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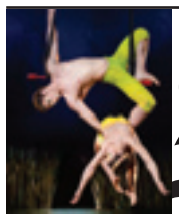

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

CIRQUE COMING TO TOWN
SEE PAGE 5

THE FOLLOW THE MONEY ISSUE

15 school district employees average $139K a year

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Three school district employees will make more than $150,000 this year, according to documents provided by public school officials.

Superintendent Sandra Lyon is the highest paid Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District employee, taking home $230,000 in base salary, which is less than the superintendents at most of the districts the Daily Press surveyed.

The average of the top 15 highest paid district employees is $139,732. Pasadena Unified School District's top 15 earners average $138,160. At Beverly Hills Unified School District, the mean was $128,458 and at Burbank Unified School District it was $116,957.

No SMMUSD teachers made the list of the top 23 highest paid district employees in 2013-14 but 10 principals did. Santa Monica High School's Eva Mayoral was the highest paid principal, bringing in $133,188 this year. Malibu High School's Jerry Block made

SEE PAY PAGE 10

CREATIVE RECYCLING

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Steve Battaglia of Venice retrieves lights at one of the city's Christmas tree drop off locations at Reed Park on Tuesday. Battaglia thinks it's a waste to dispose of the trees with lights still on them. The drop off sites will be open through the month of January.

What's your apartment look like?

3,000 units may need major upgrades

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE In the discussion of the recently approved Housing Element, the issue of apartment upgrades came up, but questions still remain.

The state's Department of Housing and Community Development, in reviewing the Housing Element, asked City Hall to estimate the number of units in need of upgrades, noting that the most recent study was done in 2006 and estimated that 3,000 may need major upgrades.

A survey, completed by the Rent Control Board in 2006, showed that about 25 percent of the units had plumbing issues. About 18 percent mentioned leaks in walls or ceilings.

Wes Wellman, president of the Action Apartment Association, which represents landlords in Santa Monica, noted that the 2006 survey showed that tenants were "at least somewhat satisfied."

"I only hope for their sake that tenants were as satisfied in their personal relationships as they were with their landlord relationships as revealed by this survey," he wrote in an e-mail.

Today, he said, tenants would likely be even happier.

SEE HOUSING PAGE 8

Driver ordered to trial in Venice Beach crash

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES The driver of a car that plowed through crowds on the Venice Beach boardwalk must stand trial on charges of murder in the death of a newlywed woman and assault with a deadly weapon involving more than a dozen other tourists and vendors who were injured, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Nathan Campbell, 38, was bound over for trial after a preliminary hearing of the case before Superior Court Judge Antonio Barretto. Campbell also will face 10 counts of leaving the scene.

SEE TRIAL PAGE 11

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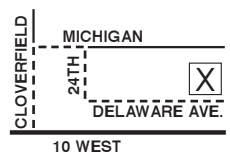

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www.wiseandhealthyaging.org

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014

Get crafty
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 3:30 p.m.
Join the library for a different craft each month. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Western flick
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 6:30 p.m.
Written and produced by Robert Knott, "Appaloosa" focuses on a lawman and his deputy hired to defend a lawless town from a murderous rancher. Starring Jeremy Irons, Ed Harris, Viggo Mortensen and Renée Zellweger. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Friday, Jan. 10, 2014

Eat well, Santa Monica
Citywide
Hours vary
To celebrate California Restaurant Month, good taste will meet healthy food this January during Santa Monica's second annual Eat Well Week. Some of the city's top restaurants will offer discounted prix fixe menus and new healthy menu options that satisfy both the wallet and waistline. For a list of restaurants, visit santamonica.com/where-to-eat/eat-well-week.

Hit the mat
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 9 a.m.
Yoga at the Beach House is a great place to focus your mind, lift your spirits and strengthen your body. Drop in or full five-week session registration available. Ages 12 and up. For more information, visit beachhouse.smgov.net.

Vidiots, KCRW unite
Vidiots
302 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Frances Anderton, KCRW's host of "DnA: Design and Architecture," interviews Jeannine Oppewall, four-time Oscar-nominated production designer. Oppewall has worked on over 30 films including "Catch Me If You Can" and "L.A. Confidential." There will be refreshments and live music before the talk. For more information, call (310) 392-8508.

By the fire
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Fireside at the Miles is back. Starting this Friday, Santa Monica Cultural Affairs presents 14 intimate events at the historic playhouse. Every concert features a different mix of contemporary music, opera, jazz, storytelling, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a cappella singing and more. Performances take place beside the large vintage fireplace. Fireside at the Miles runs through March 1. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

Improv night
M.i. Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade
11:30 p.m.
Recently relocated from Chicago, Octavarius is like "Whose Line is it Anyway?," "Con Air" and Jackson Pollock had a baby, and you can be a part of his show. By weaving scenes, songs and games together in a high-octane, non-stop comedy set, Octavarius delivers an experience like no improv you've ever seen. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014

Frisbee
1550 PCH Beach Lot
9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
This elite tournament on the sand promises to attract some of the best players in the world to compete in Santa Monica. For more information, visit www.leiout.com.

Oil recycling
O'Reilly Auto Parts
2018 Lincoln Blvd., 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Bring used motor oil and oil filters for recycling. Exchange used oil filters for a new one for free. Limit one new filter per customer. Free used-motor-oil recycling containers also available. For more information, call (310) 458-2223.

In the bag
1450 Ocean
1450 Ocean Ave., 1 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Make a vintage messenger bag with the most eco-friendly urban homesteading machine imaginable. Cost: $15 cash for materials fees. All materials are provided cut and ready to sew. For more information, call (310) 458-2239.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to **smdp.com/communitylistings**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WOODLAWN CEMETERY

City Hall seeks names of dead veterans

City officials are asking for the public's help in reviewing names of Santa Monicans who are going to be included on a new commemorative wall to be built at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The memorial will recognize those who served in one of the country's military branches and who perished while on active duty during a conflict.

City officials have collected the names of over 90 people for inclusion, and are actively seeking anybody who may be missing from the list.

The names are organized by conflict and can be found on the cemetery's website at smgov.net/departments/cemetery.

The criteria developed for inclusion in the wall are inclusive, which reflect the desire to honor all those from Santa Monica that died while serving in a time of war or other foreign conflict, no matter the circumstance. The criteria are, someone who:

• Was born or lived in Santa Monica and died while in service during a time of war, in combat or otherwise, after Santa Monica was established as a city (1875);

• Had a Santa Monica address when they died while in service during a time of war or other foreign conflict, in combat or otherwise;

• Died while in service during war or other foreign conflict, in combat or otherwise, and chose to be interred in Santa Monica.

In describing the genesis of the project, Councilmember Bob Holbrook said, "It would be nice to commemorate these people so that when Memorial Day services are held, people can remember those who were lost, husbands, sons and daughters of Santa Monica."

The fundraising effort for the monument started last May at the Memorial Day remembrance, held at Woodlawn, and the goal is to complete the project and install the wall in time for next Memorial Day, on May 26, 2014. City Hall has received pledges and contributions totaling over $12,000 to date, which represents over two thirds of the total estimated cost of the project, city officials said in a news release.

