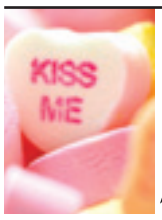
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Volume 13 Issue 77



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SWEETS ON THE GO
SEE PAGE 3

THE FEEL THE LOVE ISSUE

Judge tosses SM Airport lawsuit

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

CITY HALL A federal judge Thursday ruled in favor of the federal government and tossed out City Hall's lawsuit regarding ownership of the Santa Monica Airport, city officials announced.

Judge John F. Walter said city officials were too late in filing their lawsuit to determine who controls and ultimately owns the land on which the airport sits and also dismissed other claims, saying City Hall is premature because it had failed to first seek compensation in the Court of Federal Claims.

City officials are evaluating the 17-page ruling to determine next steps. It is anticipated that the City Council will receive advice from outside attorneys at the next regular council meeting, which is set for Feb. 25.

"The court's ruling is being carefully evaluated by the legal team … and in-house

SEE AIRPORT PAGE 8

Food lovers

Nathan, Loeb have become Santa Monica's foodie family

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Less than 10 years ago, Josh Loeb was making dinners for friends in his parent's Santa Monica home. He'd never met Zoe Nathan, and the city had fewer renowned restaurants.

Last month, Nathan and Loeb had their second child and opened their sixth eatery (four in Santa Monica) with two more on the way (eateries, not children).

The foodies behind Rustic Canyon, Milo and Olive, Huckleberry, and Sweet Rose Creamery are deeply rooted in the city by the sea. They grew up less than two miles from each other on the north side of town.

"My brother is the same age as Zoe," Loeb said. "He went to Crossroads and she went to Windward so they had same mutual friends but I had never met her."

When they left Santa Monica they seemed to unknowingly follow one another to cities, never crossing paths. He went to school at Berkeley, then moved to New York and Vermont. She went to school in Vermont and then moved to New York and

SEE FOOD PAGE 9



Photo courtesy Emily Hart Roth

BOND: Josh Loeb and Zoe Nathan may be the city's first family of food.

City Hall takes on gold, silver dealer

City attorneys accuse Merit of 'bait and switch scam'

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

CITY HALL One of the nation's largest precious metals dealers is being sued by City Hall for allegedly engaging in a nationwide "bait and switch scam" by using false, deceptive and aggressive sales tactics to trick customers into buying heavily marked-up collector coins instead of gold or silver bars.

The Consumer Protection Unit of the City Attorney's Office filed the lawsuit Thursday against Santa Monica-based Seacoast Coin, Inc., which does business as Merit Gold and Silver. The company has been in business since 1986.

The complaint alleges that when consumers call in to buy bullion, Merit's sales-

SEE GOLD PAGE 8

School board agrees to make up $800K fundraising shortfall

BY MELISSA CASKEY
Special to the Daily Press

SMMUSD HDQTRS The school board last week voted to transfer $800,000 in the school district's reserve to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation after the nonprofit came up short in the first year of the controversial districtwide fundraising campaign.

"It is essential for the program to be funded fully … so I fully support the superintendent's recommendation to dip into the board's discretionary money," said board member Jose Escarce.

According to figures released by the Ed Foundation, Malibu's four public schools generated the least amount of donations to the campaign among the district's 16 schools.

The fundraising campaign, called the

SEE FUNDS PAGE 9

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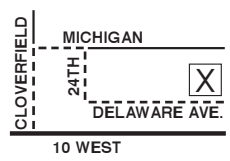
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Feb. 14, 2014

Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014

Dance, dance, dance
Athleta
1318 Third Street Promenade,
9 a.m. — 10 a.m.
Moore Dancing and Athleta are teaming up to provide free dance cardio classes through the month of February. Every Saturday, Athleta will transform their store into a dance floor. For more information, call (310) 500-8375.

Hot in here
Santa Monica Place
Third Street and Broadway
10 a.m.
Lorna Jane leads a hot yoga lesson designed to tighten, tone and strengthen your body. Cost: Free. For more information, visit santamonicaplace.com.

Rock the schoolhouse
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.
"Schoolhouse Rock Live!" comes to life. The Emmy Award-winning 1970s Saturday morning cartoon series that taught history, grammar, math, and more through clever, tuneful songs is lighting up the stage. The story follows Tom, a nerve-wracked school teacher who is nervous about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music. For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

Shape the land
1450 Ocean
1450 Ocean Ave., 11:30 p.m.
If you're interested in learning how to create your own California-friendly garden, join other residents for a free three-hour training session led by local landscaping experts. For more information, call (310) 458-8459.

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.

By the fire
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Fireside at the Miles is back. Santa Monica Cultural Affairs presents intimate events at the historic playhouse. Every concert features a different mix of contemporary music, opera, jazz, storytelling, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a cappella singing and more. Performances take place beside the large vintage fireplace. Fireside at the Miles runs through March 1. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

Night at the circus
Santa Monica Pier
Times vary
Cirque du Soleil returns to Santa Monica. This time around, the world famous troupe presents "Totem," an artistic look at mankind's evolution. For more information, visit cirquedusoleil.com.

