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# Olympic dream dashed for local coach

## *Judo instructor planned to be in Rio for 2016 Games*

**BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN**
Daily Press Staff Writer

His plane tickets were booked. His bags were packed. His once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was days away. And then, all of a sudden, Jim Nieto got the call.

Nieto, a longtime martial arts coach at the Santa Monica YMCA, for months has been helping a young local woman train for a chance to represent Saudi Arabia in judo in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

But when he received a phone call last week from a liaison with that country's Olympic committee, he was told that his services were no longer needed and that he would not be accompanying Joud Fahmy to Brazil.

"I'm so disappointed," he said. "They pulled the rug out from underneath me."

Because he wasn't given an explicit reason, Nieto has tried to come up with possible explanations for his exclusion from the Saudi contingent. He is not of Saudi descent, for example, and doesn't have any connections to the Middle Eastern nation.

But he also believes Saudi officials don't like the publicity they have received regarding the participation of female athletes in the Olympics. (The Daily Press has published two articles on the matter over the last nine months: one in October about Fahmy's chances of making it to Rio and another in April about Nieto's tour of the host city.)

Fahmy, 22, is still expected to compete in the Olympics, joining track and field entrants Sarah Attar and Cariman Abu al-Jadail and fencer Lubna al-Omair as the only women on the Saudi team. They make up the

SEE **OLYMPIC** PAGE 7

# New artist takes residence at 1450 Ocean

**BY CAMILLE DE BEUS**
Daily Press Intern

Santa Monica has been an inspiration for local artists for generations and the City's Artist-in-Residence reflects the connection between artists, residents and the City By The Sea.

Zeal Harris is the newest Studio Artist-in-Residence at 1450 Ocean.

From Aug. 10 to Nov. 12 Harris will be teaching classes while working on her own art that will be

SEE **ART** PAGE 6

# Kizugawa named friendship city

## *Partnership has roots in exchange program*

**BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN**
Daily Press Staff Writer

Buoyed by a strong relationship that belies the roughly 5,600 miles of water between them, the governments of Santa Monica and Kizugawa made official their connection this week by entering into a ceremonial partnership.

The mayors of the two municipalities met Tuesday at City Hall to sign a declaration that designates

SEE **CITY** PAGE 7







Matthew Hall editor@smdp.com

## NIGHT OUT

**Santa Monica celebrated National Night Out on Aug. 2. The event, organized by the Santa Monica Police Department, held community celebrations at Tongva Park, Douglas Park, Virginia Ave. Park and Clover Park. Each location had a variety of activities for local kids, live music and participation by neighborhood associations.**








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# What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

## Thursday, August 4

### Build Your Own Website

Learn the basics of creating a webpage of your own using Weebly.com in this hands-on class. Advanced level. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis. Please visit the Reference Desk or call us at (310) 434-2608. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Computer Classroom, 2nd floor Main Branch Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

### Let's Code!

Learn basic coding skills using Raspberry Pi. Space is limited, register beginning July 1. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

### Paws to Read

Practice your reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog from Paws 4 Healing. 2 - 3 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

### 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. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St.

### NOMA meeting

Status of the Downtown Community Plan and its second upcoming "Preservation & Change" Workshop. Santa Monica City Code Compliance; and the Growing Mosquito Problem. Code Compliance Officer Armando Rangel and Heather Teodoro, of the West Vector Control District, are slated to make presentations. Local neighborhood issues will also be on the agenda. The North of Montana Association meets each 1st Thursday. For further information, go to www.smnoma.org. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, at 7 pm. Light refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

### Free screening of "St. Vincent"

This week, Mind Over Movies screens "St. Vincent," the Bill Murray led comedy that's half coming of age, half redemption story, all channeled through Murray's signature sense of humor. Film also features Melissa McCarthy. Free screening followed by a roundtable discussion and audience Q&A. The Christian Institute, 1308 Second Street. 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit facebook.com/MindOverMovies.

## Friday, August 5

### Picnic on the Promenade

Summer in Downtown Santa Monica. Bring a lunch, play board games, enjoy local artists. For more information call 310-393-8355 or visit www.downtownsm.com 12 - 3 p.m. Third Street Promenade.

### Summer Activity Program: The Wacko Show @ Fairview

Wacko mixes delightful sleight-of-hand magic with a touch of comedy. Limited space; free tickets available 30 minutes before program. Ages 4 and up. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

### Summer Camp 2016

Ticketed concert presented by Santa Monica Pier Corp. and I Heart Radio. For more information call 310-458-8901 or visit www.santamonicapier.org 2 - 8 p.m. Santa Monica Pier.

### Flowmotion

Music, Dancing, Arts, and Culture at the Pico Youth and Family Center. Free, all-ages. Doors open at 8 p.m., music starts at 9 p.m. 715 Pico Blvd.

## Saturday, August 6

### Basketball Game with SMDP @ Pico

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

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

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Stewart Street Park

## Summer Jazz Concert Series Returns to Stewart Street Park

Santa Monica Cultural Affairs presents the 11th annual Jazz on the Lawn summer concert series. The concerts encourage people of all ages to dance or kick back and enjoy music in Stewart Street Park. Attendees can bring a picnic or grab a bite to eat at nearby food trucks. This year's music line-up features the Latin dance band La Sirena y Orquesta Mar de Ashé on August 7, Mostly Kosher, a Jewish revival band, exploring a fusion of jazz, Latin, rock, hip hop, and folk on August 14, MôForró, a 7-piece group playing triangle-driven, dance music in the traditional, style of Brazilian forró on August 21, and Venezuela OMG, who blend Caribbean music with the folk rhythms of Venezuela on August 28.

To complement the musical line-up, concertgoers can sample cuisine from a variety of earlier-mentioned food trucks each week. On August 7th and 28th, Son of a Bun offers fresh American comfort food with burgers, chicken, and hotdogs. On the 7th and 14th, Yalla Truck serves global variations of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean street food and Sweet Amsterdam sells Dutch "stroopwaffles" and topping-covered mini pancakes. On August 14 and 21, Me So Hungry serves burgers and sliders. On August 21 and 28, Epic Tacos serves gourmet tacos, burritos, and Mexican favorites and Recess Truck offers ice cream cookie sandwiches and other frozen treats.

