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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 57

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

READY FOR THEIR CLOSEUP
SEE PAGE 3

THE MIXED BAG ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

HISTORIC: **The Palisades Building at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel has been given landmark status by the Landmarks Commission.**

Commission landmarks parts of Fairmont Miramar

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Landmarks Commission met the hospitality industry halfway Monday night by agreeing to give protected status to pieces of a luxury hotel, but ignoring a compromise that would have given the property owners more flexibility for changes on the site.

Five commissioners voted to landmark the Fairmont Miramar's Palisades Building, the parcel on which the entire hotel sits and expanded the designation on the giant Moreton Bay fig tree that serves as the hotel's centerpiece.

Ocean Avenue LLC., which owns the 85-year-old hotel, pushed for the three designations with a caveat that they get extra flexibility through special rules designed by city staff that defined when the company would have to go back before the Landmarks Commission should changes occur on the property.

The proposal was a compromise

SEE MIRAMAR PAGE 9

Lost diver found in Santa Monica Bay

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Emergency personnel rescued a lost diver who went missing for several hours in the Santa Monica Bay Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

The 32-year-old man was found around 5 p.m. at the surface conscious and breathing and was transported to a local hospital, officials said.

The Coast Guard, lifeguards, Harbor Guards and Santa Monica fire and police departments canvassed the ocean half a mile west of the Annenberg Community Beach House looking for the man.

It's not clear exactly where he was found.

news@smdp.com

SMC receives $1M gift for online classes

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SMC Santa Monica College has received a gift of $1,025,000 from Santa Monica couple Conrad Lee Klein and Joan Dempsey Klein to expand online classes, the largest gift ever received by the SMC Foundation in support of technology, college officials announced Tuesday.

The Kleins, who credit higher education for helping them overcome impoverished childhoods and achieve professional and financial success, have specified that $1 million of the fund be designated to maintain and support SMC's online education program. The remaining $25,000 is to be made available for other school priorities.

"Joan and I both understand the problems of poverty," said Conrad Lee Klein, who spent time in an orphanage and foster homes as a child. "We were fortunate enough to overcome them. We want to try to help others so they too can find their way up the ladder to success. We believe that through technology you can reach students of all economic levels."

Currently, about 20 percent of Santa Monica students take some or all of their classes online each semester, said Donald Girard, senior director of government relations. This spring SMC is offering 280 online classes, ranging from accounting and art history to human anatomy and advanced grammar.

The gift, Girard said, has the potential for SMC to provide students with faster access to courseware as technology evolves, with more "seats" for students and with increased support. It could also be used to improve the online experience through better interfaces.

"Online education provides an increasingly vital alternative to the traditional college classroom setting," said SMC President Dr. Chui L. Tsang. "Working people, parents, individuals with disabilities, people who live outside the Santa Monica area and many others who cannot regularly attend classes on campus will benefit immensely from this extremely generous gift."

SEE SMC PAGE 9

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Strike Out for Hunger



This super FUN community event is nearing a sellout. All you need is a team of 5 bowlers to participate and support an event benefiting the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition's mission to fight hunger and homelessness on the Westside.

For more information visit: westsideshelter.org

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013

Tape as art
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 4 p.m.
Decorate a jar with patterned duct tape to hold pencils, brushes or anything else. Ages 10-13. For more information, visit smpl.org.

We have a dream
Santa Monica Pubic Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3:45 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
In the Children's Activity Room, Creative Playground presents an interactive performance featuring the words and ideas of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Appropriate for Grades K to 5. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Job hunting
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Finding the right job can seem like finding a needle in a haystack. Executive recruiter Mitch Rufca will share job search tips and strategies. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Learn to paint
Paint:Lab
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Paint:Lab is hosting a paint, wine and cheese workshop which includes instruction, paints, brushes and complimentary refreshments. Admission is $67. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 450-9200.

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013

That's a great photo
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., visit website for times
photo l.a. is celebrating its 22nd anniversary as the longest running art fair in Los Angeles history. It brings together over 70 galleries and private photography dealers from around the world, displaying their finest works. Admission is $15 and up. For more information, visit photola.com.

Money for school
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
An overview and discussion of different types of financial aid available to college students will be held at the Fairview Library. Appropriate for teens in Grades 9 — 12. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Friday, Jan. 18, 2013

Afternoon movie
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
3 p.m. — 5 p.m.
"Trouble with the Curve" is a story about an ailing baseball scout in his twilight years that takes his daughter along for one last recruiting trip. Starring Clint Eastwood, Amy Adams, and Justin Timberlake. The movie is rated PG-13. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Art opening
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., G1,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The museum is hosting the opening receptions for "Abundance and Devotion: The Art of Miriam Wosk," "Peter Shire: Tea for Two Hundred," and "Samira Yamin: We Will Not Fail." General admission is a suggested donation of $5. For more information, call (310) 586-6488 or visit smmoa.org.

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013

Learn to heal
Naam Yoga LA
1231 Fourth St., 12 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
An introduction to Naam Yoga Therapy will be led by members of the international Naam Yoga training team. Attendees will learn some tools and techniques for rejuvenation and renewal, such as specific mantra meditations, mudras (hand gestures) for the heart, the brain and the nervous system and how they work. The workshop lasts for two hours and is free. For more information, call (323) 638-9349.

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



Not guilty pleas entered for Lohan on misdemeanors

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Lindsay Lohan pleaded not guilty Tuesday to three misdemeanor charges related to a car crash on Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Monica and was ordered to appear in court for a hearing later this month.


LOHAN

Her plea was entered by her attorney Shawn Holley, who declined to comment after the hearing. Lohan was not required to attend.

Superior Court Commissioner Jane Godfrey said the actress must appear at a Jan. 30 pretrial hearing.

Lohan is charged with lying to Santa Monica police, reckless driving and obstructing police from performing their duties.

Police suspect Lohan was driving her sports car when it slammed into a dump truck while she was on her way to the set of "Liz and Dick" in early June. Lohan told police she wasn't behind the wheel.

Lohan was on probation for a 2011 necklace theft case at the time and could face up to 245 days in jail if a judge determines she violated her probation.

Godfrey also set a Feb. 27 trial date on the misdemeanor counts.

The accident was not the only problem encountered by Lohan while shooting "Liz and Dick," a film based on the love affair between Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

She also was arrested in New York after an alleged fight with a woman, but a criminal complaint hasn't been drawn up. The District Attorney's Office there said last week that an inquiry was ongoing.

A week after the car accident, paramedics were summoned to Lohan's hotel room when she was late getting to the set. Her publicist at the time attributed her absence to fatigue and dehydration.

The film was expected to be a comeback opportunity for Lohan, who spent the past several years struggling with criminal court cases. Her performance, however, was panned by critics and fans.

news@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Google Images

LOOKING THE PART: **Ashton Kutcher stars in a bio-pic of Apple founder Steve Jobs that Lotus Post has done sound work on.**

Going behind the scenes

Local post production firm has fingerprints on Sundance

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

17TH STREET The 2013 Sundance Film Festival officially launches Thursday, and it's not just directors and actors waiting in the wings hoping their work strikes a chord with audiences.

Michael Perricone and David Marcus own Lotus Post, a post production sound facility based on 17th Street in Santa Monica. They and their staff have put in time on five Sundance submissions, including the bio-pic of Apple CEO and innovator Steve Jobs, which will close out the festival.

The rest run the gamut of styles and categories like the documentary "The World According to Dick Cheney" and "Big Sur," a movie based on a Jack Kerouac novel of the same name.

