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Former UCLA student gives cancer patients a 'lift'



Courtesy photo

DRIVER: **Sogol Ashrafian provides rides to cancer patients who are unable to drive themselves to treatment.**

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

Sogol Ashrafian had been volunteering with the American Cancer Society since she was 14, but once she got to college she had to figure out a way to continue her work with the organization with a busy class schedule.

That's when Ashrafian joined up with Road to Recovery, a program that provides transportation to and from treatment for people with cancer who do not have a ride or are unable to drive themselves.

"In high school I did Relay for Life," Ashrafian, 22, said. "But at the college level I wanted to get involved in a more direct way. And there are so many programs that are so wonderful. But I chose Road to Recovery because it was the one that I qualified the most for while at UCLA"

Ashrafian said that, for a college student, the program was a

SEE **CANCER** PAGE 8

Golden Grocer

Bob's Market owner reflects on 50 years in business

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

It's a winter Sunday, and Jim Miller is with his family at Bob's Market. The Santa Monica resident buys some Chicago sausages and giardiniera and grabs a hot dog from the outdoor barbecue. His wife, who is shopping at the neighborhood grocery store on Ocean Park Boulevard for the first time, takes a liking to the pre-made salads. And their 3-year-old son has a ball on the coin-operated horse ride outside.

"It is a lot like stepping back in time," said Miller, a regular at Bob's. "That's one of the reasons we go there."

It's an atmosphere by design at the longtime market, a fixture at the southwest corner of Ocean Park Boulevard and 17th Street since 1979. Its owner, Bob Rosenbloom, has been operating grocery stores since 1965. But even after 50 years in the business, Rosenbloom said he hasn't entirely figured out how he's been able to keep the local market alive this long.

"To be honest, I don't know," he said. "I run it like an old-time neighborhood store, and I think that's missing in this area. There aren't too many independents left. I'm trying to be as competitive as I can and giving the service that people like. I've got people coming in that used to come in when they were kids, and now they're coming in with their kids. It's been a good ride."

It's a ride that began at a young age for Rosenbloom, 83, who helped out in the grocery stores his father owned: Ritz Market in Venice in the early 1940s, another location in Crenshaw after that and Food Palace near the intersection of Pico Boulevard and Bundy Drive starting in 1949.

Those experiences gave Rosenbloom the confidence to launch his own markets on the Westside, opening near the intersection of National and Exposition boulevards five decades ago this year. He later expanded with three other stores, including one at Palms and Sepulveda boulevards

SEE **MARKET** PAGE 7

Local women overwhelm Downtown Women's Center with donations

BY JENNIFER MAAS
Daily Press Staff

Every month Melissa Ward, the leader of a monthly nutrition group at the Downtown Women's Center, takes bags of toiletries she has collected from her own house and from her friends to hand out to the women.

She receives a $100 monthly grant from Cooportunity, a community food co-op, with which she buys healthy snacks and organic fruit to hand out to the women as well.

But other than that she didn't have much more she could give them.

Until now.

"One day I was just getting my daily email from Nextdoor.com," Ward said. "I thought I should see if anybody has clothing they want to donate, as I was going to be going to the center soon." So Ward posted on the website saying she would appreciate donations and that she would be happy to pick them up from peoples' homes. Little did she know what the response to her post would be.

"I thought three or four people might donate," Ward said, "but I was flooded with offers." Over a period of five days Ward collected 50 bags of donations, as well as $50 cash, from more than 30 donors.

Ward said she has a smaller car so it was a good thing that one of the first responders to her post, a local realtor, offered to drive her and all the donations down to the Women's Center.

Ward said one of the best things about the experience was connecting with the women of Santa Monica through this cause.

"All these women who I'd never connected with … I have a lot of friends but they are not necessarily in Santa Monica," Ward said. "But now these women know it's an ongoing thing and they have a place they can donate all year round. And I have connected with them in that way."

Ward said their are women who have expressed a desire to go down and tour the center, as well as a desire to meet each other.

"Having an informal group here in Santa Monica, one group come together from Nextdoor to help homeless women, that's really something people care about."

Ward said that whether or not they are homeless, the women in

SEE **DONATION** PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Dec. 26

Saturday Certified Farmer's Market

The Saturday markets are both closed for a holiday break. Please visit the other weekly markets which will remain open, Wednesday downtown and Sunday at 2640 Main Street.

