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TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 51

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR TARGET?
SEE PAGE 6

THE BACK AND FORTH ISSUE

Advocates on both sides respond to FAA motion

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO The federal government's response to the Santa Monica Airport lawsuit looks strong to some people with opinions on both sides of the debate.

On Friday afternoon, attorneys representing the Federal Aviation Administration filed a motion asking a judge to toss the lawsuit filed by City Hall over SMO.

City Hall has 10 days to respond to the motion and, given that it involves pending litigation, they won't comment on it. City officials did confirm that the FAA's motion to dismiss the lawsuit was what they were expecting.

In October, City Hall procured attorneys Morrison & Foertster and filed the suit against the FAA attempting to determine who controls the airport and its 227 acres.

Local residents have long complained about the noise and pollution caused by the aircraft. They also fear for their safety, with some homes located about 300 feet from where jets and propellor planes take off and land.

One group of residents wants to turn the space into a park if City Hall can manage to gain full control of the airport.

SEE AIRPORT PAGE 10

Longtime public servant Finkel steps down

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief


FINKEL

SMC For over 30 years, David Finkel has served the public in one capacity or another, whether it was time spent fighting for the protection of civil liberties and workers' rights as a young attorney; serving as a superior

SEE FINKEL PAGE 9

California bill seeks to regulate homemade guns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A state lawmaker proposed Monday that California extend its requirement that gun buyers undergo background checks and register their weapons to anyone who assembles a firearm in their home.

The legislation by state Sen. Kevin de Leon is part of a growing effort across the country to pre-empt the spread of undetectable guns that can be made using 3-D printers. His bill also would apply to anyone who buys parts that can be assembled into a gun.

SEE GUNS PAGE 8



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

GOOD TO KNOW: A sign outside of Parking Structure 5 on Fourth Street lets drivers know how many spots are available.

Parking lot upgrades top $5.7M consent calendar

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL City Council will consider spending $3.4 million Tuesday on new parking payment systems at 14 city parking lots including the Downtown parking structures.

There are about 9 million parking transactions made annually through the current parking system, city officials said. That system is old and needs to be replaced. Contingent upon future council approval, the contract could total $5 million and include 10 years of maintenance.

Early last year, the selection committee recommended a vendor but Sentry Control, one of the competing bidders, notified city officials that one of the committee members from the Los Angeles Department of

SEE CONSENT PAGE 8

STOP CRIME
Very important meeting on neighborhood safety.
Santa Monica Against Crime
Event: S.M.A.C. Community Meeting
Date: January 22nd
Time: 7:00 pm
For event details and RSVP: wsa.smac@gmail.com
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2014

Story time
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 11:20 a.m.
Story series for babies ages 0-17 months accompanied by an adult. Call (310) 458-8681 for more information.

Get online
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m.
Learn how to navigate a web browser, locate information, evaluate online sources and print web pages. Beginner level. Seating is first come, first serve. For more information, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

Council meets
City Hall
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
The City Council will consider buying new buses and applying for a grant to create a park adjacent to the future home of the Expo Light Rail Line maintenance yard. For more information, visit smgov.net.

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014

Job help
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m.
Explore resources to help you research careers, develop skills, and find a job. Intermediate level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, visit the reference desk or call telephone reference at (310) 434-2608.

Book it
Montana Avenue Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.
Discussion of Josephine Tey's historical mystery "Daughter of Time," in which a hospitalized English policeman reconstructs evidence concerning Richard III's role in the murder of Edward IV's two sons. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014

Ice in the sunshine
Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue
2 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Hit the rink at ICE at Santa Monica, a popular holiday attraction. For more information, call (310) 461-8333.

Billy ball
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Be inspired by the story of the greatest unknown basketball legend as co-authors Billy McGill and Eric Brach present the tale of McGill's rise from pickup games in Los Angeles to first pick of the 1962 NBA draft and fall from stardom due to injuries. A book sale and signing follows. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Remembering Carole
Museum of Flying
3100 Airport Ave., 8 p.m.
Robert Matzen, author of the book, "Fireball: Carole Lombard and the Mystery of Flight 3," celebrates the life and death of the actress and the 21 others aboard TWA Flight 3 with a lecture, videos, and book signing on the 72nd anniversary of the crash. For more information, call (310) 398-2500.

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**

Analyst calls California budget proposal 'prudent'

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown is on the right track with his 2014-15 budget proposal by recommending that California devote billions of dollars in new revenue to start paying down its massive debts, the Legislative Analyst's Office said Monday.

The governor's plan would "place California on an even stronger fiscal footing" as the state emerges from recession, analyst Mac Taylor said in his review of the spending proposal released by the governor last week.

Brown's budget forecasts a $106.8 billion general fund, the highest in state history. The Democratic governor wants to boost K-12 funding by nearly $4 billion and spend $11 billion paying down debts, including $6 billion more that is owed to schools from previous budgets where education was under-

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 8

Limits placed on community college fee waivers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The governing board that sets policies for California's 112 community colleges has approved new eligibility requirements for a popular financial aid program.

The Board of Governors for the state community college system on Monday adopted regulations that for the first time establish minimum academic performance requirements for students who do not pay per-unit enrollment fees.

Under the new rules, students who do not maintain at least a C-average or complete at least half of the units they attempted during two consecutive semesters would be at risk of losing their fee waivers.

Foster youth are exempt from the policy, which takes effect in the fall of 2016 and includes an appeals process.

The board was required to adopt the restrictions as part of legislation passed in 2012 that is aimed at improving graduation and transfer rates at California's two-year colleges.



Paul Alvarez Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

PROUD VIKINGS: **The Santa Monica High School football team held their annual banquet friday night at the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi football hands out honors

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Santa Monica football honored their own on Friday during the Vikings' annual banquet.

Senior running back Kwame Duggins was named Best Offensive Player after gaining more than 1,000 yards this season.

Junior linebacker Terrance Jackson and his 19 sacks helped earn the pass rushing specialist the Best Defensive Player nod.

Samohi finished the season 7-5 and advanced to the second round of the Western Division playoffs where they fell to Lompoc.

LOCAL BASKETBALL TEAMS RANKED

A trio of Santa Monica-based boys' basketball teams find themselves ranked in their respective divisions.

Santa Monica, with its 8-7 record, are ranked No. 12 in the elite CIF-Southern Section Division 1AA poll.

St. Monica and Crossroads are No. 15 and No. 16 in Division 4A.

Samohi is back in action on Wednesday as the Vikings open Ocean League play against rival Inglewood.

Samohi head coach James Hecht considers Inglewood, ranked No. 16 in Division 1AA, to be one of the favorites to win league this season.

"They are always athletic and they have pretty good depth," Hecht said.

St. Monica (9-7) travels to Bosco Tech on Wednesday. Game time is 7 p.m.

Crossroads travels to Milken today, Tuesday. The Roadrunners are 8-6 this season.

daniela@smdp.com

Los Angeles officials laud 'historic' crime drop

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles officials have announced crime statistics for 2013 that show the lowest number of homicides since 1966.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Police Chief Charlie Beck lauded the low-crime statistics in the nation's second-largest city Monday, calling the drops historic.

The decline is part of a local as well as nationwide trend over the past several years.

The city had 251 homicides in 2013, down 16.1 percent from 2012, and down 34.6 percent over the past five years. Gang-related crimes were down 17.6 percent from 2012, and down nearly 50 percent since 2008. Property crime was down nearly 3.7 percent from 2012 and dropped 16.5 percent since 2008.

Rapes were down nearly 32 percent compared with 2012 and dropped by nearly 33 percent over the past five years.

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10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

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To learn more about the Homeless Count and the City's efforts to address homelessness, visit http://www.smgov.net/homelessness or call (310) 458-8701

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

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Editor:

"Turning poop into gold; Feces coffee comes to Santa Monica" (Jan. 11-12) might be better titled "Cruel coffee comes to Santa Monica," according to reports I have been reading about this product for some time. I find it difficult to believe the business owner's published claim that the particular product being offered in Santa Monica comes from free-roaming civets; it's hard to imagine that foragers walking through the forests with scoops and bags are supplying enough coffee for the trade. How do we know this is true?