– DAILY PRESS

EASTSIDE

Dancing machines wanted

As part of a nationwide tour, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School – the official training institution of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre – will hold auditions for its 2014 Intensive Summer Program at Westside School of Ballet, 1709 Stewart St., on Saturday, Jan. 11.

Registration begins at 2 p.m. with the audition following at 2:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School directors are holding auditions in 26 cities and 15 states, to bring young dance talent to Pittsburgh. The team selects students from each audition to attend the school's five-week Intensive Summer Program, which will be held June 23 through July 26 in Pittsburgh's Strip District.

The five-week program features a diverse dance curriculum, including ballet technique, partnering, pointe and repertoire as well as jazz, modern and character dance. Students attend classes six days a week, including seminars and workshops focused on nutrition, choreography, injury prevention and the psychology of dance.

The nation-wide audition tour draws more than 700 candidates from around the country who are interested in studying dance in Pittsburgh.

The auditions and program are open to male and female ballet dancers 12 and older. For additional details about audition requirements and dates, please visit www.pbt.org.

– DP

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

JAMMED: Traffic like this on the 405 Freeway continue to be a major concern in Los Angeles.

Report: L.A. plagued by poverty, traffic jams

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles risks becoming a city in decline as it struggles with poverty, poor schooling, traffic jams and a crisis of leadership, a citizens' panel warned Wednesday.

The city is "barely treading water while the rest of the world is moving forward" and must take firm steps to make government more accountable and deal with its challenges, according to the 13-member Los Angeles 2020 Commission that examined fiscal stability and job growth.

Its report, entitled "A Time for Truth," said the city is trailing others in job growth and doesn't have a coherent approach to economic development.

"For too many years we have failed to cultivate and build on our human and economic strengths, while evading the hard choices concerning local government and municipal finance presented by this new century," the report stated. "The city where the future once came to happen has been living in the past and leaving tomorrow to sort itself out."

The panel plans to release a second report within 90 days offering recommendations for dealing with those challenges.

"Mayor Garcetti was elected to solve problems and we invite the authors to join our work to improve L.A.'s economy and reform City Hall. We appreciate this report and look forward to the next one," said a statement from Yusef Robb, a spokesman for Mayor Gil Garcetti.

The commission was chosen and headed by former U.S. Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor at the request of City Council President Herb Wesson. The panelists included former California Gov. Gray Davis and other leaders from government, business, labor and civic groups.

The commission said the government is outspending its stagnant revenue because of rising costs and could reach a point where it cannot afford to provide public services or fund its pension system.

In addition, the city lacks "a coherent or coordinated approach to economic development and soliciting investment" while existing businesses complain of "stifling regulations and an unresponsive bureaucracy."

Among the commission's findings:

— The city has struggled with slow job growth and stagnant wages for two decades. As a result, the middle class is shrinking, the 17.6-percent poverty rate is higher than for any other major American city and the roughly 10 percent unemployment rate is among the highest. The report said 10 percent fewer people are employed in Los Angeles than two decades ago while national employment increased 20 percent over the same period.

— The city was the headquarters for a dozen Fortune 500 companies three decades ago, but today there are just four. By contrast, New York has 43.

— The city is "strangled by traffic" and is the most congested urban community in the nation.

"Even if all the ambitious and expensive mass transit projects now underway are successfully completed, they will simply keep things from getting any

SEE **REPORT** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

On the wrong side of humanity

Editor:

How delightful it was to start this new year by reading yet another whimpering conservative's rant ("What side are you on," Letter to the Editor, Jan. 4-5). The predictability factor of these writers' pathetic rhetoric is, if anything, consistent. And for that I thank them! Google "Conservative" and then "Change" – never the Twain shall meet. Fortunately, the only constant in this brief dance of ours is change, but this would be anathema to a conservative, hence my reply:

Rarely, if ever, does one hear a modern liberal rant and rave about women's reproductive rights, the great "unwashed takers," those lazy poor and hungry children, or that greedy desire for a decent living wage, not to mention the terrible drain on our economy from Social Security. The beasts! And that outrageous claim that "healthcare is a right and not a privilege" is simply too much not to attack!

So, "truth has no history?" Would it follow then that history will indeed "have truth" once your eloquent ilk re-write it? Just curious, really. Oh, and good luck with that.

As for that "diminished credibility and respect on the world stage." Well, this can be accredited directly to your infamous list of past GOP presidents beginning with Nixon; the garnish on that particular martini being "W" and his brain trust. It's that pesky history thing again. Never mind. Now add the Tea Party, FOX and their mutant offspring, and that irrelevant ole timey religion into the mix and you have yourself a cocktail of crazy right there. Drink up! No don't! You cited the "failed ACA rollout, Putin's prominence, the advanced progressive agenda ... expanding government," and of course the "federalized educational standards." Man, stay away from mind altering anything(s). The paranoia runs deep here.

But please, conservatives, carry on. Your amusing attempts to inspire through fear, intimidation and guilt (the very same tired tools used by religion) are showing signs of wear somewhat like the fringe on a lunatic. An awakened and educated populace just isn't affected by those archaic and fruitless tools in the 21st century. And every time one of you opens that gaping canyon of profound inanities, the hilarity ensues even further. Don't stop! The overcrowded clown car with your Cruz control, Bachmann's headlight eyes, and Ryan's ever expanding sniffer will guide you safely to yet another rip roaring debate. Can't wait!

And speaking of sleepers, you wonder why "... liberals wake up in the morning." Frankly, to meet your type on the battlefield and vanquish once and for all your lame attempts to install here an oligarchy/theocracy with a side of rampant and unregulated capitalism thrown in for bad measure. And while your teammates babble incoherently with their thinly veiled racism, misogyny, bigotry, and, yes, religious fervor, we on the other side are actually working and researching, inquiring and studying; all, evidently, anathema (again) to your myopically regressive, self righteous and anti-human ideology.

In the words of that irascible, yet lovable philosopher Samuel Clemens, "Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please." Not to forget Voltaire, "If we believe absurdities, we will commit atrocities." Any of these ring a bell?

By all means, continue spewing your "jokes as truths" as we are certain that the punch line will eventually fall and thud just like your platform – flat and terribly unimaginative. No, conservative, you are not only on the wrong side of history, but of humanity as well!

W. Jones
Santa Monica

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal

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The political class underestimates you

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE RECONVENES this week and the politicians may be on the verge of a major miscalculation because they don't understand how real people think.

The members of the political class in Washington and our state capitols are certain they know what Americans are thinking. Just ask them. After all, they read polls and this convinces them they know how we view Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, high-profile politicians and policy issues like "sequestration."

What they don't understand is that most folks don't spend much time thinking about any of these issues or politicians. The politicians might be surprised to learn that "quantitative easing" is not a popular topic of dinner table conversation.

What real people care about is the welfare of their families, their jobs and their homes; most folks spend a lot more time thinking about their favorite sports teams than they do about politics. Politics becomes important when it impacts their families, jobs or homes. When it gets personal, they start paying close attention.

Look at Obamacare. When it was approved by Congress three years ago, for most people it was theoretical and it was not clear how it would affect them. After all, even then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi famously admitted that members of Congress did not know what was in it. So it makes sense that average people refused to put a lot of time into thinking about something that even the powerful in government did not understand.

