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Volume 13 Issue 76

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

L.A. IS BUZZING
SEE PAGE 3

THE BACK AT IT ISSUE

There goes another one

Sony leaving SM for Playa Vista

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY A big player in Sony's video game division is leaving the city and taking our name with it.

Santa Monica Studios, owned by Sony Computer Entertainment, announced that they will move to a larger space in Playa Vista this summer.

Started 14 years ago with 16 people, the company now has more than 220 employees. It's the same old story in Silicon Beach, where companies start small and rapidly outgrow the limited office space.

Last year, Riot Games, creators of one of the most popular video games in the world, announced it was leaving for a much larger space just outside of the Santa Monica border in West Los Angeles.

Google, one of the first major tech companies to open an office in Santa Monica, announced it was leaving for Venice in 2011.

Another gaming subsidiary of Sony, Naughty Dog, will stay at its location in the Water Garden.

Santa Monica Studio's 60,000-square-foot space on Stewart Street near Colorado Avenue had become too small, said Jason Harris, economic development manager for City Hall.

They were looking for 80,000 square feet, he said, which is the size of many entire office buildings in Santa Monica.

"Our current building and the atmosphere that it provides has proven to be a strong part of the fabric of who we are today despite earthquakes, chronic power outages, and even the occasional ghost sighting," said Shannon Studstill, head of the studio, in a letter about the move.

Santa Monica Studios (which will keep the name despite the Playa Vista address) is responsible for popular games like "Kinetica" and "God of War."

The Stewart Street space is in an early-1900s train station. It has an open floor plan,

SEE SONY PAGE 8

Officials: More retrofitting may be in future

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE When the next earthquake hits Santa Monica, will your office building hold up? City Hall wants to know.

City Council set aside $105,000 to kick off a three-part seismic safety program. The cash will go toward the first phase, which will take inventory of the buildings that need to be retrofitted so they can withstand a serious earthquake.

Required retrofitting could hit the wallets of the apartment owners and their tenants.

In the 1980s, City Hall required retrofitting of buildings with unreinforced masonry. In 1994, following the Northridge earthquake, council introduced a program

SEE RETROFIT PAGE 9



GOING STRONG

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

St. Monica's Molly Tomlin (center) goes up for a shot attempt in the faces of Mary Star of the Sea defenders on Tuesday. St. Monica won the El Camino League game, 58-40. St. Monica improved to 15-9 overall in the process.

Report: SoCal home sales fall in January

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Southern California home sales fell in January amid scant inventories and the highest prices in years, a research firm reported Wednesday.

Slightly more than 14,400 new and existing houses and condominiums sold last month, down about 21 percent from December, San Diego-based DataQuick reported Wednesday. It was the lowest January tally in three years.

At $380,000, the median sales price in the six-county region was down nearly 4 percent from December — a normal seasonal decline — but up about 18 percent from January 2013.

The median sale price has risen on a year-over-year basis for 22 consecutive months.

DataQuick said that usually fewer transactions close during January and February because many buyers drop out of the market during the holidays and midwinter.

Last month's sales were about 17 percent below the average number of sales — just under 17,500 — in the month of January since 1988.

Sales haven't been above average for any particular month in more than seven years. January sales have ranged from a low of 9,983 in January 2008 to a high of 26,083 in January 2004.

John Walsh, DataQuick's president, said despite the growing economy Southern California home sales remain well below average mostly because of low inventory.

But limited mortgage availability, rising interest rates and higher home prices are to blame as well, he said.

The firm analyzed home sales in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Ventura, San Bernardino and Orange counties.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014

Paint the town
Paint:Lab
1453 14th St., 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Celebrate Valentine's Day at Paint:Lab! The couple that paints together stays together. Instructed sessions include paints, brushes, set-up and clean-up, complimentary champagne, strawberries, chocolate, wine and cheese. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

Romance on the screen
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
In "Sabrina," a serious businessman (Humphrey Bogart) and his younger playboy brother (William Holden) are enchanted by the charms of Sabrina (Audrey Hepburn), the now grown-up daughter of the family's chauffeur. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Homework help
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Drop-in homework help, focused on math and reading. Provided by trained volunteers. For grades 1-5. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Grind out
M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade
10 p.m.
The owners of M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater take their long running improv show and turn it into sketchy goodness. You like comedy? Music? Giant characters being hilarious? Guys playing girls? Good, then you'll like this show. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Friday, Feb. 14, 2014

Free Fridays
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
2 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Enjoy a free trip to the aquarium courtesy of Cirque du Soleil, which kicks off a multi-layered, community partnership between the aquarium and the world-renowned entertainment company, as it sets up its blue-and-yellow big top in the beach lot adjacent to the pier for a run of their show, "Totem." For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

Magical Valentine's Day
Magicopolis
1418 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
Share a little magic with the one you love during Escape Reality. Pizza will be served along with a champagne toast. There's even goodie bags. Cost: $50. For more information, call (310) 451-0749.

A little something sweet
BG Gallery
1431 Ocean Ave.,
8 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.
The BG Gallery invites you to a very special evening: A Valentine's Day Celebration of Cupcakes, Love and Art. Couples and singles are welcome to enjoy a fun evening with tasty cupcakes and wine.

Laughs for two
M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade,
8 p.m.
Celebrate Valentine's Day with the theater's special My Funny Valentine show. Comedians include Nasry Malak, Cathy Ladman, Matthew Moore, Julie Goldman, Stephanie Blum, Brady Matthews and celebrity guest host Mindy Sterling. The show is 21 and over. For more information, visit westsidecomedy.com.

Have some heart
Wokcano
1413 Fifth St., 9 p.m.
Wokcano presents what they are calling the Westside's largest V-Day party, "I Heart Santa Monica," benefiting Meals on Wheels West and hosted by Kim Koury and Josh Ochs. Celebrate everything they love about our city. Music by DJ Frankie. For more information, visit www.wokcanorestaurant.com/ or call (310) 458-3080.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Superintendent receives award

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) has named Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Sandra Lyon Superintendent of the Year due to her outstanding leadership, it was announced this week.

ACSA Region 14 is one of 19 regions which divide the state geographically, and serves 14 school districts within Los Angeles County.

"I am so excited and thrilled for her," said School Board Member Laurie Lieberman upon hearing the news. "Sandy Lyon has the character, the leadership skills and the level of accomplishment to make her eminently worthy of this award."

Lyon will now be in the running for State Superintendent of the Year.

The Association of California School Administrators was established in 1971. ACSA is the largest umbrella organization for school leaders in the nation, serving more than 14,500 school leaders.

Lyon was hired by the Santa Monica-Malibu school board in 2011. Before that she served as the chief leadership officer in the Palmdale Unified School District. Lyon is a 28-year education veteran.

– DAILY PRESS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Cops find missing teen

Rayven Paige Ferguson, 15, was found by Santa Monica Police last week.

She had been missing since Feb. 3 when she left for school. She never made it to campus.

She was found in good health and reunited with her family.

The SMPD thanks those that made inquiries or offered help.

Police did not elaborate on where she was found or why she never made contact with family.

– DANIEL ARCHULETA

CITYWIDE

Tenants receive fake eviction notices

The Rent Control Board has received inquires from local residents who claim they have received fake eviction notices via e-mail.

These are most likely nothing more than junk mail, the board is advising residents. State laws govern how eviction notices must be served, and e-mail is not one of the lawful methods. Some of the notices even purport to come from a court secretary. Be advised that courts do not send official correspondence merely by e-mail.

Anyone who has received such a fishy notice is encouraged to use caution and avoid opening any attachment from an unknown sender. Tenants who have received what appears to be a valid eviction notice or who are not sure are encouraged to contact the Rent Control Board office to be advised of their rights and the importance of seeking legal counsel.

– DP

WESTSIDE

Dems want rules for e-cigarettes

Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Sen. Tom Harkin, and Rep. Peter Welch sent a letter to California Attorney Gen. Kamala D. Harris, Iowa Attorney Gen. Tom Miller, and Vermont Attorney Gen. William H. Sorrell urging them to classify electronic cigarettes as cigarettes under the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) to prevent e-cigarette companies from targeting youth and getting them addicted to their products.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds that use of e-cigarettes by children is increasing rapidly and could serve as a gateway to nicotine addiction. Unlike conventional cigarettes, e-cigarettes are not subject to restrictions on advertising and marketing. Classifying e-cigarettes as cigarettes under the MSA would prohibit tobacco companies from targeting youth in advertising and marketing of these products.