In contrast, there are numerous reports that wild civets are being poached in the jungle, caged in cramped prison-camp conditions and force fed a debilitating diet of coffee cherries to produce the coffee, causing malnutrition, fur loss and a high mortality rate. For some species of civet, there's a reported conservation risk. Check out a video at www.peta.org

A product like this has no place in Santa Monica until the business owner's claims can be verified and certified by a credible organization.

Bob Seldon
Santa Monica

The good, the bad, the ugly

Editor:

This is getting ridiculous. It's one mega-project after another, each one adding to the obliteration of what has made Santa Monica such a great place to live. Development can obviously be both good and bad, so why is it that we are so often being presented with the bad?

What exactly is the problem here? A toothless, acquiescent Planning Commission that leads developers to believe they have a chance to get this kind of thing through?

Or is it a City Council somehow beholden to special interests?

Surely you must understand that the citizenry is awakening to all this. And that people are prepared to put electoral and administrative time, effort and money toward getting rid of a governing culture they have come to distrust and dislike.

Martyn Burke
Santa Monica

Great venue

Editor:

It's fitting that the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the city of Santa Monica are hosting their 2014 annual State of the City [program] in Cirque du Soleil's big-top circus tent. The way those clowns have destroyed our city, at least they will feel right at home in a circus tent.

George Kaplan
Santa Monica





What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

There's no profit in peace

I REALLY RESPECT JERRY PEACE Activist Rubin. He's a tireless worker for the peace movement and whatever his cause du jour may be. (I think it's still the Paul Conrad sculpture and it seems like he's winning.) He is extremely admirable and rare in today's world.

He's a bright spot of light in a world that both loves and abhors war.

This was the weekend of war for me. Not personally so much as through the medium of the big screen. I saw two movies, both about war. Both had carnage, lies, appalling abuse of individuals, character assassination and beheadings (literally and figuratively). Within them both were moments of humanity that the filmmakers used to counterbalance the often bone crushing abuse that was being played out on screen.

The two movies were from opposite ends of the spectrum of the Hollywood production machine. One was a low- to mid-budget documentary that had cutesy computer graphics to illustrate points, a celebrity narrator and a few moments that evoked a dewiness in the characters' eyes, but little real pathos.

The other was a big-budget war movie with loads of amazing computer graphics, brilliant cinematography and stunt work that brought immediate visceral reactions to my body. As I was watching the movie I would flinch and look right at my friend, who was curling in sympathetic agony to the action on the screen. The acting was superb and believable.

"Divorce Corp" is a documentary about the $50 billion family law industry. I had to see this movie that was narrated by Dr. Drew Pinsky. He's the big name that draws people in to see it. There were several lawyers interviewed who are rock stars in the family law world, most of whom no one outside of our industry would know. And then there was Gloria Allred. Of course. There's always Gloria. It took me a moment to figure out why she was in this movie, since her firm is a civil rights firm not a family law firm. Then it hit me — celebrity. She's a celebrity with name recognition and they needed it for marketing. OK, my hurt feelings were assuaged.

The film uses a few sad stories, a couple of corrupt judges and therapists to condemn an entire body of mostly honorable, hard-working people trying to do the right thing. I get it, that's what puts butts in the seats. And they have some valid points. Of course seeing the father-daughter duo comment on how expensive divorce is, when they charge $1,100/$750 an hour, respectively, seemed a bit hypocritical to me.

As a condemnation of the court system in America, it hit home. We definitely have a lot of room for improvement, first and foremost should be an automatic presumption of a 50/50 custody schedule for children with both parents, which would do away with much of the time and expense we battle over. The filmmakers used the Scandinavian model of limited spousal and child support as a rational example of how to do divorce correctly. It would put 95 percent of the divorce lawyers out of business, I think.

"Lone Survivor" is the story of four Navy officers in Afghanistan and the fire fight that cost three of them their lives. Based on true events, it stars Mark Wahlberg as Marcus Luttrell, the lone survivor. It painted a brutal picture of the carnage that the American forces are capable of. The sheer strength and power of the American military being used against a country that is mostly single-story homes was quite striking to me. On the one hand it is impressive when you think about how much sheer firepower we have at our disposal, and simultaneously insanely stupid that we are wasting men's lives and our equipment destroying a country that is made up mostly of desert and mud homes.

In both movies the "victims," the "weaker parties," were vanquished due to the oppressive boot of authority. In both movies it was clear to me that yes, there is a tremendous amount of money involved in all aspects of the battles. In court, money does seem to bring victory, if not justice, and on the battle field it seems to bring momentary wins.

Peace is preferable to war, but it's not nearly as profitable. Hence war, no matter the battlefield, shall prevail, no matter the cost.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles divorce and child custody lawyer specializing in father's and men's rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra



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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.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Neighbors oppose vineyard estate by Hollywood sign

People who live near the Hollywood sign are opposing a winemaker's plan to build an estate next to a vineyard he planted years ago above their homes.

The Los Angeles Times reports Kenneth York intends to build an 8,000-square-foot mansion, a guest house, a pool, a tennis court and "wine caves" next to six acres of grapes he planted in 2001.

The Glendora ophthalmologist needs waivers from the city for the massive amount of grading he needs to do on a steep section of Mt. Lee before construction can begin.

Neighbors said they're worried the work — which also includes building a third-of-a-mile-long road — will cause years of dust and noise, and that the land in the Hollywood Hills should remain undeveloped.

"It would totally change the character of the Hollywood hillside forever," said City Councilman Tom LaBonge, who represents the neighborhoods beneath the Hollywood sign.

He said $12.5 million in public money and private donations was spent in 2010 to prevent development of Mt. Lee's Cahuenga Peak, which is directly above the vineyard.

Neighbors also complained that the vineyard produced runoff, damaging two homes, in February 2008 and that a noisy refrigerator truck sits outside York's home during harvest season. York's wine website sells Cabernet Sauvignon for $200 per bottle.

York's lawyer said neighbors and city officials have known about the plans for years.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Judge rejects bid for new Michael Jackson trial

A judge on Monday rejected a bid by Michael Jackson's mother for a new trial in her lawsuit claiming the promoter of her son's ill-fated comeback concerts was negligent in his death.

Superior Court Judge Yvette Palazuelos ruled that jurors were given proper instructions and there were no errors in her trial rulings that would warrant a retrial.

A jury determined in October that AEG Live was not liable for Jackson's June 2009 death despite hiring the doctor who was convicted of giving the superstar an overdose of a powerful anesthetic.

Katherine Jackson's lawyers argued that jurors were given an improper verdict form that was contrary to state law and didn't allow them to consider all the issues in the case after five months of testimony last year.

AEG's lawyers argued that there was no mistake in the verdict form and the motion for a new trial should be denied.

Attorneys for the Jackson family matriarch could pursue an appeal to a higher state court.

AEG Live's attorney Marvin Putnam praised Monday's ruling.

"We were confident that the court would uphold the jury's verdict," he wrote in a statement. "This is also fantastic news for the taxpayers of California, who won't have their hard-earned money wasted retrying plaintiffs' baseless claims. Enough is enough."

Kevin Boyle, an attorney for Katherine Jackson and her grandchildren, said the case was far from over.

""We believe there are numerous ways that we can win on appeal," Boyle wrote in an email.

Katherine Jackson sued AEG Live on behalf of herself and her son's three children, accusing the concert promoter of hiring former cardiologist Conrad Murray and creating a conflict of interest in his care of the pop superstar.

Murray, who was deeply in debt, was expecting to be paid $150,000 a month to care for Jackson while he prepared for a planned series of comeback concerts in London's O2 Arena. The singer died on June 25, 2009, after receiving an overdose the anesthetic propofol, which Murray was giving Jackson as a sleep aid.

Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in 2011 and released in October after serving two years.