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



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Sweets for the sweet

The Big Blue Bus is celebrating Valentine's Day with their riders this year with a little sweetness.

Hop on a random Big Blue Bus today to see if you can find a Sweethearts candy packet with a little Valentine's Day message. They will be randomly placed across the bus fleet.

Lucky riders who find the sweet treats are being asked to hashtag photos posted on social media sites with the tag #BigBlueBusLove.

– DANIEL ARCHULETA

SACRAMENTO

Bloom wants to do away with microbeads

Assemblymember and former Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) announced Thursday that he has introduced legislation, AB 1699, to ban the sale of personal care products that contain mircoplastic particle abrasives, commonly referred to as "microbeads," that are found in products such as facial scrubs, soaps and toothpaste.

"Microbeads are a significant part of the debris accumulating in the Pacific Ocean and are also found at alarming levels in our local waterways," Bloom said. "We have no choice but to eliminate this pollution at the source. Waiting will only compound the problem and the price of cleaning up."

Microbeads have emerged as a pervasive form of plastic pollution in the marine environment. Studies have shown that the tiny particles are prevalent in ocean debris piles, the Great Lakes, and recently, the Los Angeles River. Mircobeads are not biodegradable and absorb various toxins such as DDT, PCBs (flame retardants), and other industrial chemicals and are ingested or absorbed by a variety of marine life and other mammals.

Because fish ingest these particles and absorb the toxins in their flesh, many in the scientific community also worry about the impacts on the fish, crabs, and shellfish that humans eat.

"There are natural alternatives in use and others have pledged to move to natural substitutes in the near future. Therefore, there really isn't a good argument against this law," Bloom added.

– DA

CITYWIDE

Cops eye motorcycle safety

Santa Monica Police will be out in force on Saturday with eyes out for motorcycle riders who break the law.

Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas frequented by motorcyclists and where motorcycle crashes are prone to occur.

Officers will be looking for violations made by drivers and riders alike that can lead to motorcycle crashes. Enforcement efforts will focus on both those who operate regular vehicles as well as motorcycles who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, speeding, making illegal turns, or any other dangerous violations.

The number of motorcycle fatalities dropped 37 percent from 2008 to 2010, but then rose 23 percent by 2012. Operations like this are aimed at curbing any more rises in motorcycle deaths.

For more information, contact Sgt. Philbo Rubish at the Santa Monica Police Department's Traffic Division, (310) 458-8950.

– DA

OCEAN AVENUE

Have a heart for youth center

The work of more than 40 local artists will be featured in a silent auction to benefit services for local youth who attend the Pico Youth & Family Center in Santa Monica.

PYFC will host its Fifth Annual Art for Hearts Benefit on Saturday, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Jeanie Madsen Gallery located at 1431 Ocean Ave.

Art for Hearts will include a silent auction of uniquely-crafted hearts by established artists: Alex Kizu, Ernie Lucero, JC Hernandez Munoz and others. Ticket price includes music by the Santa Monica High School Jazz Band, appetizers, wine tasting and valet parking.

"We invite the community to support our youth center and at the same time celebrate the arts in this unique and colorful event," said PYFC founder Oscar de la Torre. "We thank all of the artists who inspire us with their art, music, generosity and love. This event allows us to celebrate the true meaning of Valentine's Day by showing our love to our youth and if someone wants to impress a significant other, the uniquely-crafted hearts are one of a kind."

– DA

'Jamzilla' comes to the 405 Freeway

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

WESTSIDE Are you ready for "Jamzilla?"

Transportation officials are advising the public to be aware of an 80-hour closure on the 405 Freeway beginning today at 10 p.m..

Closures are scheduled to run through Tuesday at 6 a.m.

"It's been a long, hard road on the 405 Freeway project, but the long-running construction effort is finally nearing the finish line. With work expected to be substantially complete by this summer, there are still some major hurdles to overcome — like this weekend's 80-hour lane closure known as 'Jamzilla,'" said County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

The closure consists of a partial daytime lane reduction and a full nighttime closure of the free-

SEE **405** PAGE 6



DRIVING

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

St. Monica's Jabari Miles (left) drives to the basket against Cantwell-Sacred Heart on Wednesday at home. St. Monica lost the El Camino League game, 66-54. The Mariners finished the season 6-4 in league.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

We can do better

Editor:

Re: Stewart Resmer's Letter to the Editor, "Nothing to write home about," Feb. 13.

What a heartfelt, beautiful and eloquent letter Mr. Resmer wrote on behalf of the veterans who have served this country and are then tossed aside. Thank you, Mr. Resmer for writing this letter.

Back in the 1970s I worked at Downey veterans hospital near Great Lakes Training Center in Illinois outside of Chicago. Downey was at the time the largest psychiatric veterans hospital in the U.S. It had over 3,000 patients. I worked on the alcohol treatment ward. The veterans that took part in the alcohol treatment unit were wonderful men and women who came for the help they needed. It was a fantastic experience working with them.

On the other wards were men and women who were receiving help with their psychiatric problems. Rarely on locked wards, I had contact daily with them as well and believe me, I could write a book about the interesting people I met there. Some were from WWII and even a few WWI veterans. We also had Korean and Vietnam veterans.