In the letter the members stated, "We have admiration for your efforts to protect children from the dangers of tobacco. That is why we hope you will consider taking this much-needed step in the ongoing battle against tobacco products. The MSA gives you a powerful tool to stop e-cigarette makers from targeting youth, and we urge you to consider using it."

– DP



SANDRA LYON

L.A. abuzz about push for urban beekeeping

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES For the past three years, Rob McFarland has kept a beehive filled with 25,000 bees on the roof of his house smack in the middle of West Los Angeles.

The bees occupy some prime real estate — they even have a view of the Hollywood sign — but for now, they are illegal squatters in the trendy neighborhood of bars and eateries near Santa Monica.

SEE **BEES** PAGE 10

Mountain lion kittens killed on SoCal roads

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. Authorities say cars have killed three mountain lion kittens in Southern California in recent weeks — showing the dangers to a population surrounded by freeways and urban sprawl.

The National Park Service says a months-old kitten was struck in Malibu on Jan. 20 and two 10-month-old kittens died on Jan. 31 on State Route 126 in northwest Los Angeles County.

That route links the area to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, where about a dozen mountain lions live.

The area is surrounded by heavily developed areas and major highways.

The park service says 13 cougars have been struck and killed by vehicles in the past 12 years.

State agencies have long proposed building a $10 million tunnel so animals can safely cross under nearby U.S. 101.

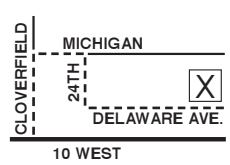
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Nothing to write home about

Editor:

This morning I am reading your article about vacant buildings at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration that are being considered for use to house homeless veterans and I am sorry to say that I have grown very weary of reading yet another article about something that, simply put, has not happened ("New bill to give nonprofits the reins in VA housing," Feb. 6).

To understand my point of view you first have to understand that I came back from Vietnam in 1970 and already there were homeless veterans on Venice Beach. In the decade that followed even more began to show up, some with cardboard signs asking for help, some of those veterans lay sprawled across the sidewalks passed out cold from alcohol, others still were living in their cars, and many stood in line at St. Joseph's seeking help and food at Bread & Roses. Sometimes those veterans were there with their wives and children.

Since then, one by one they have faded away, and just because I have not seen them any more doesn't mean that they were lifted out of homelessness at all and I know it. It just means they are no longer here. But one place that I know they are not is at the West L.A. VA because as we read the buildings that have stood vacant since the end of the Vietnam War have been shuttered.

I have attended meetings at the VA and listened to past administrators there explain all the reasons why the buildings are closed. I have stood outside the sprawling facility with other veterans and also held cardboard signs asking for the public's help to get these veterans and their families off the streets. I have seen for myself the New Directions organization that serves dual-diagnosed male and female veterans on the VA grounds doing their best to address the problems as best as anyone could ever hope for. I have met with the surviving family members of this area's founding settlers who set the land aside for veterans after the end of our own civil war and I know that their hearts are in the right place, like so many of our elected representatives whose hearts are also in the right place, [but] for some confounding and frustrating reason nothing seems to be happening!

It seems yet again that there is always money for war and more war, and yet there is never enough money to take responsibility for the ones who do the fighting and carry the burdens afterward for the rest of their lives.

So, please, editor, don't write any more articles with statistics and quotes about schemes and future plans until you can write about what has been achieved in these regards instead.

Stewart Resmer
Santa Monica





Life Matters

Dr. JoAnne Barge — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why the rich, famous relapse

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I can't seem to get away from all the news about Philip Seymour Hoffman.

I certainly agree that we lost one of the greatest actors of our time. I did not know, but do now, that there is an epidemic of heroin use in our country.

What I really don't understand, and I haven't heard anyone explain, is how could he relapse and go back to using such a horrible drug when he had everything, including all kinds of people who loved him, a family, money and a great career. How could this happen?

I understood Michael Jackson because he was clearly unhappy. But Philip Seymour Hoffman, why and how could he do this?

Signed,
Sadly Puzzled

DEAR SADLY PUZZLED,

I can certainly understand your questions and bewilderment since you're looking at it from the outside in. But there's so much more to the story of drug abuse and addiction.

These questions are not surprising because chemical dependency is a very complex, multifaceted, bio-psychosocial disease that is incredibly insidious.

You see, addicts are addicted to the drug, whatever the drug of choice may be, and any reason to use it is as good as another. They may use, or so they tell themselves, because it's been a bad day and they feel terrible or they may use (or drink) because it has been a great day and they want to celebrate.

No, there's not a lot of rhyme or reason to it, not when it comes to addiction.

There's an ancient Japanese proverb that says, "first the man takes the drink, then the drink takes the drink, then the drink takes the man." Many people struggle to understand this middle part, when the drink is taking the drink or the drug is taking the drug. This is where it no longer makes sense to most people and even to the addicts themselves. But it is at this point that "why" is the most irrelevant question to ask, but we all still want to ask it. You see when the drug is taking the drug, the brain has become involved in a big way. Neurological pathways are stimulated and receptor sites are screaming, craving and the nervous system is rebounding; the drug has taken over the brain and the brain, not the person, is now in charge.

It is also true with the drink; alcohol is a drug too! It's like the brain has been hijacked and it's no longer under the control of the person who originally made the choice to use, no matter what the reason.

When they say addicts have a monkey on their back, believe it, they're not kidding! When the drug or drink is taking the drug/drink, even the addicts scramble for reasons to explain it to themselves. We often refer to this as denial.

If someone is really full on into addiction, then asking what the psychological reasons are makes absolutely no sense. Again, the brain has been hijacked and it is no longer under their control.

So we wonder what makes someone vulnerable to start using something that can take him or her down this road? First off, most people don't believe that they will end up in so much trouble. The reasons vary from physical pain to self-medicating of psychological/emotional problems to simply being social. You might think heroin does not sound like a social thing to do, but in some circles it can be.

Some are more fortunate than others; one can start as a social drinker but if they have a genetic predisposition to alcoholism or addiction, then they may be off and running. The one thing I can guarantee you is that no one plans to be an alcoholic or drug addict when they grow up! "It will never happen to me" are the famous last words of every addict.

In the case of this celebrity, we don't really know whether he was happy or not. The one thing I can point out, as a psychologist and substance abuse specialist, is that he seemed like someone who was always "on." Using again may have been his way to get time out or be "off duty."

In his early recovery he mentioned how important being away in a quiet place where he could be himself and look at what he really needed and wanted to do was for him.

That was before he became really famous and was working almost 24/7. If he had another chance, I would wish for him, healthy time to himself, for himself.

Sadly, we will never know.

DR. JOANNE BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed Marriage/Family Therapist with offices in Brentwood. She is also APA certified in the treatment of substance abuse disorders. Visit her at www.drbarge.com or send your anonymous questions to newshrink@gmail.com

The Q Line

Vote it down?

The City Council last week approved the controversial Bergamot Transit Village despite considerable opposition from a number of local residents. There is now a movement afoot to create a referendum to give the public a chance to vote the project down.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Would you vote to nix the development and why?

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



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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2013. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
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Culture Watch

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



Craig Schwartz Photography

THE CAST: **(L-R): Mark Blum, Kristine Nielsen, Christine Ebersole and David Hull in Christopher Durang's Tony Award-winning play 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.'**

The hilarity, the passion, the painting

NO WONDER IT WON THE 2013 TONY Award for Best Play! Christopher Durang's "Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike" is a laugh-riot ensemble piece that plays like jazz, with standout solos in the form of monologues.

Now at Center Theatre Group's Mark Taper Forum in downtown L.A., this play draws on the framework of Chekhov classics, "Uncle Vanya" and "The Cherry Orchard," that sit at the fulcrum of societal transition, highlighted by class and age distinctions and the changing of the times.