Now that the healthcare plan has been rolled out with the result that over 6 million Americans have lost their health insurance, and it has been revealed that the president's assurance that those who liked their current policy and doctor could keep them, was disingenuous at best, real people are seeing a real threat to their families. The public outrage meter is so high that it is in danger of bursting. Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia has warned this puts his party's future control of the Senate in jeopardy and other members of the Washington, D.C. political class are admitting they may have miscalculated.

In Sacramento, where the Legislature returns to work this week, the politicians may be about to make a similar miscalculation.

Last year State Senate leader Darrell Steinberg announced that 2014 would be the year to examine Proposition 13, and this coming year may be the most dangerous yet for Proposition 13 and the taxpayers who depend on its protections.

A number of anti-Proposition 13 bills are currently active in the Legislature. Especially threatening to homeowners is legislation that would make it easier to increase "per parcel taxes." Parcel taxes are taxes on property, which under Proposition 13, require a two-thirds vote. The politicians want to lower the vote requirement, which could cost homeowners billions of dollars.

It is possible that a half dozen anti-Proposition 13 bills will be rushed through at the end of the legislative session this summer and these constitutional amendments placed on the November 2014 ballot. It takes only a majority of voters to approve an amendment to the constitution and, while Proposition 13 remains extremely popular with the general public, millions of dollars will be spent by backers of higher taxes to portray these changes as increasing "local control" or as enabling "investment in the community."

However, proponents of dismantling Proposition 13 underestimate what will be the reaction when real people learn that their homes, jobs and families will be negatively impacted by the destruction of these taxpayer protections. It might best be summed up by the quote attributed to Isoroku Yamamoto, the commander of the Japanese forces that attacked Pearl Harbor: "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

Those who are not members of the political class, and want to understand more about these threats to Proposition 13, are invited to visit www.hjta.org.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Paying up

City officials have indicated that City Hall may be willing to pay for repairs for the controversial "Chain Reaction" sculpture, reversing their previous stance that private donors should fund the restoration. The City Council will decide the matter in the next few months.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think it's a good idea for City Hall to pay for the repairs that some estimate may cost as much as $400,000? If not, why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.

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Culture Watch

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

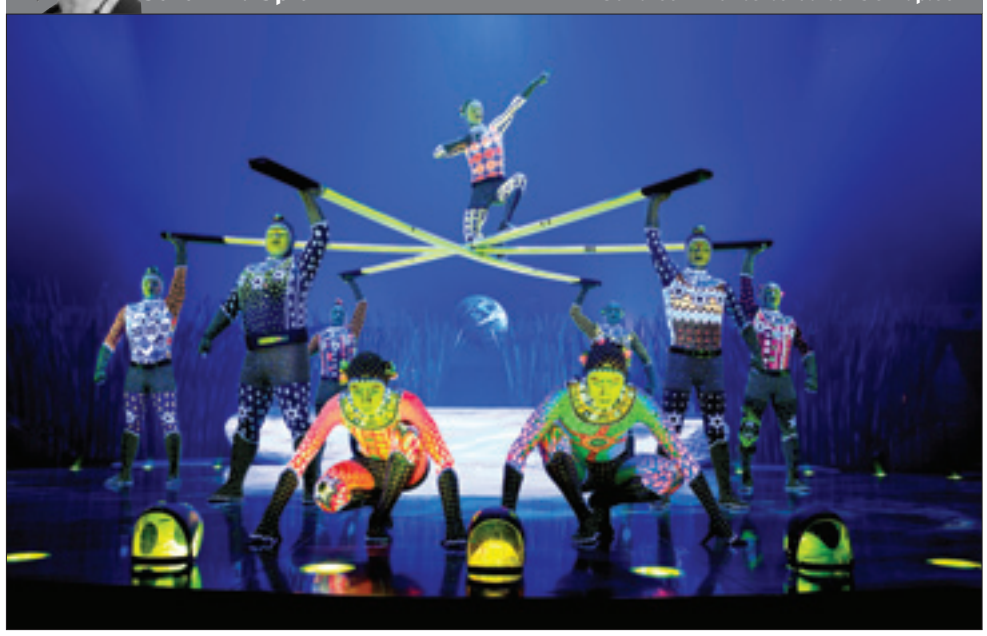

Photo courtesy OSA Images/Cirque du Soleil Inc.

STRIKING: Cirque du Soleil is set to return to Santa Monica with 'Totem.'

Big news for the new year

THIS IS MY FIRST CHANCE TO WELCOME you to the new year — and there's so much to share!

First, the big news. The big tent returns as Cirque du Soleil sets up shop on the beach in Santa Monica with its latest spectacular, "Totem." I'll attend opening night on Jan. 21 and report back to you.

I'm excited to witness the incredible and much-deserved success of this amazing circus troupe since covering their first appearance outside of Canada for NPR's "Morning Edition" as they opened the Los Angeles Arts Festival back in 1987. Tickets, details and reservations at www.cirquedusoleil.com.

BINGE ON ART

Two giant art extravaganzas open this month. Among the 100-plus international art houses featured at the 19-year-old LA Art Show are several Santa Monica and beach cities galleries. ADC Contemporary, Axiom Contemporary, Egenolf Gallery, Roger Genser and the Marina del Rey-based Hayden & Fandetta and G2 Gallery from Venice will show off their top work. An anticipated crowd of 50,000 will view contemporary and traditional art at the L.A. Convention Center, Jan. 15-19, with an opening night premiere party on the 15th. More info at www.laartshow.com.

Closer to home and now in its fifth year is Art Los Angeles Contemporary. This big bash showcases 70 international galleries that focus on contemporary art, from Jan. 30 through Feb. 2 at our own Barker Hangar at Santa Monica Airport. With 40,000 square feet and 40-foot-high ceilings crammed with art of all kinds, your senses can be overwhelmed; try dividing your viewing across the several days of the fair. Angeleno Magazine says, "Art Los Angeles Contemporary is no longer the new kid on the block, growing into a mature, cultured player in the international art arena." It's fun, too. Find out more at artlosangelesfair.com.

PIER REVIEWED

A sold-out run with top reviews, plus LA Weekly's Pick of the Week, have extended the life of the West End Theatre, the new cabaret at the edge of the Santa Monica Pier. "Kurt Weill at the Cuttlefish Hotel," the creation of actor Paul Sand, continues indefinitely, beginning Friday, Jan. 17. Enjoy two performances of this musical revue every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. featuring the dark song hits ("Mack the Knife" and "The Alabama Song") of one-time Santa Monica resident Kurt Weill. Drinks are available. For info and tickets, visit thewestendtheatre.com or call (562) 607-2739.

OPENING NEXT WEEK

Classicists take note: "An Iliad," based on Homer's epic poem, has been adapted for the contemporary stage by director Lisa Peterson and actor Denis O'Hare (of "True Blood" and "American Horror Story" fame). It opens on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, running through Feb. 2.

The New York Times wrote this: "Drawing on the muscular translation by Robert Fagles, Mr. O'Hare and Ms. Peterson have telescoped the mighty expanses of Homer's great poem into an evening that scales the conflict of the Trojan War down to an intimate solo show illuminating both the heroism and the horror of warfare." I am looking forward to reviewing this production.