These men and women were treated with care and respect. They were clean and well fed. They had free smokes if they smoked. They had jobs and activities, as well as treatment.

Serving them was not always pleasant, but always interesting, and I used to wonder where these men and women would be if it weren't for the hospital. Unfortunately, now I see where they would be, living on the street, sometimes with no shoes.

We can thank the Reagan administration for the program to systematically close the psychiatric hospitals and release the patients into the "community" to be cared for. Only there isn't anyone in the community who stepped up to do so.

Surely, in this day and age and in this country, we can do more for our veterans who served their country and for the mentally ill everywhere.

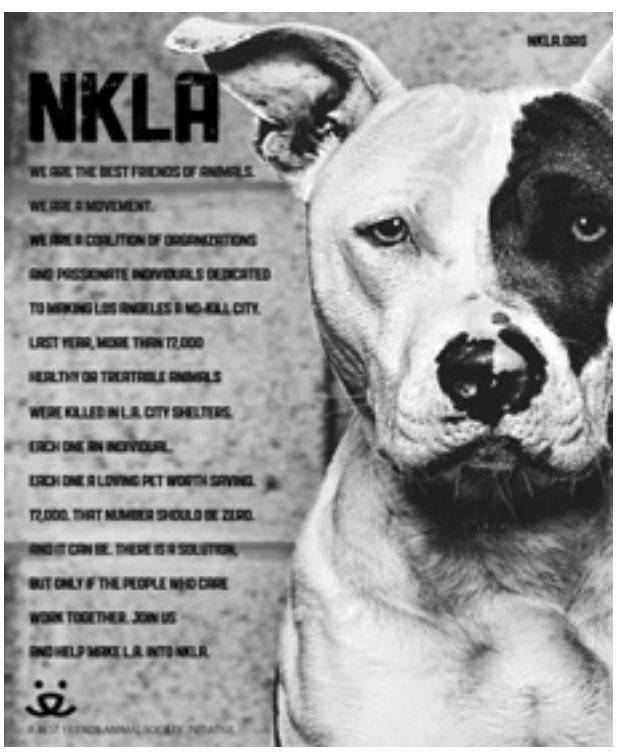
Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Third time is no charm

Editor:

I hope there are not too many candidates for the City Council this year who are not serious. That would dilute the hoped for anti-O'Connor vote. In election after election this happens. It absolutely damages good candidates and gets dreadful incumbents (Have I mentioned O'Connor yet?) re-elected. We need to be smarter this time. Think! Please, especially you Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights re-retreads. You've had your day.

Ron Di Costanzo
Santa Monica



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ask not what your county can do for you

AS A STUDENT OF POLITICS, I'M OFTEN interested in the lives of renowned office holders before they entered the political world. For example, Harry Truman was a haberdasher in Kansas City. (Meaning he owned a men's store and I know that term because my father did, too, though thankfully not in Kansas City.)

Jimmy Carter commanded a nuclear sub and later was a successful peanut farmer. JFK wanted to be a writer and won a Pulitzer Prize for his 1956 book, "Profiles in Courage."

JFK's handsome and outgoing older brother, Joe Jr., had been tabbed by his father to become president. Upon his death, Joe Sr.'s aspirations fell on JFK, who joked, "It was impossible to say no to the old man."

Twenty-year Santa Monica resident Bobby Shriver didn't seek a career in politics, surprising given his late parents were Eunice (JFK's sister) and Sargent (Peace Corps director and vice presidential candidate.)

Bobby was a Yale-educated attorney, an activist and an entrepreneur. (He also founded organizations that raised millions for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS and Special Olympics, which his mother created in the 1960s.)

Call it fate or officious bureaucrats, but Shriver's "path" changed in 2003 when he and 700 other Santa Monica property owners were put on notice by the city. The height of their hedges exceeded city limits and the fines for non-compliance were $25,000 a day! (And you thought our parking meters are a rip-off.)

The city was so arrogant that Shriver ran for council to change the culture at City Hall. A huge number of residents agreed because that November Bobby received the most votes in Santa Monica history. (An independent in a city polarized between landlords and residents, four years later Shriver again garnered the most votes.)

In 2003, I got a phone call from candidate Shriver asking if I would host a "meet and greet" at the Shores, the 532-unit apartment building where I live. He knew that, in 1960, my mother assisted Ted Kennedy in establishing Democratic Clubs throughout the state for JFK's California campaign. I readily agreed to Shriver's request, though I joked to friends, "It was impossible to say no."

When Bobby came to the Shores he brought the star of the night, his mother, Eunice. Regal and yet remarkably congenial, she was seated prominently in front of Bobby and facing the audience.

Then I introduced Bobby, who outlined his goals should he win a council seat. In the Q and A, a tenant asked what seemed a cynical question. "Given your family background, isn't council an unimportant office?"

Before Bobby could respond, Eunice beat him to it. "Every office is important," she said with great vigor. "Public service is the backbone of our democracy!" After an awkward silence, Bobby announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, I give you my mother."

Everyone broke up in laughter. Shriver couldn't have written a better comedy line. Unfazed, Eunice sat tall in her chair having struck a blow for public service.