The 3-year-old firm juggles up to half a dozen films at a time in the sound rooms built through the complex Marcus and Perricone took over in 2009.

The pair, who owned and managed sound production facilities prior to Lotus Post, took over the assets of a company set to close at 26th Street and Colorado Avenue and went into business together.

Between them, Perricone and Marcus have over 70 years of experience in the industry, something that comes in handy in a world where things must be done right, and preferably the first time.

Still, the first couple of years were tough.

Lotus Post launched in the middle of one of the worst recessions the United States has ever seen, and in a bad decade for post production work.

According to a report by IBISWorld Inc., a Los Angeles-based industry research firm, roughly 43 percent of video post production companies shut down between 2000 and 2010 as technology allowed more of the work to come in-house or be done in independent filmmakers' garages.

The sound world saw a wave of corporate consolidation as well, although it has one major advantage in that the work must be done in a professional, controlled environment.

"Robert Redford isn't going to go to someone's garage," Perricone said.

Lotus Post finds its sweet spot in the larger independent film set, working with A-list actors seeking out meatier roles than they'll find in the kind of "tent pole" films that produce revenues that keep large studios afloat.

Think Fox Searchlight's 2007 break out hit "Juno," starring Ellen Page, which Perricone likens to "Emanuel & the Truth About Fishes," one of their Sundance pieces starring Jessica Biel.

SEE **SOUND** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Respect the accomplishments

Editor:

In response to Walter Greenberg's letter ("Picking sides," Letters to the Editor, Jan.14). Mr. Greenberg obviously did not watch the City Council meeting where 50 or so young adults and adults stayed up until 3 a.m to passionately and articulately express their experiences and support of the Pico Youth & Family Center (PYFC).

The city's funding of the PYFC and the center's attempt to rid the community of gangs and street terrorism through community activism, unity, hope and responsibility is money well spent.

In regards to the Boys & Girls Club and its accomplishments. My sons and myself both grew up as members of the Boys & Girls Club, and as great a national organization that it is, it targets kids from 5 to 16. The PYFC targets at-risk young adults ages 16 to 24. Quite different.

For all of the PYFC's administration and accounting problems, its mission statement and accomplishments should be respected.

Larry Arreola
Santa Monica

Arming educators

Editor:

Hooray for the John Birch Society and the National Rifle Association (NRA) for demanding that our school teachers be armed to protect our children by using their constitutional gun rights and armed guards. If the teachers had been routinely armed in the past decades, it's obvious that the killings and the casualties would have been reduced by at least 90 percent.

However, our leaders and the police wouldn't allow our teachers to be armed and by doing so they have directly violated our Constitution that they have sworn to uphold and facilitated the horrible death and destruction. They should be investigated and prosecuted for such acts against our children. We should support the John Birch Society and the NRA in their efforts to arm our teachers and protect our children, and if the teachers bring their own guns, it will cost nothing.

Ed Nemecheck
Landers, Calif.

A contrast in styles

Editor:

What a contrast in reporting last week. On the one hand you have the wonderful article about David Ramirez and the Boys & Girls Club, and all the great work that organization has done to serve the youth of our community ("Boys & Girls Club to open two new branches in CCSM buildings," Jan. 11) .

But then you have the Pico Youth & Family Center, run by a politician only to serve and advance his own self-interests and agenda, all on the taxpayers' dime, a dime which the group apparently has a good deal of trouble accounting for ("PYFC holds on; Council agrees to fund youth center through June," Jan. 10).

Congratulations and the best of luck to Mr. Ramirez, the first in his family to attend college.

Thankfully there is at least one organization in our city that actually serves our youth.

Helen R. McRoskey
Santa Monica



The Better Option



Lori Salerno — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

7 ways to make, keep New Year's resolutions

THE COMMERCIALS BEGAN ON NEW Year's Day during the Rose Parade for weight loss programs, smoking cessation patches and new exercise equipment. These may be some tools needed to aid in your efforts to make change and stick to those 2013 New Year's resolutions, but there is more to the process than the new abs cruncher. Although the majority of the clients I work with are looking to lose weight, increase their exercise and/or lead a more healthful lifestyle, following these seven steps can increase your chances of success with any changes you wish to make.

• Review 2012

Reflecting on poor choices and habits from the previous year is a great place to start when looking to establish permanent change in the new year. This exercise is not meant to nitpick or put yourself down, but to step back as an objective observer and spot the areas in your life that can use improvement. Make sure it's something that you want to do for yourself, not what you think you should do. Motivation comes from your internal wants and needs and if you are setting resolutions for reasons other than your own, chances are you won't succeed.

• Write it down

Once you have determined what changes you wish to make, write them down. Once you put pen to paper the concept and idea of change becomes reality. It is no longer an arbitrary thought or wish; you have created action. It can be something as simple as I want to lose 10 pounds or I want to get my morning fasting blood sugars below 150 mg/dl. Whatever your goal is, big or small, that first step helps propel you forward.

• Pace yourself

Think of this process as more of a marathon rather than a sprint. Remember you have the entire year — 12 months — to work on your resolutions. Trying to do it all in one month will lead to burnout very quickly and by summer you'll just be left with the memory of your original goals.

• Create mini goals

If you had a big mound of dirt you needed to move from one side of your yard to the other, how would you do it? It would be one shovel, one bucket, or one wheelbarrow at a time. Not taking a moment to think about how you can tackle this big mound first can leave you feeling overwhelmed and even afraid to take that first step. That's the same concept for breaking large goals into small doable steps or mini goals. To lose that extra 10 pounds means you are going to have to start eating less and moving more. Be very specific about how you plan to do that. Think about where you can cut extra calories from your daily intake without it affecting your energy or overall nutrition. Maybe saving that glass or two of wine for the weekend instead of every night or switching to a lower calorie sweet treat for your 8 p.m. snack instead of a bowl of ice cream.

• Get a little help from your friends

It's OK to ask for help. Whether it's help from your spouse, friends, a support group or even a professional, everyone can use a helping hand. I spoke at the Santa Monica Rotary Club a couple of months ago, and a Rotary member came up to me after my talk and told me how her exercise has suffered since her "running buddy" is no longer able to run with her. She went on to explain how they helped to motivate each other by gently nudging their partner to go a little further or reinforcing their efforts. During my talk this Rotary member realized that was what she was missing and she was already thinking about who she could contact to become her new running buddy for support.

For some it's that simple, but for others a professional may be the answer. If you have been diagnosed with diabetes type II, which is non-insulin dependent, and you need to lose weight, change your diet and increase your exercise. Following the latest fad diet isn't the best idea for you. That's when the support of a professional who is knowledgeable in medical nutrition therapy for individuals with specific medical conditions can help you reach your goals or at least get you on the right path. Then asking for support from your spouse can reinforce your new behaviors to become permanent habits.

• Excuses, excuses

Come rain or shine, don't let things get in your way to achieve your goals. Make you a priority by carving out time in your day or week to do what you need to do. Write your exercise schedule in your calendar, make child care arrangements, get to bed earlier so you can get up earlier to meet your running buddy. Whatever it is, just do it.

• Give yourself a break

If at first you don't succeed, try again. We are not perfect and sometimes it takes a few tries to get it right, but don't give up. If you are no longer moving forward toward your goal, stop and rethink it. Maybe you need to just tweak it a little or maybe there is some internal fear stopping you from taking the risk to make the needed change. Reassess, reevaluate and move forward.