Durang transposes the Russian estate setting to a country house in rural Pennsylvania (replete with a couple of cherry trees that stand, in Sonia's mind, as an orchard).

Vanya and Sonia (she's adopted and overlooked), who were named by their professor parents for Chekhov characters, live in the family's old house where famous but fading movie star sister, Masha, pays their way. This is partly in exchange for the care that spinster Sonia and closeted Vanya gave their ailing parents for years, while Masha was off living a life that they can't begin to imagine.

But how good is Masha's life? And who's that boy-toy she's brought home with her? Who's more woeful and why, and the hilarity that this dynamic produces, is the secret sauce of how Durang does what he does so brilliantly.

As in the Chekhov plots, Masha comes home to drop the bomb on her two inertia-bound siblings: she's getting ready to sell the house. What will they do? Especially as warnings have been coming their way thanks to a housekeeper called Cassandra, who lives up to her mythical name as the in-house soothsayer.

You don't need to know Chekhov's plays to laugh like a hyena at this production. Its humor stands completely on its own, and the actors really know their stuff (minus two little fluff-ups by Christine Ebersole as Masha).

Cassandra is played by the show-stealing Shalita Grant, whose head bumping up against the invisible force field of her visions and voodoo doll antics are comically spell-binding (pun intended).

Kristine Nielsen as Sonia absolutely kills when she channels Dame Maggie Smith (think "Downton Abbey"), using her amazing voice to demonstrate her character's bipolar nature. Mark Blum as Vanya, a would-be, deep thinking playwright, delivers a blistering (but too-long) monologue on stamp licking.

Ebersole as Masha succeeds in establishing sympathy for her utterly selfish and narcissistic B-movie actress, and Mark Hull as the dumb but hot young actor looks great without a shirt, giving Masha an inevitable comeuppance.

Without even mentioning the rabbit hole into which the characters fall as they appear dressed for a costume party, you'll thank me for recommending that you book a seat immediately to see "Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike" at the Mark Taper Forum through March 9. Tickets at www.centertheatregroup.org or the box office at (213) 628-2772.

The history of the Passion Play begins in the 13th century and continues through today. This depiction of the "passion" — the suffering of Jesus on the cross — began as religious ritual and transmogrified into staged dramas that took place, at first, in the public square and later developed in sophistication and stagecraft over the centuries.

Of course over those centuries "passion" has taken on an entirely different meaning, and playwright Sarah Ruhl filters that double meaning through the lens of religion and politics to construct her own "Passion Play," now onstage at The Odyssey Theatre.

Her springboard is the production of a passion play during three different historic eras, Elizabethan England, Nazi-era Germany and the Reagan years in America.

The characters remain the same in each: Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Pontius Pilate and "the director," each of whom reflects an era-appropriate personality.

But the drama takes place offstage amongst the actors themselves, in the context of the religious, political and moral atmosphere of the times.

The actress playing Virgin Mary gets pregnant and complications ensue. And each time period involves a visit from the prevailing political leader: anti-Catholic Queen Elizabeth after banning productions of the Passion Play; Hitler visiting the most famous Passion location in Oberammergau, Germany; and Ronald Reagan making a campaign stop in South Dakota where a local production unfolds.

This is a smart, complicated plot that is ambitious, intelligent, engaging and entertaining. But it's a really long play, and the night I saw it for at least the first act, I think it missed the mark in matching Bart Lorenzo's direction to the actors' delivery of Ruhl's text.

However, if you like your theatre both thought- and laugh-provoking, this is the play for you. In association with The Evidence Room, Sarah Ruhl's "Passion Play" kicks off the Odyssey's 45th anniversary season, which is quite an accomplishment in itself. It runs Fridays through Sundays, through March 16. Call (310) 477-2055 or visit www.OdysseyTheatre.com.

SEE **WATCH** PAGE 7

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The body in the chair

ELAINE (JENNIFER LEE LAKS) HAS HAD insomnia all her life, so she habitually wanders around the house in the middle of the night. This night, she looks out her front window and screams!

In rush her husband, John (Martin Thompson); her best friend, Blanche (Christine Joelle), who is visiting; and the German maid, Helga (Judy Nazemetz).

Elaine tells them she's seen a dead man sitting in a green wing chair in the window of an apartment across the street. But, of course, when they look, they see nothing. The window shade across the street has been pulled down.

Elaine promptly goes into hysterics, a condition she maintains for most of the play.

The play is "Night Watch," a superb mystery set in 1970s New York. Its author, Lucille Fletcher, saw the play produced on Broadway and later made into a film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Laurence Harvey. Fletcher is best known, however, for her two classic scripts: "Sorry, Wrong Number," which starred Agnes Moorehead on the radio and Barbara Stanwyck in the film, and "The Hitchhiker," starring Orson Welles in the radio version and Inger Stevens in the adaptation that was produced for "The Twilight Zone."

"Night Watch," while a lesser play than the other two, is still an engaging piece of work. It has a satisfying selection of possible murderers, including a next-door neighbor (Lary Ohlson) with a totally phony accent and manner and the deli owner down the street (John McGuire) who sells unappetizing potato salad.

Meanwhile, Elaine, having worked herself up into a shrieking tantrum, insists that John contact the police immediately to tell them about the dead body in the window.

David Hunt Stafford plays the skeptical Police Lieutenant Walker with a broad "New Yawk" accent, and he is accompanied by Jonathan Medina, his gregarious sidekick. As is to be expected, when the "crime" is investigated, there is no body to be found.

Nevertheless, Elaine continues to call Lieutenant Walker ceaselessly in the next couple of days, making demands and suggestions that finally aggravate him to the point that he won't take her calls any more. And John and Blanche, worried that she is repeating an episode of insanity that she had undergone eight years earlier, make plans to ship her off to an asylum in Switzerland to recover.

And then Elaine sees another dead body in the apartment across the street. This time it's a woman.

All the bits and pieces come together at last under the brisk direction of Bruce Gray and in the tastefully furnished apartment setting designed by Jeff G. Rack. And though there are a couple of things left dangling (e.g., who pulled down the shade in the window across the street?), all in all, "Night Watch" provides an entertaining evening of well-presented suspense.

"Night Watch" is presented by Theatre 40 in The Reuben Cordova Theatre on the campus of Beverly Hills High, 241 S. Moreno Dr., Beverly Hills. It can be seen Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. through Feb. 24. Call (310) 364-0535 or visit www.theatre40.org for tickets.



Photo by Ed Krieger

STARS: Martin Thompson, Jennifer Lee Laks, and Christine Joelle in 'Night Watch.'

A ROBBERY IS PLANNED

A modern-day Simon Legree owns two restaurants and a slew of Laundromats and is making money hand over fist. He doesn't actually abuse his employees physically — just emotionally. He underpays them, provides no benefits, and continually threatens to fire them.

As played by Vincent Guastaferro, Candy is an over-the-top villain.

And so his employees in the Black River Café plan to rob him.

The plot is introduced by headwaiter Benny (David Fraioli) and is quickly seconded by waitress Nancy (Maria Tomas). The head bartender, Jack (Jonathan Kells Phillips), is a little harder to convince, but when Candy deducts the cost of some broken wine bottles from his pay without warning, Jack agrees to go along with the robbery.

The play is "On the Money" by Kos Kostmayer, an award-winning novelist ("Lost Religion," "Fargo Burns," and "Politics of Nowhere"), poet ("Hamlet Sings the National Anthem"), playwright ("The History of Fear"), and screenwriter ("I Love You to Death").

Kostmayer is reprising "On the Money," which had its west coast premiere and a nine-month run at The Victory Theater some 30 years ago. It is once again being presented at The Victory Theater Center, and is directed by Tom Ormeny, co-founder and artistic director of the Victory. The set, a nicely stocked bar, is the work of set and lighting designer D Martyn Bookwalter.

The play builds suspense and tension through the fine acting of the three conspirators, most especially Jonathan Kells Phillips, but the ending comes a bit abruptly and has less dramatic impact than it ought to. That's a chronic problem with many otherwise engaging plays. As Benny says, "The world is full of lunatics."

"On the Money" can be seen at The Big Victory Theatre, 3326 W. Victory Blvd. in Burbank Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. through March 2. Call (818) 841-5422 for tickets.