Photo courtesy Sarah Dusseault

ON THE STUMP: Former Santa Monica Mayor Bobby Shriver announcing his candidacy for Los Angeles County supervisor.

On council, as mayor pro tem and as mayor, Shriver's proudest accomplishments included cleaning up Santa Monica Bay and the beaches, including under the Santa Monica Pier where the pollution was the worst; the building of the beautiful Annenberg Community Beach House, which had been a blight since the 1994 earthquake; and, despite red tape and roadblocks, finding housing for homeless veterans!

Shriver was also widely credited with helping to change City Hall from a bureaucrat-serving to a resident-serving culture. Now he's running for L.A. County supervisor in the Third District, which includes Santa Monica.

As Eunice noted, every public office is important, but supervisor really is. L.A. County has 10 million people, a $25 billion budget and only five supervisors.

"I'm committed to solving tough problems and getting projects done on time and on budget," Shriver said. "I can because I've done it before."

Among the issues he's focusing on are: minimizing homelessness, addressing allegations of misconduct in county jails, job creation, foster care, traffic and gridlock, and improving fire and police protection.

The supervisor's seat is non-partisan and one of Shriver's greatest strengths is working across ideological differences. (Much like his late uncle Ted.) As Shriver points out, "It wasn't easy getting $15 billion for Africans with AIDS from a conservative Republican administration but we did."

Surprisingly the attacks on Shriver from one opponent have been harsh, to put it mildly. (I can only imagine what Eunice would have said.) The primary in this important election is June 3 and the general is Nov. 4.

However it turns out for Shriver, to think, it might not have happened at all had his hedges been shorter.

To learn about the Shriver campaign go to bobbyshriver.nationbuilder.com. **JACK** is at facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth or jnsmdp@aol.com.

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New gender options for Facebook users

MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer

MENLO PARK, Calif. You don't have to be just male or female on Facebook anymore. The social media giant has added a customizable option with about 50 different terms people can use to identify their gender as well as three preferred pronoun choices: him, her or them.

Facebook said the changes, shared with The Associated Press before the launch on Thursday, initially cover the company's 159 million monthly users in the U.S. and are aimed at giving people more choices in how they describe themselves, such as androgynous, bi-gender, intersex, gender fluid or transsexual.

"There's going to be a lot of people for whom this is going to mean nothing, but for the few it does impact, it means the world," said Facebook software engineer Brielle Harrison, who worked on the project and is herself undergoing gender transformation, from male to female. On Thursday, while watchdogging the software for any problems, she said she was also changing her Facebook identity from Female to TransWoman.

"All too often transgender people like myself and other gender nonconforming people are given this binary option, do you want to be male or female? What is your gender? And it's kind of disheartening because none of those let us tell others who we really are," she said. "This really changes that, and for the first time I get to go to the site and specify to all the people I know what my gender is."

Facebook, which has 1.23 billion active monthly users around the world, also allows them to keep their gender identity private and will continue to do so.

The Williams Institute, a think tank based at the University of California, Los Angeles, estimates there are at least 700,000 individuals in the U.S. who identify as transgender, an umbrella term that includes people who live as a gender different from the one assigned to them at birth.

The change at Facebook drew dozens of appreciative postings on the company's diversity website, although there were some pointing out the need to change relationships beyond son and daughter, and asking for sexual preference options.

The move by Facebook represents a basic and a yet significant form of recognition of the nation's growing transgender rights movement, which has been spurred by veteran activists and young people who identify as transgender at younger ages. The Human Rights Campaign last year found that 10 percent of the 10,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender youths it surveyed used "other" or wrote in their own gender terms.

"Over the past few years, a person's Facebook profile truly has become their online identity, and now Facebook has taken a milestone step to allow countless people to more honestly and accurately represent themselves," HRC President Chad Griffin said. "Facebook's action is one that I hope others heed in supporting individuals' multifaceted identities."

The change to the gender selection option is seen as a major step toward acceptance for people who don't self-identify as male or female, but the high-profile development seemed senseless to those who believe in two genders, no more.

"Of course Facebook is entitled to manage its wildly popular site as it sees fit, but here is the bottom line: It's impossible to deny the biological reality that humanity is divided into two halves - male and female," said Jeff Johnston, an issues analyst for Focus on the Family, an influential national religious organization based in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Those petitioning for the change insist that there are an infinite number of genders, but just saying it doesn't make it so. That said, we have a great deal of compassion for those who reject their biological sex and believe they are the opposite sex."

Masen Davis, executive director of the San Francisco-based Transgender Law Center, said it may be hard for some people to understand the importance of having the ability to select from multiple genders online. But he said many transgender people will be thrilled with the change.

"We applaud Facebook for making it possible for people to be their authentic selves online," he said.

In the past decade, the transgender movement has become much more organized and outspoken, demanding the kind of civil rights and respect already sought by gay activists. During this time, the transgender umbrella has been growing well beyond transsexuals to encompass a wide variety of gender identities.

The move by Facebook came after years of lobbying from users, some who started Facebook pages to petition for the change. Google+ offers male, female and "other" as choices, but transgender advocates said Facebook's many specific options puts the platform well ahead of any other online community. About 1 percent of Google+ users identify as other.

