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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 52

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

MORE CLOSURES
SEE PAGE 3

THE BUSY NEWS DAY ISSUE

$4M upgrade planned for promenade food court

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Owners of the Third Street Promenade food court want to give it a farmers' market feel.

Centennial Real Estate and Lincoln Property Co., who recently paid $20.5 million for the five-story building where the food court is located, want to open it up and potentially get some new tenants.

They have plans for a "substantial renovation," a Centennial official told members of Downtown Santa Monica Inc., the public-private management company that promotes and maintains Downtown on behalf of City Hall.

The renovations are valued at $4 million and could start as early as the spring, according to a press release from Lincoln Properties.

On Tuesday afternoon, more than half the food court seats were taken — filled with local employees and tourists — but the space is dark and narrow. There's an open-air second floor looking down on the promenade

SEE FOOD COURT PAGE 10



PUCKER UP

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Cast members from Cirque du Soleil's 'Totem' visited the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium on Tuesday to promote the show and visit the aquarium's new Watershed Exhibit. 'Totem' opens Friday. Cirque will sponsor free admission days at the aquarium every Friday in February.

Production company buys old post office

Commissioners kickstart landmark process

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The producer of "True Grit" and "World War Z" now owns the old post office building.

SkyDance Productions purchased the building in late December, United States Postal Service (USPS) officials said Tuesday. They could not immediately confirm the price of the sale.

USPS shuttered the New Deal-era building on Fifth Street in June. The sale is part of a national USPS plan to sell properties and plug the organization's multi-billion dollar budget shortfall.

The Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to file an application to designate the space as a city landmark on Monday night.

Once filed, the property will be evaluated under a series of criteria. If approved, the historic building will be further protected from changes.

In August, City Council approved a preservation covenant for the 1937 building, protecting its historical features, both inside and out.

SEE SALE PAGE 8

ArcLight inks deal with SM Place

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

DOWNTOWN ArcLight Cinemas announced Tuesday it has an agreement in place with the owners of Santa Monica Place to build a 14-screen movie theater on the mall's third floor, bringing a desperately needed new theater to Downtown.

The plan is to open the theater in late spring 2015, although it must be approved by the Planning Commission and City Council first.

"It is unknown at this time when that will be," said city planner Paul Foley.

The development is tentatively scheduled

SEE THEATER PAGE 9

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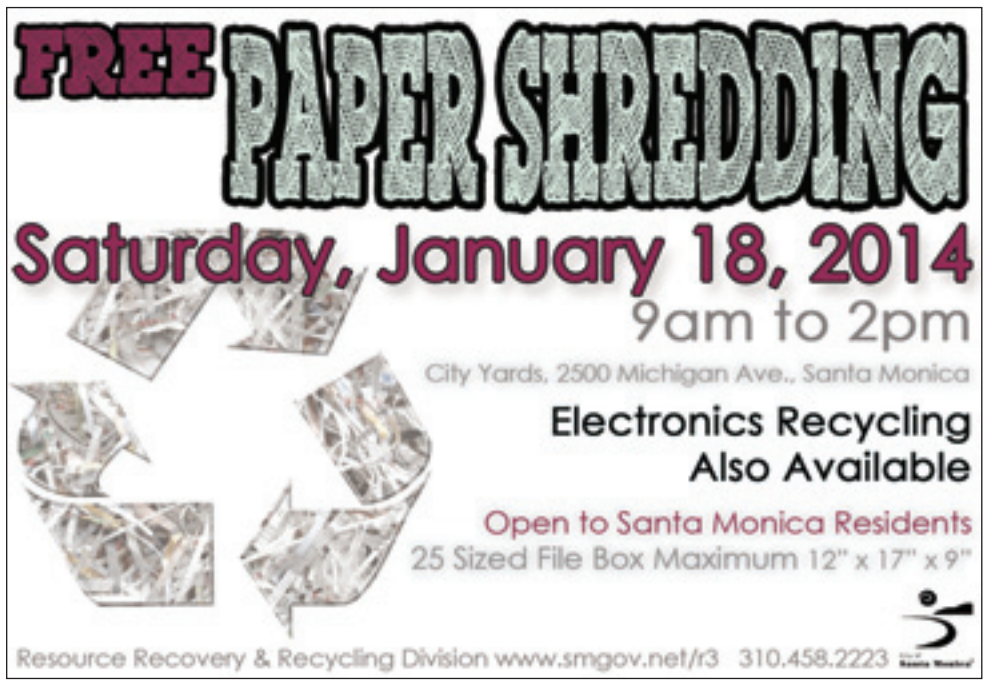
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WISE & Healthy Aging
1527 4th Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Monica
www.wiseandhealthyaging.org

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

Friday, Jan. 17, 2014

Fun with felt
1450 Ocean
1450 Ocean Ave., 7 p.m.
Hatmaker Corina Haywood leads students through the process of creating hats from felt. Millinery is the art of making hats by hand. Bring your own style to this age-old art. For this modern millinery workshop the group will meet for two consecutive sessions to make a free-form felt hat. For more information, call (310) 458-2239.

Under the big top
Santa Monica Pier
8 p.m.
Cirque du Soleil returns to Santa Monica. This time around, the world famous troupe presents "Totem," an artistic look at mankind's evolution. For more information, visit cirquedusoleil.com.

New take on Homer's classic
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 8 p.m.
Homer's epic poem comes back to life in a contemporary new telling. Obie Award-winner Lisa Peterson directs Tony Award-winner Denis O'Hare in this show that captures the battle for Troy. "An Iliad" races through time and continues to be relevant to this day. For more information, visit thebroadstage.com.

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**

Potential L.A. traffic mess has a name: 'Jamzilla'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The city that gave the world Carmageddon has a new traffic jam to offer — and avoid.

Transportation officials in Los Angeles warned Tuesday that a repaving project will shut lanes on a heavily traveled Westside freeway over next month's Presidents Day weekend.

Holding with what has become local tradition, the potential traffic nightmare has a name: "Jamzilla."

For 80 hours starting Feb. 14, crews will be repaving nearly six miles of northbound lanes of Interstate 405 between west Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. While two lanes will remain open during the day, all five will be closed at night.

Officials said they're starting to warn drivers a month in advance because, without the public's cooperation, delays could last hours.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CIVIC CENTER

Chamber supports 'Chain Reaction'

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce is a supporter of the campaign to save and restore the "Chain Reaction" landmarked peace sculpture located in the Civic Center, organizers of the campaign said.

At the chamber's Executive Committee meeting, held Tuesday, the committee voted to approve the chamber's Government Affairs Committee recommendation of support made earlier this month.

Save Chain Reaction campaign leaders say they are honored to have the support of the chamber and are proud to be adding the chamber to their growing list of supporters, which also includes eight former Santa Monica mayors, many former and current Santa Monica commission and board members, the Santa Monica Conservancy and State Sen. Ted Lieu, as well as many prominent artists, architects, actors, musicians, religious leaders, educators, students, neighborhood organizations and community activists.

Save Chain Reaction will continue its ongoing positive campaign of outreach and education as well as fundraising to help with the cost of the iconic sculpture's restoration. So far they have raised more than $80,000 and have obtained nearly 3,700 online petition signatures of support, organizers said.