Also opening on Jan. 16, hang onto your haggis as "The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart" occupies The Broad's intimate second stage, The Edye. The National Theatre of Scotland promises a wildly entertaining evening of supernatural storytelling, music and theatre inspired by the Border Ballads, Robert Burns and the poems of Robert Service. A stuffy academic at a conference about ballad music gets caught in a vortex of drinking, singing and carousing that will change her life forever.

I'm in; will let you know my thoughts in about two weeks.

For details, info and tickets on both of these shows, visit thebroadstage.com or call (310) 434-3200.

FIRESIDE NIGHTS

The fifth annual Fireside at the Miles kicks off on Friday, Jan. 10 for eight weekends. Each concert features a different mix of contemporary music, opera, jazz, storytelling, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a cappella singing and more. The ambiance includes a vintage fireplace, comfy couches, cozy candles, organic beverages and snacks in an historic playhouse. The series culminates with a special weekend performance by audience favorite String Theory, on Feb. 28 and March 1. Call (310) 458-8634 for reservations or e-mail milesplayhouse@smgov.net. The Miles Playhouse is located at 1130 Lincoln Blvd.

SEE WATCH PAGE 7

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

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Photo courtesy Red Granite Pictures

ON-SCREEN BUDS: **Leonardo DiCaprio and Jonah Hill star in 'The Wolf of Wall Street.'**

The big, bad 'Wolf of Wall Street'

IF YOUR IDEA OF ENTERTAINMENT IS watching a crowd of mostly naked people indulging in continual sexual orgies, all together at parties and in their offices, popping Quaaludes and sniffing endless lines of coke and freaking out afterwards, masturbating in public at the sight of a beautiful woman, standing on a desk top and urinating into a wastebasket, shoving candles up a man's anus, and Leonardo DiCaprio licking and pawing and hitting on every female that crosses his path, then "The Wolf of Wall Street" is the film for you — all three hours of it!

Perhaps director Martin Scorsese believed that if this film were pitched as a comedy the audience would guffaw its way through it. And many of them did. (But, ironically, this film is classified as a "documentary" on Fandango.)

It wasn't that it was shocking, it was just distasteful. And pointless.

Repeating everything over and over didn't make it more fascinating. Can sex really be that tedious?

On the other hand, the Wall Street part of the story was truly engaging, albeit unnerving. With DiCaprio berating and exhorting them every step of the way, a bunch of semi-literate losers were transmogrified into a smooth-talking, persuasive team of successful stockbrokers, screwing every client in the day and any woman at night.

DiCaprio dominated every scene he was in (and that was all of them), delivering motivational speeches, pep rally grunts, and a penchant for uninhibited wackiness that he's never demonstrated before. He was Gatsby turned inside out.

DiCaprio's sidekick in this endeavor was Jonah Hill, and he supplied most of the "comedy." As did Matthew McConaughey, in a brief cameo, explaining everything one needed to know in order to maintain his cool in the pressured atmosphere of Wall Street.

Margot Robbie underplayed the role of DiCaprio's compliant wife and Rob Reiner overplayed the role of DiCaprio's father. He was over the top and a totally unnecessary addition to the story.

The assorted stockbrokers, who started out pitching penny stocks, worked their way up to multi-million dollar transactions and fancy clothes and cars, but you wouldn't want to take their calls on your iPhone, mostly because it was literally impossible for them to construct a sentence without the use of the "f" word. (The word was used 506 times in the course of the movie, a new all-time record for f-bombs, according to the critics who counted them.) But also because they would invent all sorts of enticements to get you to buy whatever junk they were pushing that day.

Stock fraud was the game they played and eventually it all unraveled, thanks to the persistence of a "straight arrow" FBI agent, played by Kyle Chandler, who couldn't be bribed.

"The Wolf of Wall Street" comes from a book of the same name by Jordan Belfort, and DiCaprio uses Belfort's name for his character.

The others in the film, all real people from Belfort's apparently "true story," were given new names. Screenwriter Terence Winter fashioned the whole thing into this film that many have called, "One of the best of 2013." Who are those people?

"The Wolf of Wall Street" is now playing in theatres. You'd be hard-pressed to avoid it.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

Timberlake, Thicke have top-selling album, song

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK Justin Timberlake and Robin Thicke owned 2013 in music.

Nielsen Entertainment announced late Tuesday that Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience" was the top-selling album with 2.4 million units sold. Thicke's ubiquitous "Blurred Lines" was the best-selling song with 6.4 million tracks sold.

Albums sales were down. Only 289.4 million albums were sold in 2013, compared with 316 million a year before. Single tracks also saw a decrease, by 6 percent. Streaming, however, was up 32 percent with 118.1 million streams. The sales figures include data from YouTube, Spotify and other digital outlets. Baauer's "Harlem Shake" topped the year with 489,674,000 streams.

New releases from Eminem and Luke Bryan rounded out the top three albums. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' "Thrift Shop" and Imagine Dragons' "Radioactive" placed second and third on the singles list.

‘Lone Survivor’ a brutal tribute to Navy SEALs

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK Marcus Luttrell, the former Navy SEAL whose deadly mission in Afghanistan has been turned into the film “Lone Survivor,” strides into a hotel room for an interview, trailed by his service dog, Mr. Rigby.

The tall, hulking, goateed Navy Cross recipient greets a journalist with a rock-hard grip, and nods to director Peter Berg and star Mark Wahlberg, who plays him in the film. This is clearly not what he wants to be doing.

Based on Luttrell’s best-selling 2007 memoir, “Lone Survivor” is about a 2005 four-man operation in northeastern Afghanistan’s Kunar province that fell apart when a trio of goat herders stumbled upon the staked-out SEALs.

After releasing the civilians and aborting the mission, the SEALs were quickly ambushed by the Taliban in a firefight that tumbled down a rocky gulch, killed Luttrell’s three fellow SEALs, left Luttrell badly injured and, in an attempted rescue, killed 16 more men.

“Lone Survivor,” which opens like a recruitment video with documentary footage of intense SEAL training, is the latest in a series of films that pays tribute to the Navy’s special forces: In messy, uncertain wars, they’re elite practitioners of precision. In the era of the superhero film, the Navy SEALs have inspired filmmakers as the genuine article.

Luttrell would rather not talk about any of it. He went along with “Lone Survivor” and wrote the book at the urging of his superiors. Compared to the actual events, the movie is no traumatic experience for Luttrell.

“I went through it in real life, so a movie about it isn’t going to affect me in any way,” says the 38-year-old Texan.

Hollywood and the American military are worlds apart. But “Lone Survivor” is a uniquely close collaboration, one in which Berg and Wahlberg (both producers) worked under significant pressure from the families of those who died and active-duty SEALs to faithfully render the soldiers’ lives, in battle and in brotherhood.

“I was at the screening when there were a hundred moms and dads of dead soldiers,” says Berg. “And I was at a screening where there were 500 active members of special operations, including Admiral (William) McRaven. And those are different. Because when those lights come up, those people are going to look you in the eye.”