Stewart Street Park amenities include a children's playground, restrooms and accessible parking. Free bike valet will be offered in the parking lot starting at 4 p.m. and free parking is available after 3:30 p.m.

The outdoor jazz concerts begin Sunday, August 7th and occur every Sunday of August from 5-7 p.m. They are located at:

Stewart Street Park
1836 Stewart Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Free parking will be available after 3:30 p.m. in the Agensys lot, 1800 Stewart Street.

For more information email: smgov.net/jazz, or contact Allison Ostrovsky at (310)-458-8350.

-SUBMITTED BY ALLISON OSTROVSKY

Pacific Palisades

## St. Matthew's thirty-second season of concerts in Pacific Palisades

St. Matthew's Music Guild has announced its 2016 - 2017 concert season. In announcing the series, Music Director and Conductor Thomas Neenan said, "thanks to the continued support of our subscribers, plus foundations and government agencies such as the Los Angeles Arts Commission, the Music Guild continues to offer outstanding concerts, perform meaningful outreach in underserved communities and commission new music from deserving young composers."

The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's is an ensemble made up of local musicians. The series features solo appearances by all five violinists who have served as Concertmaster of the orchestra since its founding in 1985.

The series opens on Friday, October 14 with an appearance by Clarinetist Michele Zukovsky, who recently retired after fifty years with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Zukovsky performs Lutoslawski's lively Dance Preludes and Adagio by Heinrich Baermann. The program also includes Mozart's Jupiter Symphony and Wagner's Siegfried Idyll.

Yabing Tan, Grand Prize Winner of the Classics Alive Young Artists Competition joins the Chamber Orchestra on November 11 for Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1. Prokofiev's popular Classical Symphony and Beethoven's landmark Third Symphony ("Eroica") round out the program.

The Chamber Orchestra and Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish offer their annual holiday concert on December 9, featuring music by J.S. Bach. Former Concertmaster Peter Kent performs Bach's Violin Concerto in E major. Also on the program are Bach's Magnificat in D, the Fourth Brandenburg Concerto, featuring the orchestra's current Concertmaster, Yi-Huan Zhao, and an audience sing-along of the traditional "Hallelujah" Chorus from Handel's "Messiah."

On January 20, the Music Guild welcomes guitarist Ines Thomé, a multifaceted musician who performs internationally as a solo and ensemble artist. She has toured in Italy and Germany and has performed at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Zipper Hall and Newman Concert Hall at USC. Her program will include music for guitar, strings, voice and percussion by Bach, Benjamin Britten, John Dowland, concluding with the great "Fandango" Quintet for Guitar and Strings by Baroque master Luigi Boccherini.

Eight of Los Angeles's finest choral artists will team up with members of the Chamber Orchestra on February 10 for "Baroque and Beyond 2.0" featuring music of Gabrieli, Handl, Monteverdi and Bach. The concert follows the response to a concert of polychoral music during the 2015 - 2016 season. This time the singers will change things up after intermission with a program of close harmony show tunes, torch songs and jazz standards.

On March 10, former Concertmaster Deborah Buck returns as First Violinist of the Lark Quartet. The Quartet and Chamber Orchestra join forces for a performance of Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis, a Concerto for String Quartet, Winds by Erwin Schulhoff and Beethoven's youthful Symphony No. 1

On May 5 the Music Guild offers a Free Community Concert featuring violinist, violist, and composer Maria Newman. Newman, a founding member of the orchestra and its first Concertmaster, will perform her own Viola Concerto and the Chamber Orchestra will present Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. Members of the Paul Revere Middle School Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Lara Jacques will join the Chamber Orchestra for the world premiere of a new work by Los Angeles composer Richard Meyer.

The season concludes with two performances of Haydn's work, The Creation. The Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish along with the Chancel Choir of Westwood United Methodist Church under the direction of Stephen Gothold join the Chamber Orchestra. Performances are June 2 at St. Matthew's and June 4 (3 p.m.) at Westwood United Methodist Church.

All concerts (except June 4) take place Fridays at 8 p.m. and are located at St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienveneda Avenue, in Pacific Palisades. Admission is $35 or Music Guild Season Pass (May 5 is free). The Music Guild offers season passes which are good for all concerts for as little as $200. For more information, visit the Music Guild website: MusicGuildOnline.org or call (310) 573-7421.

-SUBMITTED BY THOMAS NEENAN

## LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

Want to play basketball with the SMPD? Join the Pico Branch Team for a friendly game? Registration is required, please call 310-458-8684 to sign up. 11 - 12:30 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd.

### Repair Cafe - Bring your broken items to fix!

If you have something broken you'd like to learn how to fix, bring it over. Bring torn clothes, books, broken furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, computers, and toys. Volunteers will be on hand to help and offer advice on the best way to reuse and repair your most beloved possessions. Disclaimers: there is no guarantee you'll walk out with a workable item; we may not be staffed with the right skills; it may take some time to research and/or find repair parts; it may just not be feasible to repair your item. Register by calling 310-458-2239. 12 - 4 p.m. Camera Obscura Building, 1450 Ocean.

### Santa Monica Rep Play Reading: The Heidi Chronicles

Santa Monica Rep performs a reading of Wendy Wasserstein's wise and witty play tracking twenty-plus years in the life of a young woman in New York City. No late seating available. 2 - 4:15 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium, Main Library. 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

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## Culture Watch

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

# Big theater, small theater



Courtesy photo

**ACTORS: Ruskin Group Theatre's production of A Raisin in the Sun is a reason to stay local.**

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST: "GREY** Gardens" at the Ahmanson Theatre (Downtown L.A. Music Center) and "A Raisin in the Sun," at Ruskin Group Theatre. One with sizeable budgets, big stars and a big commercial stage, the other a small house (50-plus seats), a tricky L-shaped stage, a limited budget and skilled actors who aren't necessarily stars.

Which has a better chance of succeeding? In my book, you can skip the trip to DTLA and stay in your own backyard for a superior theater experience at The Ruskin.

"Grey Gardens" boasts two big stage names, Betty Buckley and Rachel York. And if you know the story, saw the original Maysles Brothers documentary or the HBO film version with Jessica Lange and Drew Barrymore, you might ask yourself, as I did, why would you even want to turn this into a musical?