Gallery

Exhibit: Art Bank: Selections from the City's collection; Open through Jan 12 in Event House Gallery. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Guest House

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

Sunday, Dec. 27

Gallery

Exhibit: Art Bank: Selections from the City's collection; Open through Jan 12 in Event House Gallery. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (Main St.)

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

Guest House

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

Monday, Dec. 28

Winter Break Family Fun: Minions Movie @ Main

Meet Minions: Stuart, Kevin & Bob. Before Gru, they had a history of bad bosses. Go back to where it all began. PG (91 minutes) 2015. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 - 3:45 p.m.

Movie Screening: Pee-Wee's Big Adventure

Not only is it the 30th Anniversary of this hilarious comedy adventure starring Pee-Wee Herman, but portions of the movie were filmed on Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade. Screened as part of our 125th Anniversary celebration. (91 min.) Seating first come, first served. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Bingo Time

Join us for an afternoon of games and fun! Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 6 - 7 p.m.

Social Services Commission Meeting

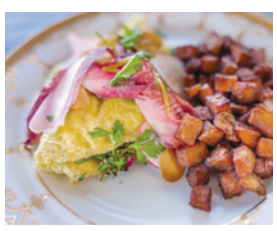
Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Social Services Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 7 p.m.

Airport Commission Meeting CANCELLED

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Airport Commission has been cancelled.

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

OMG, it's five funny nuns

You don't have to be Catholic to love "Nunsense" and its six hilarious sequels. It's "The Flying Nun" on steroids, dancing on the head of a pin. And if you've never seen any of these iconic musical comedies, you've got a terrific treat in store, I must confess. It's almost sinful to be so outrageously funny!

The perpetrator of these 30 years of Nunsense productions is Dan Goggin, who wrote all the books, music and lyrics and based his characters on the nuns he admired as a boy being taught by the Marymount Dominican Sisters in Michigan.

Goggin's nuns began as missionaries serving a leper colony on an island off the coast of France. As circumstances evolved, however, they eventually wound up in America to become The Little Sisters of Hoboken, despite the fact that each of them had once wanted to be on the stage.

Sister Mary Regina, the Mother Superior, (Michelle Holmes) comes from a family of circus performers whom she had hoped to join as a tight-rope walker. Sister Mary Hubert, Mistress of Novices, (Renee Cohen) initiates spontaneous tap dances. Sister Robert Anne (Lisa Dyson) is a street-smart broad from Canarsie who longs for a solo part instead of understudying the others. (She sings "I Just Want to be a Star.") Sister Mary Leo (Shayna Gabrielle) cavorts around the stage in ballet shoes envisioning herself as a ballerina. And Sister Mary Amnesia (Kelley Dorney), who lost her memory when a Crucifix fell on her head, suddenly remembers that she wanted to go to Nashville and be a country singer.

So, as "Nunsense", the first play in the series, opens, the nuns are facing a dreadful calamity: 52 of their sisters have died as a result of consuming poisonous vichyssoise prepared accidentally by their cook. The five principal nuns have managed to bury 48 of the 52 and have stored the remaining four in a deep freezer until they can accumulate enough money to finish the burials.

The money, they decide, will come from a talent show that they will perform for the public, and for the next two hours they provide dancing and singing that rivals anything that Stephen Sondheim ever produced. The lyrics are extraordinarily clever, the music is varied and tuneful, and the dancing is pretty hot stuff for a quintet of nuns.

They even tell jokes. Question: "What did Jesus say at the last supper?" Answer: "Everybody who wants to be in the picture, get on this side of the table!" And Sister Mary Amnesia congratulates everyone for not stooping to penguin jokes.

SEE NUN PAGE 5

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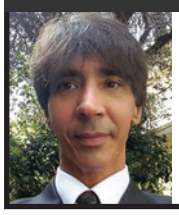
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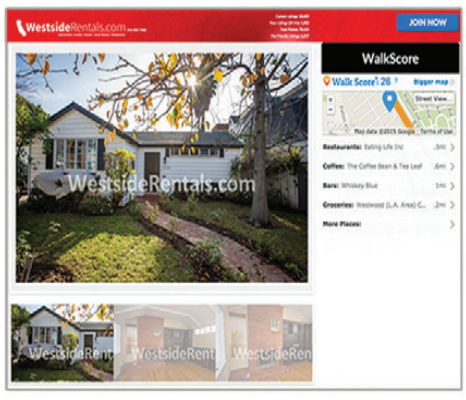
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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Story of Scrooge or Seinfeld?