When you do reach your goal, take a brief moment to bask in the glory and then continue going. It may not be at the preceding pace, but to maintain your hard work will require consistency of action. If you don't ultimately reach your goal by the end of the year, but you have made progress toward it, celebrate your success and achievement and then redefine. The years will keep ticking by, but you will determine what you do within that time. Have a happy new year!

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



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Back to Nature

Reese Halter
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Shark finning must stop now

SINCE 2006, 26 MILLION TO 73 MILLION sharks have been slaughtered annually, making for a total of nearly half a billion dead animals. That means as many as 90 percent of sharks around the globe have been decimated in the vast open oceans. Poachers are now even hunting sharks in reserves like Columbia's Malpelo Wildlife Sanctuary.

When top predators are removed, there's a dreadful reverberation that results throughout entire ecosystems. Predators keep ecosystems in balance. They cull the old and weak — essentially ensuring a high level of fitness amongst their prey.

When humans brutally massacre sharks for their fins (finning them alive and throwing them back into the sea) food webs unravel. Currently, we are knowingly impoverishing all oceans. As a result, jellyfish populations are exploding and new diseases are emerging.

Since 2006, approximately 1.7 million tons of shark meat has been harvested annually.

Exactly what's going on? There's a burgeoning middle-class in East Asia with large disposable incomes fueling the demand for these heinous acts of environmental crimes.

Shark fins, which are cartilage and have no food value, are winding up in Asian soup bowls for $56 a serving. It's considered a status symbol, one that was traditionally reserved for either royalty or very high levels of society. Today, it has become the dish central to middle-class banquets and weddings.

At this rapacious rate of killing 73 million sharks per annum, all shark species (approximately 400) and all rays (about 400 species) will be extinct by 2030 or sooner. This is absolutely unacceptable and each of us can make a difference, but more about that later.

Recently, I spent a morning with some very intelligent fourth-graders at Westmark School in Encino, Calif. They wanted to know why the second largest fish — a harmless filter-feeding basking shark — that once occurred along the West Coast of North America in populations as large as hundreds of thousands was reduced to just 300 fish?

Check out this video for more on this unique shark: http://youtu.be/5Q3FbedESIg.

Children have a wonderful way of cutting right to the chase. Instead of finger-pointing and telling them about the inhumane assault on sharks worldwide, I decided to explain it in a concept that they could easily grasp.

How do you protect 30-foot, 8-ton basking sharks that can filter 1,100 tons of sea water every hour for tiny plankton? Well, in order to safeguard these gentle, filter-feeding giants we must know their habitat.

In June of 2011 biologists in La Jolla, Calif., discovered two gigantic basking sharks and outfitted them with a satellite-based tracking device in order to understand where they traveled.

One of the tags fell off a couple days later. But the other one lasted for eight months and it provided science with the first glimpse of where these critters move.

This enormous, slow-moving (about 3 mph) fish traveled about 2,500 miles over to Hawaii. Scientists assumed basking sharks were mostly surface-feeding fish, but new information from the tagged animal showed clearly that it lingered in twilight waters during the day at 1,600 feet and commuted each night upwards to a depth of 650 feet to feed.

The Westmark fourth-grade science classes were thrilled to know of this discovery. And they were also intrigued to learn that at last summer's Olympic Games in London, the Olympian swimmers wore Speedo Fastskin FSII Swimsuits, which were inspired by shark skin. Shark skin has millions of tiny teeth-like ridges or dermal denticles, which significantly reduce drag and turbulence and enable water to flow efficiently over a shark's body. Olympians shatter records when they wear these shark skinsuits; in Sydney in 2000, 28 of 33 Olympic gold medalists donned these suits.

There's no room for any of us to sit on the sidelines any longer and turn a blind eye to the war against nature.

If you've read this article then you have knowledge, and that means you have power and responsibility to make a difference and improve the quality of life for sharks and our oceans.

Consider becoming a citizen scientist. Become committed to eating sustainable seafood by checking the list from the Monterey Bay Aquarium or the Blue Ocean Institute. Look for the Marine Stewardship Council certification logo of sustainable fisheries, which helps protect the oceans from piracy.

Underwater "no-take" reserves in New Zealand, New England, St. Lucia, Florida and the Bahamas clearly show the ocean's awesome ability, over time, to regenerate its fish populations. Fish biologists predict that 50 percent of the ocean must be placed now into no-take reserves to feed 10 billion people by 2050.

In order to achieve a crucial life-sustaining balance in the ocean, senseless shark slaughtering must be halted, immediately.

Incidents such as Sea Shepherd's recent discovery of at least 15,000 shark fins drying on a factory rooftop in Hong Kong demand it.

Please support the conservation efforts of Sea Shepherd. Do it — for your children!

EARTH DR. REESE HALTER is a broadcaster and biologist. His latest books are "The Incomparable Honeybee" and "The Insatiable Bark Beetle."

The Q Line

Future of the youth center

The City Council agreed to fund the embattled Pico Youth & Family Center for another six months while center leadership work to improve its internal management.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the council got it right or should the city should reconsider its funding for the center?

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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LOS ANGELES

Study: California leads in charter school growth

A new study has found that California leads the nation in charter school growth.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools announced Tuesday that California added 81 charters in the academic year that started last fall, pushing the state's total number of publicly funded autonomous schools to more than 1,000.

The study notes that 109 new charters opened in California in the fall, but 28 closed.

California has the highest number of charters in the nation, followed by Florida, Texas, New York and Michigan.

Nationally, 381 charters launched in the fall, enrolling 275,000 additional children. The number of charters across the country now tops 6,000. They enroll some 2.3 million students.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Voters could face three medical marijuana plans

Los Angeles voters may have to decide among three measures in the next election to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries.

Activists have qualified two measures for the May ballot and the City Council will decide Wednesday if a third should join them. Language for that plan is still being worked out.

The proposals would regulate and in some cases limit the number of dispensaries in town. Currently there are hundreds of clinics.

The City Council approved a total ban on clinics last year but that ban was rescinded after supporters qualified a ballot measure to overturn it.

The clinics still face federal and state prohibitions against marijuana sales.

AP

LOS ANGELES

End of run for teen paper distributed to schools

The teen-produced L.A. Youth newspaper aimed at Los Angeles County students ends 25-year run because of funding losses.

The newspaper, printed six times a year and distributed to county schools, had been struggling financially because of the loss of foundation grants and corporate donations.

The Los Angeles Times says the paper's board voted last week to cease operations and shut down next month. It had a circulation of about 70,000 and an estimated readership of 400,000.

L.A. Youth featured first-person accounts of young people writing about themselves, their culture and their community.

Illegal immigration, drug abuse, teen pregnancy and school funding were explored along with music reviews and school lunch options.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Father, son get prison for attacks against blacks

A father and son have been sentenced to prison following convictions in a sweeping federal racketeering case in which prosecutors accused them as racist gang members who conspired to attack black people to force them out of a Southern California bedroom community.

Dozens of suspects were convicted in the case that marked the Justice Department's first time combining civil rights statutes with racketeering and drug laws to take on racially motivated gang activity, federal prosecutors said.

Santiago Rios, 48, who authorities said was the leader of an Azusa gang that took orders from the prison-based Mexican Mafia, was sentenced Monday to nearly 20 years in prison. His son, Louis Rios, 22, got 10 years.

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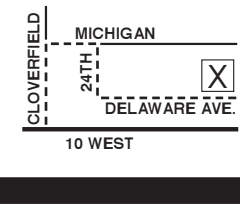


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SoCal home prices rise on low supply

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Southern California home prices rose in December as investors made cash offers to compete for slim pickings, and sales grew in pricier coastal regions, according to reports released Tuesday.