"Chain Reaction" was designed and created by the late three-time Pulitzer Prize winning political cartoonist Paul Conrad. He gifted it to City Hall through a $250,000 peace donation by the late philanthropist Joan Kroc. The 26-foot tall public art peace sculpture, made of giant chain links, warns of the dangers of nuclear escalation and has been standing in the Civic Center since 1991.

City officials say it is in need of some repairs due to wear and tear and have recently agreed to fund the work despite the City Council voting to have supporters foot the majority of the bill, which could be as high as $400,000. Supporters of the work say that estimate is overly exaggerated and are confident they can raise the money needed to save the sculpture.

– KEVIN HERRERA

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **editor@smdp.com**



BIG DROP

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A SuperScooper aircraft dumped tons of water on streams of flame that rolled up a steep cliffside along Pacific Coast Highway in Pacific Palisades Tuesday afternoon. The flames crept within feet of multimillion-dollar clifftop homes, but none were damaged and the fire was knocked down in about 1 1/2 hours, authorities said. PCH was closed for hours as a result.

L.A. mayor: Comprehensive street repairs years away

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti was elected last spring after promising to fix the city's battered streets, but he acknowledged Tuesday that his administration has made little headway paving long-neglected roads and that significant improvements could be years away.

Drivers in the nation's second-largest city have long been accustomed to cracked and cratered streets, a problem that only worsened during a recession that left City Hall starved for cash.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, Garcetti, who took office July 1, said it could take a decade and up to $3 billion to do a good, if not complete, repair job on hundreds of miles of roadway.

The Democrat also urged the Los Angeles Unified School District to push forward with a troubled $1 billion plan to provide iPads to students; acknowledged that it has been difficult to retrofit buildings vulnerable to earthquake damage because of liability issues; and said restoring some cash overtime for police officers would be a priority in the next three years.

Regarding city streets, the mayor said some fixes have been made on major thoroughfares such as Ventura Boulevard since he took office but "the problem is so great ... the average Angeleno isn't seeing or feeling" the improvements, the mayor said.

He tentatively endorsed the idea of a ballot proposal to raise money for repairs. "If we want to do this, we have to pay for it," he said.

Without a surge in funding — billions of dollars — the city would be able to do little more than spotty patch jobs, the mayor said. Residents would face higher taxes to get the job done, but Garcetti said it would probably cost drivers more in car repairs if streets are left crumbling and pocked.

When Garcetti was sworn in, he said he would be a back-to-basics mayor and promised his administration would "fill the potholes, pave the streets, fix the sidewalks" to address longstanding complaints under his predecessor, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

On a related issue, Garcetti said he would not commit to supporting a sales tax increase to fund billions of dollars of improvements to Los Angeles County's highways and public transit. The county's Metropolitan Transportation Authority is contemplating whether to develop a ballot initiative that would build on a 2008 measure voters passed to expand freeways, subways and light rail in the traffic-choked region.

The authority's own polling suggests that the public is not ready to support a measure at the two-thirds majority required for passage, whether this year or in 2016. Garcetti said a "steady campaign" could persuade enough voters that the first tax has helped, "but I'm not going to support something" that would not pass.

In the wake of the 20th anniversary of the deadly Northridge earthquake this week, Garcetti acknowledged that it has been difficult to retrofit vulnerable buildings because of liability issues. But he said the city's new partner-

SEE **STREETS** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Broken system

Editor:

I would like to address the statement made by Rent Control Board Administrator Tracy Condon in your article ("City Hall estimates 3,000 units may need major upgrades," Jan. 9) about deferred maintenance on 3,000 rental units where she stated that the Rent Control Board has a rent increase process where property owners can petition the board if they are not receiving a "fair return."

It is true that owners of apartment buildings may file a rent increase petition, but it probably will not accomplish anything because a "fair return" under the board's [definition] means that a rental property is providing a fair return if the 1978 net income for the entire property has increased at 40 percent of the change in the inflation rate. The board gave up on that process for setting the general adjustments more than 20 years ago because it could not grant annual general rent adjustments by using it.

I know that the board's rent increase process is a waste of time for the vast majority of apartment buildings because I completed approximately 200 successful rent increase petitions between 1983 and 2003 (more than 200 if individual condos are included), but during the past 10 years I was only able to complete one. That one successful petition, I-1409, was a unique situation where only one unit on a six-unit property had fair market rent because of vacancy decontrol, that unit was vacant twice during the "current year" (which caused great rent loss) and because the tenants (who were family members and friends of the former owners) ran the water bill up from approximately $900 every two months to nearly $3,000 twice during the current year of the petition.

Without a set of facts like that, the rent increase petition process is a waste of time for the vast majority of controlled rental units that have deferred maintenance.

During the 34 years of Santa Monica rent control, there was only a short period of time after the 1994 Northridge earthquake when property owners could successfully petition the Rent Control Board for rent increases on individual units (other than condos) without attempting to prove that they were not receiving a "fair return" under the board's onerous rent increase process. Since 2004, the only rent increase petitions which have any success are individual condominium units occupied by pre-1999 tenants and have large property tax bills and no rent increases caused by vacancy decontrol.

I encourage this newspaper to do some investigative reporting and ask the Rent Control Board's administrator to state the number of apartment buildings that have had successful rent increase decisions since 2004. I can guarantee that it will be a very short list.

James L. Jacobson
Santa Monica





Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

All hail the architects

I WAS HONORED TO AGAIN BE INVITED TO sit in on a meeting of a group of local architects calling themselves SMART, Santa Monica Architects for a Responsible Tomorrow. They have a very reasonable, common sense platform for turning our runaway development into something that won't kill the goose's golden eggs.

But don't architects depend on development for their livelihood? Yes, and that's why it's all the more impressive that they have banded together to voice their concern over the direction we're headed, at such breakneck speed. But I realized something else: these are exactly the people we need, because they understand the language. Developers often submit documents by the pound, that even our planning department has trouble unraveling. These folks can spot the bullpucky.

The other big point I took out of there was that there is so much rushing to judgment right now that it's hard for anyone to respond. Planning meetings, Architectural Review Board, Landmarks Commission, crucial City Council meetings — how do you find the time? But this group is trying, and we must all turn out to support their expertise and speak our own minds.

HENRY'S STILL THE MAN

I see that Marianne Williamson has thrown her karma into the ring, in the 33rd Congressional District (Malibu to Santa Monica to Beverly Hills and down the coast to Rancho Palos Verdes). Ordinarily I might rejoice at a non-politician seeking to change things in D.C., especially one who comes from a spiritual path.

But we've already got a very special Congressman in Henry Waxman, whom I consider the best representative on the hill. He's not perfect, but his record of fighting for the people (versus corporate interests) is consistent and his accomplishments remarkable. He knows how the system works and builds consensus; he has four decades of experience and relationships, which he uses for mostly good stuff. He's been re-elected for nearly 40 years in this very creative and influential district, and I think mostly for good reasons.

I suppose the makeup of the district is why Williamson is running here (as an independent) instead of where she lives, in West Hollywood. But I'd rather she try to unseat some bad guy. That choice shows me she's more interested in getting elected than in changing Washington. Freshman representatives don't accomplish much, for years sometimes. Henry's doing a great job for us, and I want him representing me for as long as he is willing and able.