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Jackson outburst shows problems with 'other' faces

JESSE WASHINGTON
AP National Writer

"They all look alike."

There may be something behind this age-old canard: Science indicates that people can have a hard time differentiating between faces of people whose race is different from their own. But for black people, being mistaken for someone else can have a special sting, which may explain why the movie star Samuel L. Jackson eviscerated a white TV reporter for mistaking him for Laurence Fishburne.

"We may be all black and famous, but we all don't look alike!" Jackson exclaimed. He proceeded to ridicule the reporter, refusing to move on despite profuse apologies.

It was a situation that's familiar to many groups in a diverse society conscious of demographic boxes.

Asian-Americans get confused with people who aren't even from their ancestral countries. Blondes get mistaken for other blondes who look nothing like them. Straight people accidentally call lesbians the name of the other lesbian they know.

"Americans have been socialized to place people in categories," said Josie Brown-Rose, an English professor at Western New England University. "Everything from a job application to a college application requires us to self-identify into racial groups and locate ourselves with in a specific collective."

"Oftentimes when we look at individuals, it is the collective that we see first."

Scientific studies have identified the "other race effect," in which people tend to confuse or incorrectly name individuals of other races, said Thomas Busey, an Indiana University psychology professor who studies face recognition.

There are two theories for why this happens, Busey said.

One is that people focus on the wrong physical cues — hair color and texture may be a good way to distinguish white people, for example, but it doesn't work so well for Asians. The other theory is that people who have little contact with other races are more likely to think they all look the same.

"If we have less contact with other races, we're less likely to learn the real cues," Busey said.

He has fallen victim to the "other race effect" himself: Once, Busey was 20 minutes into a conversation with one of his black students when he realized he thought she was the only other black person in the class.

Yet Busey has made the same kind of error with a white student. Which raises questions about why Jackson reacted so strongly, and whether it was an innocent mistake when TV reporter Sam Rubin confused Jackson with Fishburne.

The two actors share little physical resemblance except for being large African-Americans with a gap between their front teeth. Did Rubin really think Jackson, known for his hard edge and foul mouth, was Fishburne, whose persona is more Shakespearean? Would Rubin have confused Tom Cruise and Mel Gibson?

Despite Rubin's apologies on air and then online for what he himself called a "very amateur mistake," it's easy for some to see race as the reason.

Black people must navigate white environments far more often than whites find themselves surrounded by non-whites, so it can feel like black people get misidentified more often.

Just among current black celebrities, the E! channel confused the actresses Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer; George Stephanopolous thought basketball legend Bill Russell was actor Morgan Freeman; and a picture of Seal, the slim singer with a scarred face, was displayed by a TV station when the huge, unblemished actor Michael Clarke Duncan died.

Not to mention when pop star Will.i.am was called Wyclef Jean on live TV. The reporter quickly put a hand to his earpiece and corrected himself — but with another wrong ID: the rapper Wale.

"I could understand where Sam gets mad at this," said Mark Anthony Neal, an African-American studies professor at Duke University who focuses on pop culture.

"It's a big deal because it erases your achievements. You're just another interchangeable Negro actor," Neal said. "Your body of work does not stand out enough to see what you've done is unique and distinct from what they've done."

Neal said Fishburne is an incredible actor but with the exception of Fishburne's starring role as Morpheus in "The Matrix" films, Jackson is a much bigger, more prolific movie star.

"If you're Sam Jackson," Neal said, "given how much he's worked, you're thinking: I've been doing all this for all this time, and you still think I'm somebody else?"

It was not the first time Jackson had been confused with Fishburne — although previously it was a spoof that mocked racial sensitivities and the idea that black people look alike.

In a 2005 episode of Ricky Gervais' comedy "Extras," a white woman on the set of a fictional film tells Jackson — playing himself — that she loved him in "The Matrix."

Gervais tries to ride to the rescue: "I know what you're thinking. It isn't that you all look alike."

Awkward pause.

"If that's what you were thinking," continued Guy Ritchie_sorry, Ricky Gervais.

WATCH
FROM PAGE 5

VERMEER: MASTER OR MIRROR?

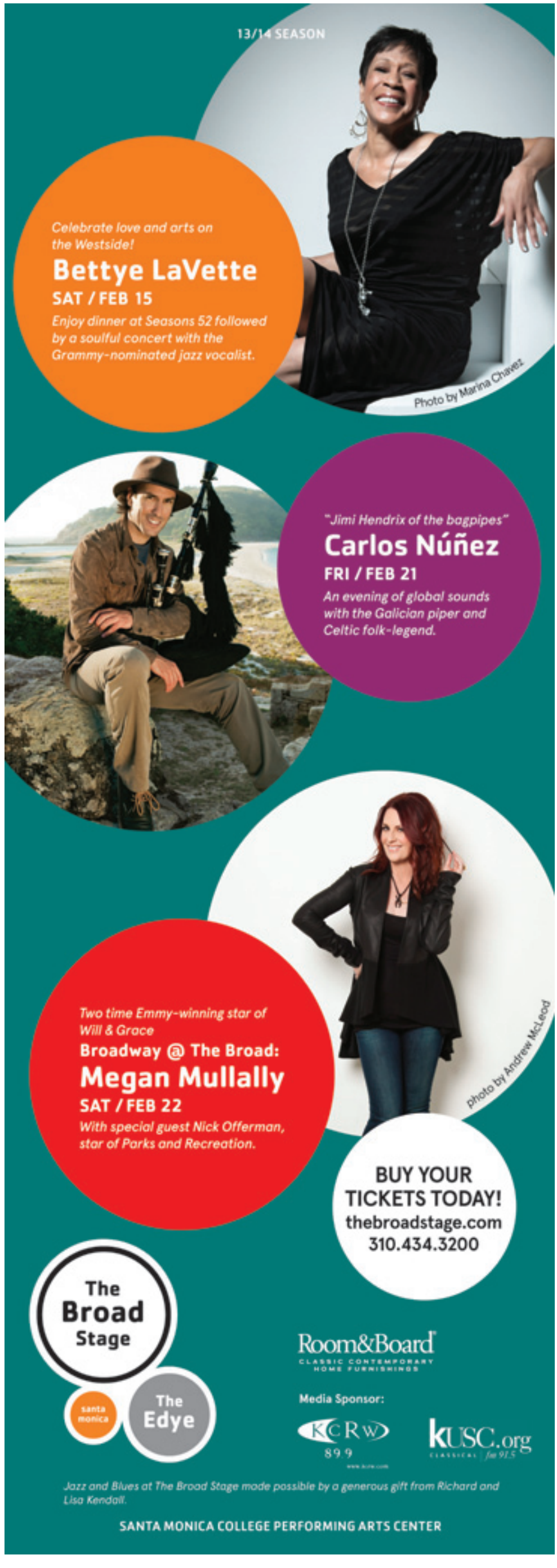
Throughout art history, the great question has been whether Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer was a genius or just a master of mirrors. The mystery has been theorized and written about, discussed and dismissed and now, quite possibly, solved.

Vermeer's limited number of gems far outshone work by his contemporaries with their intensely realistic depiction of light. They also seem to have taken place in the same room, featuring same Northern light and at least some of the same models.

In the documentary film "Tim's Vermeer" Texas technology inventor Tim Jenison, who's never been a painter, goes through all the steps of learning how to use brushes, mix his own paints, and recreates the room in which Vermeer painted "The Music Room." And with the mirrored instruments that he has created to mimic Vermeer's conditions, paints a brand new Vermeer perfectly.

This isn't a dull esoteric movie, it's completely fascinating and amazing. "Tim's Vermeer" plays at The Landmark in West L.A. for a limited run. Do not miss it.

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



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SONY
FROM PAGE 1

which, Studstill said, is central to the company's development process. But the new location has a larger open floor plan.

"When a business is looking to expand it can be hard to find space in the city," said Carl Hansen, director of government affairs with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "We try to keep an eye on what's available and we do regular outreach with our major employers to find out what they need. But it's getting harder to find office [space]."

Harris said that the startup technology business boom is a double-edged sword. On one hand, they create a clean product — one that is less impactful to the environment. On the other hand, they grow rapidly and they're mobile.