The trial offered a look into Jackson's personal life as well as his routines as an entertainer and medical treatments for a variety of ailments.

Jurors who spoke after the verdict said their verdict did not mean they thought Murray was ethical in his care of Jackson. But they determined he was fit and competent to serve as the singer's doctor when he was hired.

AEG Live executives denied any wrongdoing throughout the trial and said there was no way they could have known that Murray was giving Jackson propofol in the bedroom of his rented mansion.

– AP

The Q Line

Concert changes

There is a movement afoot that would make major changes to the Santa Monica Pier's Twilight Concert Series, including reducing the amount of people watching from the beach.

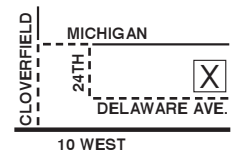
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think changes need to be made to the popular concerts or should they be left as is?

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**.



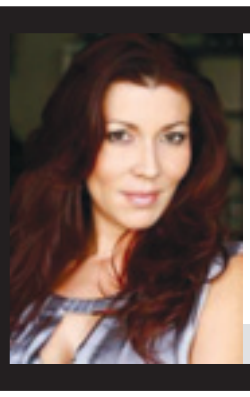
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Massive Target breach could have lasting effects

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 email 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 email 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.

Hunger and death in besieged Damascus area

DIAA HADID
Associated Press

BEIRUT Children, the elderly and others displaced by Syria's civil war are starving to death in a besieged camp where women brave sniper fire to forage for food just minutes from the relative prosperity of Damascus.

The dire conditions at the Yarmouk camp are a striking example of the catastrophe unfolding in rebel-held areas blockaded by the Syrian government. U.S. and Russian diplomats said Monday the warring sides are considering opening humanitarian corridors to let in aid and build confidence ahead of an international peace conference on Syria.

Interviews with residents and U.N. officials, as well as photos and videos provided to The Associated Press, reveal an unfolding tragedy in the sprawling camp, where tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees and displaced Syrians are trapped under an intensifying yearlong blockade.

Forty-six people have died since October of starvation, illnesses exacerbated by hunger or because they couldn't obtain medical aid, residents said.

"There are no more people in Yarmouk, only skeletons with yellow skin," said 27-year-old resident Umm Hassan, the mother of two toddlers.

"Children are crying from hunger. The hospital has no medicine. People are just dying," she told the AP by telephone, adding that her 3-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son were rapidly losing weight from lack of food.

The dead include Isra al-Masri, an emaciated toddler who passed away on Saturday swaddled in a woolen sweater, her eyes sunken, her skin darkened, her swollen tongue wedged between her lips. The child was filmed minutes before her death, slowly blinking as she was held by an unidentified woman in a video sent to the AP by a 25-year-old resident, Sami Alhamzawi.

"Look at this child! Look at her!" the woman in the video shouts, thrusting the child before the camera. "What did she do to deserve this?"

Other deaths suggest the extent of desperation among residents: Teenager Mazen al-Asali hung himself in late December after returning home without food to feed his starving mother. An elderly man was beaten to death by thieves who ransacked his home, looking for food and money.

Deaths have also been reported by opposition groups, activists and the United Nations.

Similar casualty figures were reported by the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which documents Syrian casualties through a network of activists on the ground. The U.N. confirmed 15 deaths, but spokesman Chris Gunness said it was impossible to know the real toll because of restricted access.

"There is profound civilian suffering in Yarmouk, with widespread malnutrition and the absence of medical care," Gunness said. "Children are suffering from diseases linked to severe malnutrition."

The camp and other blockaded areas pose a stark challenge for Syria's government and the opposition, who agreed to consider opening humanitarian access in the run-up to a peace conference next week in Switzerland that would bring the sides together for the first time.

Speaking in the midst of a two-day series of meetings in Paris, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said they were also pressing for a cease-fire and prisoner exchange between the warring sides.

But hopes appear slim.

The U.N. humanitarian chief said last month that an estimated 250,000 people in besieged communities in Syria were beyond the reach of aid. The government has kept outside aid sharply limited. Key humanitarian routes are increasingly cut off by the fighting, and kidnappings of aid workers are on the rise. Both Assad's forces and rebels have used blockades to punish civilians.

Repeated efforts to bring food into Yarmouk have failed. Most recently, on Monday, six trucks loaded with U.N.-donated food to feed 10,000 people had to turn back after gunmen fired on the convoy, resident Alhamzawi said.

Some 160,000 Palestinians once lived in Yarmouk, a strategic prize for rebels and Assad forces for its close proximity to Damascus. They remained mostly neutral when the uprising began against Assad's rule in March 2011.

But clashes erupted between pro- and anti-Assad Palestinian gunmen in December 2012, and most residents fled. The poorest, some 18,000 people, remained behind, according to U.N. estimates, along with tens of thousands of Syrians displaced from rebel-held areas that were seized back by the regime.

Pro-Assad Palestinian factions set up checkpoints around Yarmouk and progressively tightened a blockade of the area. By September, they banned residents from leaving, or food from entering.

It also meant residents couldn't reach U.N. aid that was distributed outside the camp. The U.N. stopped operating inside Yarmouk in December, because of the fighting.

As months have passed, Yarmouk's poorest have run out of food, according to residents and the U.N.

Families now dissolve spices in water and feed it to their children as soup. Some found animal feed, but residents suffered food poisoning after eating it.

A woman desperate to feed her children sneaked into a field surrounded by Syrian snipers to forage for mallow, a green herb. She was shot in the leg and hand, she said in a video uploaded by activists.

Lying on a bed, the woman's bloodied hand shook as she wept, recounting how her children pleaded for food. She rushed into the field but heard gunfire and fell to the ground, bleeding and wounded. "For some mallow," she wept. "To save us from death."

The videos appear to be genuine and consistent with AP reporting on Yarmouk.

Within the camp, misery lives amid fear and defiance. Civilians shrink into their homes at dusk, as armed gunmen roam the streets.

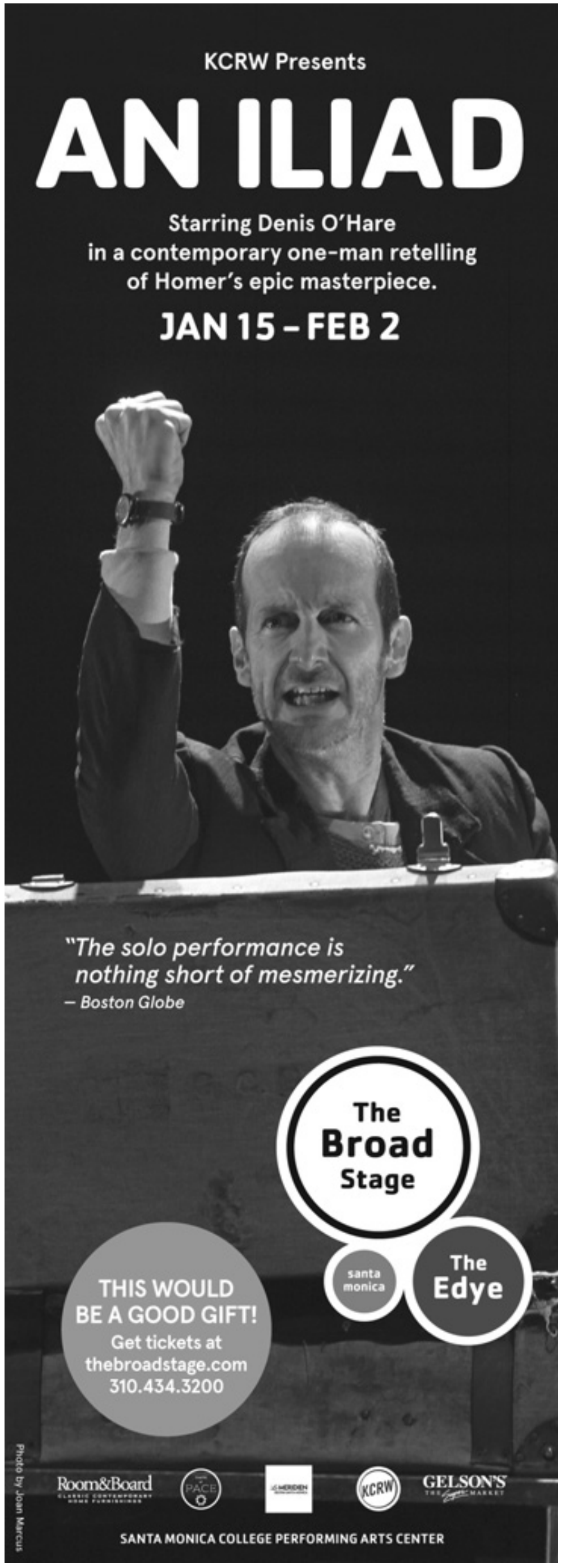
Earlier this week, thieves beat up an elderly resident, who later died in a hospital, Alhamzawi told the AP by telephone. They stole his money — and his food. "It's chaos," he said.