CLOWNS OFF THE STAGE, PLEASE

You watched the Golden Globes, right? It's become more enjoyable than the more staid and self-indulgent Oscars. I need to start writing about movies and getting it published in Sri Lanka or Burkina Faso or Andorra, so I can become a voting member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, because there are only 80-some voting there, as opposed to 6,000 who vote for the Oscars, and those 80-some get treated like royalty. The trips, the swag, the fine wine and meals, dates with Margot and Scarlett!

My favorite moment this year was when U2 got the Globe for Best Original Song, for the "Mandela" movie, and when music mogul/hip hop whatever Sean "Diddy" Combs, one of the three presenters, went to embrace Bono, Bono pulled away and left Diddlyman clearly hurt and confused. Big dis! Diddy-o was being his usual obnoxious self, grabbing the spotlight, advising the room, "Everybody just keep drinking, OK? It'll be over soon." I felt sorry for his co-presenters Usher and Kate Beckinsale, who showed nothing but class in the face of Diddy's crass. Hasn't it reached the point where no one would accept the assignment of sharing a stage with this clueless egomaniac? I'm not trying to be mean (well, maybe I am), but it's all true, so it's not mean.

I like to think Bono did what he did because he understood it was a serious moment, honoring Mandela, and he wasn't going to let Combs have another moment to distract from that.

"This really is personal, very, very personal," Bono, a long-time friend of Mandela's, told the audience. "This man turned our life upside down, right side up. A man who refused to hate, (because) he thought love would do a better job." Bono's an egomaniac, too, but there's a world of difference.

VIRGIN BIRTHS MAKE COMEBACK

I read a credible study (for the British Medical Journal) that found that 1 out of 200 young pregnant women declared themselves virgins. Ah yes, denial in the face of facts and science, God bless America. Could this have anything to do with it? Nearly a third of those pregnant virgins had signed chastity pledges. Do they have those pledges in other countries?

STILL STICKING UP FOR CYCLISTS

Maybe it's true. In some places in Santa Monica, at some times, the occasional cyclist will ride on the sidewalk. You find that out when you write in your column that you've never seen it. Then you have people writing and telling you in person that it happens where they are — all the time. Hire more police! Call out the National Guard! As one young rider I interviewed confessed, "cyclists can be jerks, too. I've made mistakes," but "if everyone sharing the roads were more accepting, and forgiving," it could be a beautiful thing.

Here's the overriding (pun intended) value, as I see it: the more we can do here to make the streets safer for bicycles, the better off we all are. Fewer cars being driven. And fewer sons and daughters, husbands and mothers losing the very unfair fight when bicycle and auto collide. Educate drivers and cyclists, share the roads, and create the infrastructure that makes it possible. Are we going to let tiny little Holland beat us on this?

VEGANS AND NURSES

I had to chuckle at the photo on the front page of the Daily Press last Wednesday of two PETA demonstrators dressed in an attention-getting way as nurses, holding signs that declared, "Bypass Heart Surgery: Go Vegan." Vegan is cool with me, but ask my nephew, a 22-year vegan when he went in for emergency heart surgery at the age of 40 because he had an artery that was 99 percent blocked.

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 28 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reduced expectations and the California budget

SHORTLY AFTER JERRY BROWN WAS first elected governor, nearly 40 years ago, he famously said, "This is an era of limits and we all had better get used to it."

In keeping with this theme, it is now taxpayers who look at Brown's proposed 2014-15 budget with reduced expectations.

In fairness, there are aspects of the budget plan that taxpayers can endorse. The budget reflects at least some measure of fiscal restraint and austerity. Brown's desire for no new taxes, continuing to pay down the "wall of debt" and establishing a prudent reserve is commendable.

Nonetheless, there was much unsaid — some positive, some negative — in the budget plan. On the plus side, at least Brown did not launch a jihad against Proposition 13, which must have come as a serious disappointment to some of the more rabid Democratic members of the Legislature.

On the negative side, the failure to address major fiscal problems is a glaring omission. The teachers retirement fund — CalSTRS — has a huge unfunded liability that renders meaningless all the "happy talk" about surpluses. Add to that the massive shortfall in the unemployment insurance fund and the long-term obligation to provide health care benefits to government employees and the good news turns out to be not so good. Without action, these liabilities will continue to expand and come back to haunt both taxpayers and the state economy in the future.

Sadder still is that the governor wants to throw good money after bad into the moribund high speed rail project, which is a horrible misapplication of precious transportation dollars. Adding insult to injury, he announced a plan to use "cap and trade" revenue to pay for the high speed rail boondoggle, which may exacerbate the major legal problems he is already facing.

Also, there is a lot more money for state employees. This criticism may sound mean spirited, but it is important to note that California already has the highest paid public employees in all 50 states and the additional pay is coming from the Proposition 30 tax increase. So while state workers will get more, average Californians will have less because they have to pay for the higher compensation.

Finally, with respect to a spending limit proposal, the governor said, "The devil is in the details," which does not show that he has clear vision or sense of urgency on this important policy issue. (And do we really think the California Legislature will sign on to a plan that limits their spending power in a manner that is remotely effective?)

IT IS CLEAR THAT CALIFORNIA NEEDS A SPENDING LIMIT WITH TEETH THAT ALLOWS INCREASES ONLY FOR INFLATION AND POPULATION GROWTH.

There is another quote from Jerry Brown's first term that is worth noting. In response to criticism from liberal members of his party for failure to spend even more he said, "It's not because I'm a conservative, it's because I'm cheap."

However, this year's budget proposes increasing spending by nearly 9 percent and it is clear that counting on the governor's parsimony is not sufficient protection for taxpayers. And this budget is just a first offering. The administration will issue a revised budget in May, based on more up-to-date revenue forecasts, and what lawmakers finally approve prior to the June 15 deadline may include a great deal of additional spending.

It is clear that California needs a spending limit with teeth that allows increases only for inflation and population growth. Perhaps one of those super wealthy individuals, who, in recent years, have put massive amounts of money behind their pet ballot measures, would like to put their shoulder behind an initiative measure that would actually do some good.

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

The Q Line

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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Charter calls TW Cable a 'turnaround project'

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Charter Communications executives labeled Time Warner Cable a "turnaround project" suffering from a failed strategy as they urged Time Warner Cable shareholders to prod management to begin talks with Charter on its buyout offer.

The criticism was leveled Tuesday after Charter revealed details of its proposed bid for Time Warner Cable for around $132.50 a share, or $38 billion. The offer would create the third-largest pay TV provider in the country with 16 million video customers.

Executives with Charter Communications Inc., which has 4.2 million video customers, argued that a deal is urgently needed because Time Warner Cable Inc. is rapidly losing customers for key services such as video, voice and even Internet.

"This negative momentum isn't simply the result of their operating plan over the last year. It is the failed plan over the past half-decade," said Charter's chief operating officer, John Bickham, in a conference call with analysts.

Time Warner Cable shot back, saying there was nothing in Charter's presentation Tuesday that "changes the fact that its proposal is grossly inadequate." Time Warner executives have said their company is worth $160 a share, while Charter says its rival's hope for a better deal is "unrealistic."