"I love that I can choose Gender Neutral," said Debon Garrigues of Asheville, N.C., who is transitioning from female to male. "I'm going to change it immediately."

The Q Line

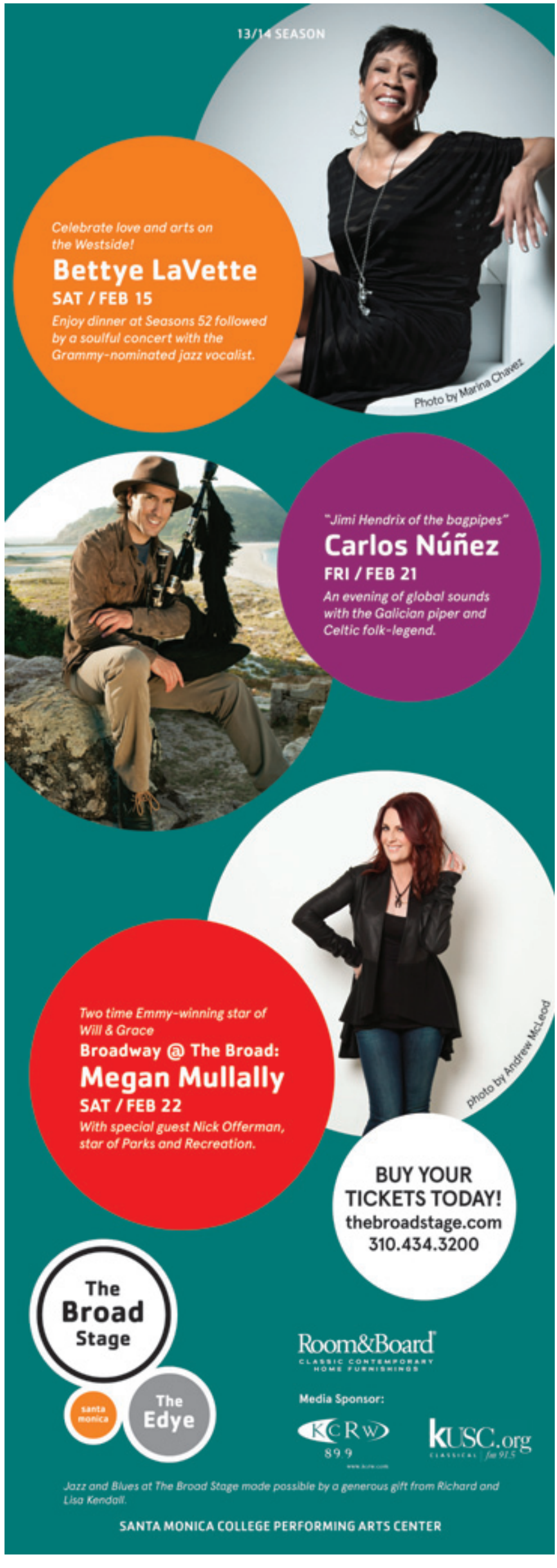
Vote it down?

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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What state freeway has the most gridlock?

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Those who like to argue — or brag — about the worst commute in this traffic-tangled state have a new measure of their misery.

What is the most congested stretch of California freeway? It has more reconstructive surgery than a Hollywood has-been and, if you make it through the madness, you can head to the border (Mexico or Canada).

The dubious honor goes to ... Interstate 5 in Los Angeles County.

In 2012 alone, vehicles spent a cumulative 6.6 million extra hours on that road due to heavy traffic. And those 753 years only count the hours when the traffic was going less than 35 mph.

The numbers come from data analyzed by the California Department of Transportation, which calculates time wasted in "heavy congestion" using sensors under the pavement that track vehicle speed. Caltrans did the math and then ranked freeways on a county level. The agency collects the data to identify which freeways most need traffic relief.

It was the second year in a row that "the 5," as locals call it, topped Caltrans' most-congested-freeways list. The reigning champion had been the stretch of Interstate 405 that cuts across the western part of Los Angeles County.

Indeed, Los Angeles County owned six of the Top 10 slots. The first outside LA County, coming in fifth, was Interstate 5 — in Orange County, just to the south. Rounding out the list were another freeway in Orange and two in Alameda counties.

Several stretches of the 5 in Los Angeles County are being widened to create carpool lanes. It is no secret why. Since the 5 opened more than 50 years ago, the county has added about four million people. There are simply too many cars for the capacity.

There are many ways to measure traffic, and while this one ranking is unlikely to settle the worst-commute-ever argument, it does present a stunning perspective.

The 6.6 million "vehicle hours of delay" on I-5 is a measure of how much more time cars, trucks and buses spent on that road when they were going less than 35 mph ("heavy congestion" in the parlance of traffic planners). A car traveling any faster does not count toward those 6.6 million hours — though a driver going 36 mph may not be bragging.

The statistics were released this month as part of the agency's first "Mile Marker" performance report. The Department of Transportation has been criticized as not being transparent about its operations, and the report was an effort to present useful information in a concise, accessible way, Caltrans spokesman Matt Rocco said.