Over the years, SEALs have been played by the likes of Bruce Willis, Steven Seagal and Demi Moore, and been a mainstay in video games (“Call of Duty,” “Metal Gear Solid”). But the movies, often in close consultation with the military, have come a long way since 1990’s “Navy SEALs,” with Charlie Sheen.

2012’s “Act of Valor” was acted out by active-duty SEALs and used live-ammo sequences to portray a fictional covert mission. Kathryn Bigelow’s “Zero Dark Thirty” dramatized the most famous SEAL mission, the raid in Abbottabad that killed Osama bin Laden. The recent docudrama “Captain Phillips” recreated the rescue of the kidnapped mariner by SEAL snipers, with Tom Hanks’ most-moving scene improvised with a real-life Naval officer.

Such productions, though, have given rise to questions of accuracy and charges of propaganda.

U.S. senators, including Dianne Feinstein and John McCain, claimed that too much information was shared with the filmmakers of “Zero Dark Thirty,” and many criticized the film for suggesting torture aided the hunt for bin Laden. “Captain Phillips” showed only a handful of the 19 shots that were fired on the three Somali pirates, and didn’t mention the $30,000 that went missing in the aftermath. Retired Army lieutenant general James B. Vaught argued that “Act of Valor” revealed too much about tactics: “Get the hell out of the media!” he implored.

But the military sees in the movies a chance to shape its image and insure some degree of authenticity in depictions of its service men and women. “Lone Survivor” has largely drawn praise as a brutal ode to Navy SEALs and a faithful depiction of the moral confusion of combat.

“For films like ‘Black Hawk Down’ and ‘Lone Survivor,’ the commonality is the notion that this is an important opportunity to set the record straight or at least to portray things as they believe they happened,” says Philip Strub, head of the Defense Department’s Film and Television Liaison Office.

WATCH
FROM PAGE 5

PLAN AHEAD

If I hadn’t seen for myself how amazing the Amazing Bubble Man is I couldn’t begin to imagine how anyone could turn bubbles into performance art.

But Louis Pearl is what he says he is, The Amazing Bubble Man. And you don’t want to miss his upcoming six-performance run at The Edgemar Center. Believe me, these seats will sell out fast.

In addition to exploring the breathtaking dynamics of bubbles, Pearl combines comedy and artistry along with the art, science and fun of bubble tricks; square bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles, bubble volcanoes, fog-filled bubbles, and even people inside bubbles. The man knows how to wow audiences of all ages.

He’s back at Edgemar on March 1 and 2 only, and for this engagement, Pearl will be accompanied by his lovely wife, Jet Black Pearl, an internationally renowned musician who sings and plays a variety of instruments. Performances take place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on those dates. Reserve by phone at (310) 392-7327 or online at edgemarcenter.org

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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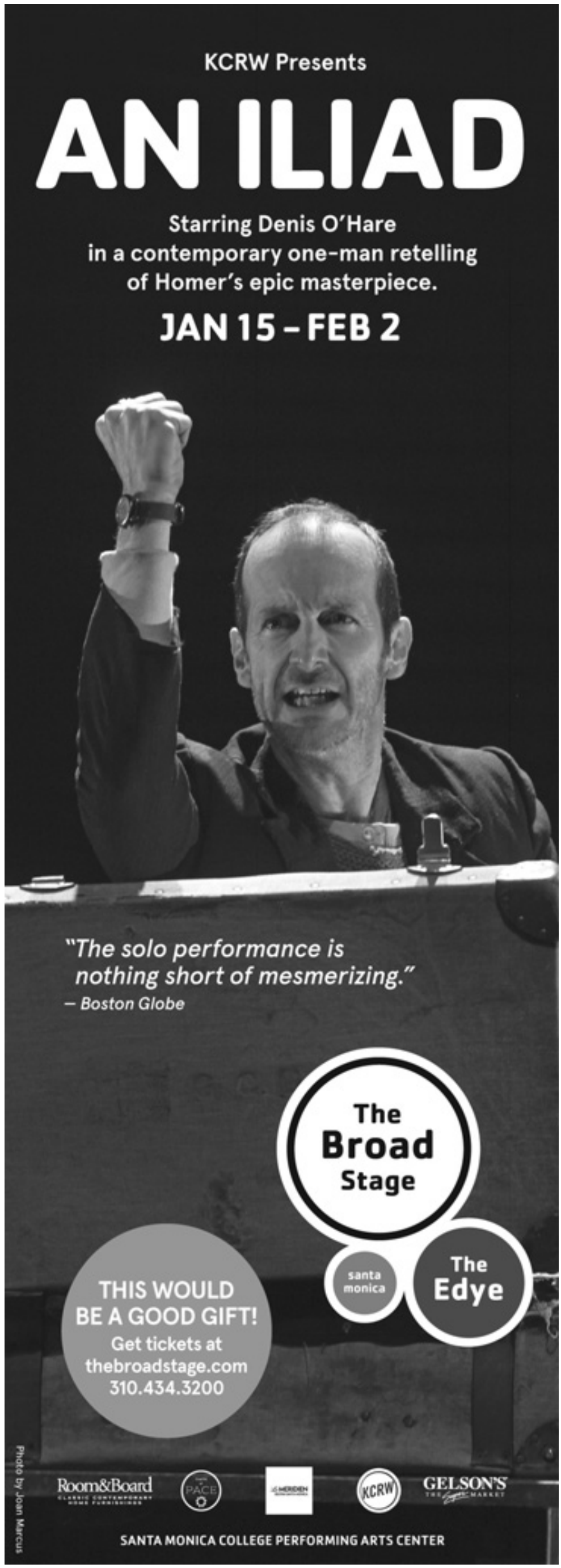


HOUSING
FROM PAGE 1

"As rents have increased and more historically low-rent units have been re-rented, owners have made substantially greater investments not only to vacated units but to building infrastructure as well," he said. "I conservatively estimate that, in the aggregate, Santa Monica apartment owners have invested over a third of a billion dollars in building upgrades since 1999."

Tracy Condon, administrator for the Rent Control Board, said that about 65 percent of rent-controlled units have now been rented at market rates. Under vacancy decontrol a landlord is allowed to raise the rent on a vacant apartment to whatever they can get on the open market. The unit is then subject to rent control, with annual rent increases based on a rate set by the Rent Control Board.

"Many owners tell us they upgrade the units prior to renting them to ensure they can get the highest market rate," she said.

Tenants can file petitions for rent decreases if they are having issues getting something fixed. Only 29 rent decreases were heard by the board last year, Wellman said.

Likewise, Condon said, owners can petition for increased rent adjustments if they had to put money into repairs and can no longer make a fair return.

"We don't get many increase petitions anymore, which suggests that the rents being collected allow owners to make necessary repairs and continue to make at least a fair return," she said.

Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) still gets calls about maintenance concerns on a weekly basis, said co-chair Patricia Hoffman.

"With the recession that we seem to be recovering from it seems that there was an increase of units that had unmet needs," she said. "We do get e-mails and calls on a regular basis."

Needs vary, she said. Often a sink is backed up. Sometimes they call about carpeting and painting.