Charter says the offer it is contemplating — for $82.54 in cash and roughly $49.96 in Charter stock for every Time Warner Cable share — is 38 percent higher than where its target's stock was trading when it first made a bid in June.

Charter's online presentation had more details on its proposal, including that it expects $750 million in annual operating cost savings. It also said if it projected its own revenue growth rate for the last 18 months onto Time Warner Cable's results in 2015 and 2016, Time Warner Cable's 2016 revenue would be $725 million higher than current forecasts.

Charter says it would invest in converting Time Warner Cable's channel offering to all-digital, which would free up bandwidth for faster Internet speeds; eliminate "nickel and dime" charges for things like modem rentals; and do away with inferior but cheaper Internet and TV packages that encourage people to downgrade service once promotional pricing offers end.

Vijay Jayant, an analyst with ISI Group, said such a formula has worked for Charter CEO Tom Rutledge in the past, including in his stint as chief operating officer at Cablevision Systems Corp. from 2004 to 2011.

"The track record speaks for itself," Jayant said.

Time Warner Cable has said that previous industry transactions have occurred at a multiple of 8 times earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. It said Charter's offer was at just 7 times.

Charter said that adjusted for the tax benefits of the deal, its offer values Time Warner Cable at 7.3 times EBITDA, above the 6.5 times average valuation of five recent deals.

Market participants believe a better offer is possible. New York-based Time Warner Cable Inc. shares finished up 2.7 percent at $136 on Tuesday. Shares in Charter, which is based in Stamford, Conn., rose 2.3 percent to close at $137.34.

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Southern California home prices hit 70-month high

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO Southern California home prices reached a 70-month high in December as sales fell and buyers competed for scant inventories, a research firm said Tuesday.

The median price for new and existing houses and condominiums reached $395,000 in the six-county region, up 22.3 percent from $323,000 a year earlier. It was the highest median since it stood at $408,000 February 2008 and the 21st straight month of annual gains.

Sales dropped 9.2 percent from a year earlier to 18,415 homes, the lowest December sales tally in six years.

DataQuick said investors are showing less interest, contributing to the sales decline. Absentee buyers — mostly investors and some second-home purchasers — bought 26.2 percent of homes last month, down from 30.4 percent a year earlier and the lowest level since November 2011. Absentee buying has fallen nearly every month since peaking at 32.4 percent in January 2013.

Buyers paying cash followed a similar trend, accounting for 27.7 percent of sales last month, down from 35.8 percent a year earlier and a peak of 36.9 percent in February.

"Sales have fallen short of the same period a year earlier for three consecutive months now, and the pitifully low inventory is the main culprit," said John Walsh, president of San Diego-based DataQuick.

The jump in prices over the last year suggests that more homeowners will eventually put their properties up for sale, Walsh said. Home building has remained low, limiting inventories, he said.

The Los Angeles metropolitan area had a 3.9-month supply of unsold homes in November, an improvement from a 3.2-month supply a year earlier but still much lower than a normal market of five to seven months, according to the latest figures from the California Association of Realtors. San Diego had a 4.1-month supply of homes in November.

Sales plummeted 17.5 percent in San Diego County from a year earlier, followed by Los Angeles County with a 13.3 percent drop. Declines were more modest in Ventura and Riverside counties, and Orange and San Bernardino counties eked out small gains.

San Bernardino, the least expensive of the counties surveyed and an area hard-hit by foreclosures several years ago, posted the sharpest price gains, a 28.9 increase to $232,000. All counties posted annual price gains above 20 percent except San Diego, which rose 14.8 percent to $420,000.

Police investigate rapper West for possible battery

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. Beverly Hills police say they're investigating Kanye West for misdemeanor battery after a man accused the rapper of attacking him.

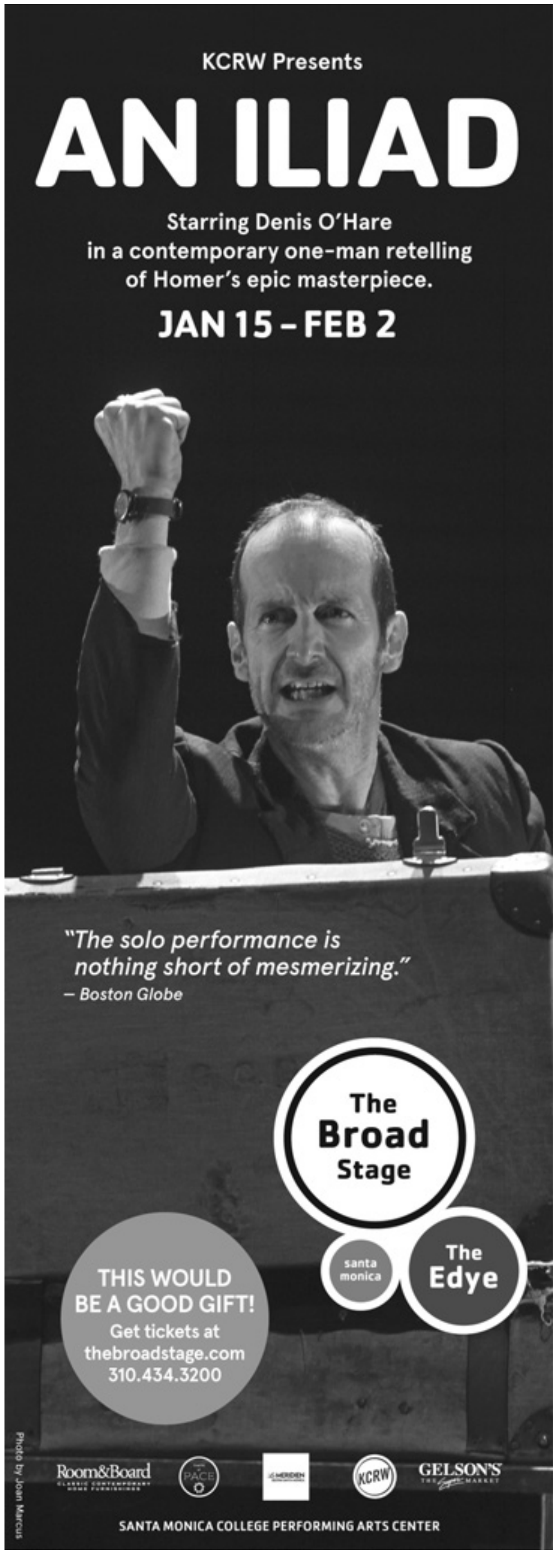
Sgt. George DeMarois says several witnesses identified West as being involved in an altercation around 12:15 p.m. on Monday at an office on exclusive Wilshire Boulevard. The rapper had left the premises by the time officers arrived.

Police said Tuesday they weren't releasing further details and Blair Berk, an attorney representing West in another case, declined comment.