I, along with at least 1,000 other aspiring comedy writers, unfortunately did NOT get to write for the remarkably popular Seinfeld TV series on NBC from 1989 to 1998. It's perhaps more frustrating in my case because I had "an in." I used to play tennis with George Shapiro who was Co-Executive Producer of Seinfeld.

In fact, before tennis one day, right after I had recounted my experience with a dead battery and a AAA tow truck operator who didn't speak English, George told me about Seinfeld then in pre-production. "It's uncanny because you're like one of the characters you walk and talk like them and every one of your stories would make an episode."

"Gee, maybe I could write for the show? I responded hopefully. "Oh no, Jerry and Larry are doing all the writing."

Disappointed, I didn't even know the "Larry" was Larry David who would go on to create and star in Curb Your Enthusiasm, which ran for eight seasons on HBO. (Another show I didn't write for but, that said, at least I never lost to George in tennis.)

I mention all of this, not to lament the big fish that got away but rather as a caveat. I'm about to share with you the legal dilemma of a legendary, albeit colorful Santa Monica figure. Maybe George Shapiro was right? This story might have been a Seinfeld episode.

A recurring theme of Seinfeld, was when a character, however well meaning, would stick his nose into a situation only to make it worse. (I hope I'm not about to do that.)

For example in one episode, Jerry convinced Pakistani immigrant Babu to serve only Pakistani food in his restaurant. Heeding Jerry's advice, Babu proceeded to go broke Depressed, he confronted Jerry, "Where are people? You see people? Show me people! There are no people!"

Jerry's good friend, George Costanza did it, too. He felt sorry for the black security guard in his fiancée's uncle's high-end clothing store who had to stand all day So George got the guard a comfortable chair to sit in. Unfortunately, it was so comfortable the security guard fell asleep while a robbery took place.

So it is with some hesitation that I introduce you to Ignacio Alejandro Benavides, who goes by "Alex" and has owned Alex's Shoe Repair at 1921 Main Street (between Pico and Bay) for the past 33 years. Regrettably, even though yesterday was Christmas, this is not exactly an uplifting holiday tale. (Unless you're Charles Dickens.)

You see, on January 5, Alex is due in court and faces eviction, much to the chagrin of the legions of his loyal customers who see this as another example of gentrification. Back in April, Alex, who's 66, had a heart attack and fell behind in his rent. When he moved here in 1983, the rent was $600 a month, now it's $2,000.

I attempted to reach the landlord whom I gather lives in New York, but, as of press time, we haven't connected. (Actually he's the son of the late landlord as Alex thinks the father would never have done this.)

Alex is an extremely hard-working "old school" craftsman but he's not without eccentricity including the shop itself which is seemingly floor to ceiling shoes. Customers learn that with Alex it's best to call before going in to pick up your shoes or leather items. This trait is reminiscent of the story about the man who goes into a thrift shop and buys a 1970's Saturday Night Fever suit in pristine condition for $5.

Pleased with his purchase, in the pocket, he finds a shoe repair claim check. Curious, he goes to the shop and presents the stub. The cantankerous owner goes into the back room and comes out moments later. "They're not ready yet," he says casually, "come back Tuesday." (I told that joke to Alex who said in earnest, "I don't get it.")

One thing's for sure, Alex definitely doesn't need all this stress. I'm hoping the landlord somehow reads this and, in the holiday spirit, crafts a compromise. I'll report back after January 5.

Even though Seinfeld went off the air 17 years ago, I still wonder if Alex and his crowded shoe repair shop have made for a funny episode. Then again, those 1,000 other aspiring comedy writers are probably wondering the same thing about the Alex's in their lives.

JACK is at facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jnsmdp@aol.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.

NUN

FROM PAGE 3

In the end, each acknowledges that she is happy being a nun in a rip-roaring song: "I'm holier than thou, I've got the spirit now…" And that spirit is expertly directed by Kristin Tower Rowles, musical director William A. Reilly, and choreographer Lisaun Whittingham.