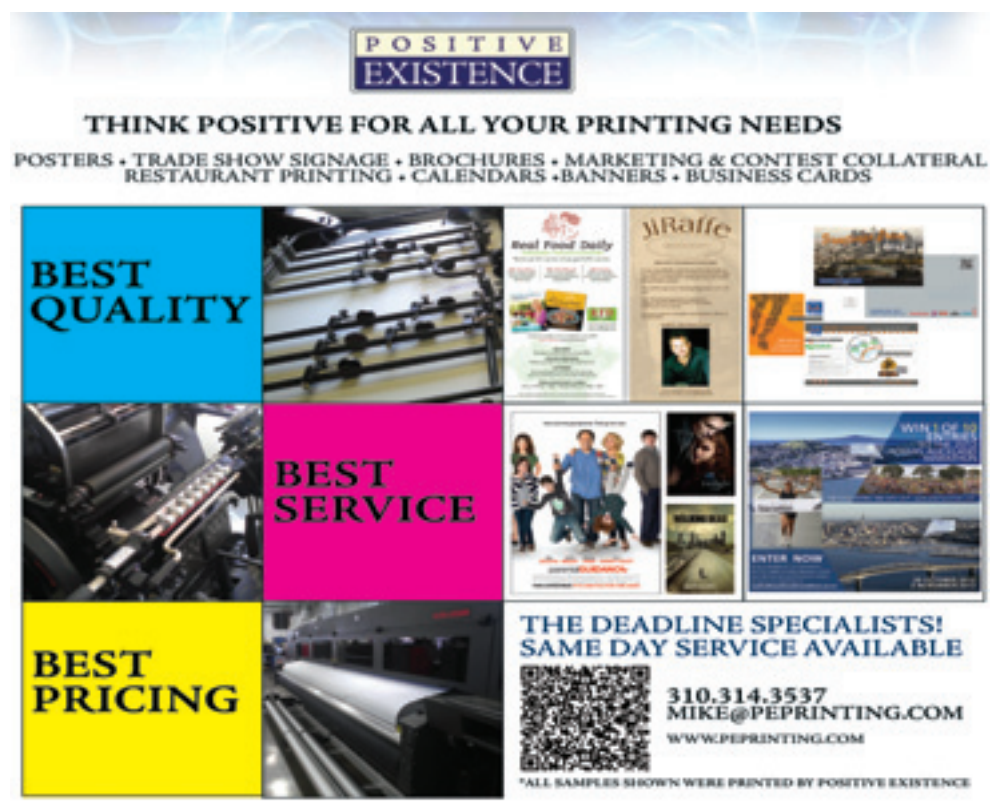
"It's all over the place," she said. "We got one within the last couple weeks from a fellow who has environmental allergies and was complaining about a smell that was coming into his house from the alley. It's not the first time we've gotten calls about environmental allergies."

If the issue is small, Hoffman said, SMRR will advise the renter, but most of the time they point them in the right direction, whether it be the Rent Control Board, Code Compliance, or the City Attorney's Office.

All those outlets, Wellman said, are another reason why the housing stock is likely above par.

"The Rent Control Board not only has the administrative mechanism to deal with legitimate deferred maintenance, it also conducts what amounts to advertising campaigns encouraging tenants to come forward with complaints," he said. "So it is a fiction to suppose that 3,000 units in Santa Monica need major upgrades."

dave@smdp.com



Paul MAYER
June 30, 1951 – December 7, 2013

Former Santa Monica resident Paul Mayer passed away at his home in Topanga, CA on December 7th, 2013.

He is survived by his daughter Kirsten Mayer and granddaughter Lila Jordan of Oakland CA, daughter Ingrid Mayer of Davis CA, sister Penny Hansen of Los Angeles CA and sister Pam Gibson of Phoenix AZ.

Paul was preceded in death by his father Charles Mayer (1978), mother Dorothy Mayer (2013) and brother Peter Mayer (2008).

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, January 11th at 11:30AM at the Edye Theatre. 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA.

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PAY
FROM PAGE 1

$123,684.

Teacher salaries follow a pay schedule, getting raises as they gain experience or degree credits. The pay schedules are generally renegotiated every three years but the school board hasn't given a raise since 2008, said Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Debra Washington. This is due largely to the lack of funding available following the economic downturn.

About 87 percent of the district's funding goes to employees, she said.

School districts generally have similar pay schedules, varying less widely than other public departments, because administrators look to other similarly-sized districts when deciding on pay, Washington said.

"They're looking for comparables in size and complexity," she said. "Generally, they look at the salary schedules and try to get in the ballpark."

Teacher salary schedules are being negotiated now with the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association (SMMCTA).

"Coming out of the recession and massive cuts to K-12 education, SMMCTA is confident that we will be able to secure a pay raise for our members," wrote SMMCTA President Harry Keiley in an e-mail.

Keiley would not comment on the current state of the negotiations or when they would likely be settled.

Smaller class sizes and good health benefits are top priorities along with the increased salaries, Keiley said.

The fact that no classroom teachers made the list of top paid employees is not surprising, he said, as management works year-round.

The teacher association compares SMMUSD salaries with salaries at other districts when negotiating, Keiley said, but Santa Monica and Malibu are unique.

"One of the things we have to be mindful of is the high cost of living around here, which can be particularly challenging for some of our newer teachers," he said.

A first year teacher with a basic college degree makes $44,341 annually, according to the salary schedule on the district's website. A teacher with 18 years of experience and 70 or more graduate level semester units can make $89,135.

Managers, like Lyon and Washington, who are also typically the higher paid employees, don't follow a schedule like teachers, Washington said. It's up to the Board of Education and the superintendent to decide when they get raises. When the teachers renegotiate their salaries, raises for managers are generally considered as well, she said.

"These district employees are working all of the time, and working hard," Washington said. "While these numbers might look high, in my opinion, after several years in this business, they work really tremendously hard serving the needs of our schools."

Board of Education member Nimish Patel agreed.

"I will tell you I see the work that our management does at the district and it's a labor of love," he said. "The hours they put in is amazing. I'm not sure exactly where they compare with other districts but I'm just really proud of what they do. They wear a lot of hats … . The work that needs to get done, gets done."

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TRIAL
FROM PAGE 1

Campbell, a transient with a history of petty-crime convictions, has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Phillip Dube, has said there was no intent to kill and the event was an accident.

Newlywed Alice Gruppioni, 32, of Bologna, Italy, was on her honeymoon when she was killed in the Aug. 3 incident at the famous Southern California tourist attraction.

Barretto dismissed several counts for technical reasons on a motion by Deputy District Attorney Victor Avila. He also dismissed one count in the case of a woman who was hit but not injured.

Outside court, Dube said his defense would be based on the fact that the used car Campbell was driving had been recalled before he bought it in Colorado and the problem was not fixed.

He said it had a faulty shift lever, which Campbell had to struggle with to get the car to move. When Campbell gunned the gas pedal after several attempts, the car lurched forward through the barriers to the boardwalk, Dube said.

The car hit Gruppioni first.

"He freaked out. She was on the hood of the car," Dube said. "He never intended to hurt anybody or kill anybody. He's not homicidal. He has no violence in his history. It's just a very sad hard luck story."

After Gruppioni was hit, Campbell panicked and was just trying to get off the boardwalk when he hit 17 other people, Dube said.