405
FROM PAGE 3

way's northbound lanes between Getty Center Drive and Ventura Boulevard. Approximately 5.6 miles long, the closure equals two-thirds of the length of the entire I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is managing the $1.1-billion freeway-widening project that will include more miles of carpool lanes.

During daytime hours, two northbound lanes will remain open while three lanes will be closed. During nighttime hours, all five northbound freeway lanes will be closed. While the southbound lanes will remain open during daytime hours of the closure, some reductions may occur during nighttime hours.

Sections of the closure will reopen as they are completed. Updates are available at Twitter and Facebook. Call 511 during the closure weekend and say "Jamzilla" or visit go511.com for real-time traffic updates.

Sepulveda Boulevard will remain at full capacity during the closure, although that street does not have the capacity to move all the traffic diverted from the northbound lane closures.

Traffic control officers provided by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation will help guide drivers at each I-405 northbound on-ramp.

Transportation officials ask drivers detouring from the closed I-10 connectors to use freeways rather than local streets.

Previous 405 Freeway closures didn't result in the snarled traffic some had anticipated.

Hopefully history repeats itself.

daniela@smdp.com

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Mr. Bodangles: Item hanging from rearview leads to arrest

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4, AT 5 P.M.,

Santa Monica Police officers saw a car traveling north on Fifth Street near Santa Monica Boulevard that had a fairly large item hanging from its rear-view mirror, a violation of the California Vehicle Code. Officers stopped the driver and found out that he had outstanding warrants and was driving on a suspended license. They arrested the driver and then searched the car. Officers said they found in a grocery bag some cocaine. The driver was busted for the warrants and drug possession. He was identified as James Daniel Lavorgna, 46, of Marina del Rey. His bail was set at $45,500.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7, AT 10:30 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 2900 block of Main Street – Rick's Tavern – regarding a report of a man who was disturbing the peace. When officers arrived they talked with an employee at the bar who said a man tried to get in, but he was refused entry because he was clearly drunk. The man became upset and allegedly threatened to "shoot the place up" before reaching into his pocket. Fearing he had a weapon, the employee of the bar used pepper spray to hold him back. That incapacitated the man until police arrived. Officers took him into custody for being drunk in public. He was identified as Robert Bruce Gillam, 49, of Venice. His bail was set at $250.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8, AT 3 A.M.,

Officers responded to a report of a fight that just took place on the Santa Monica Pier. When officers arrived they spoke with the alleged victim who said he was walking on the pier with his aunt when he was approached by a man who made some kind of gang-related statement to him and then punched him in the face. Officers responded so quickly that they were able to detain the suspect as he was walking away from the scene. A positive identification was made and the suspect was placed under arrest for assault and battery. He was identified as Gonzalo Alberto Sanguino, 33, of Glendale, Calif. His bail was set at $20,000.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4, AT 4:45 A.M.,

Officers responded to a parking garage located on the 2800 block of Neilson Way regarding a burglary suspect in custody. When officers arrived they spoke with a security guard who said that he saw the suspect on security cameras walking through the garage with a bike. The guard did not think the bicycle belonged to the man so he stopped him. The man's story seemed suspicious so the guard called police. Officers determined that the bike did not belong to the suspect and placed him under arrest for attempted burglary. He was identified as Brian Jeerrell Campbell, 24, of Lancaster, Calif. Because he was on probation, no bail was set, police said.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9, AT 8:20 A.M.,

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance at a home located on the 1800 block of Euclid Avenue. Officers were familiar with the address as they had been there earlier in the day to deal with a divorced couple. The woman lived at the home, and the man did not. Officers left, advising the man that he could not stay at the location. Officers were there again because the man allegedly broke one of the windows to the home and was trying to climb in. Officers placed the ex-husband under arrest for burglary. He was identified as Ricardo Lawrence Allen, 59. He refused to give officers a home address, police said. His bail was set at $50,000.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9, AT 5:50 P.M.,

Officers responded to a home along the 1300 block of Sixth Street regarding a report of someone making threats. When officers arrived they spoke with the alleged victim who told them that his brother-in-law was upset with him because of the way he was treating his son. The brother entered the man's bedroom with a sword and allegedly threatened him with it, but he never actually used it. They argued and the brother eventually left the bedroom, but remained at the home until police arrived. He gave officers consent to search his car for the sword, which they found. He was arrested for making criminal threats and for possessing the sword. He was identified as Kevin Todd Gaffuri, 36, of Montclair, Calif. His bail was set at $50,000.

editor@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports with the help of the Santa Monica Police Department.

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AIRPORT
FROM PAGE 1

legal staff," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. "Of course we are disappointed. But there is likely much work to come; and the attorneys representing the city are already looking forward and focusing our energies on the city's options."

In October, City Hall announced it would sue the federal government for full control of the airport's future.

Neighboring residents have long complained about the noise and pollution created by the propellor planes and jets. Others fear for their safety, pointing out that the runway is only a few hundred feet from homes. In September, a jet veered off the runway into a hangar. The hangar caught fire causing the roof to collapse and all four aboard were killed.