The first "Nunsense", inspired by a line of funny greeting cards produced by Dan Goggin, was so successful that he decided to expand the concept into a cabaret show. "The Nunsense Story" opened at Manhattan's Duplex for a four-day run and subsequently ran for 38 weeks.

A full-length theater production followed in 1985 and ran off-Broadway for 3672 performances, becoming the second-longest-running off-Broadway show in history (after "The Fantasticks").

Since then, Goggin has created "Nunsense 2: The Second Coming", "Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nunsense Jamboree", "Nuncracker's: The Nunsense Christmas Musical", "Meshuggah-Nuns", "Nunsensations: The Nunsense Vegas Revue", and finally, "Nunset Boulevard".

As I said earlier, you're in for a treat!

"Nunsense" can be seen Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3 through January 17th at Crown City Theatre, 11031 Camarillo Street in North Hollywood. For tickets call (818) 605-5685 or visit www.crowncitytheatre.com

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MARKET

FROM PAGE 1

and another near Pico and Barrington Avenue. But the Santa Monica location is the only one that remains.

"It was the larger of the stores, and I sold off the others," he said. "This is more like a retirement home for me. It's a good place to be."

Bob's Market, which offers meats, produce and a curated wine selection as well as a full-service deli and home delivery, has attempted to maintain its yesteryear sensibilities while competing against large chains. It closed for six weeks in 1994 for major renovations, and Rosenbloom has upgraded store equipment over the years.

"I try to keep up with the times," he said.

If Rosenbloom hadn't purchased the property a few years after moving in, he said, he probably wouldn't have been able to keep the market afloat. But at least some of the company's longevity is due to its focus on customer service. His approximately 60 employees, including Richard Schwartzberg in the meat department, Jim Jaffe in produce and his son Rick in wine and liquor, bring decades of experience to the market.

Bob's Market has also maintained a strong presence in Santa Monica by donating to numerous nonprofit groups, religious institutions and schools, including Westside Family Health Center, Santa Monica YMCA, the local Little League, the Church in Ocean Park, Mount Olive Lutheran Church Preschool and Santa Monica Synagogue as well as Santa Monica High, John Adams Middle and Grant Elementary schools.

"We like to support the community because they support us," store supervisor Lafayette James told the Daily Press earlier this year. "We are an anchor for the community in Ocean Park and [Rosenbloom] has always believed in giving back. We are community-based and there is growth in supporting local."

Asked about the future of the market, Rosenbloom admitted that he hasn't given it much thought. He and his wife have eight children combined, but he said they haven't shown much interest in taking the reins of the business.

For now, though, it appears local residents will continue flocking to the market for their grocery needs. As Miller, the regular, wrote in an online review: "Don't ever change, Bob's."

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THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Santa Monica Nativity Scenes

Multiple life-sized scenes proclaiming the story of Christmas will be on display from December 13 through January 6 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, along Maple and 14th Streets, Santa Monica.

Santa Monica CITY OF THE Christmas Story Since 1953

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

3pm • Join in the Opening Ceremony festivities at Palisades Park, Ocean Avenue near the foot of Arizona Avenue.

5pm • Continue the celebration at the Interfaith Jazz Vespers at Mt. Olive Church, followed by a parking lot party at 6:30pm to welcome the Nativity Scenes.

Donations to support this 62-year traditon may be sent to:
Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee
P.O. Box 0648, Santa Monica, CA 90406

www.santamonicanativityscenes.org

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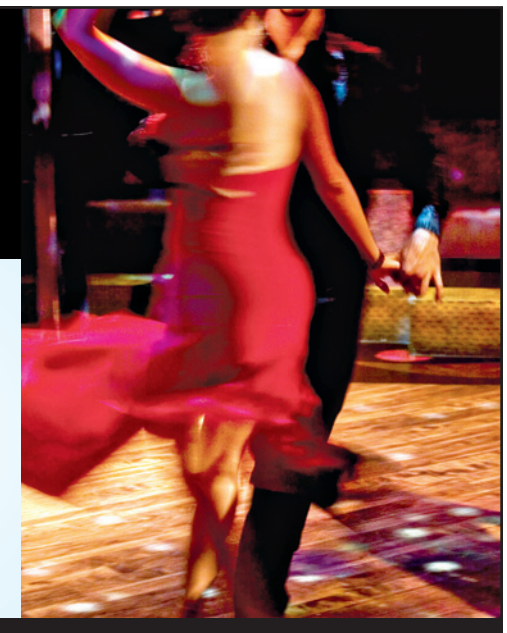
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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS WATER TEMP: **64.3°**

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high
SW/S swell mix for exposures. Small windswell.