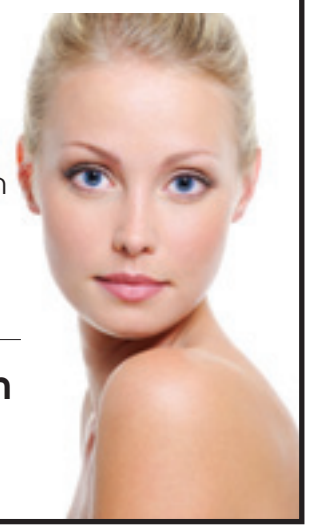
West was charged last year with misdemeanor battery and attempted grand theft after a fight with a photographer at Los Angeles International Airport. He's pleaded not guilty in the case.

The photographer has sued West for assault and battery. West's attorneys stated that West was in fear for his safety.





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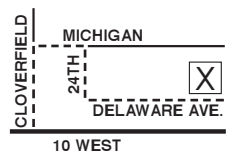


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FANCY FOOTWORK

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

Santa Monica's Ariana Lomeli (right) battles Marymount's Katja McKierman for control of the ball on Tuesday at home. Samohi went on to win, 1-0, improving to 2-6-1 this season.

SALE
FROM PAGE 1

SkyDance has hired Robert Chattel, a preservation architect, to help them with the historical aspects of the property, Paul Schwake, chief operating officer of SkyDance, said at the meeting.

"It was an intensive process to acquire it," he said. "We're just coming back from that process and getting our team together ... so we're moving as fast as we can and that's why we're meeting here tonight."

Commissioners asked Schwake if SkyDance would be interested in filing an application for landmark status on its own. Schwake said he'd have to speak with his boss.

"We're always very interested in seeing the property owners, especially if they believe they have something of value in the way of cultural resource in our community, seeking a designation, rather than the commission acting proactively," said Commissioner John Berley.

Commissioners ultimately decided that it wasn't worth delaying the landmarking process. They voted to file their own application.

"When the covenant was adopted it was envisioned that landmark designation would follow fairly quickly because this body would be the means of implementing that language so that a new life could go forward for the property," said Commissioner Ruthann Lehrer.

Filing the application puts a freeze on all work that could be done, said Chair Pro Tempore Margaret Bach.

SkyDance plans to cooperate with the commission, Schwake said.

"We're excited about working with the commission staff about developing the plans for the project," he said.

Residents protested the closure of the old post office, saying the location was convenient, and they've complained about the new post office, located on Seventh Street just south of Colorado Avenue.

Parking is insufficient at the new post office, they say, and they demanded more on-site parking spaces.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Santa Monica) said that the USPS didn't hold up its end of an agreement that stated they would provide public parking spaces. The agreement allowed them to relocate the post office.

In response the USPS said they would create 19 public parking spaces. Those spaces have been restriped, said USPS spokesperson Richard Maher, and they are just waiting on new signage before making them available to the public.

dave@smdp.com



Photo courtesy ArcLight

FUTURE LOOK? ArchLight currently operates theaters around the Los Angeles area.

THEATER
FROM PAGE 1

to go before the council in April.

ArcLight is requesting to increase the building height to 84 feet to accommodate the movie screens. ArcLight and Macerich, the owner of the mall, have applied for permission to do some initial work that would not be subject to the development agreement process.

Development agreements are contracts approved by the City Council that allow developers to build above permitted heights and densities in exchange for community benefits such as affordable housing, public art or cash.

Community benefits to be offered have not been finalized, city officials said.

"We are in the midst of the city process, however both ArcLight and Macerich have met the city and they have been in full support of the project," officials with Macerich said.

The new theatre, which will include a full bar, cafe, concessions and a lounge for those 21 years of age or older, is welcomed as Downtown has struggled in recent years to attract moviegoers to its outdated theaters, which do not include modern amenities like stadium seating.

ArcLight's expansion to Santa Monica is key to its footprint in Los Angeles, officials with the company stated in a press release. The announcement comes on the heels of the groundbreaking ceremony for ArcLight's first Midwest location in Chicago, opening 2015, and construction for the fall 2014 opening of ArcLight's first East Coast location in Bethesda, Md.

ArcLight Santa Monica will feature the signature amenities that movie lovers have come to expect from, including all reserved seating, a commercial-free environment, unique programming and black box auditoriums with extra-wide stadium seats and state-of-the-art sight and sound, officials with ArcLight said.

"We created ArcLight so that movie lovers could experience film the way the filmmakers intended," said Chris Forman, chief executive officer. "Santa Monica Place is an important shopping and lifestyle destination. It means a lot to our company, and to me, to partner with Macerich to bring the ArcLight experience to Santa Monica."

ArcLight Cinemas, created by Pacific Theatres, is a privately owned, Los Angeles-based company with 60 years of theatrical exhibition history throughout California, Hawaii and Washington. ArcLight Cinemas operates theaters in Hollywood, Pasadena, Sherman Oaks, El Segundo and La Jolla. ArcLight also owns and operates the historic Cinerama Dome and programs the TCL Chinese Theatre and IMAX in Hollywood. Pacific Theatres currently operates theaters in Los Angeles that include The Grove and The Americana at Brand in Glendale.

kevinh@smdp.com

STREETS
FROM PAGE 3

ship with the U.S. Geological Survey should make Los Angeles more resilient during the next temblor.

During his tenure, Villaraigosa built up the Police Department to 10,000 officers and Garcetti said he wants to maintain that number.

After years of requiring police officers to take time off in exchange for overtime work, rather than receive pay, Garcetti said he wants to restore some cash payments in the next three years.

Garcetti said he generally supports the concept of providing health care for people who entered the U.S. illegally, though cost would be an issue before he endorsed any proposal.

State Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, has said he plans to introduce legislation that would provide health coverage for immigrants in the country illegally. They are not covered under the national health care overhaul.

Los Angeles has struggled for years to recruit an NFL team, after the Rams and Raiders fled the nation's second-largest media market. Garcetti said he was eager for an NFL team to return to Los Angeles but made clear his priority is improving the convention center.

"A football team, unless we add a whole bunch of Super Bowls, really doesn't add a lot to the local economy," he said. At this point "the work really is between owners and within the NFL to see whether there's somebody who wants to bring a team here."

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FOOD COURT
FROM PAGE 1

but you have to enter the cavernous hallway to get there.

"It feels like you're walking through a bus station," said Centennial Managing Partner Scott Schonfeld. "When you walk by it's very dark. You know the McDonald's is there because they're right on the end of the promenade but it's really hard to see what's back behind them."

Behind them is a sushi restaurant, a candy store, a burrito joint, and a bunch of other little eateries. Falafel King moved out recently and a Wolfgang Puck restaurant, which was on the second floor, moved out over the summer.

What Santa Monica Place did, putting in smaller food stations, would be ideal he said.

"You don't have to walk into each store," Schonfeld said. "Each tenant has their own identity but really you walk right up to the counter."

Some tenants, like McDonald's, do good business and are into the idea of a redesign, he said. They would likely stay. But Centennial has a list of hundreds of tenants that would match up well with their vision. He mentioned plans for Mediterranean, Asian, and Mexican concepts. One idea is to bring in some restaurants from the farmers' market at The Grove in Los Angeles.

"They've been there for a long time," he said. "They operate tiny spaces and they make high quality food."

It would also match up with their intended farmers' market vibe, with rustic materials and lots of natural light.

Kathleen Rawson, president and CEO of Downtown Santa Monica Inc., stressed the need for fast, affordable options on the promenade.