The median price for new and existing houses and condominiums reached $323,000 in December, up 19.6 percent from $270,000 during the same period of 2011, DataQuick reported.

The median rose $2,000 from November to December to its highest level since August 2008, when it hit $330,000.

There were 20,274 homes sold during the month in the region, up 5.3 percent from the same period last year.

Supplies remained tight. The California Association of Realtors index of unsold inventory in the Los Angeles metropolitan area stood at 2.8 months in December, down from 4.8 months a year earlier.

The figure represents how long it would take to sell all existing single-family homes in the region at the current sales clip. Supply in a normal market is considered to be six to seven months.

Josh Martin, a retired Marine who was approved for a $260,000 Veterans Administration home loan, said he was outbid on four homes in the past two months in the San Diego area.

"It's been really tough," said Martin, 25, a prospective first-time homebuyer. "Each time it's people paying cash and flipping homes or (the sellers) get turned off by a VA loan."

Buyers paying cash accounted for 33.8 percent of December sales, up from 29.8 percent a year earlier and well above the monthly average of 17.3 percent since 2000, DataQuick said.

The San Diego-based research firm said the high percentage of cash purchases reflected difficulties getting home loans and investor interest in real estate.

Foreclosed properties — a major driver of sales until recently — continued to dry up, further limiting supplies.

DataQuick said homes that were foreclosed in the previous year accounted for 14.8 percent of existing home sales in December, down from 32.4 percent a year earlier and 56.7 percent in February 2009.

The Inland Empire, which had been buoyed by foreclosure sales, was the only part of Southern California to see sales drop. San Bernardino County, the least expensive county surveyed with a median sales price of $180,000, saw sales tumble 11.7 percent from last year. Riverside County witnessed a 9.4 percent sales decline.

The Inland Valleys Association of Realtors, which represents large parts of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, recorded 51,797 sales listings last year, the lowest since it began keeping track in 2001, said Paul Herrera, director of government relations and communications. Yet there were 43,587 homes sold, which is about average, suggesting there is enough demand to support more sales.

Herrera said listings will increase when homeowners who bought properties in the past two or three years decide to take profits.

"The demand is there, but the supply has to match it," he said. "It has to come from new construction ... or hopefully gains in value."

Pricier, coastal regions posted the strongest sales gains. Orange County, the most expensive county with a median sales price of $470,000, saw sales jump by 19.4 percent from last year. San Diego County, with a median sales price of $366,000, had the second strongest sales growth, up 13.5 percent.

Steps taken for possible restart at nuke plant

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. Small steps are being taken to prepare for possibly restarting the troubled San Onofre nuclear power plant, even as its future remains clouded with uncertainty, officials said Monday.

The seaside plant between San Diego and Los Angeles hasn't produced electricity in nearly a year, after a tiny radiation leak led to the discovery of excessive wear on hundreds of steam generator tubes that carry radioactive water.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission senior inspector Greg Warnick said Monday that the agency is beginning to prepare a detailed plan of what would need to be done to bring the plant safely back to service.

Meanwhile, workers for Southern California Edison are visiting other plants this week to become familiar with working conditions after a year with San Onofre on the sidelines.

"The equipment isn't used to operating at power, but the people aren't used to it either," Warnick said.

Edison has asked the NRC for permission to restart one of the reactors, Unit 2, and run it at reduced power. A decision isn't expected until at least March.

NRC chair Allison Macfarlane toured the plant Monday and later told reporters she's "concerned about the situation."

The trouble at San Onofre centers on steam generators that were installed during a $670 million overhaul in 2009 and 2010. After the plant was shut down, tests found some generator tubes were so badly worn that they could fail and possibly release radiation, a stunning finding inside the nearly new equipment.

In effect, what was intended to be an upgrade that would extend the plant's operating life for years could instead cut it short — or even end it.

Macfarlane, who is not directly involved in the restart decision, promised a thorough review of Edison's proposal. She defended the agency against criticism that it was silencing the public's voice in the review.

She said no decision would be made to restart the plant until "we are sure they can operate safely."

As Edison waits for a decision on a restart, the plant faces a host of lingering issues. The future of the heavily damaged Unit 3 reactor is not known — its nuclear fuel has been removed. Environmental groups are challenging various aspects of Edison's plans.

And it's not known if the damaged generators can ever be repaired and operated at full power.

"I don't know where that's going," said NRC Deputy Regional Administrator Art Howell, who heads the agency team overseeing San Onofre.

Friends of the Earth, a group critical of the nuclear power industry, is among several environmental organizations pushing the NRC to require Edison to seek an amendment to its operating license to restart the plant, a process that would involve court-like hearings and could take up to two years.

The generators, which resemble massive steel fire hydrants, control heat in the reactors and operate something like a car radiator. At San Onofre, each one stands 65 feet high, weighs 1.3 million pounds and has 9,727 U-shaped tubes inside.



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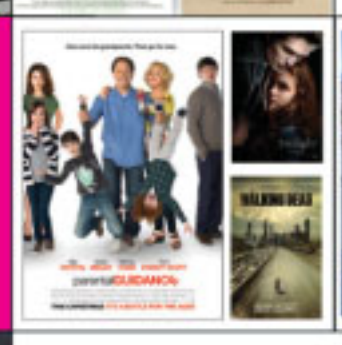








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SOUND
FROM PAGE 3

The firm creates efficiencies for companies that don't have the resources to do the work in-house or on a studio lot, but still needs professional work on movies that will hit thousands of screens across the nation.

"Those are the films we look for," Marcus said. "Gems like 'Juno.'"

Lotus Post's work does more than just add a sensory experience to a movie, it enhances reality to create the immersive experience that the modern moviegoer seeks.

Every rustle of fabric, gunshot or impact of a purse hitting the ground is carefully recreated in the studio, larger than life.

"Everything is replaced, always," Marcus said. "When you see a film, it's an illusion."

Methods vary, although Marcus said he's used raw steaks and even watermelons to substitute for gruesome sounds in horror movies. Frozen chickens have also, somehow, made an appearance.

Even dialogue can be painstakingly re-recorded and tracked to the image on the screen.

Ashton Kutcher, who plays Jobs in the film, spent half a day in the studio recreating lines from the film, which have to match the cadence and lip movements originally caught on tape.

Kristen Bell, who came in to work on the 2012 movie "Hit & Run," was one of the best Perricone had ever seen, knocking out 70 lines in three hours.

If the motion is off, it disrupts the illusion, creating a negative experience for the viewer whose brain will rebel against the slight imperfection.

Lotus Post struggles to beat out the competition in a crowded field, with several production and post production companies taking root in Santa Monica alone.

"You have to have the passion, and really pay your dues," Marcus said.

With five films in one of the most celebrated indie film festivals around, the team thinks its young company may have done just that.

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Hollywood



SMC
FROM PAGE 1

Conrad Lee Klein, who was born in New York, got his undergraduate degree in business from the NYU Stern School of Business before earning a juris doctorate from NYU Law School and masters of law from USC Law School. Joan Klein, a native Californian, attended San Diego State College, where she earned a degree in teaching. She then went on to get a law degree at UCLA.

Conrad Lee Klein is the trustee of the Mark Hughes Family Trust and president of the Mark Hughes Charity Foundation. He also served for two decades as outside legal counsel to Mark Hughes, the late founder and president of Herbalife. Joan Klein is the presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three, and the most senior appellate justice in the state of California. She is also the co-founder and first president of the National Association of Women Judges.

