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JANUARY 11-12, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 50



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SAVE OR NOT?
SEE PAGE 5

THE LAST MINUTE ISSUE

FAA to judge: toss the SMO lawsuit

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO The Federal Aviation Administration wants City Hall's lawsuit over the Santa Monica Airport thrown out.

Attorneys for the FAA filed a 31-page response Friday afternoon listing several reasons why they believe the suit should be dismissed.

The lawsuit, filed by City Hall against the FAA in October, is meant to determine who controls the airport and its 227 acres.

Residents in the surrounding neighborhoods have long complained about the noise and pollution created by jets and propellor planes taking off and landing at the airport. Others are worried about safety as the airport, which opened in 1917 as an informal

SEE SUIT PAGE 10



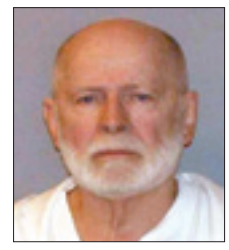
MOVE YOUR FEET

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

St. Monica's Molly Tomlin drives to the basket against Ribet Academy Thursday in a non-league game at the school. The Mariners won 53-37. With the win St. Monica improves to 10-6.

Mobster Bulger, girlfriend sob over love notes

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BULGER

BOSTON Jailhouse love notes between convicted Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger's and the woman with whom he spent 16 years on the run moved both to tears, Bulger's trial attorney said.

Bulger thought prison officials would never allow him to write to the woman, Catherine Greig, attorney J.W. Carney told a gathering of Massachusetts defense lawyers Wednesday. So Carney offered his legal pad to Bulger, and Bulger wrote a note that Carney hand-delivered to Greig at the detention center in Rhode Island where she was serving time for helping Bulger evade authorities, according to The Boston Globe.

She wept as she read and wrote a reply, which also made Bulger cry, Carney said. He told Carney that one of his greatest regrets was never marrying Greig.

Carney, who has withdrawn from Bulger's case, says the exchange was not illegal.

Weeks after the letters were exchanged, Bulger, 84, was convicted of orchestrating or participating in 11 murders. He was sentenced to two life terms plus five years in prison. Greig is serving an eight-year prison term for helping Bulger while he was a fugitive.

Henry Brennan, one of Bulger's trial attorneys who is also handling his appeal, told the gathering he expects to win the appeal. The defense maintains that the trial was unfair because the judge would not allow Bulger to tell the jury that a now-deceased federal prosecutor promised him immunity for his crimes. The prosecutor, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, died in 2009. He testified during a congressional hearing that he never protected Bulger.

Bulger fled Boston in 1994 after receiving a tip from a former FBI agent that he was about to be indicted. He and Greig were finally captured in 2011 in Santa Monica, Calif., where they had been living in a rent-controlled apartment.

Bulger has been moved to a federal prison in Tucson, Ariz. Since his conviction, he also has spent time at a detention center in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a federal prison in Oklahoma.



J.C. HO

Turning poop into gold

Feces coffee comes to Santa Monica

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

BROADWAY "No two sips of kopi luwak are alike," says J.C. Ho, owner of Funnel Mill on Broadway. "As the temperature drops, the flavor changes dramatically from a very bold, chocolatey, smoky, chicory flavor to fruity and sweet. There is nothing like it."

He is leaning forward in his seat, clenching his fist as he says it, staring off into the distance as if he's tasting it in his head.

SEE COFFEE PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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 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.

College prep
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 10 a.m.
Practice for the SAT with test prep company Kaplan. For more information, call (310) 458-8621.

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.

Different view
Schomburg Gallery,
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave., 6:30 p.m.
Everyone sees the world in a very different way. Come and see how this group of exceptional artists "Filters" their unique world. "Filters" is a collection of work from artists who attend Kline Academy.
For more information
call (310) 927-2436.

Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014

Happy birthday!
Annenberg Community
Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway,
11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Everyone's invited to the third annual Happy Birthday Marion! celebration at the Annenberg Community Beach House. Santa Monica Conservancy docents turn the spotlight on Marion Davies: actress, philanthropist, famed party hostess and mistress of media tycoon William Randolph Hearst at Davies' 1928 Julia Morgan-designed Guest House. All ages are welcome. Space is limited. For more information and to make a reservation for this free event visit happybirthday-marion2014.eventbrite.com or call (310) 458-4904.

Shark talk
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 3 p.m.
Watch and listen to an informative presentation about the often-misunderstood shark while horn and swell sharks cruise around their tanks. Expect a splash of sea water if you're close enough to the exhibit. Everyone is invited to make a fun shark craft project to take home.

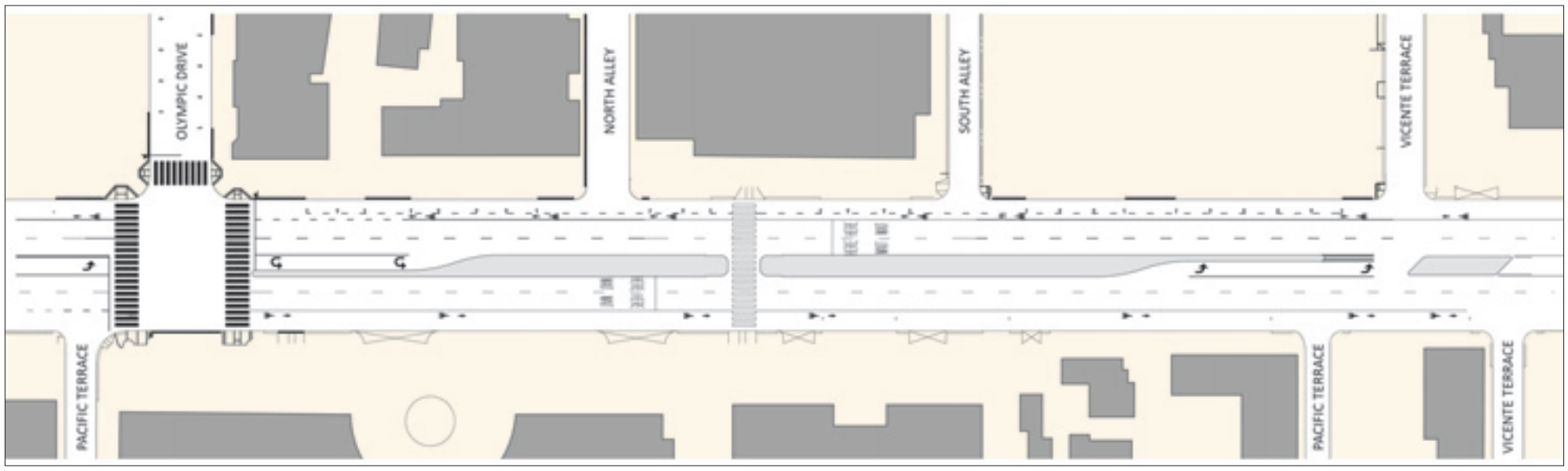
Monday, Jan. 13, 2014

Protect the post office
City Hall
1685 Main St., 7 p.m.
The Landmarks Commission will decide whether or not to landmark the old post office on Fifth Street in Downtown as well as protect the former Home Savings building at 2600 Wilshire Boulevard. The commission will also talk about its website and maybe take action on proposed changes to City Hall's Mills Act program, which concerns tax breaks for owners of historic properties who choose to maintain them.

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**



Map courtesy Andrew Maximous/City of Santa Monica

TAKE NOTE OF THE CHANGES: A map showing the new median proposed for Ocean Avenue in between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard. The median is expected to improve safety.

New median for Ocean Ave planned

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

OCEAN AVE Prepare for another detour.

A raised, landscaped median will soon be installed along Ocean Avenue as part of a required safety enhancement of the Civic Center Village condo/apartment project, city officials said this week.

The median will extend from the intersection of the new Olympic Drive to Vicente Terrace and is intended to increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Once installed, drivers will have to change their habits as access to certain driveways, including those leading into Loews and Le Merigot hotels, will be slightly altered.

Construction is scheduled to begin on Jan. 21 and will last approximately three to four weeks. During that time, expect lane closures in the area, city officials said.

"(U)nsignalized turns from side streets onto or from major streets are one of the more dangerous traffic maneuvers," said Sam Morrissey, traffic engineer for City Hall. "From vehicles suddenly stopping in a through lane to vehicles making turns without an adequate gap in traffic, these types of maneuvers have inherent safety concerns and can increase the risks of accidents. The construction of the median will eliminate unsignalized turns to or from Ocean Avenue, which will be a safety enhancement for both vehicles and bikes."

The median was identified as a need in the 2005 Civic Center Specific Plan "to reduce the scale of the street and to allow for distinctive planting that reinforces the identity of the Civic Center."

SEE **MEDIAN** PAGE 10

Race for Boston Marathon victims kicking off in Santa Monica

BY RODRIQUE NGOWI
Associated Press

BOSTON Hundreds of runners are gearing up for a four-week, coast-to-coast relay race to honor three people killed in the Boston Marathon bombings and raise money for 260 people wounded when twin explosions went off near the finish line of the world's oldest marathon.

Organizers are pushing to raise $1 million from this year's One Run for Boston (www.onerunforboston.org), which is scheduled to finish a week before the storied Boston Marathon and two days before the anniversary of the explosions. The money will go to The One Fund, a charity established to help those who were injured or significantly affected by the bombings.