Merchants bribe gunmen to sneak in food, but sell it at exorbitant prices. A kilo (2 pounds) of rice costs $50 — about half a month's wage, residents said.

Despite the hardship, parents are still sending their famished children to school, where they are taught by hungry teachers, Umm Hassan said.

"Officials said we should stop because the children are dizzy and falling down, but we refused," she said.

In recent months, local truces have partly resolved blockades in other rebel-held areas, with gunmen agreeing to disarm in exchange for allowing in food for residents.



BUDGET
FROM PAGE 3

funded. He is proposing to put $2.3 billion in reserves, including $1.6 billion in a rainy day fund for fiscal emergencies.

The review by the legislative analyst, an independent and nonpartisan arm of state government, warns against new spending commitments other than toward education and notes that the Legislature could revise some of Brown's spending priorities in the months ahead.

Lawmakers have until mid-June to send the governor a balanced budget.

Taylor credits California's rebounding fortunes to a recovering economy, soaring stock market, relatively restrained spending and new revenue from Proposition 30. Under the initiative pushed by Brown in 2012, voters approved temporary increases in the state sales tax and income taxes on the wealthy.

The analysis says anticipated growth in the U.S. economy creates a "significant possibility" that California will see billions more in additional revenue by May, when the governor issues his revised spending plan for the fiscal year that will start in July.

The report issued Monday also recommends:

— That the state set aside money this year toward $80 billion in unfunded liabilities in the state's teachers retirement fund. Brown has said he wants to meet with representatives of school districts and teachers unions this year to address the problem. The legislative analyst notes that it will be "a very expensive proposition," starting at $5 billion a year and growing. He recommends that future benefits "be paid completely by districts and teachers over the long term."

— That the Legislature consider a host of proposals for a rainy day fund, including Brown's budget recommendation, which would replace a constitutional amendment that is scheduled for the November ballot.

— That the Legislature reject Brown's plan to spend $250 million out of $850 million in cap-and-trade funds on the high-speed rail project, saying it is unlikely to be the most efficient way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and is "legally risky."

GUNS
FROM PAGE 1

De Leon said he is trying to address a twin threat from what he called "ghost guns" — plastic guns that can slip through metal detectors and unregistered weapons that can fall into the hands of people who are legally prohibited from owning firearms under state law.

"Currently, no one knows they exist until after a crime has been committed," said de Leon, a leading candidate to take over as Senate leader next year.

That was the case for John Zawahri, who assembled his own military-style assault rifle and killed five people in Santa Monica in a June rampage even after he was barred from legally buying a gun in California because of mental health issues.

The bill by De Leon, a Democrat from Los Angeles, goes further than the federal government, which last month renewed for 10 years an existing ban on plastic firearms that can evade metal detectors and X-ray machines.

His bill, SB808, would allow the manufacture or assembly of homemade weapons, but require the makers to first apply to the state Department of Justice for a serial number that would be given only after the applicants undergo a background check. The number would have to be engraved on or otherwise permanently attached to the weapon within one day of its manufacture.

He plans to amend the bill to also require that the guns contain permanent pieces of metal that could be detected by X-ray machines and metal detectors, a proposal that was blocked in the federal legislation. Some plastic guns currently comply with the federal law by including a metal piece that can be removed, which potentially would allow them to be slipped through security screeners at airports, courthouses, schools and elsewhere.

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CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

Transportation had a family member who was employed by the selected vendor.

City Hall threw out all the bids and went back to the drawing board, ultimately deciding to recommend DataPark for the job.

The parking lot upgrades make up most of the $5.73 million spending package on the council's consent agenda.

BEACH PARKING SIGNS

Eleven real-time beach parking signs will likely be approved at a cost of $1.5 million. A majority of the cash will come from grants from the federal government and Metro, but Santa Monica taxpayers will drop $624,254 if approved.

You've seen the same signs at the Downtown parking structures; they let drivers know how many parking spaces are available at different lots. Select Electric will likely get the bid.

FOUNTAIN FIXES

Public Works wants to set aside $80,000 in case the new Ken Genser Square fountain, or any of the Tongva Park water features, need non-warranty repairs and maintenance work. The fountain opened briefly last year but had several problems, including leaks and aesthetically unpleasant dribbling. City Hall shut it down for repairs and it's still fenced off. Pending future council-approved contract extensions, Advanced Aquatic Technology would get nearly $400,000 for maintenance through June 2016.

TEAMSTERS

A group of Municipal Employees' Association (MEA) workers voted to be represented by the California Teamsters Local 911 Public, Professional & Medical Employees Union. A tentative agreement, reached last year, would roll over the previous MEA agreement to this year with a 1 percent cost of living increase. The total cost of the negotiated contract changes is $297,221.

CONTRACTORS

City Hall wants to spend $98,600 on a contractor to temporarily fill a position in the Planning Department. The assistant director of the Planning Department retired at the end of last year and City Hall is currently in the process of filling that role but it could take three or four months. It's a key time with major upcoming development agreements and the Draft Zoning Ordinance currently under review.

Meanwhile, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment is making a big move to 1717 Fourth St. and they need a contracted organizational review to the tune of $39,500.

Both contracts would go to Management Partners.

MAPS

Next time you're lost on the Third Street Promenade, you'll be glad City Hall proposed spending $96,811 on two map cases and a 32-foot-tall way-finding pylon. AD/S Companies would likely get the contract. The maps and pylon would be in place by May on the north end of the promenade.

LIBRARY FURNITURE

The soon-to-be-open Pico Branch Library needs another $41,345 for furniture. It got $156,000 for furniture last year, but it was determined that the library needs four "highly complicated book displays" and an improved color palette.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

JUST IN CASE: The City Council is expected to put aside funds to maintain a new fountain in front of City Hall that has experienced leakage issues since being installed.

TIRES

An $80,000 contract would fill some of City Hall's tire needs for the year. Most of the tires, which would be purchased from Bryon Woodley Tire Co., are for police cruisers. The rest are for city vans and pick-up trucks.

BUSINESS LICENSE TAXES

City Hall wants to modernize its business license tax program. They'd like to make it more business-friendly without hurting revenues. HdL Companies will likely determine if and how it's possible. In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 218 which, among other things, requires a public vote on any changes to public taxes. If City Hall decides to propose changes, they will likely appear on the ballot in November.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

City Hall is a bit over budget on its traffic signal upgrades. It needs another $36,734 to complete a project that uses a variety of tools to monitor and improve traffic in the city by the sea. The traffic management system is currently 90 percent complete, officials said.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The historic preservation program needs another $40,000. Approval will bring the four-year contract total with PCR Services Corp. to $105,000.

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FINKEL
FROM PAGE 1

court judge settling disputes; leading Santa Monica as a City Council member; or fighting for greater access to public education as a Santa Monica College trustee.

Public service is in his blood, which is why it took a serious illness to finally force him to retire. Finkel, who has lived in the city by the sea with his wife, artist Bruria Finkel, since 1963, has announced that he will step down as a member of the SMC board today due to ill health.