Based on a true story, Edie Bouvier Beale was an aunt of former First Lady Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. She became a recluse and eccentric. Jacqueline and her sister Lee Radziwell had approached the Maysles to make a documentary about the Bouviers, but they found little of interest. But once the filmmakers discovered the black sheep of the family — in the form of Big Edie and daughter Little Edie — living in a decaying former mansion in East Hampton, their focus changed and they made their famous film.

The two former socialites' decline began after Big Edie's husband left her. Steeped in high society with some renowned suitors (rumored to be Joseph Kennedy Sr. and J. Paul Getty, among others), Little Edie danced, sang and tried her hand at modeling, was known as "Body Beautiful Beale," and moved to New York.

But she lost her chance at a big break in show business when her mother called her home to care for her, fearing she'd be left in isolation. The rest of the story is about their mutual dependence and disagreements, the raccoons, the fleas and crazy numbers of feral cats camping in their crumbling house, declared a health hazard by Long Island authorities and enraging their wealthy neighbors with their blighted home.

It was a very long night at the Ahmanson, and the pacing of the play didn't help. The set up and execution in the first act are sluggish, and in the second act, just when you think the energy's finally going to pick up, it falls flat again.

On the other hand, even clocking in at around 2 1/2 hours Ruskin's "A Raisin in the Sun" proves its timelessness with stellar performances from actors who are entirely believable in this realistic play from 1959.

The Younger family, headed by Lina (Mama) Younger (Starletta DuPois; I interviewed her here two weeks ago) is awaiting receipt of a life insurance claim check following her husband's death. This one-bedroom apartment is where Mama, daughter Beneatha, son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, and their son Travis all live in cramped, squalid conditions in Chicago.

Mama is set on buying a house with the money. Walter Lee wants to open a liquor store with his buddies, Beneatha, studying to be a doctor, is being courted by a rich, cultured man and a Nigerian student.

The themes explored here are still relevant. Beneatha wants to know about her African heritage, Walter Lee feels that as a black man, no one listens to what he wants and he's marinating in frustration and rage, Mama wants to keep the family together and to give pregnant Ruth's second child space to grow up in. They all dream of a better future.

When Mama realizes how badly Walter Lee wants to make something of himself, she gives in and hands over a large portion of the claim money. But he's the victim of a scam. The money he was supposed to use as a down payment on the business and for Beneatha's education are stolen by a con man.

Mama has put her share of the money down on a house in a white neighborhood, where they are not wanted. A representative of the neighborhood committee tries to persuade them not to move in by making an offer to buy the house back.

Walter Lee, a limousine driver fed up with being subservient to the rich white man he works for, redeems himself, proudly refusing to kowtow to the committee, surprising and pleasing his family.

In real life, playwright Lorraine Hansberry's family moved into a white neighborhood and suffered the consequences of trying to integrate. Ordered to move by a lower court, they refused, and the case known as Hansberry v. Lee made it to the Supreme Court, which ruled that restrictive covenants were illegal.

A Civil Rights activist and avid supporter of the NAACP, Hansberry died too young. But her mark as the first African American woman to have a play produced on Broadway, and the success of the play for these past 60 years stand as a testament to her foresight.

This production does her proud. Direction by Tony Award nominee Lita Gaithers Owens is impeccable. Walter Lee played by Redaric Williams, Beneatha by

SEE CULTURE PAGE 5

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# Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

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

## DC Comics: Born again, naturally

**DC COMICS' RECENT LINE-WIDE RELAUNCH,** "DC Universe: Rebirth," an attempt to gain new readers while simultaneously winning back lapsed fans, has been noted in this column in the past as an interesting confluence of ideas, both controversial and otherwise.

Yes, the concept of three Jokers throughout Gotham City's history was polarizing. Even more contentious was the decision to have the fabric of the DC Universe apparently altered by Doctor Manhattan, a character created by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons for their twelve-issue epic "Watchmen," thereby making that long-dormant universe an active part of the current DC multiverse. Finally, welcomed most by older fans but looked at sideways by those concerned equally with media representation and current American racial tension, was the return of the older and whiter Wally West, the former Kid Flash (and eventual Flash) of a bygone DC Universe, emerging into a universe where there's a young African-American teenager named Wally West.

While not all of the books have begun yet, one must wonder: What, so far, have been the top hits of the Rebirth era, and what upcoming titles should fans be watching out for?

The most relatable series of the Rebirth era, at least thus far, may be "Green Lanterns," written by Sam Humphries, one-time writer of such Marvel series as "Star-Lord" and "Uncanny X-Force," as well as the shockingly prophetic, barely pre-Trump Image Comics political satire "Citizen Jack." As opposed to chronicling the adventures of the usual suspects of Lanterns, such as fan-favorites like Kyle Rayner or Guy Gardner, the flagship Lantern book deals with two newer characters. "Green Lanterns" centers on Lebanese-American Muslim Simon Baz, a fairly inexperienced member of the Lantern Corps being monitored by the American government, and his even (forgive me) greener partner Jessica Cruz, an agoraphobic Latina who has recently re-entered the world after years spent in her apartment. Her struggle to learn how to use her Lantern ring properly - let alone go to the shopping mall with her sister - is one of the elements that grounds Green Lanterns in a real and very human way, making the series more like "Fringe" and "The X-Files" than "Star Trek." Its grounded humanity makes it the one of the most accessible books of this new initiative, and its care for the unique human circumstances its leads find themselves in shows a sensitivity that is, of course, not (currently) present in the antagonistic relationship between Simon and Jess, even as they have to save the planet from a rage virus connected to the anger-fueled Red Lantern Corps. Spoilers: our heroes aren't really doing their jobs that well right now.

Also "top of the pops" is "Detective Comics," spearheaded by writer James Tynion IV (formerly of "Red Hood and the Outlaws" and "Constantine: The Hellblazer," as well as the absolutely divine "Memetic") and artist Eddy Barrows (who is no stranger to Gotham City, having drawn the New 52 incarnation of "Nightwing"). Returning the series to its original numbering, abandoned for a bright, shiny #1 in September 2011 for the launch of The New 52, Tynion's "Detective" sees Batman recruit his Batwoman to co-lead a team of operatives with unique skill sets for reasons he won't fully divulge, at least not right away. Together, they assemble Red Robin, Spoiler, Orphan and even notorious criminal Clayface as a mysterious military outfit begins to make its presence known in Gotham. What the team discovers about this paramilitary taskforce - its purpose and, perhaps most frighteningly, its leader - will shake many of them to their very core. Tynion is able to deftly balance the bizarre grouping of characters and the political themes of the narrative, providing characters as wide-ranging as Clayface and Jacob Kane with legitimate dramatic beats while not losing the overall Pierre Boulle-esque commentary. It's a series that ought to come with a ripcord.