But the space left vacant by Sony should backfill quickly, he said, thanks to the tech boom that is spreading to the entire Westside.

"All the boats are rising," he said. "Someone's going to move back in. It could be a lot of smaller users and the cycle may start all over again."

Recently Harris encountered the opposite. A company was outgrowing its office and heard that the guys next-door were moving out so they grabbed that space and expanded.

"Those kind of moves get less notice," he said.

Another bit of good news is that Red Bull is happy, Harris said. Red Bull had been looking for a larger office and struggling to find one in Santa Monica. They are looking for additional space but they can split up their work groups unlike some other companies.

"Most business groups want to co-locate," he said.

Earlier this month, City Council approved a controversial development project about a block away from Sony's train station office.

Along with 472 apartment units, the Hines project, known as the Bergamot Transit Village, will include 375,000 square feet of creative office space. Some residents are livid, claiming that it will exacerbate traffic problems in an already-congested neighborhood. They are gathering signatures to challenge the project with a referendum vote.

Others have lauded the incoming office space, pointing to Riot Games' departure and Sony's struggle to find a larger home in the city by the sea.

"(The Sony move) is really a real estate issue," Harris said. "(City Hall) is just an innocent bystander. Our hands our relatively tied in terms of what we can do."

City Hall is more focused on long-term plans, he said. Development projects, like the one planned by Hines, or one planned for City Hall-owned property at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue (early designs include nearly 450,000 square feet of office) are examples of long-term solutions to the office shortage, he said.

In voting to approve the Hines project, Councilmember Gleam Davis noted that Riot Games, which hopped the Santa Monica border, will keep many of the geographic perks of the city by the sea without having to adhere to any traffic management programs set forth by City Hall.

Still, Harris said, Sony's decision to stay on the Westside is better for the city than having them move to the Bay Area.

"Often, when someone decides to leave a company they'll come back to a place they're familiar with," he said. "You see it all the time in Santa Monica. They got their start here and then the company leaves. But when they want to start something on their own they'll come back."

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RETROFIT

FROM PAGE 1

for the repair and retrofit of buildings. In 1999, council developed a retrofit standard, which determines building safety requirements and is still used today.

But not all the improvements were made.

"What (City Hall) found, mainly through the tenant improvement of buildings, is that not all buildings have been retrofitted," said Building Officer Ron Takiguchi.

There are several reasons why this might be the case, he said.

Some building owners didn't know it was required: Owners of a building on Fourth Street came to City Hall looking to make simple improvements for a new store. After they ripped out some walls, city officials realized it had never been retrofitted. The owners made the changes and the space is now compliant.

In other instances, Takiguchi said, owners started to retrofit but never completed it or didn't get in touch with City Hall for final approval.

Some buildings might not have been on the target list when various requirements were enacted but they still need to be upgraded.

Immediately following the earthquake, City Hall enacted emergency regulations that allowed apartment owners to pass all the repair and retrofitting costs along to the tenants, said Tracy Condon, administrator for the Rent Control Board. To encourage rebuilding, City Hall agreed to allow for permanent rent increases.

They got about 1,000 rent increase petitions from landlords, she said, with many related to retrofitting costs.

A year and half after the earthquake, City Hall modified the regulation so that only half of the costs could be passed along to tenants.

The Rent Control Board, along with several other city departments, will advise City Hall as they decide how to handle the retrofitting issues.

Condon is still pulling together information to determine what it generally costs to retrofit buildings after an earthquake.

"It was surprising," she said. "At that time some soft-story buildings (the type most commonly damaged) were not a huge cost to retrofit. It varied from property to property but in some cases it was not a huge cost."

Wes Wellman, the president of Action Apartment Association, Inc, said that after the earthquake the cost to retrofit a standard building was in the "low to mid-five figure range."

"When shear wall reinforcement was later added as a recommendation, retrofitting costs escalated into a six-figure proposition," he wrote in an e-mail.

The apartment owners, he said, share City Hall's concern for safety.

"Naturally the greater the level of structural modification the greater the protection but the higher the cost," Wellman said. "Striking the right balance between safety and cost and crafting a fair sharing of those costs between renters and owners is the challenge which all stakeholders face."

Consultants and city officials will continue to identify buildings that haven't been retrofitted and then reassess the current standards and guidelines.

In the fall, they will return to council with recommendations for updates to the municipal code. After the changes are made, City Hall will notify building owners of the upgrades they need to make.

Earlier this year, the Los Angeles Times identified four buildings that may sit on top of a fault. City officials responded saying that they are confident that they are near the fault, but not on top of it.

Santa Monica lacks an Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, created by the California Geological Survey (CGS). CGS creates a map of where they believe the fault to be and place a zone around it. Anyone looking to build within that zone must first hire consultants to perform a series of tests. Developers cannot build on top of a fault.

CGS expects the zone to be completed later this year but Takiguchi said that City Hall has long set a conservative zone of their own in the area around the fault. The regulations within that zone, he said, are the same as what will be required when CGS releases its map.



Santa Monica History Museum/Outlook Collection

AFTERMATH: A number of buildings including St. Monica Church were damaged in 1994.

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BEES
FROM PAGE 3

On Wednesday, the City Council voted unanimously to begin the process of granting bees like McFarland's legal status in L.A.'s residential areas after a lengthy lobbying effort from bee lovers of all stripes. Crafting an ordinance and hearing public comment will take several months.

"LA has an ideal climate and a ton for bees to forage on and is emerging as a real epicenter of urban beekeeping, but ironically, it's not legal here," said McFarland, who formed a group called HoneyLove.org to advocate for backyard beekeeping.

The vote comes against the backdrop of colony collapse disorder, a worrisome die-off of honeybees that has captured the attention of environmentalists and farmers worldwide. Cities from New York to Denver have in the past few years legalized urban beekeeping to encourage local agriculture and boost the health of the bee population.

The push, however, has alarmed some, who fear such an ordinance could bring more residents into direct contact with the Africanized, or "killer bees," that are already thriving in walls, trees, electrical boxes and compost bins.

At the heart of the debate are a new breed of urban beekeepers who rescue those wild bees from extermination and relocate them to backyards — and almost all of these hives have some "killer bee" genes mixed in.

Critics of the practice fear a blanket legalization of backyard bees would allow these self-styled "ethical bee removal specialists" to expand their efforts with dangerous consequences.

"To just haul them (feral bees) out of the fences and stick them in the backyard, that's not a good idea," said Eric Mussen, a bee expert at the University of California, Davis.

Killer bees fully colonized Los Angeles County by 1999 and have almost completely pushed out the existing wild bee population. The bees can attack when an intruder gets closer than 100 feet, can chase a person up to a half-mile and will remain aggressive up to an hour after an attack, according to the county.

Those who work with feral bees insist that the concerns are overblown.

Feral bees in Los Angeles do have some African genes, they say, but the danger has been diluted from years of interbreeding with local, non-Africanized bees. The resulting hybrid hives can be managed easily with proper training, common sense about hive placement and good communication with neighbors.

There are already around 10 feral hives per square mile in Los Angeles, so moving them to backyards where beekeepers can monitor them makes sense, said Ruth Askren, who maintains hives for 22 clients and has relocated wild hives to backyards all over the city.

Beekeepers like Askren estimate that 10 percent or fewer of the feral hives they relocate are so aggressive they must be destroyed.

"If we really had serious Africanized bees in L.A., people would be chased down the street every day," she said.

Africanized bees are also hardier than their European counterparts, which are used for commercial pollination, and could help counter colony collapse, said McFarland, the rooftop beekeeper. He and others who work with feral bees say unlike European bees, their hives don't need any chemical treatments to keep them healthy.

"We need them. We need to preserve what's clearly a superior bee. They're the ones that are surviving," he said. "My opinion is that they're a blessing in disguise."

Feral bees have also sweetened the pot for an emerging niche business: Some beekeepers-turned-entrepreneurs have recently started companies to remove unwanted wild hives, relocating them to backyard bee boxes and then harvesting rich honey that can sell for $110 a gallon to wealthy foodies obsessed with local ingredients.

