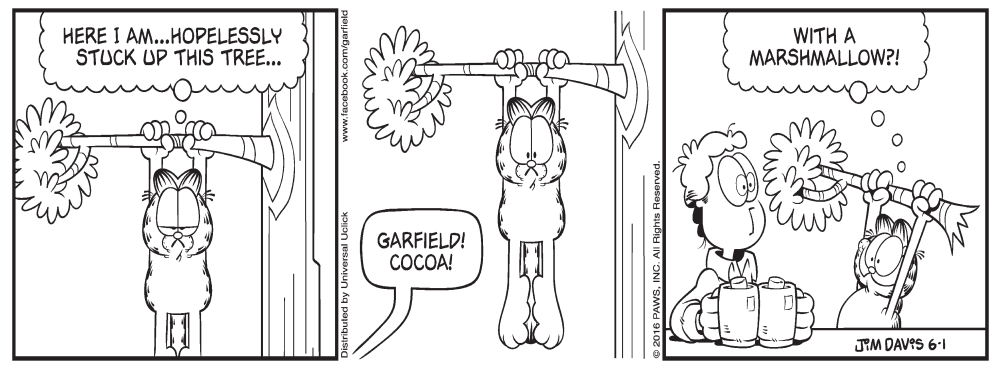
Strange Brew
By John Deering



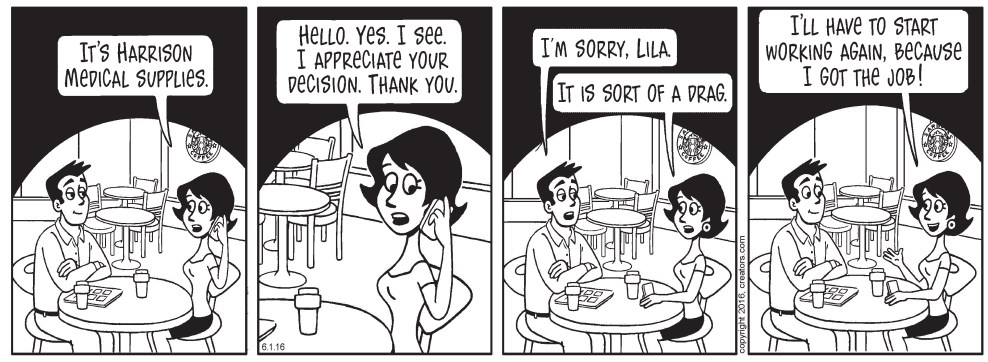
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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- Team Building Events
- School Field Trips
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