"The Hellblazer," picking up where Tynion and Ming Doyle's "Constantine: The Hellblazer" left off, finds fan-favorite blue-collar warlock John Constantine back in his native London, this time under the pen of Simon Oliver, creator of such Vertigo series as "The Exterminators," "FBP" and "Last Gang in Town." Featuring art by "All-Star Western"'s talented Moritat, "The Hellblazer" hits the ground running. The adrenaline one would expect from a John Constantine series is present, and the crafty, amoral behavior of the lead is established for new readers and re-solidified for long-time fans all at once. John's relationships with familiar characters like his driver Chas and his frienemy Swamp Thing are revisited, with future threads left dangling for both the creative team and John himself to pull at. There is a sense of realistically grittiness to "The Hellblazer," which is unusual for a book featuring demons and plant people. Magic always has a cost, but if it's this much fun to read and this great to look at, it's a price fans won't mind paying.

As DC continues its roll out of their new series, there will, of course, be more series to keep an eye on. Initial concerns aside, DC Rebirth seems to be, at the very least, an experiment worth keeping an eye on, especially as the "meta story" of what's going on with the "Watchmen" crew is, at the earliest, two years away. At the very best, it's a fascinating look into the sociopolitical landscape of 2016, the morality of a world gone mad, and how our greatest heroes may come from the most unexpected places. They may be con men, agoraphobes, falsely accused terrorists or long-term supervillains, but if they're the heroes we need to fight the evils of the day, who are we to turn them away?

All DC Rebirth titles are 50-percent off at Hi De Ho Comics until Aug. 10.

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

## CULTURE

FROM PAGE 4

Charlotte Williams, Ruth by Angelle Brooks, Travis by Jaden Martin and the supporting cast all do a terrific job on this classic play in this tiny space that makes a cramped home feel even more realistic.

Don't let this production pass you by. It's award-worthy and runs through Sept. 17, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Visit www.ruskingrouptheatre.com for affordable tickets. The Ruskin Group Theatre is located at 3000 Airport Ave., across from Barker Hangar.

**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. Contact her at culturewatch@smdp.com.

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## ART

FROM PAGE 1

showcased near the end of her residency at the Camera Obscura Art Lab.

"My work is about revealing characters on journeys," Harris said. "Whether the journey is brief or epic, tells a linear or non-linear story, or is recognizable or obscure, my paintings serve to complexify grand narratives of Black lives and prompt fresh dialogue about sociocultural issues."

Though Harris has an idea of where she is hoping her art will take her during the residency, she admits that it is liable to change with new inspiration.

"Sometimes experiences are immediate, and sometimes experiences go into you and they incubate," Harris said. "I'm thinking that the plan that I have is to do this kind of ongoing narrative that's very poetic that's centered around the beach… But as an artist, sometimes you have to incubate on things, and do a little bit and a little bit at a time until you get the big picture."

According to Cultural Affairs Supervisor Naomi Okuyama, the residency often helps the artist's ideas develop in surprising ways.

"They have reported being able to dig deep into process, having had rare time and space to accomplish tasks, becoming inspired to try new directions in their work, and coming away with a reinvigorated love of teaching," Okuyama said. "Artists have mentioned that the public nature of the residency and the workshop requirement has helped them become more directed in their process, and seeing students' output has helped them get back to their earliest creative impulses."

Past Artist-in-Residence Frank Valdez found the new source of inspiration that Okuyama spoke about. Initially, Valdez planned to paint landscapes, but over the course of his residency discovered something more interesting to paint.

"[The residency] really gave me the opportunity to figure out how to next level my art," Valdez said. "There's nothing wrong with landscapes…they can be charming but there's nothing really challenging about them conceptually; they're easy to like…I went in with an idea, but when my idea changed, I was afforded the opportunity to roll with it. I would be sitting there painting a palm tree, and people would come up to me and…ask me questions about my art. Then, eventually in that conversation I asked them to model for me. That allowed me to look at something that I'm more interested in. It resulted in a project that I wound up showing for my residency show."

Similarly, both artists were excited to work so close to the beach. Being so near to the beach inspired Valdez's art to become focused on visual ethnographies of people who go to the beach.

"On the surface of it, it seems simple: it's just a day at the beach," Valdez said. "But when you really delve into it, it gets into issues of race like, what races are going to the beach? What religion? What kind of sexuality, gender performance? What impact does class have on people who go to the beach? Some of my models were homeless from the park, and then on the other end of it I had a Moroccan prince who modeled for me and an executive from one of the biggest companies in Los Angeles. So it's all this range. It was from a simple question: who goes to the beach? Who are these people?"

Although Harris has yet to begin her residency, she has a history with beaches. She previously drew inspiration from a beach in Virginia where her great grandmother had run a fish fry. Harris dug deep into the history of that beach, collecting images, videos and interviews. She also often uses lunch breaks at her day job to walk by the beach.

"I actually just love, love, love the beach," Harris said. "[At] my day job at Otis College of Art and Design, as much as I can, we all go and take a lunch break power walk at Playa Del Ray-the closest beach to my job…I would say walking at the beach for me is like a spiritual bath."

With the residency so close to the beach, Harris is hoping to focus her art on all the people near the pier and Camera Obscura.

"It's the actual people and seeing in the crowds of people, seeing in the crowds these moments that you just want to hold onto is special," Harris said. "I feel like there's the possibility of gaining inspiration from that. Then there's the energy of the people. Then there are the people that you meet, and the people that you enter into conversations with, and for me those conversations are critical because that is where the text for a lot of my artwork comes from…I have a personal mission as an artist to illustrate personal anecdotes of everyday people."