Some customers even want honey made by bees in their specific neighborhood because they believe that eating honey made from local pollens will combat allergies.

Tyson Kaiser's business, Sweet Bee Removal, charges $125 an hour for a hive extraction and once made $5,000 over three days removing a massive feral hive from a tile rooftop in one of LA's ritzier addresses.

In the past year, Kaiser estimates he has removed nearly 200 hives and swarms; he currently has a network of "hive hosts" who keep excess feral colonies on their property in exchange for half the honey they produce.

On a recent sunny day, Kaiser checked on a feral hive he put on a resident's roof last fall. Dressed in a full-body white bee suit and a zippered hood with a mesh face mask, Kaiser carefully opened the hive as bees buzzed around him and traffic whizzed by two stories below.

When he was done, about a dozen agitated bees followed him from the roof, down a ladder and into the residents' house before they gave up the chase.

"There are people who think we're crazy for what we're doing," said Kaiser, who has been keeping bees for three years. "But they're afraid that new beekeepers dealing with feral hives are going to tarnish the image of the established beekeepers."

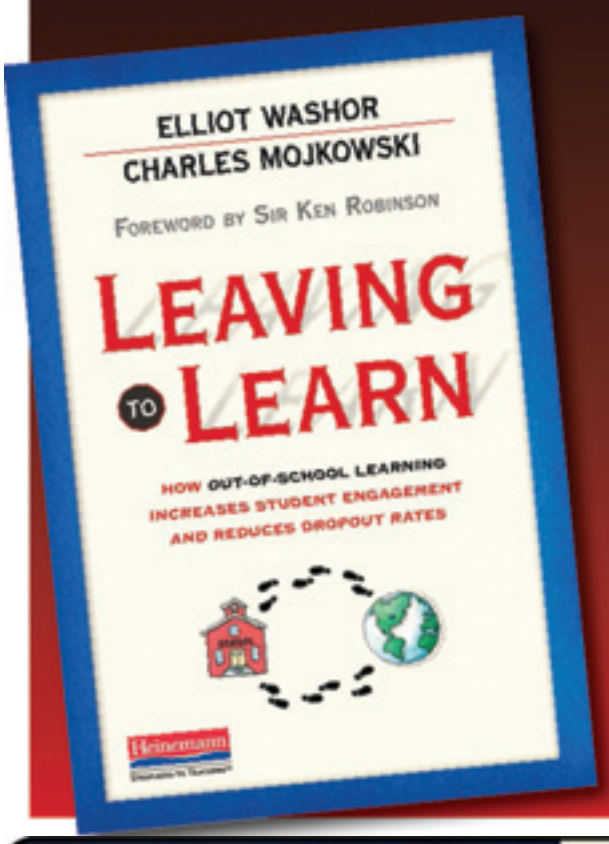
Regardless, urban beekeeping is happening every day under the city's radar and controlling the rapidly growing hobby is better than turning a blind eye, said Martin Schlageter, policy director for Councilman Jose Huizar. Huizar supports the bee ordinance and introduced a motion to encourage the city to avoid destroying feral hives when possible. That was also approved Wednesday.

"There's greater awareness of the crisis with bee populations generally and the importance of these pollinators," he said. "People want to ... social network freely about this and give tips to likeminded folks and they don't want to feel like they're going to be caught out for breaking the law."

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U.S. stocks decline for the first time in five days

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK Weak earnings from tobacco company Lorillard and household products maker Procter & Gamble helped end the stock market's longest winning streak of the year Wednesday.

Lorillard dropped after the maker of Newport cigarettes said its profit fell as higher costs offset an increase in revenue from both traditional and electronic cigarettes. Procter & Gamble fell after the company lowered its sales and earnings forecasts.

The losses were relatively small. Before Wednesday's drop, stocks had gained for the previous four days, mitigating some of the market's weakness in January caused by signs of slowing growth in China and doubts about how strong the U.S. economy was.

"At this point, boring is good," said Kate Warne, an investment strategist at Edward Jones, an investment adviser. "People are a bit tired of the ups and downs we've seen and a relatively flat day would be a sign of confidence," Warne said.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell half a point, less than 0.1 percent, to close at 1,819.26. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 30.83 points, or 0.2 percent, to 15,963.94. The Nasdaq composite rose 10.24 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,201.29.

Makers of consumer staples, a category that includes everyday products like soap, diapers and cigarettes, fell the most of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500.

Lorillard had the biggest drop in the index. The stock lost $2.48, or 5 percent, to $47.47 after its earnings disappointed investors.

Procter & Gamble, the world's largest household products maker, fell $1.35, or 1.7 percent, to $77.49 after the company said it would take a hit because of declines in emerging market currencies against the dollar. Currencies in developing countries such as Turkey, South Africa and Argentina have slumped against the dollar this year.

Concerns about the outlook for emerging markets shook the stock market in January. Those losses continued as investors started to worry about the U.S. economy after some lackluster economics reports.

Stocks have rebounded in the past week. They jumped on Tuesday after Janet Yellen, the new head of the Federal Reserve, said she would continue the central bank's market-friendly, low-interest rate policies.

The S&P 500 was down almost 6 percent for the year as of Feb. 3, but has since pared that loss to 1.5 percent thanks to gains in health care and technology stocks. Both sectors have jumped 4.5 percent in the past week.

For the market to advance from here, investors will want to see further evidence that the economy is improving said, Cameron Hinds, a regional chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. While the economic reports have been weak, many economists believe that the unusually cold winter has been a factor.

"People are going to start looking for strength in the economy to get the market going," said Hinds.

TripAdvisor was among the day's winners. The online travel company gained $6.07, or 7.2 percent, to $90.27 after posting fourth-quarter results that led an RBC Capital Markets analyst to upgrade his rating on the stock. TripAdvisor said late Tuesday that its fourth-quarter revenue jumped and was stronger than analysts expected. Most of its revenue came from click-based advertising.

In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed to 2.76 percent from 2.73 percent on Tuesday.

In commodities trading, oil rose 43 cents, or 0.4 percent, to $100.37 a barrel. The price of gold rose $5.20, or 0.4 percent, to $1,295 an ounce.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Amazon.com fell $12.54, or 3.5 percent, to $349.25 after analysts at UBS lowered their rating on the stock from "buy" to "neutral" on concern about revenue from the internet retailer's "Prime" customers. Amazon was among the biggest decliners in the S&P 500.

— DaVita HealthCare Partners jumped $2.02, or 3.1 percent, to $66.35, a day after the kidney dialysis provider said it reached an agreement to resolve a government investigation and reported fourth-quarter income that soared 36 percent and topped analyst expectations.







SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **59.7°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
NW swell mix continues - most size out west in the region;
trace SSW swell; deep morning high tide

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Potential NW swell mix - most size out west in the region;
trace SSW swell; deep morning high tide

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Potential NW swell mix eases; deep morning high tide

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small new NW swell mix possible; deep morning high tide

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 **February 5, 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 -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / xx
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / xx

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	D	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	B	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	D	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
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+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	C	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	B	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	B	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	ns

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

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

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

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

49ers stadium progressing ahead of scheduled pace

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. Some 50 piles of gravel sit in the middle of what this spring will be the first makings of a grass field inside Levi's Stadium. In April, staff will conduct a "superflush," a mass simultaneous flushing of the toilets to simulate the potential overload on the sewage system with a large crowd.

The San Francisco 49ers' $1.2 billion home is 80 percent complete, with about half of the red seatbacks already installed in a lower bowl that will hold 45,000, or two-thirds of stadium capacity — the largest first level in the NFL. There will be roughly 18,000 seats in the upper deck.

"We're right at 80 percent and we increase that 2 to 3 percent per month," project executive Jack Hill said Wednesday while leading a media tour. "We're right where we wanted to be, right where we expected to be."

Team COO Al Guido hopes for a late July finish ahead of the San Jose Earthquakes' MLS match against the Seattle Sounders on Aug. 2 to open the venue.

The 49ers, who lost in the NFC title game to the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks, are expected to play a Week 2 nighttime home opener based on the original stadium construction completion schedule. San Francisco's preseason schedule is expected to feature home games in the second and third weeks.