Conrad Klein will become a member of SMC's Advisory Committee for the Academy on Entertainment and Technology (AET). This committee will be a key source of input to the college president in preparation for the expansion of the AET Campus and incorporation of new academic disciplines.

In addition to the $1 million gift to SMC, the Kleins also contributed $2 million to UCLA School of Law for scholarships.

"The Kleins' donation is an extraordinary act of generosity for which the Santa Monica College Foundation is extremely grateful," said Foundation Executive Director Vanessa Butler. "This gift will allow SMC to use widely available technology to broaden the scope of its offerings and serve many more students throughout the community and the state."

news@smdp.com

MIRAMAR
FROM PAGE 1

between the company's desire to landmark aspects of the 4.5-acre parcel — the only undivided square block of land remaining in Santa Monica — and the commissioners' wish to landmark the entire thing, which hotel representatives said could stand in the way of day-to-day hotel operations.

"We reinvest in the hotel all the time, every day," said Alan Epstein, a representative of Ocean Avenue LLC. "We simply can't be coming back to the Landmarks Commission every day for approvals to do projects."

Chair Pro Tem Margaret Bach abstained from the vote, and Commissioner Roger Genser voted no.

Both felt that the designation did not go far enough, expressing concern over the fate of a series of bungalows on the property that have offered refuge for many a starlet and politician over the years. One of the bungalows has been renovated and now serves as a nightclub.

The decision split the difference between Ocean Avenue LLC. and Second Street Corporation, which owns a competing luxury hotel immediately adjacent called the Huntley Hotel and has been fighting a proposed remodel of the Miramar.

The purpose of the proposal was to set the path about what was permissible without formal permission by the Landmarks Commission to alter a designated landmark.

While commissioners put off consideration of the proposal's specifics until at least February, they also shot down the comments of Huntley Hotel attorney Rick Zbur, who asked that the commission put off landmarking the site until it had further reviewed the historic significance of other aspects of the site, including the bungalows.

In a letter to commissioners, Zbur called the move by Ocean Avenue LLC. a "hide-the-ball" strategy meant to "limit the city's ability to consider whether other aspects of the property are historically significant."

He was referring to aspects of the proposal that allowed Ocean Avenue LLC. to demolish the bungalows and two buildings on the site without first going to the Landmarks Commission.

"We don't understand why they're asking for the designation of the parcel other than to limit the review of the Palisades Building and the tree," Zbur told commissioners Monday night.

Zbur told commissioners that, at its heart, the proposal was meant to make way for a proposed development on the site, which is currently working its way through City Hall review.

Epstein demurred on the subject, saying at the meeting that the development was not the subject of Monday night's hearing.

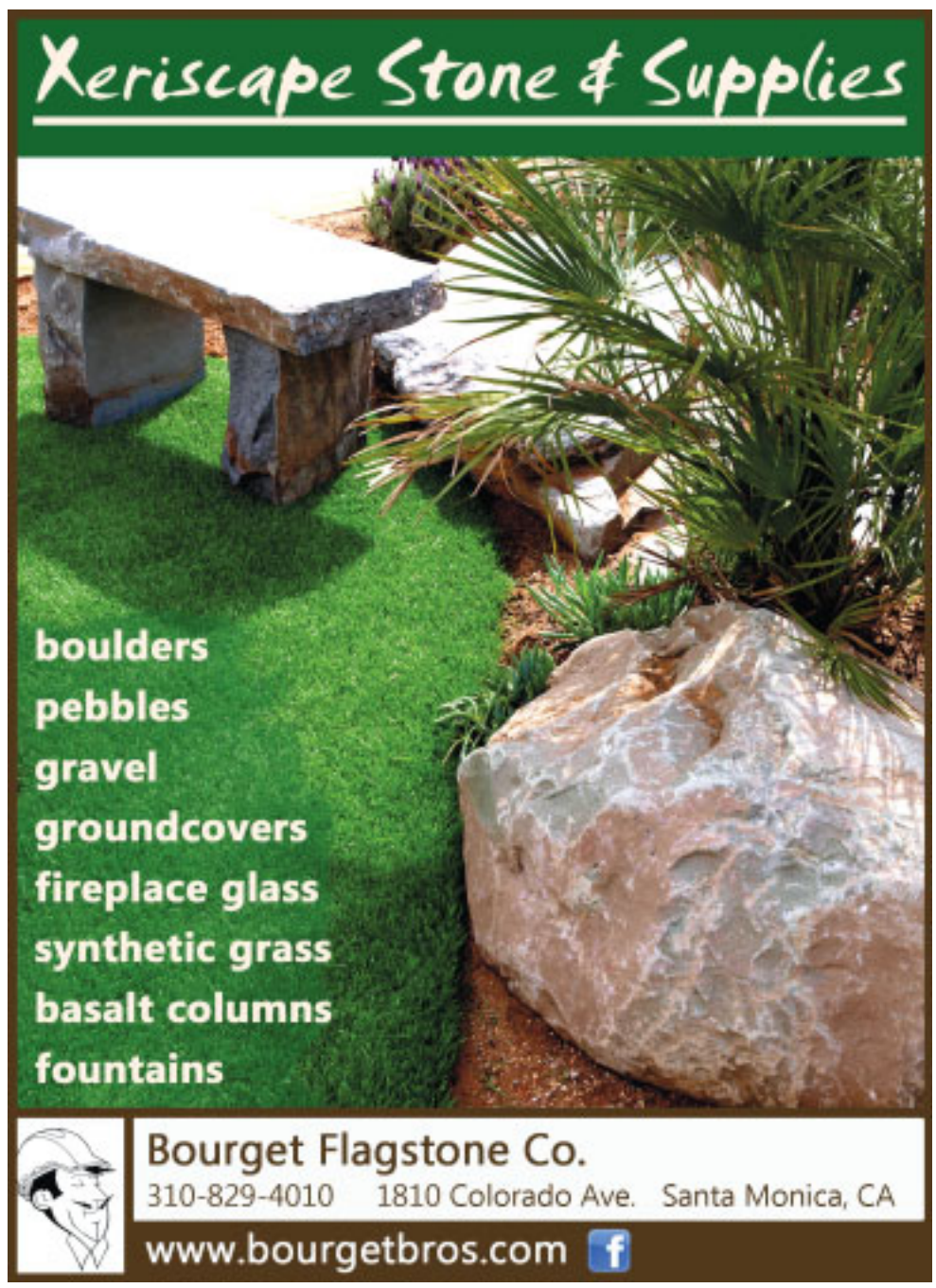
Commissioners questioned the need for the special regulations, which city staff likened to an arrangement made to facilitate the maintenance of the landmarked Palisades Park.

Commissioner Nina Fresco made a motion to move forward with the designation, but ignore the proposed rules until next month, at which point the commission will form a proposal of its own.

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Wal-Mart to hire vets, buy more American products

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK Why wait on Washington when there's Wal-Mart?

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer and the biggest private employer in the U.S. with 1.4 million workers here, said Tuesday that it is rolling out a three-part plan to help jumpstart the sluggish U.S. economy.

The plan includes hiring more than 100,000 veterans in the next five years, spending $50 billion to buy more American-made merchandise in the next 10 years and helping its part-time workers move into full-time positions.