Additionally, in an effort to learn more about the history of the beach, Harris plans on connecting with a specialist in the area who has done extensive research on black recreational beach areas in southern California. Because for Harris, art is about telling a story.

"It's through those everyday conversations, it's through the bonding, it's through being human to another person that very carefully I get a lot of the stories that go into my artwork," Harris said. "I'm a very interested when people's stories connect to larger issues that I feel are very important to our times, those are the stories that I tend to make into artwork."

Those interested in registering for classes with Zeal Harris should visit smgov.net/reserve and search for keyword "Zeal". Any artists interested in the residency should visit arts.smgov.net.

editor@smdp.com

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Jeffrey I Goodman jeff@smdp.com

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP:** **Representatives from Santa Monica and Kizugawa held a ceremony at City Hall this week to establish a friendship agreement.**

## CITY

FROM PAGE 1

the Japanese community as a friendship city of Santa Monica.

Representatives from both cities, including several exchange students, gathered in City Council chambers to watch as dignitaries discussed the bond between the cities and shared their hopes for future collaboration and camaraderie.

The formal council resolution states that Santa Monica and Kizugawa "share similar goals of international cooperation, mutual prosperity, and world peace" and that "they believe it to be in their collective interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two cities."

The designation of Kizugawa as a friendship city follows a recommendation by the Santa Monica Sister City Association, which facilitates interactions between local residents and their peers around the world.

Kizugawa has not been named a sister city, which is considered a more prestigious distinction, but Mayor Tony Vazquez said Santa Monica is "in good shape" to approve such a partnership soon.

Vazquez shook hands and posed for photos with Kizugawa Mayor Noriko Kawai, who noted that the partnership between the cities has roots in an exchange program at John Adams Middle School that began in 1999. Scores of Japanese students have visited Santa Monica over the last two decades, she said.

"I am very honored to be here," Kawai said through a translator. "We hope this relationship will continue in the future."

The purpose of the relationship "is to increase cultural exchanges, educational opportunities, technical exchanges, for both cities, and to increase awareness of both cities," according to the council resolution. A barbecue party has been scheduled for Friday.

"I don't usually get to be up here with two mayors," said council member Kevin McKeown, who served as mayor before Vazquez.

McKeown was part of a contingent on the dais that also included former Santa Monica mayors Nat Trives and Pam O'Connor as well as Santa Monica Sister City Association president Jeffrey Jarow.

The friendship city partnership builds on Santa Monica's existing relationships with Fujinomiya, another Japanese city, as well as Mazatlan, Mexico; Hamm, Germany; and Cassino and Sant'Elia in Italy.

"Our world has gotten smaller," O'Connor said, noting the advancements in




technology since the start of the cities' partnership. "I get to watch Japanese television shows on Netflix."

Also in attendance Tuesday was Akira Chiba, the newly appointed consul general of Japan in Los Angeles. Chiba threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a recent Dodgers game.

"The good news is the ball reached the mitt," he said. "The bad news is I still have a sore arm."

Representatives from the offices of State Senator Ben Allen and State Assemblymember Richard Bloom presented proclamations at the ceremony.

jeff@smdp.com

## OLYMPIC

FROM PAGE 1

largest female Olympic contingent in the history of the nation, which had never been represented by women until it succumbed to international pressure ahead of the 2012 Games in London.

Nieto said his snub follows months of unreliable correspondence with Saudi officials and overall disorganization on the part of the country's Olympic committee.

"They can't even say they fired me because they never hired me," he said. "They communicated with me so little."

Nieto took an interest in Fahmy, the daughter of a diplomat, when she arrived in Santa Monica well over a year ago. She lacked extensive judo experience and a rigorous training background but repeatedly showed signs of her athletic talent and intense work ethic. And Nieto knew that she could potentially qualify for the Olympics because of her affiliation with Saudi Arabia.

Things were looking good for Nieto when he was invited to tour Rio a few months before the 2016 Games, which will begin Friday with opening ceremonies. At that point, he said Fahmy was still a beginner but that she had improved significantly in just six months.

Fahmy has been spending time in Florida to train ahead of the Olympics, and her communication with Nieto has all but ceased. The local coach was hoping to provide guidance for Fahmy, who lacks the international experience that her Olympic opponents have in spades.

"It would be like somebody who was pitching on a farm all of a sudden going to the World Series," Nieto said. "She needs someone who knows her psyche."

Nieto had already received several vaccinations and taken care of other logistics when he heard the news that he wouldn't be making the trip to Rio. He still plans to watch the opening ceremonies as Fahmy and her fellow Saudi representatives enter the arena, but he wishes he could be at her side.

"They had asked for my jacket size, my pant size, my shoe size," he said. "Obviously, I won't be there. ... I'm flabbergasted. They won't explain to me. Who did I step on? I just don't know."

As for how Fahmy will do on the world's biggest athletic stage?

"She'll try her best," Nieto said.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

### Motorcycle safety enforcement

The Santa Monica Police Department is continuing its efforts for Motorcycle Safety Awareness. Officers will be conducting specialized Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operations in an effort to lower deaths and injuries stemming from motorcycle collisions. Officers will be looking for various violations made by drivers and riders that can lead to motorcycle crashes. They will be cracking down on both those operating regular vehicles and motorcycles that are violating traffic safety laws.

Field enforcement operations will take place on Friday, Aug. 5, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Monday Aug. 8 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Officers will be on the lookout for violations by drivers and riders that can lead to life altering injuries. California collision data reveals that the primary causes of motorcycle-involved crashes include speeding, unsafe turning and impairment due to alcohol and other drugs by both riders and drivers alike. Special enforcement efforts will be directed to these and other similar dangerous violations.

Motorcycle fatalities jumped dramatically in the State of California by over 28 percent from a decade low of 352 in 2010. The police department identifies locations within our community where motorcycle collisions are prevalent, along with the violations that led to those collisions. In an effort to lower deaths and injuries, officers will be on duty patrolling areas where motorcycle traffic collisions occur.

Motorcycle riders and regular motorist are reminded to share the road and to look twice before changing lanes. Riders are urged to get training through the California Motorcyclist Safety Program. Information and training locations are available at 1-877-RIDE 411 (1-877-743-3411) or http://www.californiamotorcyclist.com. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

- SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT SAUL RODRIGUEZ

# SURF REPORT




## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **70.3°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high occ. 4ft
New SSW swell tops out. Minor NW windswell.