City Hall owns the land but the FAA says that various agreements obligate the space to continue to operate as an airport.

Last month, the FAA asked the judge to toss the lawsuit, claiming that City Hall knew of the federal government's intentions for the airport half a century ago. If City Hall wanted to sue, the FAA said, it should have been within 12 years of when they realized those intentions.

City Hall responded to the motion, pointing out that while they knew the federal government intended to operate SMO as an airport for decades, it was only a few years ago, in 2008, that they learned its intentions for the land to operate as such in perpetuity.

The second major argument put forward by the FAA is that a lawsuit is "unripe" — that the matter can't be settled in court until conflict arises. City Hall maintains that, according to contracts, if they stop operating the land as an airport, the only penalty would be for the rights to revert back to City Hall. In the lawsuit, they are seeking "declaratory relief" to determine their rights prior to litigation. Until City Hall refuses to operate the space as an airport, the FAA says, the matter should not be heard in court.

The judge agreed.

kevinh@smdp.com

GOLD
FROM PAGE 1

people tricked them into buying heavily marked-up so-called "collector" coins instead, including falsely telling consumers:

• That the coins are a better investment than bullion;

• That the coins offer more privacy than bullion;

• That the coins are not "reportable" on consumers' taxes;

• That the coins can't be confiscated by the government, while bullion can be.

The complaint further alleges that the collector coins pushed by Merit have none of those advantages over gold or silver bullion.

City attorneys claim the scheme bilked consumers out of tens of millions of dollars. Many of Merit's customers are seniors, according to the complaint.

The complaint names Merit co-owners Peter M. Epstein and Michael J. Getlin as defendants for their role in training, controlling, and overseeing the operation.

Getlin told the Daily Press that the company has some of the lowest pricing available in the industry and more than 50 percent of the ounces of gold and silver shipped is bullion "and priced at 1 percent over dealer cost."

"We are shocked by this lawsuit," he said. "We have what we believe to be the best, most transparent and fairest practices in our industry."

Getlin said the company has been in contact with the City Attorney's Office since March 2013 and has cooperated with their investigation by "providing them with very detailed explanations of our advertising, sales, and pricing practices."

"They claim that we represent that certain coins offer protection from tax reporting and potential government confiscation when in fact they knew that we explicitly prohibit our sales staff from discussing those topics in recommending one product over another," he added.

Merit holds a AAA rating from the Business Consumer Alliance, a nonprofit founded in 1936 to provide consumers with assistance in resolving complaints with businesses and to provide reviews on a business' reliability. It uses various aspects of a business to assign them letter grades, AAA being the highest, according to the nonprofit's website.

Another website, Ripoff Report, a for-profit site founded by consumer advocate Ed Magedson in 1988, tells a different story. Several complaints about Merit are featured. In one, a man named Michael from East Windsor, Conn. says he purchased precious metals from Merit for $64,000, but never received them.

"Merit has an impressive web site that makes all kinds of claims to include that your order will be shipped within seven days," the post states. "A couple weeks later you receive a booklet that basically says we will ship your order whenever the hell we please.

"I am still hopeful that I will someday get my product and hopefully it will be what I ordered, but I am not holding my breath."

The post was from March of 2013. It doesn't say if Michael from Connecticut ever received his order.

Ripoff Report generates several million dollars of revenue a year, the company says, by charging criticized firms various fees to have inspectors make sure complaints have been resolved. If they have, the website inserts a positive headline and text above complaints.

Merit's website includes a handful of positive reviews, with customers, some of whom only give their first name and last initial, saying they were pleased with the service provided and found the prices to be competitive.

The City Attorney's Office brings the case under California's Unfair Competition Law, which protects consumers from false advertising, fraud, and other unlawful business practices.

Attorneys are seeking an injunction to prevent future acts of alleged unfair competition, financial penalties and restitution, as well as cash to cover the cost of the lawsuit.

This case marks the third time in the past three years that the city attorney has taken a national gold dealer to court for alleged wrongdoing.