Offices will begin to house 49ers staff in the new stadium in April, though the team is working with the city to make sure the fire alarms and other safety mechanisms are fully operation.

"They can take their safety gear off at their desks but it will still be an active construction site," Hill said. "We've got a good three months of moving people over."

He said there are still concession areas to complete, and the 49ers' locker room and training area are still taking shape.

"Think about it like it's a house where the walls and roof are up," Hill said. "It looks like you could almost move furniture in and have an event next week."

The Bandera Bermuda grass is slated to arrive in late March with installation set to begin as soon as April 1. It is being grown at a sod farm outside Livingston in California's Central Valley.

"It's something hearty and will rebound," Hill said of the natural grass.

All club levels look out to the field in one direction and the surrounding area in another. It's 35 rows up to the first club seating area, while Row 1 of the stadium is about 10 feet off the field. With the addition of temporary seating in the northwest and southwest plaza areas, Levi's Stadium will go from approximately 68,000 to 73,000 for the 2016 Super Bowl.

Guido, who worked to open the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium from 2007-09, figures it will take two to three weeks to train 1,000 in the guest services staff who will work throughout a stadium spanning 1.8 million square feet.

For players, it will be cozy around team headquarters and they won't have to walk far on game day. The current locker room will serve as a changing station of sorts for players coming off the practice field before heading to the film room or meetings.

"Thirteen feet, closest point facility to the stadium," offered 49ers President Paraag Marathe.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Olympic Drive at Avenida Mazatlan Traffic Signal Project
SP2300

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Thursday, March 13, 2014**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PRE-BID JOB WALK: **Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Meeting location is at the intersection of 333 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA.**

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $250,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 60
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $900.00 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $840.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **C-10** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Email to: editor@smdp.com or fax to (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

MOVIE TIMES

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

Blackmail (NR) 1hr 15min
Pyscho (R) 1hr 49min
7:30pm
"Blackmail" is presented with live musical accompaniment by Cliff Retallick.

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
4:05pm, 6:45pm, 9:20pm

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (NR) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:20pm

About Last Night (NR)
7:00pm, 9:50pm

Vampire Academy (NR)
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Nut Job (PG)
2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:15pm, 9:35pm

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

RoboCop (NR)
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

Lego Movie in 3D (PG)
2:05pm, 7:00pm

Ride Along (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:35pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 10:45pm

Monuments Men (NR)
11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
11:00am, 2:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
12:15pm, 3:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:25pm

Lego Movie (PG)
11:30am, 4:45pm, 9:45pm

That Awkward Moment (R)
11:20am, 1:50pm, 4:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
3:50pm, 9:40pm

Past (Le passe) (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
1:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Great Beauty (La Grande Bellezza) (NR) 2hrs 30min
1:20pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

Philomena (R) 1hr 34min
1:10pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm

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

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

GET INTO WEEKEND MODE, ARIES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be unusually verbal and creative. You might wonder how you can stop a problem before it evolves. At the same time, you would like to have the other involved parties understand why it was a mistake. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ If you can work from home, do. Understand that you can be more reflective in a comfortable environment, as you will be somewhat distant from the issues at hand. You might be seeing a transformation of a key person in front of your eyes. Tonight: Make it easy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might want to see a situation in a different light. How you see a personal matter could change, given some time and space. Your playfulness emerges when dealing with a co-worker. A partner or associate will favor you in an issue. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be more touchy and difficult than you realize. You might be making major adjustments for others, and probably feel as though you need others to be considerate of you. A loved one will look at you favorably. Tonight: Buy a new item for your wardrobe.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You beam, and someone responds. Your ability to get past a problem allows you to have a good time, no matter what situation you are in. A co-worker allows you to see how much you are cared about. Make time for a hobby that you really enjoy. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your creativity abounds when dealing with a partner, friend or associate. You could feel uncomfortable with a loved one, as you might not feel the same way around him or her. Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Even making hardly any effort, you still will draw excellent results. All you have to do is be present. You have the ability to deal with the unexpected with considerable ease. Tonight: Where the gang is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Take a stand, and make sure that others are hearing you loud and clear. You might need to adapt your communication style in order for someone to really hear the message. Tonight: Paint the town red.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A loved one will do the unexpected. Your finances could point to a need for change in the choices you are making. Use your imagination, but avoid taking a risk at any cost. Tonight: Relax to some good music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take a break from handling your responsibilities as well as someone else's. In the long run, you are not doing this person any favors, but you still will feel obligated to help out. Understand that you don't need to do everything for this person. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Defer to a loved one who cares a lot about you. In fact, you might find that many special people surround you at the present moment. You could be oversensitive to a comment or a lack of response from someone. Make a point to relax. Tonight: Sort through your many offers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Don't hesitate to let others know your limitations, especially as they seem to dump a lot of work on you. An unexpected development involving your finances initially might concern you, but later you will see the situation in other terms. Tonight: Get some exercise.

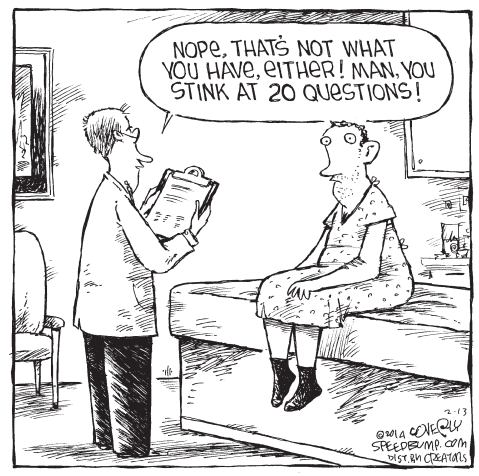
Thursday, February 13, 2014

This year you head in a new direction. In a sense, you become slightly less independent than you have been in the past. Actually, your sense of self is so strong that you don't need to worry about this issue. You tend to be oversensitive. If you are single, you could meet someone special sometime after June. You also could discover that you have more than one potential suitor. If you are attached, you often give in to your sweetie's demands because it is easier that way. The summer could heat up your interactions. Enjoy this period. LEO is romantic.

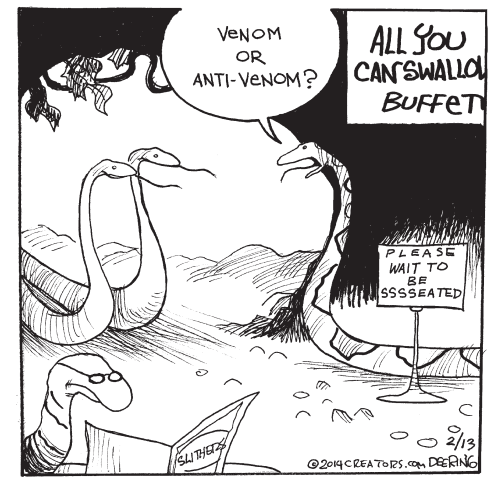
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

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

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



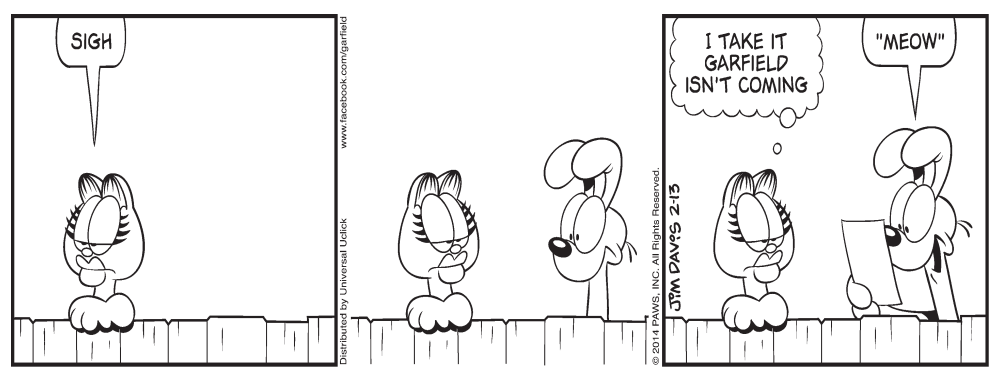
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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MYSTERY REVEALED!