Finkel did not wish to disclose his medical condition, saying it is a personal matter. However, he did tell the Daily Press that he is on the mend and looks forward to returning to the college, not as a trustee, but as a tutor, helping future law students navigate complex court decisions.

"It's very hard," Finkel, who turns 82 next month, said of his decision to resign during his second term as a trustee. "I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the college community for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it is the most democratic and creative institution in Santa Monica and Malibu."

Finkel, who was elected to the board in November 2006 and served as its vice chair in 2009 and chair the year after, regrets not being able to push through a plan to establish a mandatory funding mechanism for the arts when it comes to new construction on campus. However, he is confident his former colleagues will accomplish that task in the near future.

During the last few years, Finkel has had to deal with tighter budgets, increased demand and the uprising following a plan to charge more for popular classes as a way to free up seats. The so-called "two-tier" system was blasted by many students, some of whom tried to force their way into a trustee meeting on the Main Campus, resulting in one SMC police officer using pepper spray on them.

Video footage of the incident was shared across the country, forcing the college to examine its policies regarding open meetings and student protests.

The controversial two-tier plan was abandoned by the board, only to be later approved by Gov. Jerry Brown on a trial basis at a handful of community colleges.

"Our primary concern was increased access, or the ability to take classes at SMC," he said. "Increasing access is a key mission of the community college system. We didn't have the available classroom space because of cutbacks. We were exploring ways to generate new revenue and open up some more classes … ."

Finkel was also on the board during the fatal shooting spree in June of 2013 that ended at the Main Campus. The shooter, 23-year-old John Zawahri, killed his father, brother and three others before being gunned down by police at the Main Campus library. Police said Zawahri was armed with an assault rifle and 1,300 rounds of ammunition.

Students tutored by Finkel, who was an adjunct professor of political science at SMC prior to his election to the board, were in the library when the shooter came looking for more victims.

"Of course that was very scary, but I must say I am really proud of the way everyone on our staff handled that situation."

He wishes he could've persuaded the college administration to become more of a leader in the gun control movement and the effort to expand mental health care nationally. Zawahri reportedly had some mental health issues and was able to assemble his weapon by ordering pieces and having them shipped to him after he was denied a permit to own a gun.

"I think the college was slow on that because they didn't want to become the poster child for shootings on campus," he said. "I get that, but I wish we would have mainlined it."

He is proud of the fact that the city manager, president of SMC and superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are working collaboratively instead of acting in a bubble, as had been the case for many years. Finkel said it is critical for City Hall, SMC and the schools to unite and share a vision for the future.

The same goes for his former colleagues on the SMC board.

"[Trustees] need to be good listeners. Everyone is going to give their two cents. They need to work cooperatively and harmoniously. … We can't afford to slip into micro-managing and negative debating or politicking. If we can avoid that and keep our eyes on the goals described, I think we will be all right," he said.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education has been notified of Finkel's resignation and has responded with options for filling the vacancy, which include a provisional appointment within 60 days.

A recommendation to fill the vacancy by making a provisional appointment is agendized for the upcoming Jan. 14 meeting of the SMC Board of Trustees. The agenda also includes a recommendation to establish a schedule to fill the vacancy through a recruitment process that starts Jan. 15 with the appointment set for the regularly scheduled Feb. 4 meeting.

For more information, visit www.smc.edu

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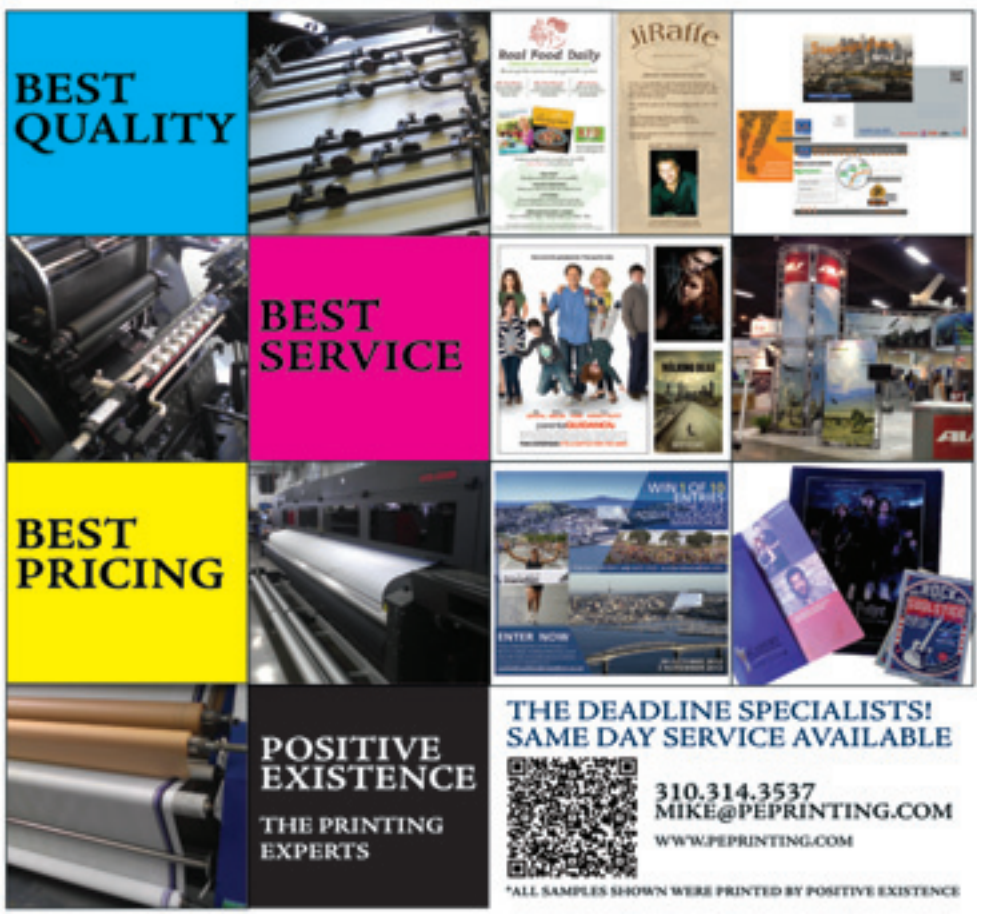
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AIRPORT

FROM PAGE 1

In the FAA's motion to dismiss, they argued that City Hall's complaints are "unripe," that the lawsuit was brought prematurely. As long as the airport is being operated, they say, the issue is not something to be brought in front of the court.

Airport Commission President David Goddard, an advocate for the airport's closure, said that before seeing the FAA's response, he expected that the argument could be heard in court because the lack of clarity surrounding the airport's future "interferes with the city's ability to plan."

Now he's less confident.

He called the FAA's arguments "beautifully written."

Goddard thought that City Hall's attorneys have presented strong arguments, too.

"Like any great case, it will go back and forth," he said. "One side presents its argument and you think they are going to win and then the other side responds and you've changed your mind."

Goddard is confident that in the long-term, perhaps not in this lawsuit, City Hall will prevail because of a clause in a post-World War II document. It states, he says, that if City Hall decides to stop operating the space as an airport, "the title, right of possession, and all other rights transferred" revert back to the landowner.

City Hall lawyers make this argument in the lawsuit. They say that the federal government's land lease expired in either 1948 or 1952.

Goddard acknowledged that he is not versed on all of the legal language but said he turns to local attorney, Jonathan Stein, for input. Stein, also a proponent of closing the airport, was frank in his prediction.

"I think the FAA is going to win the motion on the same grounds that I thought when I first heard that (City Hall) had sued," he said.

City Hall, he said, is asking for the courts to make a ruling before there is "case or controversy," he said.

Stein believes that City Hall should decommission 800 feet of the runway in July of 2015 — when he and City Hall argue the current SMO agreement terminates — and turn it into a park. The FAA maintains that the agreement runs through 2023.

Once City Hall takes this step, which Stein is confident they are entitled to do, then perhaps the courts will have something to rule on, he said. Until there is controversy, he said, he believes the FAA is correct that City Hall's claims are unripe.