The relay race was inspired by the surprising success of a similar event last year that attracted more than six times the minimum 319 runners organizers said were necessary for it to be successful. It raised $91,000 — nearly five times more than organizers' goal.

The race will go through the same 14 states as last year. The route, however, has been pushed farther south through Arizona and New Mexico to avoid the risk of ice and cold weather during the race.

The relay is scheduled to begin March 16 in Santa Monica, the finish line for the Los Angeles Marathon, and end April 13 on the scenic Charles River Esplanade, site of the renowned Boston Pops July 4th concert, organizer Kate Treleaven said by telephone from her home near Totnes, a town in

SEE **RACE** PAGE 10



Photo courtesy *www.onerunforboston.org*

DEDICATED: Participants in last year's run for Boston Marathon bombing victims sport the city's motto following the attack — "Boston Strong."

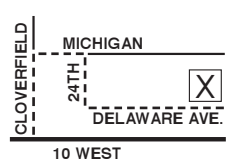
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting involved

Editor:

I have owned a townhouse in Santa Monica since 1979. So I have seen the changes. The Downtown zoning changes in the last 10 years alone have heavily increased density, creating lots more parking problems, traffic congestion and some unsightly, almost cell-block-type structures in our formerly quaint beach town. Not to mention Broadway at Lincoln Boulevard, Arizona Avenue at Seventh Street, and on and on.

These Tier 3 zoning changes along Wilshire Boulevard at Jerry's Liquor site and Bank of America at 3032 are insane ("Unwanted zoning code changes could spell disaster for us all," My Write, Jan. 6). The ploy of "affordable housing" is a tough one to fight. But the truth is the "affordable housing" in Santa Monica is not affordable for the folks the politicians and planning commissioners say are the targets, but a front to provide extensive property tax benefits to the city and state and profits to the developers and lawyers of the projects. This is all at the expense of the day-to-day quality of living for the residents of Santa Monica.

I agree that the people need to stand and speak out. Thanks for letting folks know about the meeting that the Planning Commission is having on Jan. 15 that will further change the future of our city if people don't organize and speak out against this kind of excessive over development for the sake of the holy dollar.

The people need to organize and speak out or be relegated to the label "the people didn't care."

Unfortunately for me, I'll be out of town on Jan. 15, but it seems like time to get more involved before Santa Monica looks like lower Midtown Manhattan.

Tom Lofaro
Santa Monica

Praise for landlords

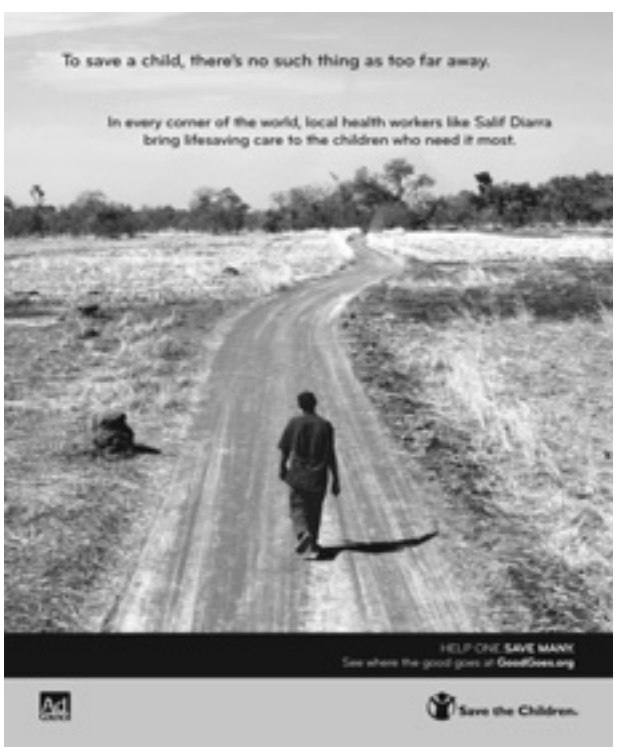
Editor:

Based upon your article, Santa Monica housing providers should be congratulated for keeping their Santa Monica apartment buildings well maintained ("City Hall estimates 3,000 units may need major upgrades," Jan. 9). If the city's rent control agency only heard 29 complaints from tenants last year in a city with over 30,000 rental units, then housing providers are doing a great job.

Of course, the same rent control agency had to increase the annual fee to fund the agency, which has been paid by tenants in Santa Monica, in order to cover the agency's $4,620,000 budget, 86 percent of which, or $3,970,000, goes to cover the salaries, benefits and retirement obligations at a bureaucracy with roughly 25 employees.

With that budget, it works out to about $159,310 for each complaint heard last year. Very efficient, right?

Virginia Isaacs
Santa Monica



Your column here

By Lee H. Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Trust, but definitely verify

OF ALL THE NUMBERS THROWN AT US over the course of last year, one stands out for me. I hope we can avoid repeating it this year.

That number is 12. It's the percentage of Americans in a December Quinnipiac poll who said they trust the government in Washington to do what is right most or all of the time. It's a depressingly small number — especially compared to the 41 percent who say they "hardly ever" trust the government. This meshes with recent polls that echo a bleak truth: trust in government is at historically low levels.

That's not all, though. Americans are feeling vulnerable and highly distrustful of both government and private-sector prying. More worrisome, a few months ago an AP poll found that fewer than a third of Americans trust one another. The poll's message is clear: our society is in the midst of a crisis in trust.

This might seem like a touchy-feely concern, but it's not. Trust is essential to our political system and our way of life. The belief that people and institutions will do what they say they will do is the coin of the realm in our society. It is what allows people to work together — in their daily interactions with others and in their communities, legislatures and Congress. Negotiation, compromise, collegiality, and the mechanisms our complex and diverse society depends on are impossible without trust. Trust is one of the medley of virtues that have allowed our institutions to develop and prosper, along with honesty, competence, responsibility, and civility.

A breakdown in trust between Congress and the executive branch invariably brings problems: the turmoil of the Vietnam War era, Watergate, Iran-Contra, our current budget travails. A society-wide lack of trust imposes real costs. It makes the drafting of laws and their implementation extremely difficult: government becomes more expensive because it requires more emphasis on regulations and enforcement.

In fact, you could argue that we see all around us the results of our trust deficit. Government dysfunction, an economy performing below its potential, public officials' scandals and misdeeds, trusted institutions' willingness to skirt the law and standards of good conduct, our social safety net under attack because people mistrust recipients — all of these speak to a society struggling as trust weakens.

Yet here's a question. Do the polls match your experience? In my case, they do not. Trust still figures in my dealings with institutions and individuals, most of whom are good people trying to live a decent life and to be helpful to others. They deal with one another honorably and with care. I'm convinced that this is because, no matter what the polls say at the moment, the habits instilled by parents, schools, and a vast number of public and private institutions do not just disappear.

A BREAKDOWN IN TRUST BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH INVARIABLY BRINGS PROBLEMS: THE TURMOIL OF THE VIETNAM WAR ERA, WATERGATE, IRAN-CONTRA, OUR CURRENT BUDGET TRAVAILS.

These habits include the experience of grappling with the challenges that representative democracy throws at us — and they serve as a reminder that we need trust in one another to make our national experiment in representative government work.

As idealistic or even naive as this may sound, we need to work toward more trust among our people and between people and their government. Some new laws might help, but the challenge is more basic than law can address. Higher standards of conduct at all levels of American life must become the norm. Trust may have weakened, but most of us do not see or experience a corrupt America. Even as we have become a larger, more diverse nation, a sense of community remains crucially important to make this country safe and secure for ourselves and our children.

We cannot take for granted our success at self-government over the centuries: the only invisible hand guiding and preserving our institutions is our collective will.

Events in recent years have given us plenty of reason to be distrustful. Clearly, healthy skepticism is warranted in the wake of the NSA revelations, the problems with the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act, and other evidence of both government and corporate misbehavior. In the end, however, "trust but verify" is still the golden standard. Our ability to function and move forward as a society rests on trust. Think about it.

LEE HAMILTON is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.





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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.

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.

This past week, Q-line asked:
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?

Here are your responses:

"THIS MONEY SPENT FOR RESTORING seems outrageously high. There are so many other pressing issues in this city. For instance, I'd rather the city spend money posting no smoking signs at bus stops and other areas where smoking is not permitted. They do nothing to enforce the no smoking laws and it's one more reason not to visit Downtown."

"I STRONGLY SUPPORT CITY HALL maintaining its art and landmarks, particularly the wonderful landmark 'Chain Reaction,' expressing our hope for a future of peace without nuclear weapons."

"THE CITY SHOULD HAVE MORE important use for their money than to pay for a rusting pile of junk to satisfy a bunch of loonies who call themselves 'peace activists.' If this group wants to restore it with their own money, plus the $50,000 the city promised, then so be it, but the city should resist all efforts to waste more than they promised."

"I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE IDEA of the city adding funds to the money raised by the community to restore Paul Conrad's landmark. The city would set a terrible precedent if officials decide not to pay for the restoration of a work of art they accepted, then horribly neglected. Do we want to attract great artists to our city or discourage them from giving us work that enhances our community because we fail to respect and care for it? If city officials and our arts commission had done the very basic cleaning and upkeep necessary for all artwork exposed to the elements on a regular basis, this would not be an issue. The $400,000 figure you cite is the potential cost of replacing (not repairing) the sculpture and reasonable estimates are much lower. If you add the funds raised by the community to the $50,000 of matching grant money the city has already promised, it can probably get done. So what's the real issue?"