The move comes as Wal-Mart tries to bolster its image amid widespread criticism. The company, which often is criticized for its low-paying jobs and buying habits in the U.S., recently has faced allegations that it made bribes in Mexico and calls for better safety oversight after a deadly fire at a Bangladesh factory that supplies its clothes. Wal-Mart said its initiatives are unrelated to those events, but rather are meant to highlight that companies don't have to wait for lawmakers in Washington, D.C. to fix the economy.

"We've developed a national paralysis that's driven by all of us waiting for someone else to do something," Bill Simon, president and CEO of Wal-Mart's U.S. business, said Tuesday at an annual retail industry convention in New York. "The beauty of the private sector is that we don't have to win an election, convince Congress or pass a bill to do what we think is right. We can simply move forward, doing what we know is right."

Any changes that Wal-Mart makes to its hiring and buying practices garner lots of attention because of the company's massive size. Indeed, with $444 billion in annual revenue, if Wal-Mart were a country, it would rank among the largest economies in the world. But critics say the changes amount to a drop in the bucket for the behemoth, and they question whether Wal-Mart's initiatives will have a major impact on the U.S. economy.

"America's largest retailers play an important role in our nation's economy and in the well-being of millions of lives," said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. "Retailers like Wal-Mart could provide the nation with a much needed economic boost by paying higher wages and providing stable scheduling — while still remaining profitable and continuing to offer low prices."

The centerpiece of Wal-Mart's plan is a pledge to hire veterans, many of who have had a particularly difficult time finding work after coming home from Afghanistan and Iraq. The unemployment rate for veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan stood at 10.8 percent in December, compared with the overall unemployment rate of 7.8 percent.

Wal-Mart said it plans to hire every veteran who wants a job and has been honorably discharged in the first 12 months off active duty. The program, which will start on Memorial

SEE **WAL-MART** PAGE 11



WAL-MART
FROM PAGE 10

Day, will include jobs mostly in Wal-Mart's stores or in its Sam's Club locations. Some will be at its headquarters, based in Bentonville, Ark. or the company's distribution centers.

Dave Tovar, a Wal-Mart spokesman, said Wal-Mart hasn't worked out the details but it will "match up the veterans' experience and qualifications." Simon, who served in the Navy, said that veterans have "a record of performance under pressure" and "they're quick learners."

"I think that Wal-Mart has a tremendous opportunity to leverage operational skills that today's veterans bring," said Sean Collins, director of G.I. Jobs, a magazine and web site that highlight employment, education and small business opportunities for veterans.

Wal-Mart said First Lady Michelle Obama, who spearheaded a White House drive to encourage businesses to hire veterans, has expressed interest in working with Wal-Mart and with the rest of the business community on this initiative.

In the next several weeks, Simon said the White House will meet with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and major U.S. employers to encourage businesses to make commitments to train and employ American's returning veterans. The first lady on Tuesday called Wal-Mart's announcement "historic."

"We all believe that no one who serves our country should have to fight for a job once they return home," she said in a statement. "Wal-Mart is setting a groundbreaking example for the private sector to follow."

In addition to hiring veterans, Wal-Mart plans to spend $50 billion to buy more products made in the U.S. over the next 10 years. According to data from Wal-Mart's suppliers, items that are made, sourced or grown in the U.S. account for about two-thirds of the company's spending on products for its U.S. business.

Wal-Mart said that it plans to focus on buying more in areas such as sporting goods, fashion basics, storage products, games and paper products. The commitment comes as economics are changing for making goods overseas: Labor costs are rising in Asia, while oil and transportation costs are high and increasingly uncertain.

But even with the additional $5 billion that Wal-Mart plans to spend each year — the breakdown of $50 billion over 10 years — the amount that the company will spend each year on buying goods in the U.S. will only account for 2 percent of its total spending in the country. In the fiscal year that ended in January 2012, Wal-Mart bought $238.8 billion in goods for its U.S. stores.

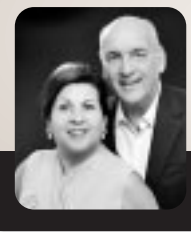
"They sound impressive when you first hear the numbers but when you begin to look at them, it's a very tiny scale that doesn't add up to much," said Stacy Mitchell, senior researcher at the Institute for Local Self Reliance, a nonprofit national research organization.

The final piece of Wal-Mart's plan is to help part-time Wal-Mart workers transition into full-time employment if they so desire. Among the strategies, Wal-Mart said it will make sure that its part-time workers have "first shot" at the full-time job openings in the stores in their area.

Wal-Mart said the move will give part-time employees much higher earning potential. About 75 percent of its store management start as salespeople, who earn an average of $12.47 hourly. Managers, the company said, can make an average of $50,000 to $170,000 a year.

"There are some fundamental misunderstandings out there about retail jobs, and we need to do better at explaining the opportunities we offer," Simon, Wal-Mart's CEO, said.

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **52.9°**

WEDNESDAY – **FLAT**
Minimal NW swell

THURSDAY – **VERY POOR** occ. 2 ft
Small new NW swell shows

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small NW swell continues

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
New, highly selective and long period NW swell builds, but largely misses North LA

Wind

Favorable wind will continue for the next several days. Tuesday mornings see moderate offshore ENE winds (5-15kts) continue for the region with locally stronger gusts near or below passes and canyons. Lighter offshore morning flow will prevail for the middle to second half of the week and into the weekend. Light onshore flow prevails in the afternoon.

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 9, 2013**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 2
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 17
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 22 / 17
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA, and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerritos 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 Alloe creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A+
Staad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	B
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	B	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point rock).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Penn Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	D	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	A
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17308 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

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 non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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.

NBA

Sacramento mayor to present counteroffer to purchase Kings

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Sports Writer

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson is taking his fight to keep the Kings in California's capital city to NBA owners.

Again.

Speaking at the annual State of Downtown breakfast on Tuesday, Johnson said he has received approval from NBA Commissioner David Stern to present a counteroffer to the league from buyers who would keep the team in Sacramento. He said the city is in a "six-week sprint" to put together a proposal for the NBA's Board of Governors to consider over a potential sale and relocation to Seattle.

The league's deadline for teams to apply for a move for the next season is March 1, though that has been extended each of the last two years for the Kings. And both times, Johnson — a former NBA All-Star — has convinced the league that Sacramento could help fix the franchise's financial woes and secure its long-term home in a new arena.

"We want this to be the final act of a saga that's gone on for far too long," Johnson said.

People with knowledge of the situation said last week that a group led by San Francisco-based investor Chris Hansen, who wants to return the NBA to Seattle, has contacted the Maloof family about buying the Kings. They spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because no deal has been reached.

One person said the Kings could sell for more than $500 million, topping the NBA-record $450 million the Golden State Warriors sold for in 2010. Some reports have suggested up to $525 million.

The Kings' future in Sacramento has been uncertain because the Maloofs and the city haven't been able to agree on a deal for a downtown arena.

"While I am sensitive to the important role of the news media in informing the public, our position has not changed, we will not comment on rumors or speculation about the future of the Sacramento Kings franchise," Maloof family spokesman Eric Rose said in a statement Tuesday.

The NBA declined to comment on Johnson's remarks Tuesday.

Hansen's goal has been to find a team and restore the SuperSonics name after they were moved from Seattle to Oklahoma City in 2008. He reached agreement with local governments in Seattle last October on plans to build a $490 million arena near the city's other stadiums, CenturyLink Field and Safeco Field. As part of the agreement, no construction will begin until all environmental reviews are completed and a team has been secured.

Johnson commended Seattle's efforts to bring the NBA back to the Puget Sound. He just doesn't want it to be at the expense of Sacramento.