Ken Mead, the general council for the Airport Owners and Pilots Association, made similar points.

"Bottom line, I think the government's breach is compelling," he said. "Essentially the government does not get into the issue of the societal or economic values of Santa Monica. That would come, if it comes, at a later stage."

As to that clause referred to by Goddard, Mead said that it will come down to land uses, not land ownership. The area, he said, is zoned to be an airport.

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Stocks slump the most in two months on Wall Street

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK The stock market had its worst day of the year so far, extending a January slump.

Stocks dropped Monday as falling oil prices pushed down energy stocks. The prospect of the Federal Reserve further cutting back on its economic stimulus also weighed on the market.

Stocks are falling back this year after exceptional gains pushed the market to record levels in 2013. Investors' confidence that the economy was recovering was jolted Friday by a weak employment report that showed far fewer jobs were added in December than economists had forecast.

Unlike last year, investors have so far been reluctant to buy stocks when the market has slumped. Instead they appear to be waiting for more news before committing, said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital.

"At these high levels, people aren't going to step in" until they get more evidence of earnings growth or better economic news, Cardillo said. "Until that happens, who's going to step up to the plate?"

The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 23.17 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1,819.20, the biggest decline for the index since Nov. 7. After surging almost 30 percent last year, the S&P 500 index is down 1.6 percent in January.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 179.11 points, or 1.1 percent, to 16,257.94. The Nasdaq composite dropped 61.36 points, or 1.5 percent, to 4,113.30.

All 10 sectors in the S&P 500 fell.

Energy stocks were among the biggest decliners, dropping 1.9 percent after the price of oil slumped close to its lowest in eight months. Exxon Mobil fell $1.97, or 2 percent, to $98.55.

Oil fell 92 cents, or 1 percent, to $91.80 a barrel as Libyan production continued to ramp up and the possibility of increased crude exports from Iran raised the prospects of excess supply on global markets.

Investors are also worried about more cuts to the Federal Reserve's big economic stimulus program.

Dennis Lockhart, the President of the Federal Reserve's Atlanta branch, said Monday that he would support further cuts "over the course of this year" if the economy continued to improve. Policymakers said in December that they intended to reduce their purchases of bonds by $10 billion a month to $75 billion a month. The Fed's stimulus was a key driver of the market's rally last year.

For many investors, the focus this week will be on company earnings.

JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Bank of America are among the big banks that are scheduled report fourth-quarter earnings this week. Best Buy and General Electric are among the non-financial companies that will report earnings.

"The market will take its direction from how well, or how poorly, corporate earnings season is unfolding," said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors. "I think we're setting up for a positive surprise."

Analysts expect fourth-quarter earnings to rise by 5.3 percent for S&P 500 companies, according to S&P Capital IQ. That would be a slight drop from the 5.7 percent rate in the previous quarter.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.83 percent from 2.85 percent on Friday.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Lululemon Athletica fell $9.90, or 16.6 percent, to $49.70 after the high-end yoga apparel maker said sales have dropped off in January and its fourth-quarter results will be lower than expected.

— Scripps Networks slumped $5.70, or 7 percent, to $76.31 after the Wall Street Journal reported that talks about a merger between the cable network operator, which owns HGTV, and Discovery Communications had ended.

— Beam, the maker of Jim Beam, Maker's Mark and other liquors, jumped $16.45, or 24.6 percent, to $83.42 after the company announced that it had agreed to be acquired by Japan's Suntory for $14 billion.

High court skeptical of Obama recess appointments

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Supreme Court cast doubt Monday on President Barack Obama's use of a provision of the Constitution to make temporary appointments to high-level positions over the objection of Senate Republicans.

The court is writing on a blank slate as it considers for the first time the Constitution's recess appointments clause. That clause allows the president to fill vacancies temporarily, but only when the Senate is in recess.

The justices heard more than 90 minutes of arguments in a dispute over Obama's appointments to the National Labor Relations Board in January 2012. Republicans and employers who objected to NLRB decisions made by those Obama appointees say the Senate was not in recess when Obama acted, and so any decisions made by the board were illegitimate.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. warned the court that it would essentially write the recess appointment power out of the Constitution if it found that those appointments were illegal.

The court battle between the Obama administration and Senate Republicans is an outgrowth of the increasing partisanship and political stalemate that have been hallmarks of Washington over the past 20 years, and especially since Obama took office in 2009.

Indeed, Justice Elena Kagan seized on the political dispute to make the point to Verrilli that "congressional intransigence" to Obama nominees may not be enough to win the court fight.

Kagan, Verrilli's predecessor as Obama's top Supreme Court lawyer, suggested that it "is the Senate's role to determine whether they're in recess."

There are three questions before the court — whether recess appointments can be made only during the once-a-year break between sessions of Congress, whether the vacancy must occur while the Senate is away in order to be filled during the same break and whether brief, pro forma sessions of the Senate, held every few days to break up a longer Senate hiatus, can prevent the president from making recess appointments.

Kagan's question addressed the latter point and offers the court a narrower way to rule on recess appointments.

Verrilli seemed to signal he would rather lose on that question than the first two. But under any circumstance he said, "You really are writing the recess appointments power out of the Constitution," he said.

The importance of recess appointments has dimmed in recent months, since majority Democrats changed the Senate's rules to make it harder for the minority party to block the president's nominees to federal agencies and the courts.

But the issue could once 1again be front and center when the White House and Senate are controlled by different parties.

Senate Republicans' refusal to allow votes for nominees to the NLRB and the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau led Obama to make the temporary, or recess, appointments in January 2012.

Three federal appeals courts have said Obama overstepped his authority because the Senate was not in recess when he acted. The Supreme Court case involves a dispute between a Washington state bottling company and a local Teamsters union in which the NLRB sided with the union. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned the board's ruling, and hundreds more NLRB rulings could be voided if the Supreme Court upholds the appeals court decision.

Three federal appeals courts have upheld recess appointments in previous administrations.

Verrilli told the court in written arguments that 14 presidents have temporarily installed 600 civilians and thousands of military officers in positions that were vacant when the Senate went into recess at any point, a practice that has been well-understood by both presidents and lawmakers. A high court ruling that a recess only happens once a year would "dramatically upset that long-settled equilibrium," Verrilli said.

Highlighting the new rules, the Senate was scheduled to vote a few hours after the Supreme Court argument on the nomination of one of those previously blocked Obama appointees, U.S. District Judge Robert Wilkins, to serve on the federal appeals court in Washington.

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SURF REPORT



O'NEILL

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **59.4°**

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Easing WNW-NW swell; Better sets for standouts in the far western part of the region.

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Minimal WNW-NW swell; offshore AM wind

THURSDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Easing WNW-NW swell due along with favorable AM winds

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Slow fading WNW-NW swell for best exposures, favorable AM winds

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
Leo Carrillo 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+
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 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+
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.	B	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 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'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.

Making a ski trip work when he skis, she doesn't

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Business Writer

ASPEN, Colo. This winter I put my relationship to the ultimate test: a romantic ski vacation.

Many couples ski together, but my fiancee Sheri Askinazi is just learning while I've been skiing for more than two decades. We'd done group ski trips, but never skied alone.

To make this trip work, we needed some advance planning and clear expectations. I wanted to ski with Sheri but also desired time to speed down the harder trails.

We chose four days at Aspen/Snowmass in Colorado because it offered a little bit for each of us.

"I am a little nervous about the trip. It's a lot of time skiing," Sheri confessed to me a month before we left. When I mentioned that I had found ski buddies for a day, she asked: "A whole day?"

The conversation continued at dinner a few nights later. One of our friends flat-out said: "He has to ski with you. That's it."

We chatted through our desires and made a plan.

Sheri would take two days of lessons. The first was at Snowmass. Elk Camp Meadows, a new beginner's area there, is fenced off from the rest of the resort so experts don't race through on their way to the lift. She quickly advanced to other parts of the mountain.

I took a refresher course — it's never too late to learn something new — and we met up for lunch.