"IT IS ABSOLUTELY APPROPRIATE FOR THE city to restore Paul Conrad's iconic peace sculpture 'Chain Reaction,' a profound piece of public art, now landmarked, that calls out what a truly sustainable city is – one that unabashedly confronts the monumental destruction nuclear weapons cause and the urgency to abolish them. Art can awaken us in surprising ways. The restoration is worth every penny to keep us awake. Many in the local or neighboring communities are helping to raise funds as well, yet the city needs to take the lead."

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stated that the sculpture is safe for 10 years as is. Citizen volunteers have already raised $45,000, with another fundraiser scheduled for Monday, Jan. 13, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at WritersBootCamp, Bergamot Station. The public is invited to attend this event for the price of a voluntary donation. The more we citizens help support the city's public art projects, the less needs to come out of budgeted funds."

"YES, THE CITY SHOULD PAY FOR REPAIRS for an artwork that has landmark status and that the city apparently has not maintained for 22 years."

"THE CITY WAS GIFTED THIS ART PIECE and was to maintain it. The city is responsible, but the public has raised money to help. The $400,000 figure is not accurate."

"SANTA MONICA SHOULD PROTECT and preserve its public art, especially one like 'Chain Reaction,' a landmarked peace sculpture ... supported by the Santa Monica and Los Angeles conservancies. It's the city's most important piece of art by an important artist, and it is worth whatever amount of money is needed to conserve it and its message for future generations."

"YES! AND THERE ARE ESTIMATES THAT it will cost half of that $400,000 'money is no object' bid."

"THIS WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR repairs to 'Chain Reaction' is yet another example of the lunacy of City Hall. Not one dime should be spent to pay for the repair. The City Council should be voted out; they ignore the things that need to be done and waste time and money on the wrong things. Boot them out!"

"I THINK IT'S ABSURD TO SERIOUSLY consider spending close to half-a-million dollars to preserve and restore 'Chain Reaction.' As is so often the case in Santa Monica, a small group of vocal and persistent activists has latched onto this as their latest misguided cause. I am furious that my tax money will be spent in this way. It's

SEE **CHAIN** PAGE 6

MILLIONS OF SATISFIED AIRPORT TRAVELERS SINCE 1977


City of Santa Monica

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Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.MacDonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

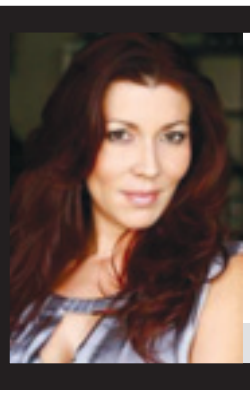
Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

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The Q Line

CHAIN

FROM PAGE 5

time to accept and acknowledge that 'Chain Reaction' is no longer worth preserving. Heaven knows there are numerous needs in this city for which the money can be more appropriately and productively used."

"THE CITY SHOULD NOT FUND THIS 'sculpture.' If the public doesn't care, let it rot. City Council spends money like drunken sailors on shore leave. Enough!"

"I AM SO SICK OF OUR FISCALLY irresponsible City Council that I could spit nails! Take the ugly sculpture and send it to the recycling center to be melted down into something useful. This will end the problem once and for all in a fiscally and sane manner."

"'CHAIN REACTION' IS A MEANINGFUL and important landmark sculpture that the city owns. As such, the city should have been responsible for maintaining and preserving this valuable sculpture in the first place. The city must now be a responsible caretaker and restore the sculpture for generations to come."

"NO! LET OUR OVERPAID CITY MANAGER take a year of his wages to pay for it. That should just about cover the tab. What part of 'budget deficit' doesn't he understand! Caving in to a small minority of loud mouths is not how city government should be run."

"THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD NOT spend our limited tax dollars on refurbishing the sculpture. The proponents have failed to raise the money privately, and the city should not bail them out with our tax dollars. If the city has extra funds for the arts, there are many better ways to spend those funds, such as school arts programs and the summer concert series. Any council member who votes for this boondoggle will never have my vote again."

"I THINK THE CITY SHOULD PAY FOR THE balance of the cost of refurbishing the sculpture. It has become an international site that tourists visit and take pictures. It is a clear reminder that we still stand in the shadow of doomsday. It is an important piece of public art in our city. And It honors the significant historical figure of Paul Conrad."

"I THINK IT SHOULD BE A private-public endeavor, with private funds being matched with city funding up to $100,000. That should be the limit to our city dollars on this. I do think it's worth saving."

"I'M NOT A FAN OF MOST PUBLIC ART, but the 'Chain Reaction' sculpture is one piece that I have always loved. It's simple, its message is easy to understand and it's a bold and conspicuous reminder that nuclear disaster is never far away and that the dangers of nukes always outweigh the benefits. I believe we would be greatly served if mushroom cloud 'reminders' were depicted in more places. Four-hundred-thousand dollars is a lot of dough and I hope the restoration estimate was reached after lots of competitive bids were reviewed, however, I'm 100 percent in support of preserving this important sculpture and the memory of its creator, Paul Conrad."

"THE CONRAD SCULPTURE IS IMPORTANT to the city as a monument to Santa Monica's history. The City Council would like to have it replaced by more corporate fast-food chains rather than refurbish it as a symbol of our cultural history. If the city can spend $40 million to build a park to increase the value of the condos being built next to it then it can certainly find money to repair the sculpture."

"I AM VERY HAPPY THAT 'CHAIN Reaction' is going to be saved by the city. It's the right thing to do. It's an important piece of art. As someone who grew up reading Paul Conrad's artwork and commentaries on the world in the newspaper every day, the fact that we have a permanent piece of sculpture made by Paul Conrad is a very important part of being in my city."

"I BELIEVE THE ROUGH HUMANITY visible in Paul Conrad's 'Chain Reaction' is no less modern than the titanium struts, glass, plastic sheets and shimmering homogenous facades we presently think of as modern. Locating the sculpture in Santa Monica is the outcome of a process which was good, not harmful, for the people, truly of their time, who engaged in it. It is a symbol of their love, their excitement, their energy. They cared for a workable and life-creating city. To not support the preservation of this sculpture is to show disrespect for that process and for them. To use lack of money as the excuse for doing so is to become spokespersons and propagandists for the problem they wanted the sculpture to warn us about!"

"I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT CITY HALL WOULD consider not repairing the 'Chain Reaction' sculpture! It seems to me that is exactly the sort of project Santa Monica should finance and support. It is a beautiful sculpture and very powerful. When I first saw it I was really impressed by its aesthetic beauty and its strong reminder of the devastation caused by atomic bombs. At the base of the sculpture is a plaque which reads "This is a statement of peace, may it never become an epitaph." I strongly believe in Conrad's statement and do not want his vision of peace to be forgotten."

"THE QUESTION THAT YOU POSE IS flawed. The 'Chain Reaction' sculpture does not need $400,000 worth of repairs. That is almost enough money to build it from scratch. The grassroots campaign is on schedule to raise at least $100,000 by the time that City Council will be discussing it in February. That is enough money to make necessary repairs so that the sculpture can stand for decades to come. If the city wants to throw in more money to make unnecessary repairs, that is their choice. I wish that we could stop them form doing so, but we cannot."

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Flu spreads in Calif; 7 deaths confirmed

BY ALICIA CHANG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Seven people have died from the flu so far this season, and more people are ending up in the hospital than expected as flu season ramps up, state health officials said Friday.

The California Department of Public Health said flu activity is now considered widespread, though it's too soon to know if this year will be severe.

Flu season in the state typically peaks in February or March, but state health officials said they're already seeing deaths and hospitalizations slightly earlier than usual.

The number of deaths is "rising rapidly," state epidemiologist Dr. Gil Chavez said.

Besides the seven confirmed deaths, officials were investigating an additional 28 deaths to determine if the flu is to blame.

All victims were under 65 years old, and none of this season's flu deaths so far were children. The state does not keep track of flu deaths among the elderly, who are most vulnerable to the illness and its complications.

The dominant strain appears to be H1N1, which mostly affects young and middle-aged people. Of the seven who died, six were infected with the swine flu strain, health officials said.

In 2009, a swine flu pandemic killed at least 150,000 people worldwide, including more than 600 in California.

Chavez said the latest vaccine is a match to the types of viruses that are circulating, including H1N1, and urged people to get immunized before it's too late.

In Imperial County, 32 people were hospitalized with pneumonia and flu-like symptoms in the past two weeks — three times more than normal for this time of year. Most were elderly and children, and many were not vaccinated, according to the Imperial County Public Health Department.

At the Regional Medical Center in San Jose, doctors set up an overflow tent outside the emergency room to treat flu patients who are ill but don't need to be hospitalized.

The hospital typically treats 160 patients a day. Lately, doctors are seeing an extra 50 to 70 people a day — many with the flu. Treating patients in the tent allows them to get processed faster and return home, hospital spokeswoman Bev Mikalonis said.

"We're just trying to get ready for when and if we get hit harder than we are now," she said.