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader Shane Peters correctly identified this photo of the second floor of the Third Street Promenade Food Court, formerly home to Wolfgang Puck Express. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press. Check out Friday's paper for another chance to win. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 2/12
Power#:
Jackpot: $284M

Draw Date: 2/11
43 64 67 71 73
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: $139M

Draw Date: 2/12
10 19 28 32 39
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: $18M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/12
10 30 34 36 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/12
MIDDAY: 4 6 1
EVENING: 6 2 3

Draw Date: 2/12
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:40.72

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

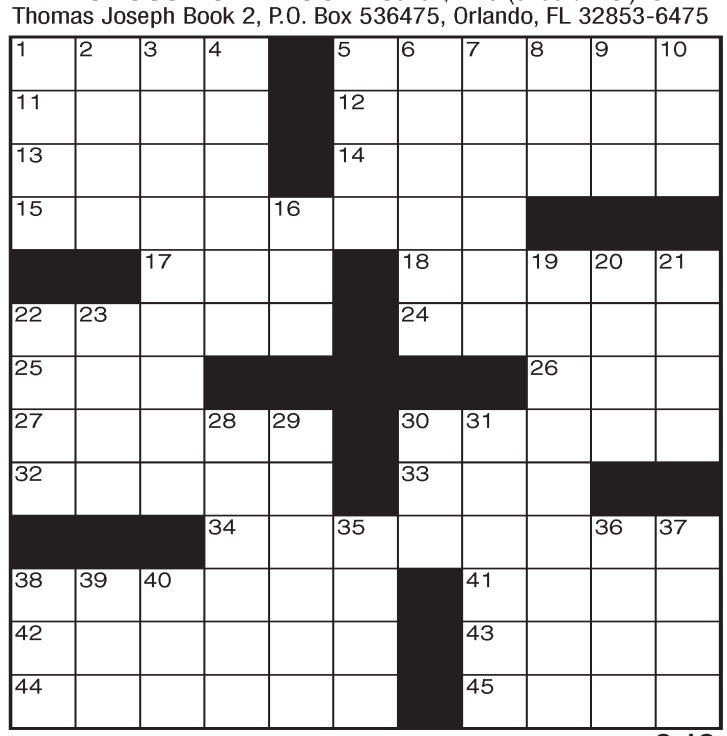
ACROSS
1 Go it alone
5 "300" city
11 Wrinkle remover
12 Holed up
13 Kevin Kline movie
14 Owing
15 Periodic table listing
17 Team backer
18 Edmonton player
22 Forgo frugality
24 Night sound
25 Guitarist Paul
26 Coq au —
27 George Jetson's dog
30 Put in office
32 Tough puzzle
33 Father's pride
34 Feasts
38 Gourmet's sense
41 Words of understanding
42 Lets up
43 Right away, in the ER
44 Marries again
45 Invites

DOWN
1 Flank
2 Test type
3 Effusive exchanges
4 Kind of band or show
5 Tibia setting
6 Spotted horses
7 Contributes
8 Eurasian deer
9 Soaking spot
10 Court figure: Abbr.
16 Goal
19 Rendezvous sites
20 Idle on film
21 Monthly bill
22 Sign of freshness
23 Mexican coin
28 Money-back offer
29 Made speeches
30 Lawyer's letters
31 Writer — May Alcott
35 Capone's foe
36 Furniture wood
37 Jazz club units
38 Hole number
39 Tad's dad
40 Bar topic

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

Yesterday's answer

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



2-13

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Who Knew That Racoons Were Easily Offended? The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals condemned a Pet Expo in Greenhithe, England, in October after reports emerged that a trainer had showcased "Melanie," a racoon who rides a bicycle-like device, apparently to great acclaim. An RSPCA statement denounced the expo for "degrading" a "wild animal" in such a "demeaning light."

■ Management Comes to the Terrorism Industry: (1) In November, the Army of Islam (Syrian rebels) announced, via a dazzling, fully functional website, that it had job "vacancies" in the fields of graphic design, photography, printing, journalism, reporting and media promotion and programming. The anti-Assad force already has a Facebook page featuring videos of alleged military victories. (2) Somalia's coastal pirates, having peaked in 2009 in boat captures, may now be laying low only because of the familiar business problem of "inventory management." A November analysis by Quartz (qz.com) showed the pirates with such a surplus of hijacked vessels (still with earnings potential) that they would likely wind those down before taking to the seas again.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1990 - German reunification: An agreement is reached on a two-stage plan to reunite Germany.

1991 - Gulf War: Two laser-guided "smart bombs" destroy the Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad. Allied forces said the bunker was being used as a military communications outpost, but over 400 Iraqi civilians inside were killed.

WORD UP!

albumen
\ al-BYOO-muhn \ , noun;
1. the white of an egg.
2. Botany . the nutritive matter around the embryo in a seed.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
- Vehicles for Sale
- Massage
- Services
- Computer Services
- Attorney Services
- Business Opportunities
- Yard Sales
- Health and Beauty
- Fitness
- Wealth and Success
- Lost and Found
- Personals
- Psychic
- Obituaries
- Tutoring

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

Employment

Employment Wanted

Dining Room Server Assisted living community is looking for a FT Server to provide great customer service to seniors. Schedule to include holidays and weekends. Pre-employment drug test and criminal background check required. If interested, please come to fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE.

Help Wanted

Dishwasher Assisted Living community is looking for a dishwasher to help in the kitchen. Schedule to include weekends and holidays. Pre-employment drug test and criminal background check required. If interested, please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE.

Handyman

Handyman

Km construction Residential remodel, kitchen specialist. CA License Number: 738152. (310) 980-3500.

Real Estate

Commercial

Attractive meeting rooms for rent West LA. Holds 45 people classroom style, whiteboards, projectors, climate control. (310) 820-6322

Services

Business Services

Computer Programer MS reqd. Send resume to Lotus Interworks, 400 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405

Personal Services

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Experience Tranquility & Freedom from Stress through Nurturing & Caring touch in a total healing environment. Lynda, LMT: 310-749-0621

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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 February 2014

Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	5,537,800
North of Montana	=	$	4,899,333
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	2,675,516
South of Wilshire	=	$	949,000
Sunset Park	=	$	1,436,667
Ocean Park	=	$	3,047,000

Statistics updated every Friday

Buyers' Needs

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

~ ~

Major Fixer/Teardown
Anywhere on the Westside
$700,000 - $1,100,000

~ ~

Income Property/Teardown
Santa Monica or Brentwood
$1,000,000 - $4,000,000

~ ~

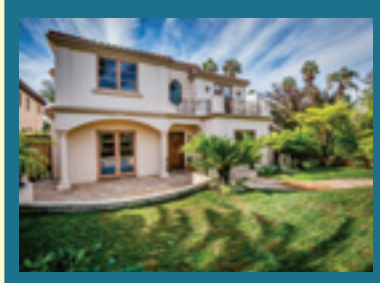
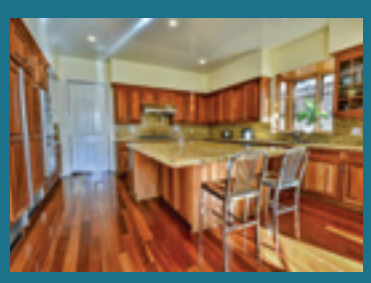
Raw Land/Teardown
West of 10th St, North of Wilshire or North of Montana
Up to $4,500,000

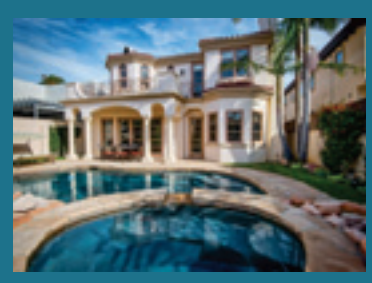
North of Montana Mediterranean Home!

632 16th Street

$3,999,000

- Built in 2000
- 4 Bedrooms
- 4.5 Bathrooms
- Approx. 4,000 Sq Ft
- Detached Guest House
- All Bedrooms En-Suite
- Xtra-Large Kitchen
- Xtra-Large Family Rm
- Oasis Pool & Spa



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