Dube said the issue for a jury to decide at Campbell's trial will be "whether or not he had a criminal mind, a criminal intent, rather than acting in a panic mode."

Campbell could face a life sentence if convicted of a murder charge. Prosecutors will meet to determine whether the charge will be first-degree murder, which would mean the act was premeditated, or something lesser.

Some 30 witnesses, including tourists from across the country and the world, flew to Los Angeles to testify at the preliminary hearing.

One woman appeared in a wheelchair. Others spoke of their terror when the car came barreling down the boardwalk in the early evening when hundreds of people jammed the strip.

Witnesses said the driver maneuvered around barriers and intentionally aimed at tourists and vendors.

The judge set Campbell's arraignment for Jan. 22 and said the case would then be assigned to a judge for trial.

REPORT
FROM PAGE 3

worse," the report said.

— The 640,000-student Los Angeles Unified School District — the nation's second-largest — "is failing our children and betraying the hopes of their hardworking parents" with a high dropout rate, and many who do graduate are unable to meet college course requirements.

— City revenues "have been essentially flat since 2009" while expenses continue to grow. Services ranging from road repair and tree-trimming to libraries have been slashed because of budget problems, and the city has no realistic plans for dealing with soaring costs for its employee healthcare and underfunded retirement system. Police and fire departments are under strain from budget constraints, with response times to emergencies climbing. The city claims to have reached a goal of having 10,000 police officers but that figure is "not real" because the city has allowed officers and detectives to take paid time off for overtime instead of paying them in cash, effectively reducing the number of officers deployed.

— The city is "dramatically underinvesting" in modernization of three major assets — its port, airport and Department of Water and Power.

However, Los Angeles also has "all the ingredients of a great 21st century city," the report said, citing an ethnically diverse population that is useful in the global economy; world-class universities, the country's largest network of community colleges and an "international brand" that stands for "creativity, innovation, meritocracy, opportunity and a desirable lifestyle."

"Los Angeles epitomizes the California lifestyle that has been a magnet for entrepreneurs and talent," the report said. "Our region evokes images of red carpet glamour and warm sunny days, with shoreline sunsets and snow-capped mountains equally near. We are at the forefront of thought and action on the environment, immigration and individual rights."

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Water Temp: **58.8°**

THURSDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
New/primary NW swell moves in with secondary NW windswell mixing in;
Strongest for spots out to the west/north with occasional plus sets

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
Primary NW swell picks up slightly, while NW windswell fades;
Strongest for spots out to the west/north

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Steep-angled NW swell continues; pending storm development; stay tuned

SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
Steep-angled NW swell fades; pending storm development; stay tuned

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of: **January 1, 2014**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / 31
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 11

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcurGUY, SIMA and Swain Barber Foundation

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for at least 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	B	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	C	B
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	C
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	D	C
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	C	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	B	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	F	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	D	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	D	C
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	B	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	B	C
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	B	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	B	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty).	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A

LEGEND
- **DRY** -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
- **WET** -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
- **ns** -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

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Manager Don Mattingly gets new deal with L.A. Dodgers

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Don Mattingly will be back as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers next season with a new three-year contract that takes him through 2016.

The Dodgers announced the deal on Wednesday.

Mattingly has a 260-225 record in his first three seasons with the Dodgers, who reached the NL championship series, which automatically triggered an extension of his contract that was set to expire at the end of last season.

Mattingly was runner-up for NL manager of the year last season.

General manager Ned Colletti says Mattingly has done "a great job" with the team and his new deal is "well-deserved."

After the Dodgers were eliminated by St. Louis in the playoffs, Mattingly said the organization put him in a difficult position with his players by not exercising a team option going into the final year of his three-year deal.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528

The Great Beauty (NR) 2hrs 22min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-3924

47 Ronin (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
1:00pm, 7:10pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones ()
1:45pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

Grudge Match (PG-13) 1hr 53min
1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

47 Ronin 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
4:00pm, 10:15pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 451-9440

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
10:40am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:50pm

Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) 2hrs 05min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
11:30am, 7:00pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
3:15pm, 10:40pm

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
10:50am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:50pm, 10:45pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
10:50am, 2:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
12:15pm, 3:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 478-3836

Inside Llewyn Davis (R) 1hr 45min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Nebraska (R) 1hr 50min
1:20pm, 7:20pm

Philomena (R) 1hr 34min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Her (R)
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
4:10pm, 10:00pm

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

EXERCISE TONIGHT, AQUARIUS

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Your instincts work well with your finances right now. If you feel like you are lucky, go out and buy a lottery ticket. Be wise and follow your own advice. Remember to listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Treat a loved one well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You are energized and a witness to new possibilities. A discussion could encourage you to go for a long-term goal. Whether it is possible will be irrelevant. Tonight: Screen your calls if you want to get anything done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Take your time and let your mind wander. Your daydreaming contributes to your success and creativity; just don't do it in front of your boss, as he or she might not understand your process. An associate will get you thinking with a question. Tonight: Vanish.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Listen to feedback, and know what you desire. Friends seem to be supportive, and they probably will stay that way while you accomplish this goal. Your upbeat spirit is influential and helps many people, including you. Keep that in mind. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You beam, and others naturally come toward you. The problem you might have is that you can't really let go because of all your responsibilities. Still, others do respond to you well. Use your instincts with someone you must answer to. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Listen to a friend, who might be the source of surprising news. What you say and how you respond will make all the difference. Know that you won't be able to change someone's knee-jerk reaction. Be open to this person, despite his or her thinking. Tonight: Find your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might have indicated that you would accept extra responsibility. If you are exhausted and feel as if you have very little to offer, others will sense it, and your leadership could be questioned. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Touch base with someone in the know. You can't continue the way you have been without taking a bigger look at a situation that will help you expand your thinking. Someone sees life very differently from how you do. Tonight: Get concert tickets.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Take news with a grain of salt. You might want to check out an associate's thoughts on the matter. You could be unwilling to take a risk until you feel the situation is a lot more grounded. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to revisit a situation involving a loved one. Your decision could dramatically change your choices afterward. You are on a split path, and once you decide which way to go, it will be difficult to turn back. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Listen to news carefully. The person delivering the information might be as rigid as you are. Avoid viewing this situation in terms of "your way or my way," as that could result in a deadlock between the two of you. Instead, listen and process. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Listen to the creative muse within, as you could have a rare opportunity to express yourself freely. You will do just that in an unprecedented manner if you refuse to hold back. A child or loved one will be delighted by you and what you have to say. Tonight: Live it up.

Thursday, January 9, 2014

This year you will want to break barriers and create much more of what you want. You will discover that you have several key people who will make a big difference in your life. If you are single, you have many admirers. The possibility exists that you could meet a life partner in the next year. Don't hold back, should you sense that you have met The One. If you are attached, your relationship flourishes as a result of an increasing element of trust. In fact, you will view your partner as a guiding star in your life. TAURUS adds spice and interest to your life.