The next day, she took a lesson at nearby Buttermilk Mountain. It's geared toward beginners but has some great intermediate trails that she mastered by the end of the day. I met up with some friends and got my adrenaline fix on the harder Aspen Mountain.

Lessons were key — it was much better for Sheri to get tips from a professional instead of me.

"Taking feedback from someone you love can be the hardest thing. You start to personalize it," says Katie Ertl, who oversees the ski and snowboard schools at the four mountains of Aspen/Snowmass.

(Warning: Skiing isn't cheap. If purchased a week in advance, a four-day lift ticket costs $396. Adult group lessons start at $139; full-day private lessons start at $660.)

For our final two days, we skied together at Snowmass. Sheri's instructor had ensured that I wouldn't drag her onto something too hard by noting the names of the trails on a map to try and the ones to avoid. She had learned a lot and we were gliding down some intermediate runs together.

We might not have been skiing the steep runs I prefer, but Sheri pushed herself out of her comfort zone. And there, in the middle, we found a way to enjoy the mountain together.

There was one other thing we did in planning to ease the experience: We picked a slope-side, ski-in, ski-out hotel.

Staying close to the mountain comes at a premium but makes life much easier. Nightly winter rates at the Westin Snowmass range from $199 to$599, or you can redeem — like we did — 12,000 to 16,000 Starwood points a night.

Each morning, the hotel's ski valet would assist with our boots. Then, skis in hand, we had to walk just a few steps to the snow. There was no lugging of heavy gear and if we needed a midday break, it was easy to return to the hotel. (Another great slope-side option is the Viceroy Snowmass, though it's pricey: Rates start at $635 a night during the peak winter season.)

Sheri and I also benefited from a demographic challenge the ski industry faces: The most loyal — and free-spending — skiers are baby boomers. To attract younger skiers and others, the industry has adapted. Resorts now offer better food choices and better ski schools, and they're even making it easier to park. Because women who grow up skiing sometimes exit the sport once they have kids, ski resorts are also adding day care and women-only clinics.

And to attract adults who have never skied before, they are trying bring-a-friend promotions. We tried one of those last season with some friends. Jiminy Peak in Massachusetts offered a learn-to-ski package: ski rentals, a lesson and a lift ticket to the beginner slopes. The women did that while the guys got free lift tickets to the entire mountain.

Parents with kids in the 10- to 13-year-old range may even be able to get their kids on the slopes for free. Some resorts offer free ski passes to kids in certain grades, and sometimes lessons are even thrown in, leaving parents free to ski on their own. In New Hampshire, for example, fourth and fifth graders can get free lift tickets, with discounts for lessons and gear rental, plus deals for siblings and parents. Many of these types of programs started during the past decade or so as a way to get kids and their families outdoors and exercising in the winter months, but they're a boon for the industry too: "We hook the kids into the sport early," Byrd says.

Ski resorts in southern states are even now starting to rent clothing to families who might not have gloves or snow pants.

For us, the ski trip ended with a couple's massage.

The Westin's spa abuts the hotel's heated outdoor pool and hot tubs. Nothing feels better after a day on the slopes than sitting in the whirlpool as snow falls on your head, followed by an hour of somebody removing the pain from your muscles. It was therapeutic, relaxing and — most importantly — something we could do together.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theatre for more information.

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
3:45pm, 9:35pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
12:15pm, 7:15pm

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:05am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R)
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 10:45pm

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

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

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min
4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

August: Osage County (R) 2hrs 10min
1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
1:00pm, 2:45pm, 6:40pm, 10:15pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:10pm, 10:30pm

Lone Survivor (R) 2hrs 01min
1:55pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 10:45pm

Legend of Hercules (PG-13)
5:00pm, 10:20pm

Legend of Hercules 3D (PG-13)
2:15pm, 7:40pm

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**

START A PROJECT TONIGHT, LIBRA

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Pressure's tendrils will find their way into the best of situations. As a result, many people might act in an odd or divisive manner. If you step back and observe what is happening, you could start laughing at everything that is going on. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might decide to head down a certain path only to discover that it is fraught with boulders. Rethink your choices. Make calls, and get feedback. Luck seems to appear just as certain issues dissolve. Tonight: Move quickly. Touch base with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Be smart when handling funds. Someone could make an appealing offer. This person's words will mean nothing until you check out their validity. A friend who often shares some unique ideas could surprise you. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget. Is it working?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by someone's childish behavior. You often put this person on a pedestal, but today he or she could fall off. Perhaps you have been projecting your own ideals instead of seeing reality. Tonight: Make a caring gesture.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Continue to do your share of listening. Understand what your expectations are regarding someone you admire. This person could give you quite a jolt. Recognize what is happening below the surface, and act on those feelings. Tonight: Hopefully not to be found.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Move forward, and understand what a meeting and its message are really about. You know you can count on certain supporters; brainstorm with them more often. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Think twice before assuming the helm of the ship. Remember that many responsibilities come with this position. Recognize your limits. Know what can be done in order to salvage a rapidly deteriorating situation. Changes might profoundly affect you. Tonight: Start a project.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Reach out for a different perspective. Step back and take a look at the big picture. You will see matters in a new light after some reflection. Your decisions also will mirror a new and unique quality. Give yourself the luxury of choice. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might believe all is well under the advisement of a partner, but you will discover otherwise. A child could become quite rebellious and difficult all of a sudden. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Someone might want to do things his or her way. Hand this person the reins and see what happens. Sometimes people just instinctively react to your position and determination. Tonight: Juggle different invitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Your decision to accomplish certain tasks demands focus. Some of you might want to screen your calls. Unfortunately, someone might misread your lack of availability and take it personally. Have a conversation, hopefully to cool this person down. Tonight: Head home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your imagination comes to the rescue, no matter what you do or where you are. You could find it difficult to convince a loved one, friend or associate of your solution. This person might be too into the drama to let go. Don't worry so much. Tonight: Act as if there were no tomorrow.

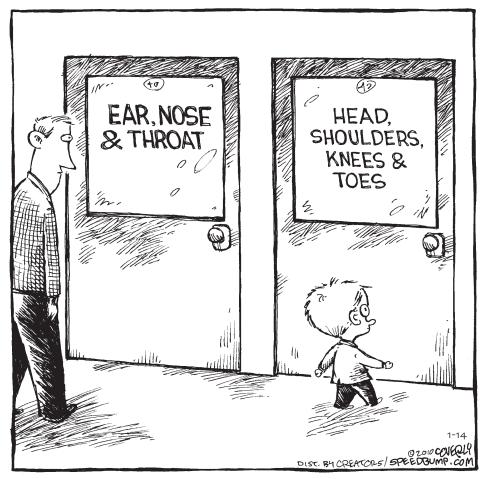
Tuesday, January 14, 2014

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

This year you often see others in a new light. Your ability to empathize increases, thus you understand others better. A boss or someone you answer to could act in an unexpected manner. Learn to expect spontaneity from this person. If you are single, you could find that you like the person you are dating much more than you thought possible. Try not to panic; instead, learn to enjoy this feeling. If you are attached, the two of you juggle a lot of concerns, yet you both manage to put aside your differences in order to keep your bond viable and rewarding. Your sweetie could be quite endearing this year. CANCER respects your attitude about what is appropriate.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
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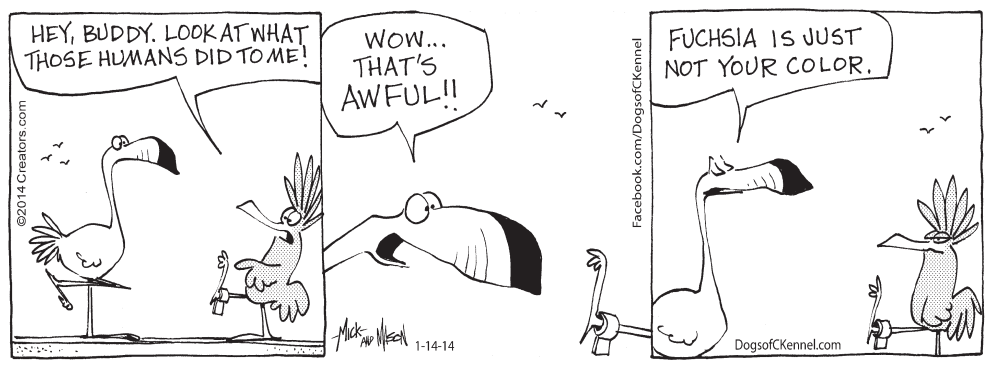
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