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least 35 states are seeing an uptick in flu symptoms, including fever, headache, fatigue, dry cough and muscle aches.

STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Funding sources for high-speed rail project

California's high-speed rail project is continuing despite legal rulings that have held up a large source of its revenue. Funding for the project, which has a current price tag of $68 billion, is supposed to come from the following sources:

• $8.6 billion remaining in voter-approved bonds. This money, which voters approved in 2008, is held up after a judge declined to grant a broad request to sell the remaining bonds. The state has tapped $700 million of the $9.9 billion approved by voters to date, about $400 million of it directly for high-speed rail.

• $3.6 billion in federal matching funds. High-speed rail officials are tapping this funding while the state bond money is tied up in court as part of a revised agreement that allows the state to spend the federal money first.

• Gov. Jerry Brown wants to take $250 million from California's cap-and-trade program and use it for high-speed rail planning.

–ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Freeway tunnel scorched by fire reopens

A Los Angeles freeway underpass shut down by a fiery tanker fire nearly six months ago is back in business.

City News Service says the connecting tunnel between northbound Interstate 5 and northbound State Route 2 was reopened to traffic Friday morning.

The 300-foot tunnel near Glendale was closed in July after a tanker caught fire and sent a stream of burning gasoline into the nearby Los Angeles River. The intense heat charred the concrete, and brittle chunks fell off. The state spent about $16 million in repairs. The cost will be reimbursed by the federal government under an emergency relief program.

– AP

LOS ANGELES

Man arrested in Venice chair beating

Los Angeles police have arrested a man on suspicion of battering a homeless man with a folding beach chair in a videotaped attack.

Police arrested 31-year-old Apolinar Lopez on Sunday on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon. He was released on bail Monday and there's no word on whether he obtained an attorney.

A neighbor recorded the Dec. 13 attack near the Venice boardwalk. The video showed a man on the ground, trying to ward off blows. He was treated for cuts and a broken arm.

Authorities say gang detectives identified Lopez as the attacker. He was stopped for speeding and arrested on a warrant for assault with a deadly weapon and also on suspicion of driving under the influence.

– AP

SAN DIEGO

Phony doctor who promised to cure HIV convicted

San Diego County prosecutors say a man who allegedly claimed he could cure the AIDS virus — indirectly resulting in the death of a child — has been convicted of practicing medicine without a license.

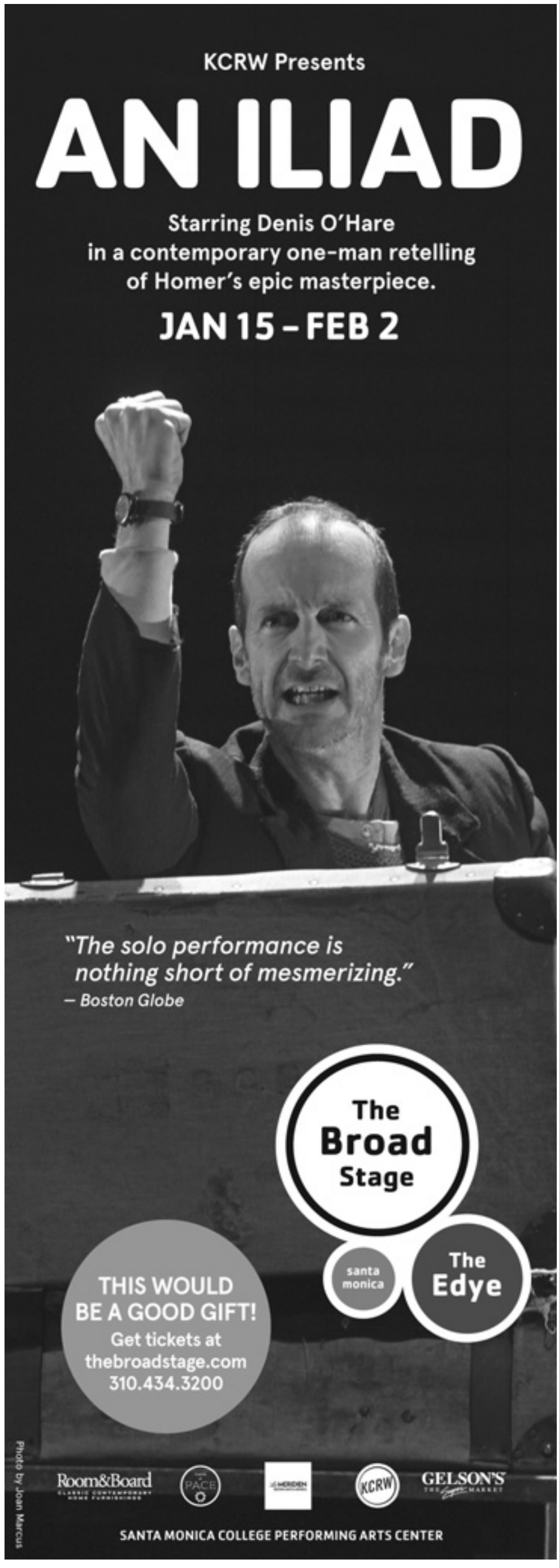
Keith Barton of La Mesa was convicted Friday. He remains jailed and faces a potential prison sentence of nearly nine years.

Prosecutors say Barton impersonated a real doctor with the same name and charged $18,000 for a treatment he claimed would cure a woman and her children of HIV.

Authorities say one child died after failing to receive proper treatment.

Authorities also say Barton got $32,000 from a woman with autoimmune disease. Prosecutors say he advised her to have her teeth removed and undergo an ineffective treatment he called "Dendritic Cellular Therapy."

– AP



COFFEE
FROM PAGE 1

This coffee is so rare and so special that you have to make an appointment for Ho to brew it. It costs $90 a cup. Each week, he said, he gets dozens of calls about it and sells about four cups.

It's probably also important to mention that it's made from Indonesian animal poop. Civet (or luwak) poop to be exact.

The animals that make Funnel Mill's kopi luwak live on the south Indonesian island of Sumatra (the locals call them luwaks, Ho said). They look like a mix between a cat and a squirrel. They eat the coffee berries, which ferment in their enzymes and stomach acids, and then deliver their gift to the world. It's collected and shipped to coffee fanatics for extremely high prices.

Coffee is a $30 billion industry in the U.S. according to a recent article in Forbes. About 83 percent of U.S. adults drink coffee. Kopi luwak is one of the most expensive coffees in the world, and it's hard to find.

Only kopi luwak from Sumatra is legitimate kopi luwak, Ho said, and Funnel Mill is the only cafe in the country serving authentic kopi luwak, he said.

The Daily Press was not able to confirm that claim.

It is certainly rare. There's a coffee shop in San Gabriel that sells it for $20 a cup. Ho claims that, because of its scarcity, real kopi luwak can't be sold for such a low price. (A recent article in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry tackles the issue of authenticating kopi luwak.)

Traci Dutton, of the Culinary Institute of America, explained that kopi luwak, like any luxury item, could be hard to certify.

"I think because it's such a unique process, it's hard to regulate," she said. "It's animal pooh, so it may be being counterfeited."

Funnel Mill, which opened in 2005, is much more than just kopi luwak. It serves a collection of some of the rarest teas and coffees in world. Ho and his wife, Teresa Chiang-Ho, are like the Willy Wonkas of coffee and tea. But the product they're most known for, their Everlasting Gobstopper, is the kopi luwak.

One Yelp reviewer describes it as "classical music in a cup."

Ken Kokin, who was sitting near a poster of a luwak reading a newspaper while sitting on a coffee cup toilet, has tried kopi luwak a couple times.

"I like it," he said, laughing. "I thought it was weird. I mean the poster with the animal on it is a little strange."

Ho survives off of his regulars. Those who purchase the kopi luwak are chief among them. It's the most mentioned item on Funnel Mill's Yelp page.

At $90 a cup, it's the most expensive cup of coffee that Dutton has ever heard of. But is it the best coffee in the world?

"Sometimes things taste better when they're rare and expensive," she said. "When you're tasting something that's a once in a lifetime experience, your senses might open up a little bit more."

Dutton has never tried kopi luwak but, she said, there are sound reasons why it might actually taste better than mass produced coffee. The luwaks have likely evolved to select the best fruit, she said.

"They are the experts of flavor of coffee beans in that form," Dutton said. "They're good little coffee machines."

Getting his hand on his most well-known product is not easy, Ho said. He's paid up to $980 for a pound.

"Everybody in the world wants it," he said. "The biggest purchaser is still Europe. I'm a small guy. My pockets are not quite as deep as these big players. When they buy, they buy the whole thing up."

Ho often reaches out to other buyers when the distributor's supply runs out. He'll e-mail an Italian coffee shop, asking if he can buy a pound from them.

There's another reason why his kopi luwak overhead is so expensive (and this is not a bad joke about eco-friendly Santa Monica): Ho only buys turds from free-range luwaks.

Animal rights advocates, including PETA, protest kopi luwak sellers. They've documented caged civets, forced to do nothing but eat and poop all day long.

Ho says he's spent hours trying to explain to animal rights groups that the luwak from which he derives his coffee roam free, eating and pooping as they please. He puts a collection jar out in front of the cash register for donations to charities that fight animal cruelty.