"We have a city and a community that have done every single thing that is required," Johnson said. "I hope Seattle gets another team. They deserve another team. They didn't deserve to lose a team in the first place. It just won't be the Sacramento Kings if we have anything to do with it."

The Maloofs backed out of a tentative $391 million deal for a new downtown arena with Sacramento last April, reigniting fears the franchise could relocate. The Kings said the deal didn't make financial sense for the franchise.

In 2011, the Kings appeared determined to move to Anaheim before Johnson convinced NBA owners at a meeting in New York to give the city one last chance to help finance an arena. That pitch bought Sacramento time, before the brokered deal between the city and the Maloofs — negotiated by Stern and league lawyers — fell apart last year.

Johnson said the Maloofs could still "participate in some way" in the new local ownership group "if they want to remain a part of this team and this community."

The mayor called the potential $500 million to $525 million price tag for the Kings an "outrageous number." He admits potential buyers he could pull together in Sacramento will not top that figure, but he also doesn't believe it has to.

Johnson said the Maloof family still must repay a $77 million loan to the city and other lenders if they leave. There also could be a potential relocation fee from the NBA that new owners wouldn't have to pay if the team stayed.

Subtracting those totals and adding the "proven support" Kings fans have shown in the past, Johnson's goal is to line up buyers willing to pay about $400 million to $425 million for the team and argue Sacramento's side to the league.

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City of Santa Monica

THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ONLINE PUBLIC AUCTION

The City of Santa Monica, CA will sell at an online public auction, two aircraft **believed by Airport Administration staff to be abandoned** at the Santa Monica Municipal Airport, 3223 Donald Douglas Loop South, Santa Monica, CA 90405. The auction will begin on January 23, 2013. The aircraft **believed** abandoned are as follows: 1) 1975 Piper PA-32R-300 AID# N626JD and 2)1961 Cessna 210A AID#N9435X. Terms, conditions and participating in this online option is available by going to the following website http//www.publicsurplus.com/sms/santamonica,ca/browse/home.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Mobile Home (NR) 1hr 35min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
1:00pm, 4:45pm, 8:30pm

Parental Guidance (PG) 1hr 44min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
2:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

Promised Land (R) 1hr 46min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:15am, 12:05pm, 3:05pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
11:25am, 2:55pm, 6:40pm, 10:20pm

Zero Dark Thirty (R) 2hrs 37min
11:50am, 2:35pm, 3:35pm, 6:20pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Gangster Squad (R) 1hr 53min
11:35am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm

This Is 40 (R) 2hrs 13min
12:15pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (NR) 4hrs 00min
6:30pm

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

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Sessions (R) 1hr 38min
4:30pm

Impossible (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Rust & Bone (De rouille et d'os) (R) 1hr 55min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Dark Truth (R) 1hr 46min
1:50pm, 7:00pm

Hitchcock (PG-13) 1hr 38min
9:40pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
3:10pm, 10:30pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
11:20am, 7:00pm

Texas Chainsaw 3D (R) 1hr 32min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:25pm

Jack Reacher (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:30am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Haunted House (R) 1hr 20min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Find your friends tonight, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Methods of communication and tentative plans could be revised, and you'll have to adjust accordingly. A boss might be changing his or her style. Refuse to make a judgment just yet. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might be stressed out by what is going on around you. As you observe more, you'll come to a most unexpected realization. Process what you see, and be willing to let go and head in a different direction. Tonight: Take some much-needed private time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Focus on what you want, and do not settle. Relate to others on a one-on-one level. A change within a personal or professional tie could change a situation. Be more upbeat. Tonight: Find your friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ If you can change direction, do so. You might want to approach a key associate or a close family member in a different way. Take a hard look at this person. He or she has been changing right in front of your eyes. Tonight: Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You could be jolted by forthcoming information. Don't react; instead, process what you are hearing. You'll come up with a strong and amiable solution that feels comfortable for everyone involved. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Relate to a specific person directly who is very important to you. Your interest in a creative matter peaks. Take in a new perspective and accept a different idea. Brainstorm with others, and help them see your vision. Tonight: Only with someone you really care about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Others feel as if they need certain information. Lighten up about the possibilities for why they want this information. Let go of tension, and your attitude will change. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Listen to news, and work on responding appropriately. Your knee-jerk response could be nothing less than problematic. You might opt to use more self-discipline than you have in the past. Tonight: Errands, gym and then home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Someone close to you could be encouraging you to take a risk. This person actually might be trying to lure you into a trap. Your instincts say "no," and therefore, you might want to cut the bait. Listen to your sixth sense. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You could feel hassled and challenged on some level. You know when enough is enough, but you might have some difficulty establishing clear boundaries. A matter involving property or a family member seems to be running right over you. Tonight: It's OK to say "no."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Listen to a suggestion. Someone comes forward and surprises you with some unexpected news. Know that you are constantly changing. What has worked in the past might not work any longer. Honor who you are -- not what you once did. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

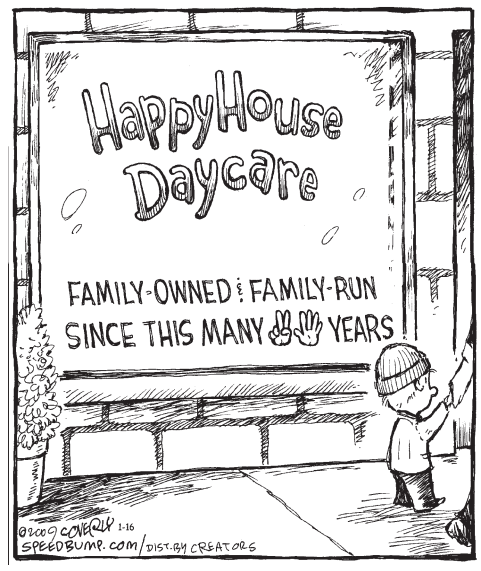
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Be careful as to how you present a money matter in a meeting or with a friend. You are changing your perspective, and this person is, too. You are more intuitive than you realize, Follow your sixth sense. Extremes dominate a situation. Tonight: All smiles.

Happy birthday

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

This year you become more forthright and direct, especially where your domestic life is involved. To some people, your energy is inconsistent and changes with the snap of a finger. You could be doing more questioning and thinking. A family member also could be unusually mercurial. If you are single, you are most likely to meet someone of importance come summertime. If you are attached, your significant other becomes even more dynamic. There is no lack of excitement in your household! ARIES is used to commanding and being in control. Try to avoid a collision.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