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
SW/S swell mix for exposures. Small windswell.

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small SW/S swell mix and traces of NW windswell.

CANCER
FROM PAGE 1

very flexible choice.

"You can do it on all different days of the week so it fits in your schedule. I really liked that because as a college student your classes are so scattered. I really liked that flexibility. That way I could continue doing work with the American Cancer Society while not having a huge time burden."

Ashrafian said another reason she loved the program so much was the ability to drop patients off at the hospital or their doctor's office and return when they were done.

"I would sit at Starbucks and study for the three four hours that it would take for their appointment, all the while knowing that I'm helping someone who really needs that ride."

Graduating from UCLA last June, Ashrafian has been working at different levels for the American Cancer Society since her freshman year of high school when she joined their club at school. She first chose to get involved because of her personal connection to the cancer community.

"My grandmother is an ovarian cancer survivor, and I always grew up knowing what the American Cancer Society was. I grew up hearing cancer a lot. And once I went up to the club and started talking to them more I realized that I hadn't known as a 14-year-old that I could be doing something to fight this disease that I had been afraid of my whole life.

"Essentially I was drawn in because of my family history, but what keeps me going is it is a community that is so united in hope. Talking about how you are feeling, what you are going through. It's a very, very empowering community. You really can't find it anywhere else."

Ashrafian believes that Road to Recovery helps both the patients and the volunteers.

"I feel like it goes both ways. If you can't get to your appointment because you are too sick to take public transportation or don't have the money to take an Uber or Lyft all the time, you get these life saving treatments and see your doctors because of these drivers. It is so, so essential for these patients that shouldn't have to worry about how they are going to get from point A to point B.

"And for the drivers, they feel grateful for the opportunity to be interacting with those patients and having that conversation with them. It's a very unique opportunity to have a direct contact with the people you wanna help."

Ashrafian said that she really loves that Road to Recovery is a program that everyone can participate in.

"If you can drive, you can do it. We have drivers well into their late 60s and 70s. It's so flexible. It really is a great program."

jennifer@smdp.com

DONATION
FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica can relate to the women at the center.

"Homeless women, we all can relate to that no matter what our situations," Ward said. "The women who responded to me are women who are like me, and everybody in between. I think the common denominator was 'What if we were homeless?' Wondering what it would be like to take a shower and not have some privacy. Carting your stuff around and eating donated food. Those women are functioning pretty well but we all want to work together to make their lives better."

And as far as how the women at the center responded to the donations, Ward said they were beside themselves.

"They were so excited. Just over the top thrilled," Ward said.

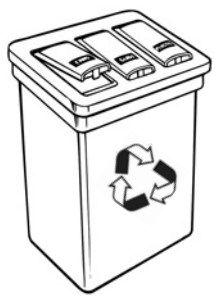
"We came in the middle of breakfast and they dropped their food. 'I don't want to miss my shopping,' they said. They call it shopping. But they don't have to pay for anything."

Ward said the women she's spoken to want to continue donating on an ongoing bases and maybe even volunteer at the center.

"And that's great because it's a place where you can actually get involved and make a difference … Personally I'm so proud of the women of Santa Monica for coming together like this."

jennifer@smdp.com

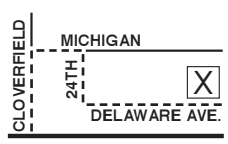
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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
SANTA MONICA TRAVEL & TOURISM, INC

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2017.
Applications due by noon, Tuesday, February 2, 2016.
Appointment to be made by City Council, February 9, 2016.

Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, Inc., is a private, non-profit corporation formed in 1982. Under contract to the City of Santa Monica, the purpose of the Bureau is to promote Santa Monica as a conference, business and leisure travel destination. As a sales and service organization, the Bureau acts as the marketing representative for local businesses and the community as a whole.