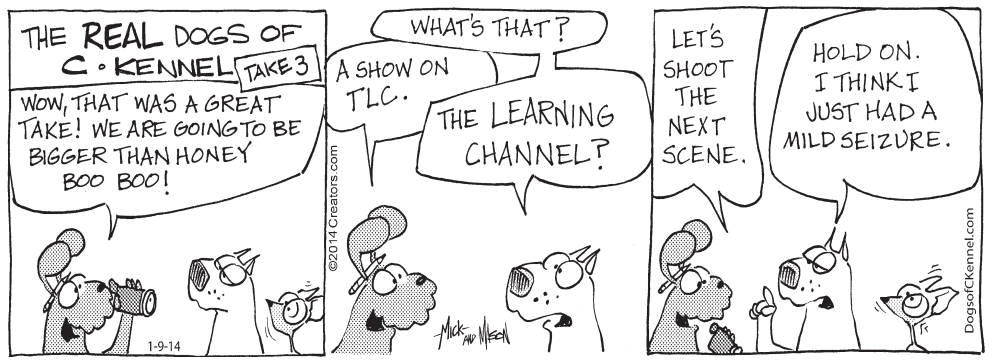
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

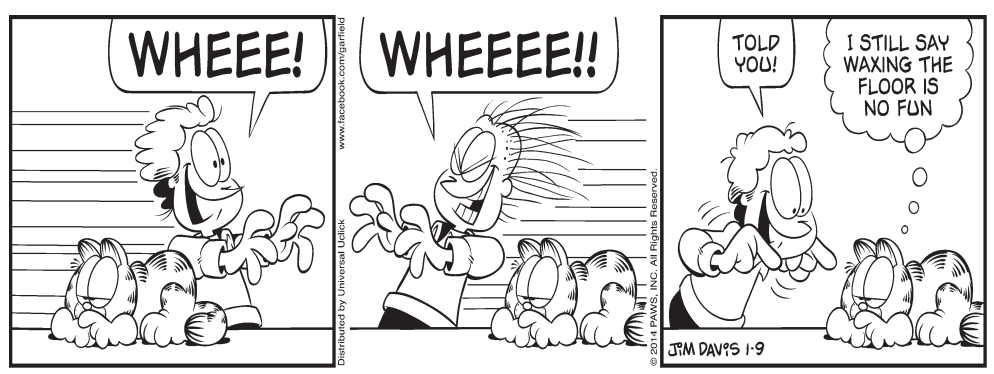
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly

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

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Accords
6 Lightning setting
11 Lusitania sinker
12 Truism
13 "Twilight" heroine
14 One of the Bradys
15 Wreckage
17 Shoe hue
19 Rented out
20 Lingerie item
23 Wed in secret
25 Glided
26 Investigates
28 Subsequently
29 Misplay
30 Holds
31 "— Yankee Doodle Dandy"
32 Auction signal
33 Hitchcock classic
35 Horrible
38 Puccini opera
41 American crop
42 Ryan of "Paper Moon"
43 Firebugs
44 Takes ten

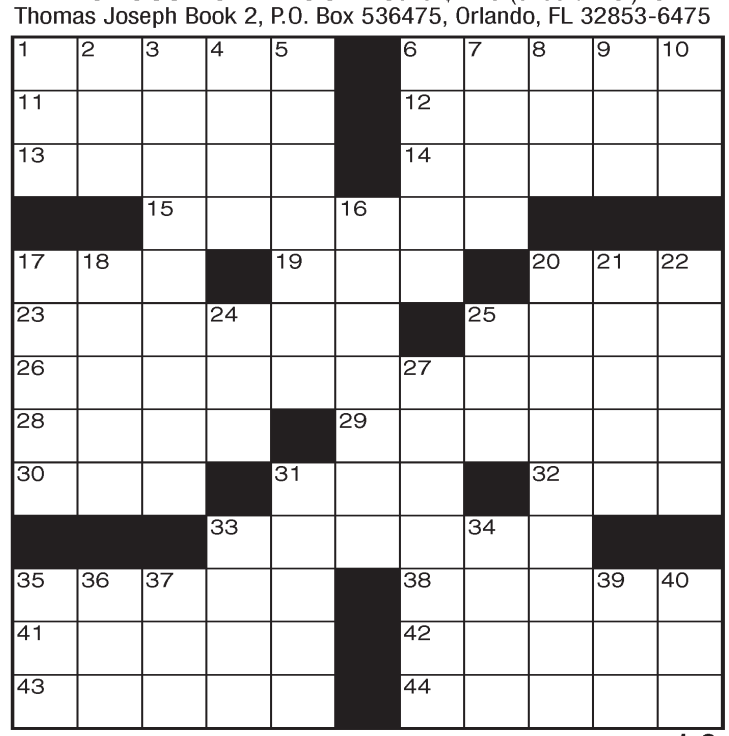
DOWN

1 Place for a pint
2 Tad's dad
3 Healthy hound features
4 Yarn
5 Horse homes
6 Unspoken
7 Line of symmetry
8 Hr. part
9 Okra unit
10 One of Jo's sisters
16 Old Russian force
17 Decimal fraction
18 Hilo hello
20 Puritans
21 Fab Four drummer
22 Appended
24 Signing need
25 Heir, often
27 Power plant part
31 Resort spots
33 "The Godfather" writer
34 Give an edge
35 Band blaster
36 Method
37 Fragrant tree
39 Manx, for one
40 Capp and Capone

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



1-9

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Overcompensation: Mr. Kelcey Nicholas, 28, was arrested, along with Lataura Jarrett, 21, in Mount Nebo, W.Va., in September and charged with having incestuous relations. Thus, West Virginia -- a popular target for jokes about cultural tolerance for incest and inbreeding -- appears to be boldly reversing course, since Jarrett is merely Nicholas' step-daughter.

■ Police finally arrested William Footman, 55, in October as the person who somehow managed to swipe inside-front-door mats from at least 37 New York City banks between March and May 2013. No money was ever taken, and some banks were slow to realize the thefts -- unobservant that they had even had front-door mats in the first place. "I sell them to bodegas," Footman said. "Their floors get wet."

■ Rodney Rotert of Tulsa, Okla., filed a lawsuit recently against Philadelphia Insurance Companies demanding the return of "his" classic 1967 Chevrolet Camaro, supposedly worth about $100,000. His case is complicated by the fact that he also recently pleaded no contest to possessing stolen property, i.e., that very same car, stolen from an Arkansas dealer in 2007. (Rotert claims he bought the car legitimately, but he also changed the Vehicle Identification Number to obtain a false title.) Rotert said his legal claim, especially with the "current" VIN, is superior to the insurance company's claim.

TODAY IN HISTORY

2004 - An inflatable boat carrying illegal Albanian emigrants stalls near the Karaburun Peninsula while on the way to Brindisi, Italy; exposure to the elements kills 28.

WORD UP!

welkin
\ WEL-kin \ , noun;
1.
the sky; the vault of heaven.

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Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale as of Early January 2013			
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	5,544,800
North of Montana	=	$	4,764,297
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	2,675,516
South of Wilshire	=	$	949,000
Sunset Park	=	$	1,622,571
Ocean Park	=	$	2,581,000
Statistics updated every Friday			

Buyers' Needs

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- Single Family Home - Santa Monica, Brentwood, Palisades - Minimum 3+1.75 - $1,200,000 - $3,500,000
- Income Property/Teardown - Santa Monica or Brentwood - $1,000,000 - $4,000,000

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