"I'm delighted that you're keeping the quick food options because our staff, working down here every single day, and then us multiplied by 27,000 other employees who work in Downtown, it's an important amenity that we need," she said.

Schonfeld wants to get unified signage, as opposed to the current hodgepodge of styles, and make sure people know about all the food options from the promenade. The ceiling is three feet lower than it needs to be, he said, and they plan to raise that to allow more natural light.

"Despite the fact that it will continue to be fast food it doesn't need to feel like such an old, dated food court," he said.

Vice President of Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. Debbie Lee is interested in using the food court to activate the ally between it and Parking Structure 3.

"I can't tell you how many people don't know that they can walk through the food court to the promenade," she said.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

UP: A man rides the escalator to the second floor of the Third Street Promenade food court.

Schonfeld suggested perhaps adding an awning to the back entrance.

Consultant for Downtown Santa Monica Inc., Rob York, said they would need to deal with pigeons and evening temperatures. He pointed to a recent overhaul of a food court in Downtown Los Angeles.

"They renovated a terrible '70s food court, not unlike this, and put in food truck vendors, something a little edgier that created a much more interesting presentation of the product as well, which can certainly work here," York said.

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U.S. stocks bounce back a day after big loss

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK The good followed the bad for the stock market on Tuesday.

One day after logging its worst performance of the year, the stock market bounced back with its best day of 2014. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed more than 1 percent and erased most of its loss from a day earlier.

Technology stocks led the gains as Wall Street analysts raised their assessments of Intel and electronics company Jabil Circuit.

A report on retail sales also boosted investor confidence. Excluding spending on autos, gas and building supplies, sales increased 0.7 percent in December, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. That was better than the increase of 0.4 percent forecast by economists.

While the rise in December sales was modest, it helped ease investors' concerns about the health of the economy after a surprisingly weak jobs report was published on Friday.

"This is a preview of what 2014 will be like...it's going to be more volatile than it was last year," said Andres Garcia-Amaya, a global market strategist at JPMorgan Funds. "The market's bouncing back and saying the world's not ending, things are pointing in the right direction."

The S&P 500 index gained 19.68 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,838.88, its biggest gain since Dec. 18. It rose steadily throughout the day and finished close to its high on Tuesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 115.92 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 16,373.86, just below of its high of the day. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite rose 69.71 points, or 1.7 percent, to 4,183.02.

Technology companies rose 1.9 percent, the most of the 10 sectors that make up the S&P 500. The nine other sectors also finished higher.

Intel climbed $1.01, or 4 percent, to $26.51 after analysts at JPMorgan raised their rating on the chipmaker's stock and predicted that demand for PCs will stabilize this year and that the company's CEO will focus on improving margins and returns.

Jabil Circuit jumped $1.30, or 7.8 percent, to $17.89 after Goldman Sachs recommended buying the stock of the electronics company, forecasting that its earnings next year could be better than most analysts are expecting.

Stocks have had a sluggish start to the year after an exceptional 2013. The S&P 500 index is down 0.5 percent in January after climbing nearly 30 percent last year.

Despite the slow start, many investors remain optimistic that stocks will end this year higher as well, and that the current slump will wind up being a pause rather than a collapse.

"Valuations have certainly been pushed higher, so (stocks) are no longer cheap," said Eric Wiegand, senior portfolio manager at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "But we would contend that they are still fair."

Investors were also watching results from two big banks. JPMorgan Chase, the nation's biggest bank by assets, rose 4 cents, or 0.1 percent, to $57.74 after reporting gains in most of its divisions except for investment banking.

Wells Fargo rose 3 cents, or 0.1 percent, to $45.59 after the bank's net income rose 11 percent, despite a sharp drop in its mortgage business.

The outlook for bank earnings should improve as the economy strengthens said, Jerry Braakman, chief investment officer at First American Trust. Banks should get a lift as long-term interest rates rise, helping to lift the margins on their lending, he said.

The yield on the 10-year note climbed to 2.87 percent from 2.83 percent on Monday as investors sold bonds. The yield was as low as 1.63 percent in early May of last year.

In commodities trading, the price of oil climbed 79 cents, or 0.9 percent, to $92.59. Gold fell $5.70, or 0.5 percent, to $1,245.40 an ounce.

Among other stocks making big moves:

• Time Warner Cable rose $3.60, or 2.7 percent, to $136 after Charter Communications intensified its pursuit of the company. Charter said Monday it would bring an offer directly to shareholders if needed after getting rebuffed by Time Warner Cable's management.

• Intuitive Surgical jumped $26.81, or 6.8 percent, to $419.88. The company said it will report revenue in the fourth quarter that is higher than Wall Street analysts are forecasting, as procedures performed with its robotic da Vinci system increased.

• GameStop plunged $9.01, or 20 percent, to $36.31 after the world's largest video game retailer gave a profit forecast that fell below Wall Street's expectations for its crucial holiday quarter, despite higher-than-expected sales.

Appeals court sets aside Internet neutrality rules

PETE YOST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON In a decision that could reshape consumers' access to entertainment, news and other online content, a federal appeals court Tuesday set aside Federal Communications Commission rules designed to ensure that transmission of all Internet content be treated equally.

The anti-discrimination and anti-blocking rules have barred broadband providers from prioritizing some types of Internet traffic over others.

A three-judge panel said that the FCC has the authority to regulate broadband providers' treatment of Internet traffic. However, the judges concluded that the FCC failed to establish that its regulations don't overreach.

"Even though the commission has general authority to regulate in this arena, it may not impose requirements" that violate statutory mandates, wrote appeals judge David Tatel. The judges said the FCC's rule in effect treated all Internet service providers as common carriers — transporters of people or goods for the general public on regular routes at set rates. Examples of common carriers include airlines, railroads, trucking companies and utilities.

But the court said the commission itself already had classified broadband providers as exempt from treatment as common carriers, which set up a legal contradiction. The FCC failed to establish that its regulations do not impose common carrier obligations on the Internet companies, the judges ruled in a setback for the Obama administration's goal of Internet openness.

The decision empowers leading Internet providers to decide which Internet services — such as Netflix movies, YouTube videos, news stories and more — they would allow to be transmitted to consumers over their networks.

In some cases, Internet providers such as Verizon, AT&T and cable companies can demand that Google, for example, pay them to ensure that YouTube videos are accessible to all their consumers, or Google could pay extra to ensure that YouTube videos are delivered faster.

The court said it was aware of concerns expressed by supporters of the FCC policy about what might happen if the rules were overturned.

"For example, a broadband provider like Comcast might limit its end-user subscribers' ability to access the New York Times website if it wanted to spike traffic to its own news website, or it might degrade the quality of the connection to a search website like Bing if a competitor like Google paid for prioritized access," the court said.

Verizon, which filed the case against the FCC, said the decision "will not change consumers' ability to access and use the Internet as they do now."

It said the decision "will allow more room for innovation, and consumers will have more choices to determine for themselves how they access and experience the Internet. Verizon has been and remains committed to the open Internet."

Advocacy groups such as Public Knowledge called the ruling a disappointing loss for Internet users because the court found that the open Internet rules were built on a flawed legal foundation.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said the commission will now consider its options, including an appeal, to ensure that networks on which the Internet depends provide a free and open platform.