No Santa Monica City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires Commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action by filing a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net. All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

Publish: December 26

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Stare in disbelief
5 Ties down
10 Wise saying
12 Computer data
13 Europe's longest river
14 Paris river
15 Memorable time
16 Campers' kin
18 Reverent wonder
19 Doesn't bother
21 Headliner
22 Apostrophe's neighbor
24 French farewell
25 Arch features
29 Stock holders
30 Low joints
32 Granola bit
33 Much of N. Amer.
34 Favorite
35 Roils
37 Sycophant
39 Doughnut's shape
40 Stand for art
41 Derisive look
42 Took the trolley

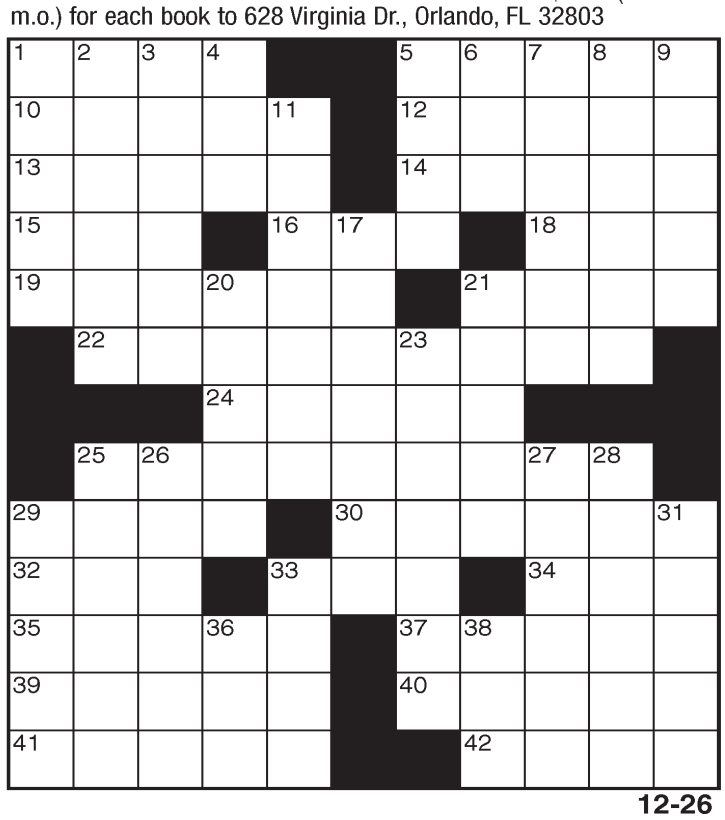
DOWN

1 Court rapper
2 Devotee
3 Gourmet's sense
4 Chick holder
5 Overlook
6 Early hour
7 Morphine, for one
8 Model's spot
9 Herd member
11 Headphones alternative
17 Harvard motto
20 Remains
21 Shut out
23 Newborn baby
25 Buster of comedy
26 Undivided
27 Rio Grande city
28 Ranked, in tennis
29 Fence supports
31 Flair
33 KGB's home
36 Paris street
38 Crew item

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

Yesterday's answer

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



12-26

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).

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

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

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Feed your kids the Arts. Involvement in the arts helps kids increase test scores and get better grades. For 10 Simple Ways to get more art into your child's life, visit AmericansForTheArts.org.
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Americans for the Arts
NAMM Foundation

TODAY IN HISTORY

1895 – New Empire Theatre, in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, England was destroyed by fire

1898 – Marie and Pierre Curie announce the isolation of radium.

1900 – A relief crew arrives at the lighthouse on the Flannan Isles of Scotland, UK, only to find the previous crew has disappeared without a trace.

1919 – Babe Ruth of the Boston Red Sox is sold to the New York Yankees by owner Harry Frazee, allegedly establishing the Curse of the Bambino superstition.

1925 – Turkey adopts the Gregorian calendar.

1941 – U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a bill establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day in the United States.

1943 – World War II: German warship Scharnhorst is sunk off of Norway's North Cape after a battle against major Royal Navy forces.

1944 – World War II: George S. Patton's Third Army breaks the encirclement of surrounded U.S. forces at Bastogne, Belgium.

1948 – Cardinal József Mindszenty is arrested in Hungary and accused of treason and conspiracy.