PUTTING THE POT ON

In 2001, Ho was working as an I.T. quality controller and his wife was a design director. They knew very little about coffees and teas but they divvied up the tasks and began to learn. Ho took coffee and Chiang-Ho took teas.

They maxed out their credit cards traveling the world looking for the best. They toured farms and took classes. They spoke to locals in nameless tea shops in Taiwan and India.

Nearly five years later, they opened their doors, selling rare brews like Jamaican Blue Mountain #2 and Taiwan Winter Jasmine.

They buy directly from distributors, Ho said, because they've seen the labor that goes into the farming.

"Most farmers don't use machines," he said. "They pick with their hands on the steep slope on the side of a mountain. Tea farmers are poor."



Photos by Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

THE GOOD STUFF: Funnel Mill owner J.C. Ho shows off his shop's prized kopi luwak coffee beans on Thursday. A single cup of the rare brew runs $90. The shop sells as many as four cups a week.

They don't advertise, he said, and they've made a name for themselves by educating open-minded customers.

"I feel very comfortable here," said Kokin, who doesn't otherwise drink a lot of coffee. "It's not like when you go to some place where they don't really know you. One of the things that makes it special is the owners."

If a customer is willing to listen, Ho said, he will talk endlessly about a coffee.

"We aren't afraid to slow down a little bit," he said. "We spend time and challenge the customer with both coffee and tea."

Some customers have found the cafe too challenging. While it's generally very well-reviewed, there are those that complain about the "no cell phone" policy. Others complain about the fact that for seasonal drinks Ho refuses to provide cream or sugar, which he says ruins the flavor.

"Remember the 'Soup Nazi'? Well, here's the coffee version," reads one Yelp review.

It doesn't phase Ho.

"Call me a Nazi. Call me a jerk. Call me whatever you want," Ho said. "But when it comes down to it I'm saving you money. Why would you want to spend that much money on a cup of coffee and then ruin it?"

His open-minded customers appreciate his sensitivity, he said. Some customers complained that they couldn't detect the nuttiness that was supposed to be present in a few of their teas. Ho realized it was because they were using aluminum to brew the teas instead of ceramic and he immediately switched over.

He has a German dish washing system that heats out all the residual flavors. He just returned his water filtration system. If water has too many minerals, coffee tastes dry. Too few minerals and it tastes acidic. Santa Monica water, he said, is better than anywhere else but is still not good enough.

"This is how we get repeat customers," he said of his attention to detail. "It feels really good that the customer is as excited as you about this business."

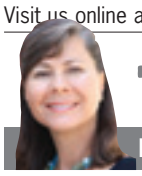


SOURCE: Artwork on the wall of Funnel Mill advertises the rare kopi luwak coffee that the high-end coffee and tea shop offers.

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The Better Option

Lori Salerno Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lose 1 pound per month with easy 100-calorie substitutes

IT SEEMED AS THOUGH EVERY OTHER commercial during the Rose Parade was for a weight loss program, pill, or potion, or a new exercise machine. With weight loss being the most popular New Year's resolution, it's easy to see why.

Weight loss is a two part process: fewer calories in and more calories out.

Most people think there needs to be a gimmick to weight loss; you need to eat like a caveman or carnivore or you need to toss around pieces of metal or weighted balls. And if the food doesn't taste bad and the exercise isn't painful, then it won't work.

For fat loss, a combination of cardio and strength training is needed at least four times per week — the "more calories out" part of the equation. I was at a cardio kickboxing class the other week (I like to mix up my exercise routine so I won't become bored), and I had to leave half way through the class. The instructor started yelling at us like she was some sort of drill instructor, punishing us with pushups because we didn't respond loud enough to her callouts. That technique may work with some people, but not for me. If that's what their experiencing, it's no wonder the majority of people don't like exercise.

Exercise isn't always fun, but it shouldn't be tortuous, either. A fast-pace walk along the strand for 30 to 45 minutes, people watching and dolphin spotting, is an inexpensive and much more pleasurable experience for new exercisers. If you're free of injuries, add in squats, lunges, pushups and crunches and you have a full-body workout. To learn how to use exercise equipment like free weights, balls, or Nautilus equipment and to set up a personalized exercise routine, a certified personal trainer is worth the investment.

For some people, it's just a matter of eating a little less and moving a little more,



file photo

ON THE RUN: **Actor and athletic trainer Greg Christofaro runs along the Fourth Street median.**

returning to their usual diet and they lose the excess holiday weight. For others, it's more of a struggle. There may be physiological or emotional reason hampering their progress, or even fear preventing them from taking the first step to make change.

That is where a registered dietitian can be helpful. Using motivational interviewing, registered dietitians can help clients traverse the bumps along the weight loss path, gently pushing the client toward their goals at a comfortable pace that is realistic to their lifestyle.

Major dietary or lifestyle changes aren't always necessary for weight loss. The following are simple 100-calorie adjustments. Substituting one per day can shave off 1 pound a month with little or no effort. Try them out and you'll see what I mean.

LORI SALERNO, M.S., R.D.N, C.P.T. is a registered dietitian nutritionist and certified personal trainer who provides medical nutrition therapy to groups and individuals in Santa Monica and recipe and menu analysis for restaurants nationwide. Learn more at www.eatwelldailynutrition.com.

Instead of:	Choose:
Bagel with 1 tbsp. cream cheese	English muffin with 1 tbsp. peanut butter
Crackers with cheddar	Apple slices with low fat cheddar
One 12-oz glass orange juice	One orange
An omelet with ham and cheese	An omelet with vegetables and topped with salsa
1/4 cup peanuts	1/2 cup shelled edamame
2/3 cup granola with 1/2 cup low fat milk	1/4 cup low fat granola over 6-oz. of nonfat Greek yogurt
Two handfuls of nuts	One handful of nuts and one handful of whole grain cereal and/or air-popped popcorn
16-oz iced vanilla Frappuccino	16-oz iced vanilla latte
One breakfast muffin at a coffee house	Two slices of cinnamon raisin bread with 2 tbsp. low fat cream cheese
1 scoop chocolate ice cream	1 chocolate fudgesicle
1 cup home-style mashed potato	1 cup mashed yam
2 slices of multi-grain bread	100 calorie multigrain wrap

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SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

landing strip for World War I biplanes, lacks standard runway safety areas. Some homes are located roughly 300 feet from the ends of the runway.

One group of residents recently formed to lobby the City Council to create a park at SMO if City Hall wins control over the land.

City Hall officials could not be reached for comment regarding the motion by presstime.

Many of the key exchanges that dictate the lawsuit occurred in the middle of the 20th century.

FAA attorneys claim that the time to sue was more than 50 years ago. In 1948, they say, City Hall signed a document that acknowledged the U.S government's interest in the airport. Under the Quiet Title Act, attorneys claim, plaintiffs must sue within 12 years of learning that the federal government is interested in the disputed land.

City Hall claims it first learned of the federal government's interest in 2008, according to FAA's attorneys, when the feds blocked the council's attempt to ban certain types of jets that are generally larger and faster than most.

The motion puts forward numerous instances in which this is allegedly not the case.

In 1962, according to the motion, a city attorney acknowledged that under the 1948 agreement City Hall must continue to operate the airport. A similar exchange occurred in 1975, the motion claims.

On three separate occasions — in 1952, 1956, and, 1984 — City Hall petitioned for the transfer of land. In doing so City Hall demonstrates its awareness of the U.S. government's interest, FAA attorneys claim.

Further, FAA attorneys say that City Hall should have filed in the Court of Federal Claims not the U.S. District Court. The Court of Federal Claims has jurisdiction over constitutional claims regarding the seizure of property valued in excess of $10,000. City officials say the feds received $755,000 for airport land in 1926, which is now valued at approximately $10 million, according to the motion.

Additionally, attorneys claim City Hall should have gone through the FAA before filing a suit. In three cases, City Hall has asked for, and been granted, exemptions from the FAA.

"In this instance, (City Hall) should also follow the established process if it would like to be released from the conditions and restrictions that it agreed to comply with," the motion said.

The FAA and City Hall have long been at odds over the supposed expiration of its obligations to maintain the airport. City Hall says the expiration occurs in July of 2015 but the FAA maintains that this is incorrect, claiming the actual date is August 2023. This is further maintained in the motion.

The FAA asks that the lawsuit be dismissed at the next scheduled hearing in Downtown Los Angeles on Feb. 10.

dave@smdp.com

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MEDIAN
FROM PAGE 3

Upon completion of the median, left turns into and out of the streets and driveways along both sides of Ocean Avenue will no longer be possible.

Access to the streets and driveways from northbound Ocean Avenue will be maintained via the new signal at Ocean Avenue and Olympic Drive. This new signal will provide a protected U-turn in the northbound direction, so that northbound traffic may turn southbound on Ocean Avenue to access streets and driveways on the west side of Ocean Avenue.

Southbound traffic will be able to make a left turn or U-turn at the southern end of the median at Vicente Terrace to travel northbound on Ocean Avenue and access streets and driveways on the east side of Ocean Avenue.

Pedestrians will have two safe locations to cross Ocean Avenue, city officials said. The first crosswalk will be located at 1740 Ocean Ave., in front of the Le Merigot Hotel, and the second at Ocean Avenue and Olympic Drive.