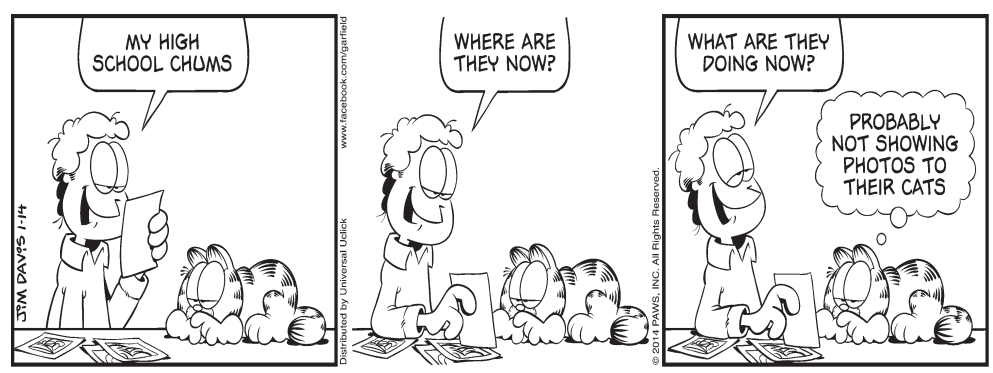
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★

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

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

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

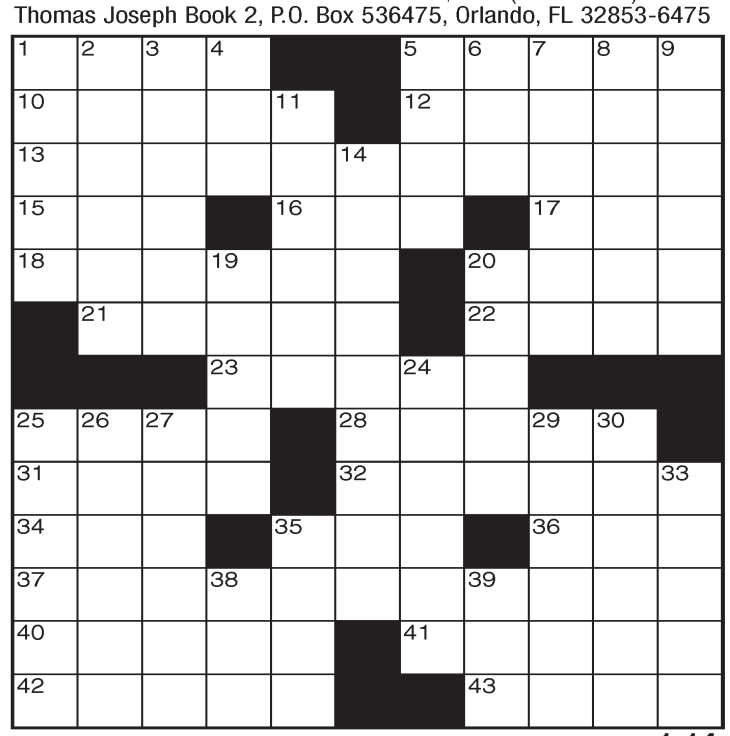
ACROSS
1 Boot attachment
5 Youngster
10 Bullfight bulls
12 Cruise vessel
13 Rolling Stones song
15 In the style of
16 In the past
17 "— had it!"
18 Solving tool
20 Mineral sources
21 Visibly sad
22 Cartoonist Thomas
23 Grammar topic
25 Household critters
28 Closes with a bang
31 Soothing plant
32 Beauty parlors
34 Ewe's mate
35 Sewing aid
36 Ewe's cry
37 Seals and Crofts song
40 Like bar drafts
41 Store events
42 Advertising lights
43 Butte's cousin

DOWN
1 Purse part
2 Chicken, in Paris
3 Suave
4 Singer Orbison
5 "Pinocchio" goldfish
6 Towel word
7 India's Gandhi
8 Foliage
9 Most arid
11 Flight components
14 Hideous
19 Lead to
20 Ryan of "Paper Moon"
24 Secreting organs
25 Forgive
26 Galahad's mother
27 Heckler's weapon
29 Dangling art
30 Traps
33 Party dip
35 Dad, in slang
38 Chess piece
39 Whale group

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

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



1-14



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Not the Usual Modus Operandi: (1) The vandalism of Marion County High School in Jasper, Tenn., on the eve of a big football game in November was not, after all, the work of arch-rival South Pittsburg -- notwithstanding the clues. The South Pittsburg markings were apparently made by Marion County teacher-coach Michael Schmitt, who was arrested. He told officers he was only trying to inspire the team (which lost anyway, 35-17). (2) Police in Urunga, Australia, charged teacher Andrew Minisini in December with taking three female students to a motel, giving them alcohol and seducing them -- not into sex, but into vandalizing the residence of one of Minisini's former colleague rivals.

■ A government-subsidized, foundation-supported program for alcoholics in Amsterdam announced a "welfare"/"work" program offering the city's drunks the equivalent of about $14 a day -- and five free cans of beer -- for several hours of street-cleaning. Some beneficiaries told London's The Independent, in a November dispatch, that, of course, they intended to use the cash to buy even more beer.

TODAY IN HISTORY

2000 - A United Nations tribunal sentences five Bosnian Croats to up to 25 years for the 1993 killing of over 100 Muslims in a Bosnian village.

2004 - The national flag of The Republic of Georgia, the so-called "five cross flag", is restored to official use after a hiatus of some 500 years.

2005 - The Huygens probe lands on Saturn's moon Titan.

2010 - Yemen declares an open war against the terrorist group al-Qaeda.

WORD UP!

infinitesimal
\ in-fin-i-TES-uh-muhl \ , adjective;
1. indefinitely or exceedingly small; minute: infinitesimal vessels in the circulatory system.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not gauranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements. See complete conditions below.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

- Announcements
- Creative
- Employment
- For Sale
- Furniture
- Pets
- Boats
- Jewelry
- Wanted
- Travel
- Vacation Rentals
- Apartments/Condos
- Rent
- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
- Vehicles for Sale
- Massage
- Services
- Computer Services
- Attorney Services
- Business Opportunities
- Yard Sales
- Health and Beauty
- Fitness
- Wealth and Success
- Lost and Found
- Personals
- Psychic
- Obituaries
- Tutoring

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

Employment

Help Wanted

Assisted Living community is looking for a cook to help prepare meals for senior residents. Previous experience preferred. Schedule includes weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Pre employment drug test and criminal background check required. If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405 to apply or fax resume to (310) 314-7356. EOE.

COUNTER HELP needed Cafe near 3rd St. 215 Broadway Must be experienced Night shift Apply in person (310) 396-9898

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Handyman

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $7.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 30¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.



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Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale as of Mid January 2013			
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	5,537,800
North of Montana	=	$	4,899,333
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	2,675,516
South of Wilshire	=	$	949,000
Sunset Park	=	$	1,436,667
Ocean Park	=	$	3,047,000
Statistics updated every Friday			

Buyers' Needs

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

- Condo (Single Level, Top Floor Only) - Santa Monica - Minimum 2+1.75 - Wood Floors, Laundry In-Unit, Elevator Building, Two-Car Parking - $700,000 - $1,000,000
- Single Family Home - Santa Monica, Brentwood, Palisades, Bel Air, Malibu (close in), Westwood - Minimum 3+1.75 - Pool or Room for Pool - $1,200,000 - $3,000,000

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