Call it a night, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Tension builds early, yet you could be letting off steam for a good part of the day. There seems to be friction between work commitments and your domestic life. You'll try to balance them, but perhaps letting go of a responsibility or two would help. Tonight: It could be lively.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might be juggling daily events with holiday visitors. Communication could become a problem, as you seem to feel pressured. You are not the only one. A discussion is likely to be animated. Try to see the other party's perspective. Tonight: Wherever you can relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Deal with the financial implications of recent events. Don't blame anyone; just pare down or revise your budget. A friend will provide you with a unique opportunity, which you might find to be costly. Still, you yearn to say "yes." Tonight: You see the power of self-discipline.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could feel stuck between a rock and a hard place. You have a strong sense of direction, which is not always logical. On the other hand, those around you seem to demonstrate a strong analytical quality. Try to adapt to their way of thinking. Tonight: You get your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might feel that the moment has come for you to disappear and do your own thing. Someone has been very demanding and difficult as of late, and you need a break. An argument will be prevented by your being reclusive for a short period of time. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Friends present options that you might find to be quite appealing. Your inclination will be to join them. However, a loved one is likely to prove that he or she can be quite the obstacle. You know how to push others away. Look for another solution. Tonight: You can have it all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A take-charge attitude might be important to have right now. The unexpected occurs, which adds some chaos to your day. Demonstrate your ability to flex and create more of what you desire. Follow your instincts, and you will be right-on. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for more of what you want. If you detach, you will see what you need to do in a new light. You tend to jump from one project to another. Make that OK, and be more flexible. Give your impulsiveness more of a say. Tonight: Catch up on a favorite TV series.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You welcome company as you go through your day. Your carefree, fun nature emerges. Someone you admire gives you positive feedback. Accept a compliment with grace. Use care with money, as you easily could make an error. Tonight: Go along with someone elserequest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You are in the limelight. You seem to like the attention, but on the other hand, you no longer have the same privacy you once did. Reach out to a friend whom you clearly care a lot about. You will have time to catch up on news. Tonight: Say "yes" to an exciting offer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be surprised by what someone says or does. One-on-one relating will have a positive outcome and leave both parties smiling. Your instincts will carry you through indecision and a difficult moment. A loved one tries to be there for you. Tonight: Call it a night.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Even if at first glance you think you have no alternatives, look again. Animated discussions could take you to a new realization. Lose the words "no" and "impossible" from your vocabulary, and you will open up to new ideas. Explain your logic. Tonight: Let your hair down.

Weekend Edition, December 26-27, 2015

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

This year you often try to see both sides of an argument. You also might have difficulty trying to decide which one would be best or most effective. You will learn which path to follow. Curb a tendency to be negative or critical; otherwise, others will start to treat you the same way. If you are single, meeting people happens with ease. Choosing and maintaining a bond with someone you meet will take work, but it will be worth it. If you are attached, the two of you need to agree to disagree. Enjoy your differences rather than condemn them. CANCER has similar security issues as you, but he or she comes up with different solutions.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



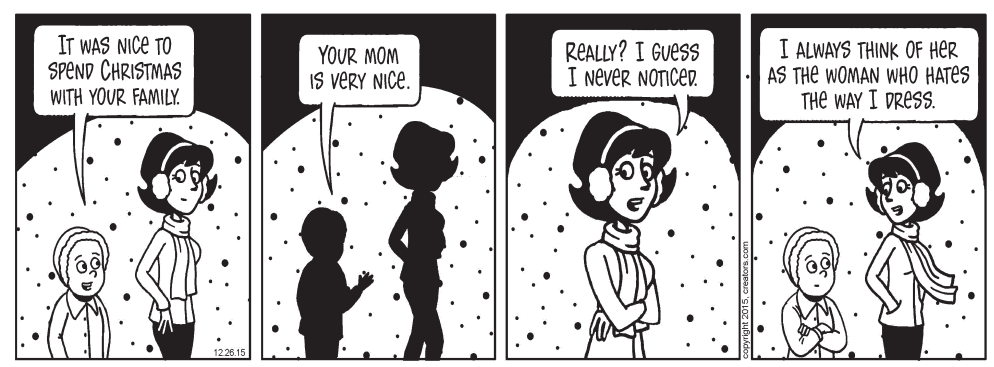
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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I Hope You Had a
Very
Merry
Christmas
Santa Monica

Kate Bransfield

BRE # 01218699