To learn more about the median attend a public meeting on Monday, Jan. 13 at the Civic Center, East Wing, located at 1855 Main St., from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

editor@smdp.com

RACE
FROM PAGE 3

Devon County, England.

Santa Monica, and particularly the world-famous pier, is a popular destination for cross-country runners, bikers and walkers who raise money along the way for various causes.

The race is divided into 330 segments, with an average length of 10 miles. Organizers hope runners will keep an average pace of 10 minutes per mile. The speed, however, is slower in 10 segments designed to allow groups of runners to get together — enabling more bombing survivors and slower runners to participate, get to know each other and even take souvenir photos.

The final part of last year's relay race followed the route of the Boston Marathon and crossed the finish line on Boylston Street.

Last year's relay was hastily organized by Treleaven and two other friends who also live in England. They didn't attempt to get permits from authorities in towns along the route, Treleaven said.

The event ended with about 1,000 race participants running down Boylston Street at midnight, she said.

"When we asked if we could do that again this coming year, so close to the marathon, it was a big, fat 'No' from the police and city of Boston," she said.

Still, that hasn't dampened enthusiasm for the nonprofit event.

About 600 runners had signed up for the race by Friday morning, six days after a website debuted for participants to register and collect sponsorship pledges.

One of them is Joan Meagher of Boston, who said the explosions occurred 10 days after her mother died and a friend's husband and son were injured in the blasts.

That experience plunged her in a deep depression.

"I was in such a bad, bad place ... and this relay pulled me out of it when nothing else was working," Meagher said.

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Massive Target breach could have lasting effects

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO & MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Fallout from Target's pre-Christmas security breach is likely to affect the company's sales and profits well into the new year.

The company disclosed on Friday that the massive data theft was significantly more extensive and affected millions more shoppers than the company reported in December. As a result of the breach, millions of Target customers have become vulnerable to identity theft, experts say.

The nation's second largest discounter said hackers stole personal information — including names, phone numbers as well as e-mail and mailing addresses — from as many as 70 million customers as part of a data breach it discovered last month.

Target announced on Dec. 19 that some 40 million credit and debit card accounts had been affected by a data breach that happened between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15 — just as the holiday shopping season was getting into gear.

As part of that announcement, the company said customers' names, credit and debit card numbers, card expiration dates, debit-card PINs and the embedded code on the magnetic strip on the back of cards had been stolen.

According to new information gleaned from its investigation with the Secret Service and the Department of Justice, Target said Friday that criminals also took non-credit card related data for some 70 million individuals. This is information Target obtained from customers who, among other things, used a call center and offered their phone number or shopped online and provided an e-mail address.

Some overlap exists between the 70 million individuals and the 40 million compromised credit and debit accounts, the company said.

The revelations mean more than 70 million people may have had their data stolen. And when the company releases a final tally, the theft could become the largest data breach on record for a retailer, surpassing an incident uncovered in 2007 that saw more than 90 million records pilfered from TJX Cos. Inc.

The latest developments come as Target said that just this week it was starting to see sales recover from the crisis. The company, however, cut its earnings outlook for the quarter that covers the crucial holiday season and warned that sales would be down for the period.

But with the latest news, some analysts believe the breach could be a financial drag on the company for several more quarters.

"This is going to linger like a black cloud over the company's financials for the first half of the year," said Brian S. Sozzi, CEO & chief equities strategist at Belus Capital Advisors.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General from New York announced that it is participating in an investigation into the security breach. Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman called the latest news "deeply troubling."

Molly Snyder, a Target spokeswoman, told The Associated Press that the company had no new details to share about how the data breach was executed. The company has only said that the point-of sale system in its U.S. stores was compromised.

"I know that it is frustrating for our guests to learn that this information was taken and we are truly sorry they are having to endure this," said Gregg Steinhafel, Target chairman, president and CEO, in a statement.

Target investors have been largely unmoved by the company's disclosures. Target's stock, while volatile, has traded at about $63 since news of the breach leaked on Dec. 18. It slipped just 72 cents, or more than 1 percent, to $62.62 in trading Friday.

But some observers believe the stock could get battered if consumers stay away from Target stores. Several Wall Street analysts downgraded their earnings forecasts for the retailer on Friday.

Colleen McCarthy, 26, of Cleveland, Ohio, is among those who are avoiding Target. McCarthy used her Chase debit card at a local Target on the Friday after Thanksgiving and received a notice from Chase a few days after news of the breach first broke. The letter identified her as a potential victim of the Target breach but said, "don't worry." At the time, she was only somewhat concerned.

But Monday night McCarthy received a call from Chase, alerting her that someone tried to use her debit account twice in Michigan. The thief cleared $150, which caused her rent check to bounce. Chase restored the money to her account. "This has been a nightmare," she said. "My rent check bounced. My debit card had to be canceled. And who's to say what other people have access to my information?"

Target tried to woo scared shoppers back to stores on the last weekend before Christmas with a 10 percent discount on nearly everything in its stores. Target is also offering a year of free credit monitoring and identity theft protection to customers that shopped at its stores.

Still, some experts believe the company should do more.

"Target is in a critical situation with consumers because its credibility and brand loyalty are being questioned," said David E. Johnson, CEO of Strategic Vision, LLC, which specializes in crisis communications. "Right now, investors think Target can weather the storm. But the longer it gets worse, the worse it is for Target."

Johnson says Target needs to rebuild shoppers' trust. He believes Target needs to air TV commercials assuring them that it's safe to shop in its stores. It also should offer more incentives like deeper discounts to woo consumers, Johnson said.

Clearly, Target shoppers were scared off during the holiday season, when stores can make roughly 20 percent to 40 percent of their annual revenue.

The Minneapolis company also said that it now foresees fourth-quarter sales at stores open at least a year will be down about 2.5 percent. It previously predicted those sales would be about flat.

This figure is a closely-watched indicator of a retailer's health.

Target cautioned that its fourth-quarter financials may include charges related to the data breach. The chain said the costs tied to the breach may have a material adverse effect on its quarterly results as well as future periods.

The company has 1,921 stores, with 1,797 locations in the U.S. and 124 in Canada.

Damage-control worries followed NJ lane closings

BY ANGELA DELLI SANTI & GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. Officials squabbled over media leaks and worried about bad publicity in the days after lane closings near the George Washington Bridge caused huge traffic jams that now appear to have been politically orchestrated by a member of Gov. Chris Christie's administration and key allies, documents released Friday show.

In the documents, officials appointed by Christie seemed more concerned about the political fallout than the effects of the gridlock in the town of Fort Lee during four mornings in September.

The thousands of pages were released by a New Jersey legislative committee investigating the scandal, which could haunt Christie's expected run for president in 2016. The documents mostly involve the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the agency that runs the bridge.

Lawmakers are looking into allegations that Christie loyalists engineered the tie-ups to punish the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee for not endorsing Christie for re-election.

The documents show that the traffic mess created tension between New York and New Jersey appointees at the Port Authority, with the New York side angrily countermanding the lane closings.

In the correspondence, Port Authority chairman David Samson, a Christie appointee, suggested that the authority's executive director, Patrick Foye, who was appointed by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, had leaked to a reporter an internal memo ordering an end to the lane closings.

Samson called that possibility "very unfortunate for NY/NJ relations."

On Thursday, Christie moved to contain the damage from the scandal, firing his deputy chief of staff, cutting ties to one of his chief political advisers and apologizing for the traffic jams. Two Christie appointees at the Port Authority resigned last month as the scandal unfolded.

Christie has denied any involvement in the lane closings, and the two batches of documents released on Wednesday and Friday do not implicate him.

The latest documents contain several e-mails from Port Authority media relations staff to higher-ups reporting on calls from reporters with questions about the closings. The agency did not respond to those calls.

It was Foye's Sept. 13 e-mail that ordered the lanes reopened that generated deep discussion. In it, Foye called the decision to close the lanes "abusive" and added, "I believe this hasty and ill-advised decision violates federal law."

Bill Baroni, the Christie-appointed deputy director who has since resigned, forwarded a copy of the angry e-mail to Christie's scheduling secretary.

Later that morning, Baroni e-mailed Foye: "I am on my way to office to discuss. There can be no public discourse."

Foye responded: "Bill that's precisely the problem: there has been no public discourse on this."

Baroni later authorized a statement for reporters explaining that the closings were part of a traffic study.

In recent weeks, there have been questions about the whether the closings were part of a legitimate study.

Christie himself said on Thursday: "I don't know whether this was a traffic study that then morphed into a political vendetta or a political vendetta that morphed into a traffic study."

The newly released documents show that there was, in fact, a traffic study that was done, or at least a preliminary one. There were e-mails from Port Authority contractors in late August on the mechanics and timing of a study.

Two versions of a study turned up in the documents — one was six pages and the other 16. Both were dated Sept. 12, the day before the lanes reopened.

The documents include study findings that Baroni gave to lawmakers at a hearing last year: When the lanes were closed, the main bridge traffic moved a bit faster, but local traffic had major delays.

Michael Cassidy, a University of California-Berkeley engineering professor who occasionally works with the California Department of Transportation, told The Associated Press that the preliminary study appears to be a legitimate internal report of the sort transportation officials often circulate among themselves.

"It could well be a good-faith effort, if not the finest in the annals. I cannot say this is not a study," he said. "You wouldn't want to publish it in an academic journal."