Rep. Henry Waxman, the ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said the appeals court affirmed "what never should have been in question — the FCC can protect consumers, innovation, and competition online. ... I look forward to working with the FCC to revise the rules on the books that protect the free and open Internet."

Some experts questioned whether any immediate change will emerge from the ruling.

"There is language in the opinion for the commission to take solace," said Jonathan Zittrain, former chairman of the FCC's open Internet advisory committee. "The FCC chairman has signaled his view that this affirms the commission's ability to go case by case, calling problems as they see them." He said it was telling that stock prices on most affected companies "haven't budged" in light of the decision.

Verizon and Google long ago published their own net neutrality deal that can provide a framework for others in the industry. "That might explain why you don't see anybody gloating or the market moving," Zittrain said.





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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **59.5°**

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

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high occ. 4ft
Potential new WNW swell starts moving in; Stay tuned still pending development

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, LAcurGUY, SIMA and Swain Barber Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las 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 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 DAW 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.

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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.

Columbus gets player, first-round pick from Los Angeles Galaxy

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio The Columbus Crew have acquired midfielder Hector Jimenez and a first-round pick in the MLS draft from the L.A. Galaxy for the Crew's second-round pick and allocation money.

The first-round pick is 14th overall, while the selection sent to the Galaxy is the 23rd. The draft is Thursday.

The 25-year-old Jimenez has played in 43 games in three seasons with the Galaxy. Last year he had three goals and four assists in 26 appearances.

On Monday, the Crew acquired the rights to defender Michael Parkhurst from the New England Revolution for the Crew's first-round selection (fourth overall) in the draft and more allocation money.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Marina (NR) 1hr 50min
7:30pm
Discussion after the film with director Stijn Coninx and producer Peter Bouckaert, followed by a Belgian beer reception.

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

Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) 2hrs 05min
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
1:00pm, 4:15pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R)
1:55pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 10:45pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
10:45am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

August: Osage County (R) 2hrs 10min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:35pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
10:50am, 2:45pm, 6:40pm, 10:15pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
12:15pm, 3:35pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

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

Legend of Hercules (PG-13)
11:30am, 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**

EXERCISE TONIGHT, AQUARIUS

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ The Full Moon could affect your mood. You might want to exercise your "kiss and make up" technique, especially with a close associate. You might feel as though you're between a rock and a hard place. Tonight: Relax at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Consider opening up to new possibilities that emerge in discussions. You might be quite surprised by what occurs. You could feel overwhelmed by everything that happens. You simply need to take in the moment and not make a commitment right now. Tonight: Play it easy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Be aware of expenses that keep arising. You might want to rethink your budget. The possibility exists that you might need to give up an indulgence. A little self-discipline will go far at this point. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Today's Full Moon puts you directly in the spotlight. As a result, you'll be able to maximize the lunar energy in your favor. Interpersonal relating will be highlighted. Seize the moment to act on an important matter. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ A dispute suddenly could break out. Someone might misread your attitude. Make a point to clarify your thoughts. A serious but important conversation will stabilize the situation. Note how this person gets when he or she is upset. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You know when you overspend. You might feel as if you have made a commitment and have little to no choice but to follow through. How you handle this matter will be important, but probably not as important as you think. Tonight: Where crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might feel as if you must act a certain way, and you could be irritated to be in that position right now. Do not fight the inevitable. You'll want to balance the different aspects of your life. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your sense of what to do might involve testing out your ideas on someone who is more knowledgeable than you on the topic. On some level, you could discover how easily irritated this makes you feel. Walk away from a difficult or volatile situation. Tonight: Go with the flow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Relate to a partner or key associate directly in order to avoid a volatile situation. A friend still might be less than agreeable because of a sudden change of plans. Make a point not to lose your temper, and you will be OK. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Avoid a potentially touchy situation by deferring to others. Consider what is more important: keeping the peace or being right. Demonstrate compassion toward a partner or loved one. This person could be feeling insecure with today's Full Moon. Tonight: Sort through ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Someone could take advantage of your caring nature. You might feel hurt, or perhaps you'll just feel sorry for this person. In any case, pull back and be more discriminating when it comes to your inner circle of friends. Tonight: Head home, and squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You might feel pulled in two different directions. Your friends really enjoy having you around, yet a child or loved one could express some neediness. You likely will try to juggle all of these concerns. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

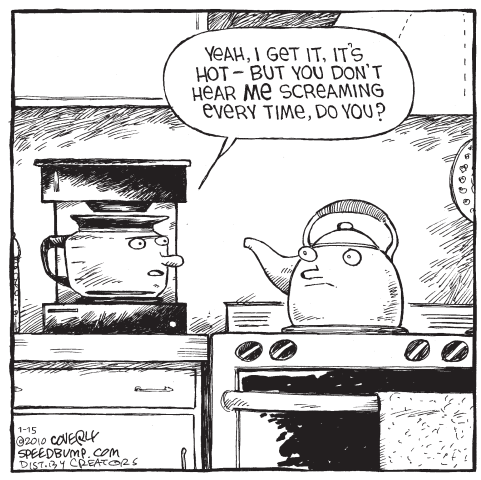
Wednesday, January 15, 2014

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

This year others present you with a different perspective more times than not. You are confident and sure of yourself, yet understanding a new way of handling life could be quite rewarding. If you are single, during the next six months you could meet someone quite exciting. This person will be generous, and have an excellent sense of humor. If you are attached, the two of you will learn to respect your differences. As a result, your bond will become more loving and exciting. Both of you will flourish. CANCER is far more emotional than you are.

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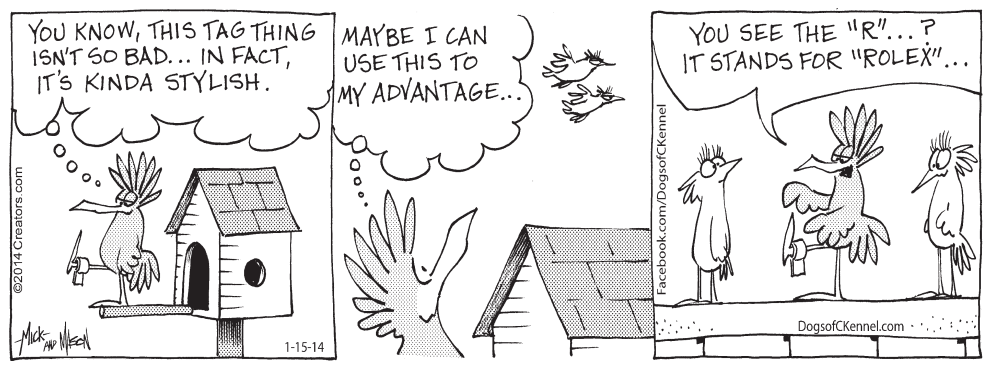
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