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high occ. 4ft
Mix of primary SSW swell and secondary NW windswell.

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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 JULY 28, AT ABOUT 1:34 A.M.

Patrol officers responded to a radio call for service in the 2500 block of 4th Street regarding a burglary in progress. Upon arrival, officers saw a broken window in the kitchen area of an apartment. A suspect was standing just outside of the broken window while his hand and head were inside the apartment. Officers confronted the suspect and asked what he was doing. The suspect stated he was trying to break into the apartment. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. Kacey Lee Bell, 26, of Los Angeles was arrested for burglary. Bail was set at $20,000.

## DAILY POLICE LOG

### The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 392 calls for service on Aug. 2.

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

Petty theft 5th/Santa Monica 12:05 a.m.
Auto burglary 300 block of Broadway 1:42 a.m.
Suspicious person 2300 block of Hill 2:12 a.m.
Hit and run 1700 block of Santa Monica 7:20 a.m.
Construction noise 1100 block of Pine 7:20 a.m.
Grand theft 2600 block of Lincoln 8:06 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1200 block of Wilshire 8:09 a.m.
Fraud 800 block of 2nd 8:11 a.m.
Overdose 3000 block of Main 8:14 a.m.
Auto burglary 3100 block of Frederick 8:58 a.m.
Drinking in public 0 block of Bay 9 a.m.
Identity theft 1500 block of Harvard 9:03 a.m.
Traffic hazard 0 block of Pico 9:06 a.m.
Grand theft 2000 block of Pier 9:14 a.m.
Fight 1400 block of Ocean 9:19 a.m.
Fight Ocean/Bay 10:07 a.m.
Petty theft 1600 block of Ocean Park 10:18 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1800 block of Lincoln 10:34 a.m.
Traffic collision Centinela/Ocean Park 10:52 a.m.
Traffic collision Centinela/Ocean Park 10:53 a.m.
Petty theft 2900 block of 31st 11:09 a.m.
Critical missing person 2000 block of Cloverfield 11:36 a.m.
Stakeout Ocean/Colorado 11:38 a.m.
Death investigation 21st/Ocean Park 11:45 a.m.
Vandalism 1600 block of Appian 12:32 p.m.
Armed robbery 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 12:41 p.m.
Vandalism Ocean/Hill 1:30 p.m.
Burglary 1300 block of Berkeley 2:06 p.m.
Indecent exposure Main/Ocean Park 2:10 p.m.
Petty theft 1500 block of Santa Monica 2:24 p.m.
Panhandling 1600 block of 7th 2:25 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block of 5th 2:37 p.m.
Petty theft 2900 block of 4th 2:54 p.m.
Petty theft 2500 block of Santa Monica 2:56 p.m.
Grand theft 1200 block of 3rd Street Prom 3:03 p.m.
Grand theft 1700 block of Ocean 3:12 p.m.
Identity theft 700 block of Hill 3:29 p.m.
Hit and run 1500 block of 2nd 3:42 p.m.
Fight 600 block of Wilshire 4:04 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block of 2nd 4:14 p.m.
Hit and run Cloverfield/Virginia 4:23 p.m.
Theft of recyclables 2700 block of 3rd 4:34 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 2300 block of 4th 5:04 p.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 1600 block of 12th 5:09 p.m.
Petty theft 4th/Colorado 5:15 p.m.
Traffic collision 26th/California 5:20 p.m.
Hit and run 1500 block of Lincoln 5:20 p.m.
Bike theft 1200 block of Pico 6:23 p.m.
Traffic collision 1700 block of Lincoln 6:29 p.m.
Identity theft 100 block of Broadway 6:45 p.m.
Speeding 2200 block of Wilshire 6:51 p.m.
Armed robbery 15th/Santa Monica 6:55 p.m.
Hit and run 2nd/Arizona 7:48 p.m.
Auto burglary 2600 block of Arizona 8:51 p.m.
Prowler 2300 block of 25th 9:07 p.m.
Vandalism 300 block of Wilshire 9:30 p.m.
Shots fired 800 block of 20th 10:05 p.m.

## DAILY FIRE LOG

### The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 45 calls for service on Aug. 2.

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

Emergency 400 block of Ocean 9:56 a.m.
Smoke investigation 1100 block of 2nd 10:08 a.m.
Emergency 1300 block of 17th 10:17 a.m.
Emergency of Centinela/Ocean Park 10:53 a.m.
Emergency 500 block of Wilshire 10:57 a.m.
Emergency 500 block of Wilshire 10:57 a.m.
Emergency 2000 block of Santa Monica 11:44 a.m.
Emergency 2000 block of Pearl 11:45 a.m.
Emergency 2100 block of Ocean Park 11:47 a.m.
Emergency 1400 block of Ocean 11:49 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block of 4th 11:51 a.m.
Elevator rescue 2800 block of Neilson 12:14 p.m.
Elevator rescue 2700 block of Neilson 12:19 p.m.
Cng/Lng leak of 12th/Brentwood Ter 1:26 p.m.
Emergency 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 1:49 p.m.
Emergency of 20th/Pico 2:24 p.m.
Emergency 1200 block of 16th 3:01 p.m.
Emergency 700 block of Pacific 3:19 p.m.
Emergency 1300 block of Wilshire 3:46 p.m.
Emergency 1700 block of Main 4:16 p.m.
Emergency of 14th/Santa Monica 4:18 p.m.
Emergency of Ocean/Marguerita 5:39 p.m.
Emergency 400 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 6:42 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2400 block of 16th 7:48 p.m.
Wires down 2900 block of Main 7:55 p.m.
Emergency 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 8:09 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block of Cloverfield 8:37 p.m.
Emergency 1300 block of 15th 9:18 p.m.
Emergency 400 block of 14th 9:29 p.m.
Emergency 400 block of Expo Line 9:29 p.m.
Emergency 300 block of Olympic 11:48 p.m.