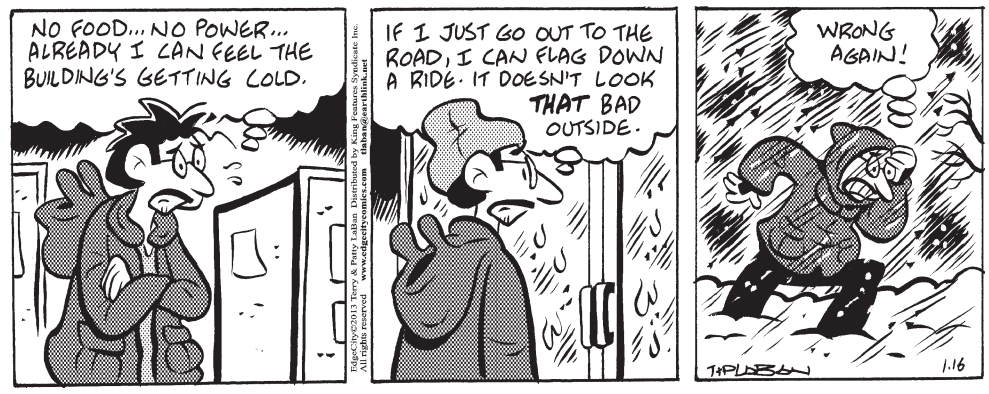
Strange Brew
By John Deering



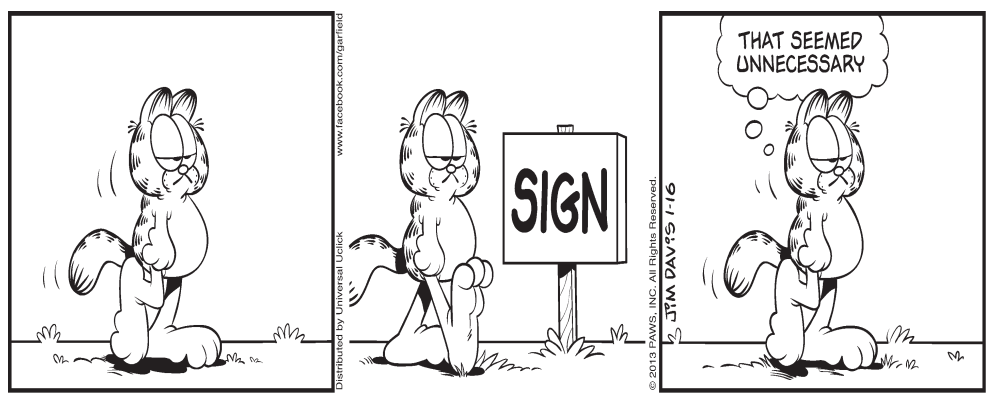
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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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

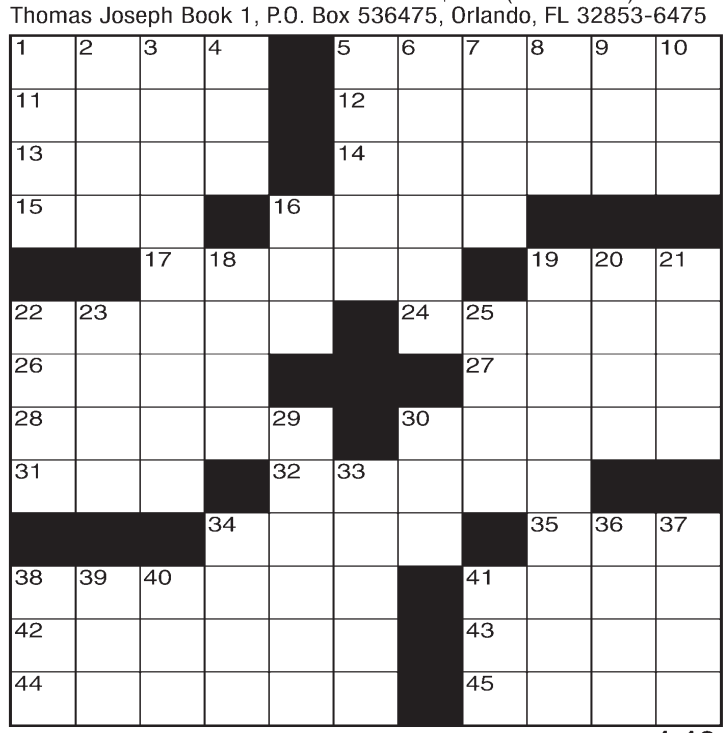
ACROSS
1 Quarter of a bushel
5 Black suit
11 Not busy
12 Washington city
13 Pride member
14 Half a pint
15 Catchall abbr.
16 Raised, as Rottweilers
17 Prepare to propose
19 Move up and down
22 Plague
24 Dip for a chip
26 Oodles
27 Abrupt shock
28 Melting snow
30 Folded meals
31 Milliner's ware
32 Arkansas's — Mountains
34 Small songbird
35 Hotel amenity
38 Peaceful protests
41 Butter on the farm
42 Brunch choice
43 Camera setting
44 Swift
45 Goblet part

DOWN
1 Carpet feature
2 Do text work
3 Leaves work, perhaps
4 Writer Follett
5 Mall business
6 Discussion groups
7 Passed with flying colors
8 Friend of Sneezy
9 Flightless bird
10 Tree fluid
16 Wager
18 Brings in
19 Plans movements for a play
20 Scandinavian city
21 Night fliers
22 Big party
23 Singer Fitzgerald
25 Cracked
29 Like the devil
30 Shoe hue
33 Full of relish
34 Subterfuge
36 Noggin
37 Physics bit
38 Sinking letters
39 Rascal
40 Course area
41 Balloon fill

A	C	I	D	■	■	P	A	N	D	A
T	O	N	E	D	■	A	L	I	E	N
B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	P	A	C	K
A	X	E	■	L	E	S	■	C	A	L
T	E	N	S	E	S	■	T	I	D	E
■	S	T	A	T	E	■	O	N	E	S
■	■	■	F	E	R	M	I	■	■	■
M	A	T	E	■	V	O	L	T	S	■
E	V	E	S	■	O	N	S	E	T	S
M	I	N	■	P	I	E	■	J	A	Y
B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	P	A	R	K
E	T	H	E	R	■	S	A	N	T	E
R	E	S	E	T	■	■	L	O	S	S

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



1-16

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/11
24 29 30 34 56
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $62M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/12
10 11 27 34 39
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: $13M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/15
2 6 7 26 35

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/15
MIDDAY: 8 6 6
EVENING: 9 3 2

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 1/15
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:48.01

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Retrials and appeals are sometimes granted if a convicted criminal demonstrates that he received "ineffective assistance of counsel." Among the reasons that the lawyer for convicted Joliet, Ill., quadruple-murderer Christopher Vaughn offered in his November motion was the ineptness of other lawyers (but not himself). Specifically, he argued, the lawyers for the convicted wife-killing police officer Drew Peterson put on such a disgusting case that they gave all defense lawyers a bad name. (The website LoweringTheBar.net pointed out that Vaughn lawyer George Lenard himself violated a lawyers' "kitchen sink" standard by overlisting 51 separate reasons why his client deserved a new trial.)

■ Sarah Childs won a restraining order in Denham Springs, La., in December, forbidding the town from shutting down her "Christmas" lights decoration. The large outdoor display (in a neighborhood with traditional Christmas displays) was the image of two hands with middle fingers extended.

■ In a 3-2 decision, the Board of Adjustment in the Seattle suburb of Clyde Hill ruled that a homeowner must chop down two large, elegant trees on his property because they obstruct a neighbor's scenic view of Seattle's skyline. The board's majority reasoned that the complaining neighbor (who happens to be former baseball all-star John Olerud) would otherwise suffer a $255,000 devaluation of his $4 million estate. (Olerud was ordered to pay for the tree removal and to plant the neighbor two smaller trees in place of the majestic ones).

TODAY IN HISTORY

2001 - US President Bill Clinton awards former President Theodore Roosevelt a posthumous Medal of Honor for his service in the Spanish-American War.

WORD UP!

vertex
\ VUR-teks \ , noun;
1.
The highest point of something; apex; summit; top: the vertex of a mountain .

Santa Monica Daily Press

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* Great Neighborhood



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	=	$1,650,000
North of Montana	=	$5,285,700
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,425,800
South of Wilshire	=	$1,375,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,368,380
Ocean Park	=	$1,916,000
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