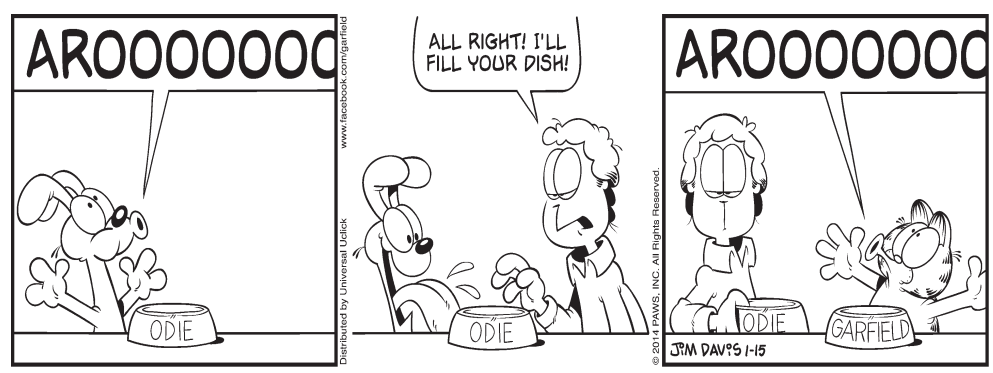
Strange Brew
By John Deering



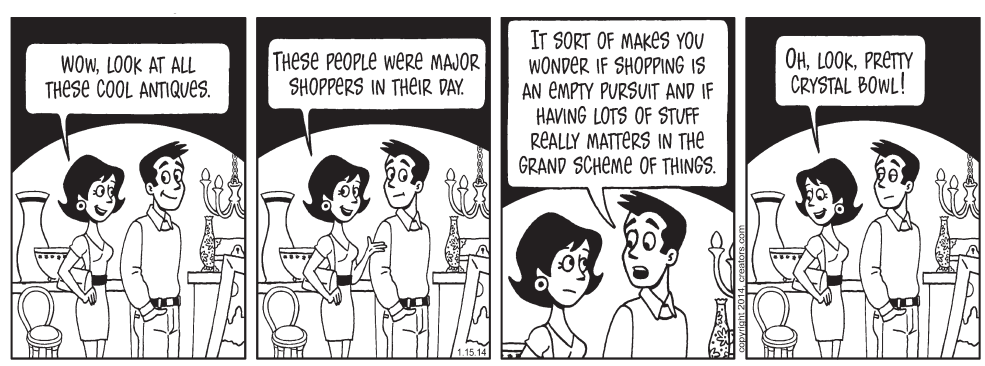
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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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 Maggie and Bart's sister
5 Clears
11 Spot
12 General greeting
13 Run off
14 Harpsichord's cousin
15 — Aviv
16 Fishing need
17 Harold of silent comedies
19 Drunkard
22 Batter of verse
24 Chump
26 Nerve part
27 Estate recipient
28 Demoted planet
30 Like seawater
31 Favorite
32 Scuffle
34 Trojan War hero
35 Sauna site
38 Ophelia's love
41 Pirate's take
42 For each
43 Franc replacer
44 Baker's supplies
45 Article

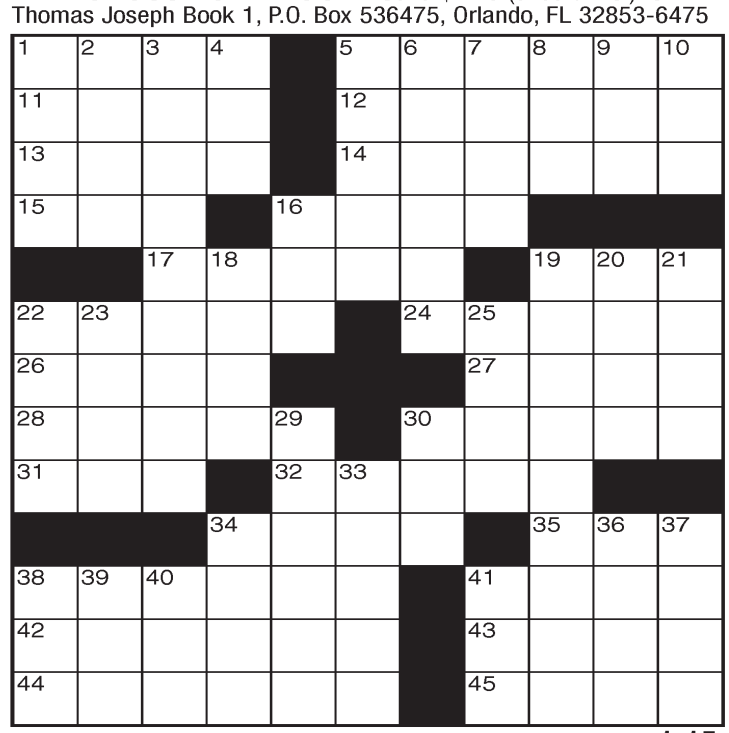
DOWN

1 Departed
2 Vacation spot
3 Makes perfectly clear
4 Yeoman's "yes"
5 School paper
6 Rafting challenge
7 Landed
8 Day warmer
9 Riviera season
10 Determined
16 Young fellow
18 Spring period
19 Pays
20 Leave out
21 Thatcher, for one
22 Abner's creator
23 Car bar
25 Tobacco wad
29 Main aim
30 Jazz horn
33 Billing info
34 Pub choices
36 Skin feature
37 Physics bit
38 Cow chow
39 Big galoot
40 Soccer's Hamm
41 Floral ring

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



1-15

Procrastination is a problem when it comes to doing my disaster plan. As a business owner I have a lot to do. It's not like **a disaster** is going to happen tomorrow. Besides, we have that new business pitch. I've been **waiting** for this **to** happen for a while now. I'll get the disaster plan finished eventually. Nothing to worry about, it'll **happen.**

Whether natural or man-made, at least one in four businesses affected by a disaster never reopen. Though emergencies are unpredictable, when you have a plan in place you can adapt, recover and stay in control.

It's never too late to protect your business until it is.

Make a plan.

READY.GOV

Ready Business

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In November, Dave Wilson, a white conservative candidate for the board of the Houston Community College System, pulled off an astonishing victory over the African-American incumbent, by distributing campaign materials that made him -- Wilson -- appear to be black and thus the favorite of African-Americans. Wilson's brochures depicting black "supporters" were all, he later said, copied from the Internet.

■ In 2001, German computer repairman Armin Meiwes captured world attention when he was convicted of killing, and then sauteeing and eating parts of a Berlin engineer of particularly low self-esteem, who had offered himself on a German cannibal-fetish website. In November 2013, police in the German state of Saxony were investigating human body parts found at a bed-and-breakfast run by "Detlef G.," suggesting the parts were from "Wojciech S.," who frequented a cannibal-fetish website and who had traveled to meet Detlef -- and that the parts had been found in an area of the grounds used for "grilling." The investigation is continuing.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1962 - The Derveni papyrus, Europe's oldest surviving manuscript dating to 340 BC, is found in northern Greece.

1966 - The Nigerian First Republic, led by Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is overthrown in a military coup d'état.

1967 - The first Super Bowl is played in Los Angeles, California. The Green Bay Packers defeat the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10.

1969 - The Soviet Union launches Soyuz 5.

WORD UP!

antebellum
\ AN-tee-BEL-uhm \ , adjective;
1. before or existing before a war, especially the American Civil War; prewar: the antebellum plantations of Georgia .

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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			

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