How to deal with the fallout from the traffic jams became an issue.

In an Oct. 9 e-mail exchange under the subject "morning clips," Philippe Danielides, a senior adviser at the Port Authority, asked David Wildstein, a Christie appointee at the agency who has since resigned, "Has any thought been given to writing an op-ed or providing a statement about the GWB study? Or is the plan just to hunker down and grit our way through it?"

"Yes and yes," Wildstein replied.

In a Sept. 17 e-mail, Christie spokesman Michael Drewniak appears to send Wildstein a response to be sent to a reporter writing about the lane closings. "Traffic studies or pilots are done all the time," he wrote. "They're temporary, and if they're not done, how can the effectiveness of a new approach be tested?"

The documents also showed confusion from some Port Authority employees as the closings were starting.

One employee asked, "What is driving this?" Another responded that he was wondering the same thing: "It seems like we are punishing all for the sake of a few."

And another employee passed along a complaint from a woman who said that her husband, who had been out of work for more than a year, was 40 minutes late for a job interview because of the tie-ups.

One Port Authority police officer went searching for answers.

"The undersigned inquired if this is a permanent plan or temporary," Capt. Darcy Licorish wrote in an email. "The manager could not supply an answer to that or other questions. Inquiry was also made as to the notifications of the township. No answers could be supplied."

SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **59.4°**

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
WNW-NW swell tops out; Minor NW windswell mixing in;
Cleanest through the AM; Strongest for spots out to the west/north

SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Mix of old/easing WNW-NW swell, new/building WNW-NW swell,
and minor NW windswell; Cleanest in the AM

MONDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
New WNW-NW swell tops out; Minor NW windswell mixing in;
Good offshore wind conditions possible.

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Easing WNW-NW swell; Good offshore wind conditions possible.

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 8, 2014**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - beachreportcard.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 1
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 39
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 3

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, 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
Los Cerrillos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	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+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
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 21577 Malibu Rd..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	C	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.	D	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.	A	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).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	D	ns
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.	F	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 is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California's coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

Heal the Bay

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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.

Nat Geo Wild's Super Bowl alternative: Gold fish

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA, Calif. As the Puppy Bowl and the Kitten Bowl aim to delight cable TV's cute animal lovers, another network will offer an underwater alternative to the Super Bowl: the four-hour goldfish bowl.

Animal Planet has counterprogrammed the NFL championship for the past few years with its own "Puppy Bowl," where adorable pups romp with each other on a football-themed set. Recently, the Hallmark Channel said it would try the same idea on Feb. 2, but with kittens.

On Friday, the Nat Geo Wild network said it has an idea that will make the Christmastime "Yule Log" broadcast look like exciting TV. "Fish Bowl," airing from 6 to 10 p.m. EST on Super Bowl Sunday, will show goldfish swimming around a bowl.

Kiffin joins Alabama as offensive coordinator

BY JOHN ZENOR
AP Sports Writer

Alabama hired former Southern California coach Lane Kiffin on Friday as its offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Kiffin returns to the Southeastern Conference after head coaching stints with the NFL's Oakland Raiders, Alabama rival Tennessee and the Trojans. He replaces Doug Nussmeier, who left Alabama for Michigan.

"He is an outstanding and creative offensive coach who has great experience both at the college and NFL level," coach Nick Saban said in a statement. "He has a very good understanding of the game and I have always been impressed with what I saw in the games he called. He coaches with a great deal of passion and enthusiasm, and also does an excellent job as a teacher."

Kiffin spent a week in Tuscaloosa, Ala., last month exchanging ideas with Saban and his staff and observing Alabama's offense. Now, he's the splashiest hire of Saban's tenure at Alabama, which has won three national titles in the past five seasons.

The 38-year-old Kiffin was 28-15 in three-plus seasons with USC. He was fired five games into last season from one of college football's marquee jobs.

Kiffin spent six seasons (2001-06) at USC under Pete Carroll as an assistant, including the final two as offensive coordinator. He also called plays during his time as a head coach. He spent the 2009 season at Tennessee, going 7-6 before leaving to replace Carroll.

"We want to thank the University of Alabama and Coach Saban for this tremendous opportunity, and we feel humbled and honored to be a part of the Crimson Tide family," Kiffin said in a statement. "I've always had the utmost respect for what Coach Saban has done with his programs. Having the unique opportunity to be here last month, I was able to meet some of the great players and the great people in the organization, and I'm very excited to start working with them.

"We've seen the passion and support of the Alabama fans firsthand, and when that's combined with the storied history and tradition of the program, this is a very special place to coach."

Now, Kiffin is tasked with finding a replacement for quarterback AJ McCarron, the Heisman Trophy runner-up. One potential contender, Alec Morris, posted on his Twitter page "Love it" after the hiring.

His hiring creates a high-profile pairing with Saban, who along with defensive coordinator Kirby Smart has routinely fielded one of the nation's best defenses while also putting up solid numbers with a pro-style offense.

Kiffin was part of two national championships as a USC assistant under Carroll. He ran the offense from 2005-06 and was passing game coordinator the previous year, when quarterback Matt Leinart won the Heisman.

The Trojans averaged 49.1 points and 579.8 total yards per game when Kiffin was offensive coordinator.

The Tide's lone meeting with Kiffin's Volunteers proved pivotal during the 2009 national championship season.

Terrence Cody blocked two field goals in the fourth quarter to preserve a 12-10 Alabama win and the Tide's title hopes.

Kiffin did run afoul of SEC Commissioner Mike Slive during his stay at Tennessee. After Kiffin was publicly dismissive of his second reprimand from the league, this one for criticizing officials, Slive issued a letter warning him that further such comments from he or his staff would lead to a suspension from at least one game.

Kiffin had questioned why officials didn't penalize Cody for unsportsmanlike conduct when the defensive lineman removed and threw his helmet after his second block on the game's final play.

He also said at the time that he decided to let the clock run down instead of trying to run another play before the kick because he was concerned about the officiating.

No terms of the deal with Alabama were released, pending formal approval by the university's board of trustees.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Jan. 11
Giselle (NR) 1hr 44min
7:30pm

Sunday, Jan. 12
The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box (PG) 1hr 38min
4:00pm

Intolerance (NR) 2hrs 47min
7:30pm

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

Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) 2hrs 05min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
11:30am, 6:45pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
3:00pm, 9:45pm

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R)
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:45pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
10:45am, 1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min
10:10am, 1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 11:00pm

Hercules: The Legend Begins 3-D (PG-13) 1hr 38min
12:30pm, 8:30pm

Hercules:The Legend Begins (PG-13) 1hr 38min
10:00am, 5:45pm, 10:30pm

August: Osage County (R) 2hrs 10min
10:20am, 1:30pm, 4:45pm, 8:00pm, 11:15 pm

Lone Survivor (R) 2hrs 1min
10:30am, 1:45pm, 5:00pm, 8:15pm, 11:10pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
10:00am, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, 7:00pm,10:50pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
10:00am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm, 7:45pm, 11:05pm

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

Act of Killing (NR) 1hr 55min
10:30am

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

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

Blue Is The Warmest Color (La Vie d'AdÃ¨le) (NC-17) 2hrs 59min
10:00am

Great Beauty (La Grande Bellezza) (NR) 2hrs 30min
11:00am

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

Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box (PG) 1hr 38min
11:00am

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

HANG OUT WITH PALS TONIGHT, ARIES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Round up your friends and get together for an event you have been discussing. Apply any seriousness to winning a bet or to a fun game you enjoy with your pals. Tonight: Hang out with a loved one and pals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You'll need to ride a wave of spending with caution. A partner or someone involved with a joint financial matter would like you to employ more self-discipline. Go where you can enjoy yourself. Tonight: Opt to try a new spot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You feel energized and no longer can deny the child within. No matter how judgmental a partner might be, you will discover how much he or she really enjoys this side of you. Allow more laughter into your relationship. Tonight: Let the lighter side of life emerge.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might choose to spend some time by yourself. You tend to be unusually gregarious during the holiday season, and feeling worn down is normal. You could discover just how tired you are once you let go. Tonight: Not to be found.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ A partner seems to cast a haze or an attractive aura wherever he or she is. Make plans to get together with friends, and enjoy wherever you are. You have the right words to draw someone else out of his or her shell. News could be surprising. Tonight: Paint the town red.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You'll bring others together, and you even may host a spontaneous party. Perhaps you asked a friend to come over and help you paint a room, and everything evolved from that request. Discuss what is on your mind, yet remain open to other approaches. Tonight: Take the lead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might not be able to suppress your desire to take off. Make a point of going where you want, even if it's only for a few days. Trust that your yearning to get away is for a good reason. Tonight: Try a new spot or a new type of cuisine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Make time for a special person in your life. Taking a walk or going to a favorite spot will help both of you clear the air. You can be overserious and demanding at times. Try to relax, and let go of that dimension of your personality. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You often make the first move, but at present there is little reason to do that, as a certain admirer will be seeking you out. Tonight: Sort through your many invitations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might decide to play it low-key during the next few days. Understand that you have a lot of little projects and errands to take care of. Consider how you would feel if they were completed. With that in mind, proceed. Tonight: Don't make a fuss.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your idea to get a potential loved one involved in what you would like to do could be executed with ease. Realize that you might not have considered the ramifications. Just go with the moment, especially if plans are going to be launched. Tonight: Be the intriguing Aquarian.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Hang close to home. You need to do some resting up, as you have been pushing yourself very hard. Know that there is nothing you can't accomplish, but you do need to have adequate sleep. Keep it low-key, and be with your immediate loved ones. Tonight: Order out.