# CROSSWORD

**By THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

**1** Narrow cut
**5** Manger fill
**10** Stash away
**11** Fall guy
**12** Roasting spot
**13** Wore away
**14** Loafer
**16** Kathleen Turner film
**20** Olympic awards
**23** Ring win
**24** Vigilant
**25** Major's successor
**27** "This — test"
**28** California city
**29** Turkey choice
**32** Sofa for two
**36** Local resident
**39** Entice
**40** Penitent person
**41** Crocus cousin
**42** Prokofiev hero
**43** Peas' places

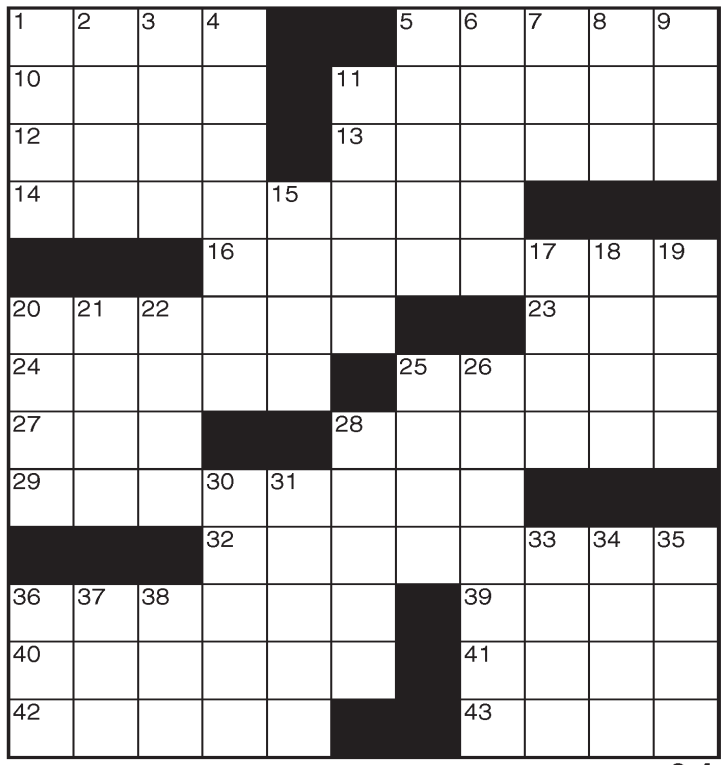
**DOWN**

**1** Not barefoot
**2** Not recorded
**3** Creative germ
**4** Pour drinks
**5** Wander off
**6** Canine, e.g.
**7** Scepter
**8** Historic time
**9** Tie the knot
**11** Canary chow
**15** Cloth bundle
**17** Cockpit guesses
**18** Related
**19** Bull-fight beast
**20** Motel worker
**21** "Lohengrin" lady
**22** Precious
**25** Scottish hillside
**26** Say inadvertently
**28** Flu symptom
**30** "Sophie's Choice" actor
**31** Relocation pro
**33** Mark's replacement
**34** Parched
**35** Hardy heroine
**36** Snooze
**37** Supped
**38** Stroller user

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | I | D | | | | S | E | C | T |
| T | A | G | U | P | | S | O | N | A | R |
| A | B | O | D | E | | E | A | G | L | E |
| R | O | T | | K | A | M | P | A | L | A |
| T | R | I | P | O | L | I | | G | U | T |
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| | M | A | R | | E | X | A | C | T | |
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| A | I | R | E | D | | S | A | N | E | R |
| S | E | A | T | | | | R | E | S | T |

**Yesterday's answer**

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



**8-4**

# 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**

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

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

King Features Syndicate

## DAILY LOTTERY

**POWERBALL**
Draw Date: 7/30
11 17 21 23 32
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 40M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 8/2
3 12 36 54 70
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 30M

**SUPER LOTTO**
Draw Date: 7/30
2 3 27 28 30
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 22M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 8/2
10 19 25 26 39

**DAILY 3**
Draw Date: 8/2
MIDDAY: 8 9 2
Draw Date: 8/2
EVENING: 2 1 3

**DAILY DERBY**
Draw Date: 8/2
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:42.90

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!

**Fletcherize**
1. to chew (food) slowly and thoroughly.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1693** – Date traditionally ascribed to Dom Perignon's invention of champagne; it is not clear whether he actually invented champagne, however he has been credited as an innovator who developed the techniques used to perfect sparkling wine.

**1704** – War of the Spanish Succession: Gibraltar is captured by an English and Dutch fleet, commanded by Admiral Sir George Rooke and allied with Archduke Charles.

**1783** – Mount Asama erupts in Japan, killing about 1,400 people. The eruption causes a famine, which results in an additional 20,000 deaths.

**1789** – In France members of the National Constituent Assembly take an oath to end feudalism and abandon their privileges.

**1790** – A newly passed tariff act creates the Revenue Cutter Service (the forerunner of the United States Coast Guard).

**1791** – The Treaty of Sistova is signed, ending the Ottoman–Habsburg wars.

**1796** – French Revolutionary Wars: Napoleon leads the French Army of Italy to victory in the Battle of Lonato.

**1821** – The Saturday Evening Post is published for the first time as a weekly newspaper.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Update: News of the Weird reported in 2007 and 2014 that, despite the abundant desert, Middle East developers were buying plenty of beach sand from around the world (because the massive concrete construction in Dubai and Saudi Arabia, among other places, requires coarser sand than the desert grains tempered for centuries by sun and wind). The need has now grown such that London's The Independent reported in June that black market gangs, some violent, are stealing beach sand -- and that two dozen entire islands in Indonesia have virtually disappeared since 2005 because of sand-mining.

■ Farmers high in Nepal's Himalayas are heavily dependent on harvesting a fungus which, when consumed by humans, supposedly produces effects similar to Viagra's -- but the region's rising temperatures and diminished rainfall (thought to result from global climate change) threaten the output, according to a June New York Times dispatch. Wealthy Chinese men in Hong Kong and Shanghai may pay the equivalent of $50,000 a pound for the "caterpillar fungus," and about a million Nepalese are involved in the industry, producing about 135 tons a year. (The fungus is from the head of ghost moth larvae living in soil at altitudes of more than 10,000 feet.)

# Then & Now

Then/Now is an ongoing feature of the Santa Monica History Museum.

The Museum is located at 1350 7th St. and is open Tuesday through Saturday. For more information about the museum and its current exhibits call (310) 395-2290 or visit http://santamonicahistory.org.