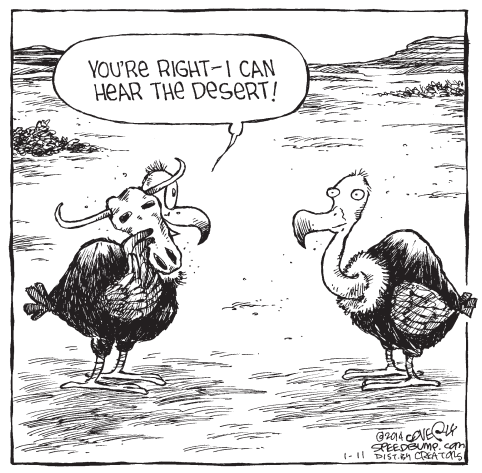
Weekend Edition, January 11-12, 2014

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

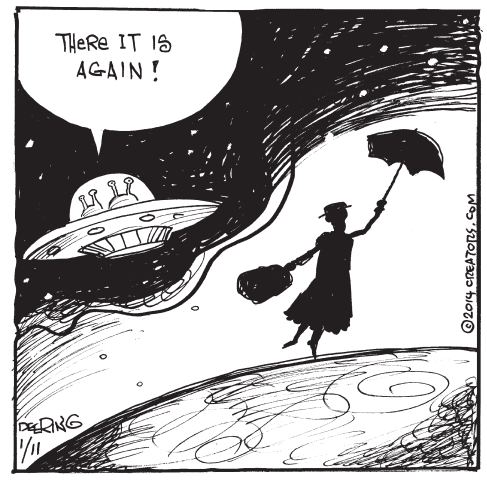
This year you will be more active in your day-to-day life, either by getting into a new hobby or by learning about a new facet of your work. You also will identify more closely with a friend. You both are becoming more like the other. If you are single, you are in a period where you will meet people with ease. You will know when you meet the right person. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy relating more than you have in a while. GEMINI could seem flaky or distracted.

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

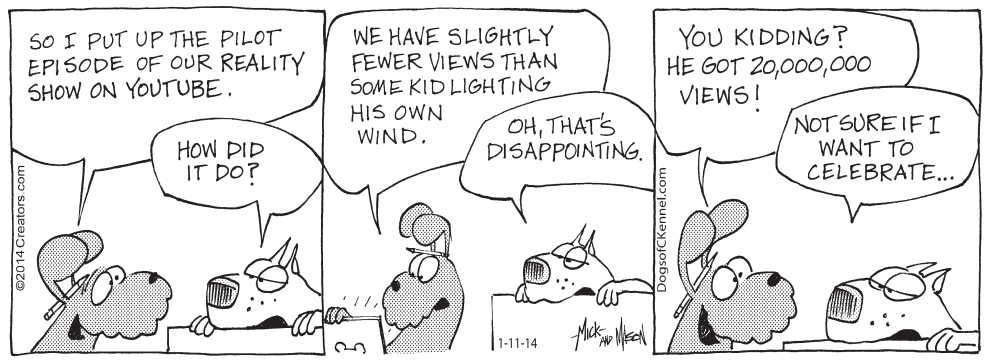
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



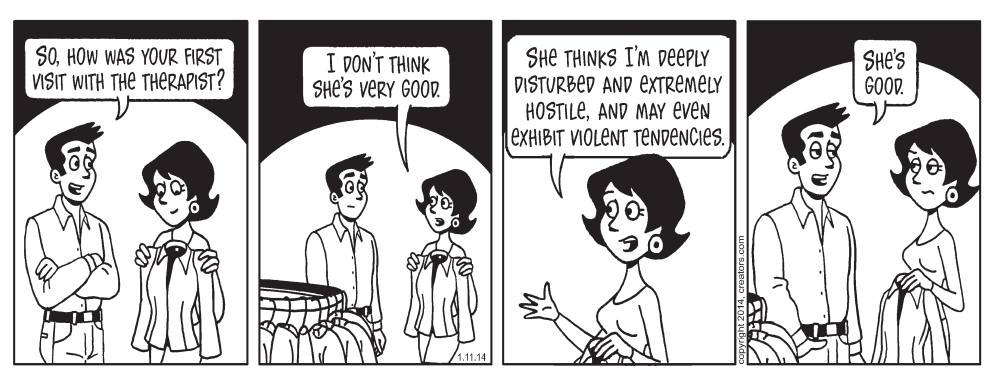
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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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

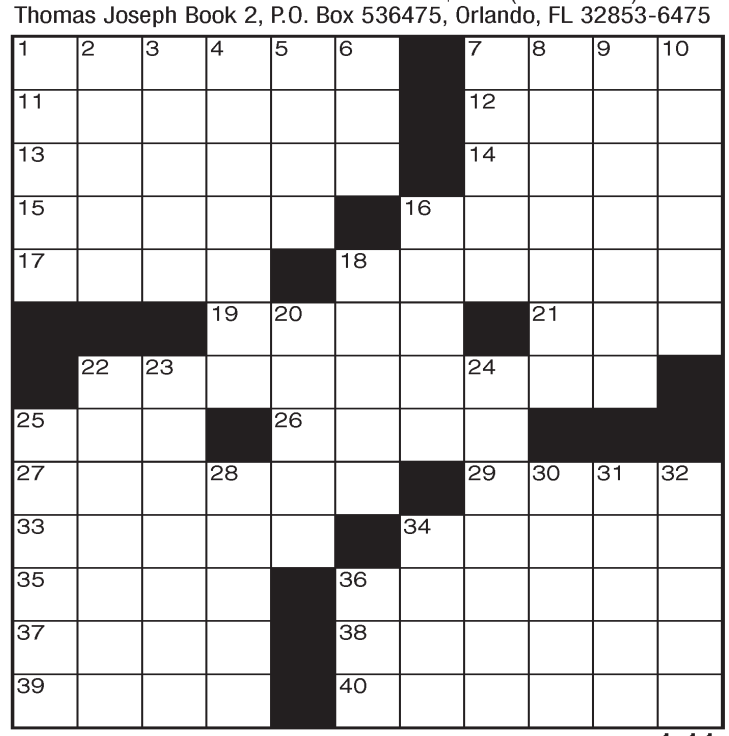
ACROSS
1 Trembling
7 Hay's place
11 Get by
12 Diva's piece
13 Hallow-een hue
14 Tabloid fodder
15 Works hard
16 Produce
17 Lohen-grin's love
18 Last number
19 Bridge cost
21 Soviet space station
22 Book subtitled "There and Back Again"
25 Overly
26 London lockup
27 Asimov book
29 Tex. neighbor
33 Stopped
34 Musical sounds
35 Sandbox toy
36 Eye in awe
37 Creative germ
38 Comfort-able
39 Inquisitive
40 Pantry

DOWN
1 Struck down, in the Bible
2 Winter air
3 Writer Nin
4 Was behind schedule
5 Quiche base
6 Scottish river
7 Burdened
8 Folding skill
9 Like a log cabin in winter
10 Shred
16 Hero of 22-Across
18 Parade sight
20 George Burns film
22 Transport to Oz
23 Some sweat-shirts
24 Short fly ball
25 Cufflinks' kin
28 Hold, at sea
30 Massage
31 Flat form
32 Showy flower
34 "Toodle-oo!"
36 Lass

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



1-11



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ While many educators lament the mediocrity of American universities in encouraging study of science and engineering, U.S. colleges are surely among world leaders in one area: sensitivity to students questioning their gender. In the current school year, Bellevue (Wash.) College and Mills College (Oakland, Calif.) have offered students unprecedented choices of self-identification. "Male/female" is no longer useful at Bellevue, which offers "feminine, masculine, androgynous, gender neutral, transgender and other." At Mills, students identify themselves as "agender, bigender, third-gender or gender-fluid," and select the pronoun they wish to be referred to with (he or she or ze or sie or ve, or the agrammatical "they").

■ When a pickpocket shared a taxi ride with him recently in China's Hunan province and somehow managed to lift Zou Bin's iPhone, Zou was frightened that he had lost all of his beverage-industry business contacts and began text-messaging desperate pleas to the thief. Several days later, in the postal mail, Zou received a list of his contacts, apparently carefully copied from the phone, totaling 11 handwritten pages of names and numbers, and as the story broke on Chinese social media, the earnest thief was referred to as "the conscience of the (robbery) industry," and compared to a member of the People's Liberation Army as the model conscientious citizen that the Chinese should aspire to.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1957 - The African Convention is founded in Dakar, Senegal.

1960 - Henry Lee Lucas, once listed as America's most prolific serial killer, commits his first known murder.

WORD UP!

wamble
\ WOM-buhl, -uhl, WAM- \ , verb;
1.
to move unsteadily.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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			

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I am currently working with fully qualified buyers looking for the following:

- Raw Land/Teardown - West of 10th St (North of Wilshire or North of Montana - Up to $4,500,000
- 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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