**Then**



**Now**




SANTA MONICA HISTORY MUSEUM, BILL BEEBE COLLECTION

8/23/1940 **Three shops for lease, Roberts Liquor is on the left.**
(Location: 1511 Wilshire Blvd.)

## Make weekend plans, Pisces

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★ You might feel as if you have made the effort to get past a problem that continues to follow you. You will try to be gracious and understanding, but are likely to be disappointed. Perhaps it is time to try a new approach. Tonight: Let someone know where you are coming from.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★ You might feel as though your roommate or partner is acting like a volcano that's about to erupt. No matter how many times you try to placate this person, he or she continues to put on war paint. Communication is very active right now. Tonight: First nap, then decide.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★★ One-on-one communication flows with ease all morning, so much so that you might justify turning off your phone and ignoring your emails. You won't need to go far, because come afternoon, you will be surrounded by friends and loved ones. Tonight: Make it early.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★ Curb a tendency to go overboard. Ask yourself what feeling are you sitting on, and then find out why. A serious conversation takes you down a new path, although you could be resistant at some point. Tonight: Hang out with a friend who seems to have some interesting news.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★ Beam in more of what you want, despite someone's obvious resistance. As much as you will open the door to communication, you could find that this person suddenly gives you irrelevant answers. Obviously, you need a different approach. Tonight: Make it your treat.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ You can't seem to discuss an important topic in the morning. Perhaps taking a nap later could relieve some of the tension. A family member proves to be quite difficult. Once you open up later in the day, you will feel better. Tonight: A loved one's compliment means a lot.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Use the morning to accomplish what is important, especially if it revolves around other people. You can do some research, or perhaps you will want to reach out to an expert for some feedback. You also could receive an earful from a confidant. Tonight: Keep your own counsel.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★ Stay on top of your work. No matter what you are doing, a lot of responsibilities seem to head your way simultaneously. You easily could feel overwhelmed. A meeting could be more important than you realize. Tonight: To go or not to go? Only you can decide.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★ Do some much-needed research before you make a decision and/or take the lead in an important project. Fatigue comes and goes between spurts of anger. Ask yourself if you are sitting on some feelings and whether they are a result of your tiredness. Tonight: Could be late.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★ You might feel as if you are not fully awake until you get into a potentially volatile conversation. Adrenaline flows and you suddenly appear full of energy. Look at the big picture, and share your perspective. Listen to feedback. Tonight: You need some extra R and R.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Defer to others, and you'll feel more comfortable. You might not feel as if you can carry the banner for a particular cause. By being true to yourself, you will gain. An important one-on-one conversation fills in some holes in a problematic situation. Tonight: Know when to call it.

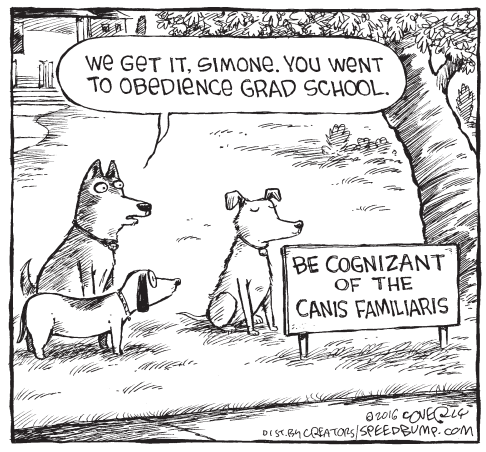
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★ You might feel as if you are the only person who can take the lead in an important situation. You also have a lot of sensitive information about this matter that you don't want to share. A boss could pressure you to do otherwise. Tonight: Find your friends. Make weekend plans.

**Thursday, August 4, 2016**

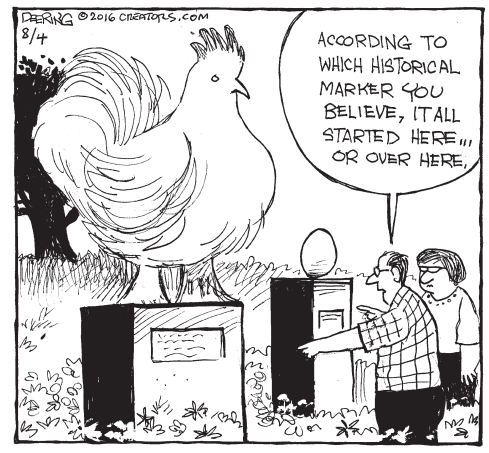
**JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS**
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you could morph from your usually charming self into an efficient yet fussy person. The good news is that this less-amiable facet of your personality will exist only sometimes. If you are single, you could meet someone just by going to the cleaner's or joining a friend at a favorite restaurant. You smile, and others appear. If you are attached, the two of you always have a good time together. However, if you feel as if your sweetie is getting grumpy, maybe it's because you have become critical. Be more self-aware. VIRGO can be a worrywart!

## Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



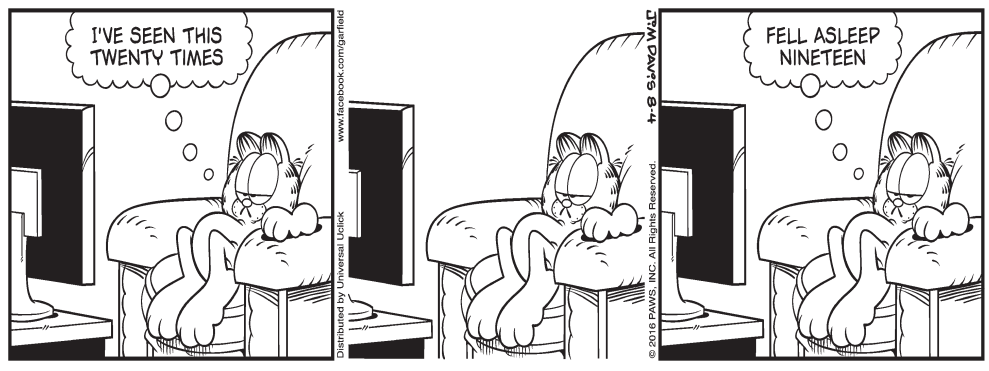

## Strange Brew
By John Deering




## Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni




## Garfield
By Jim Davis




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



Santa Monica Daily Press

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