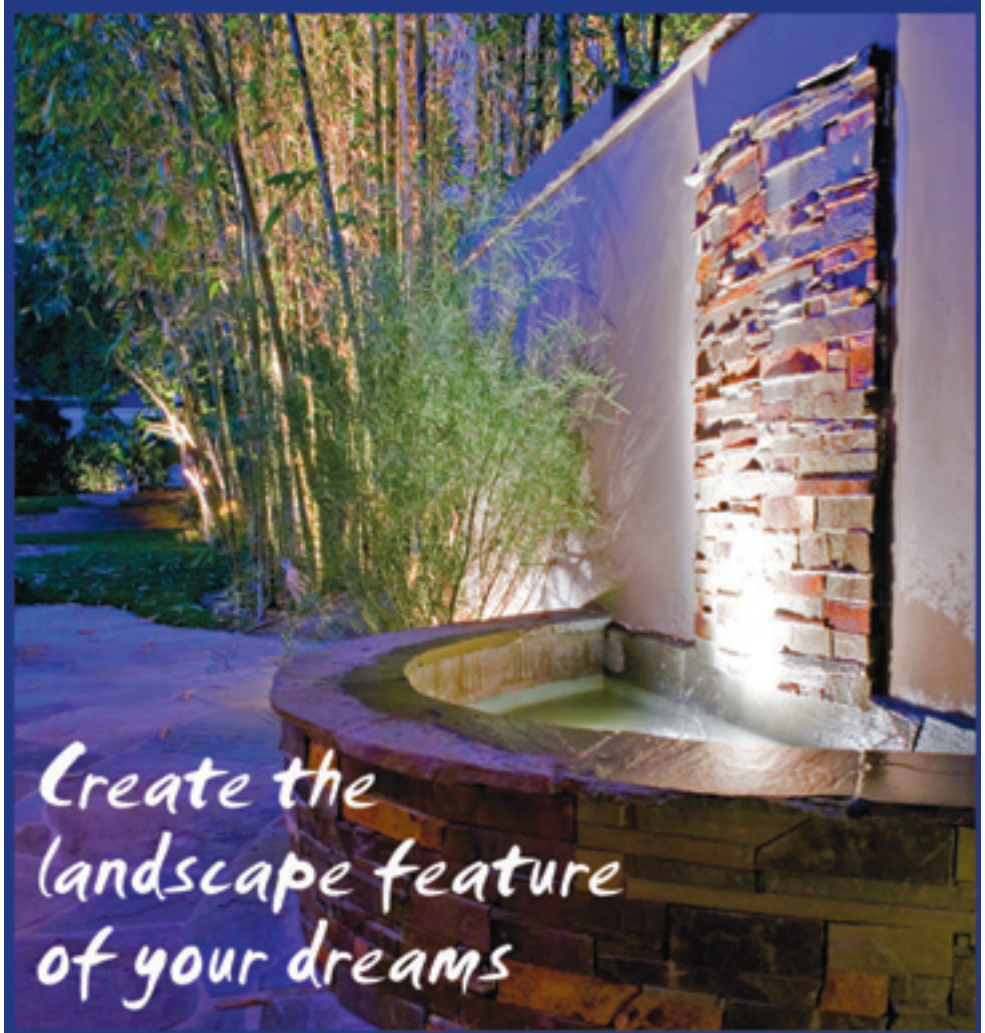
In 2012, Santa Monica obtained judgments against Goldline International and Superior Gold Group, both of whom were said to be using schemes similar to what Merit is being accused of. Goldline agreed to provide more than $5 million in refunds and to a sweeping injunction; its practices are still being scrutinized by a court-appointed monitor, according to the City Attorney's Office.

Superior Gold was shut down, placed under receivership, and ordered to pay $2 million in restitution to customers.

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office is continuing to investigate Merit and is asking former customers and former employees of Merit to contact the Consumer Protection Unit at (310) 458-8336 or file a complaint online at gold.smconsumer.org

kevinh@smdp.com

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FUNDS
FROM PAGE 1

Vision of Student Success (VSS) program, prohibits parents from donating money directly to individual schools for support staff and additional programs, instead making the Ed Foundation the sole fundraising vehicle for the district.

The model met resistance in Malibu, where many parents believed the program would essentially transfer money from Malibu schools to Santa Monica schools. Faced with a lofty $4 million goal, the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF) ended its 2013-14 drive with $3.2 million in donations.

Karen Farrer, who sits on the leadership board for Advocates of Malibu Public Schools and has children attending Malibu schools, said she remains concerned some schools may lose teaching aides even if the full $4 million is spread throughout the district.

"Please do not put into effect a policy that can and will cause monumental changes at schools that have worked so many years to build these programs," Farrer said.

Superintendent Sandra Lyon admitted some schools might see some staff shake-ups, but it was too early to determine.

"There are some schools that have staffing that is above and beyond what the $4 million covers," Lyon said. "We're still uncovering what that will be. Allocation of instructional assistants may change for some [schools] that have had a very rich staffing there."

editor@smdp.com

This story first appeared in The Malibu Times.

FOOD
FROM PAGE 1

San Francisco.

It wasn't until after Loeb opened Rustic Canyon in 2006 that fate — or rather mothers — brought them together.

"We were introduced by our moms," he said. "It was a set-up."

Nathan, a pastry chef, came to work for Rustic Canyon and soon after they were married. It was her work with breads, Loeb said, that sparked their next set of restaurants. They started doing brunches at Rustic Canyon and people would line up before they opened. Nathan would get to the restaurant at 1 a.m. to start baking.

She suggested that they open another place that would make bread and desserts the star of the show. Huckleberry Cafe was born in 2009 and took off from the beginning.

"I think all along her goal was to have one place that was just her shop and my goal was to open a bunch of places that really complement each other," Loeb said. "We both kind of learned to support each other. She knows I want to open places so she finds her role in opening them and I support her in having Huckleberry be the best that it can be."

After Huckleberry, Loeb's dream of expanding took off. They opened the first Sweet Rose Creamery, an ice cream shop, in May of 2010. When Nathan got pregnant with their first child, Milo, they decided to take a month and visit Barcelona with plans of getting bored and not working.

"And of course our minds started racing as soon as we got away," Loeb said. "Huckleberry was too tight to be able to do all the bread we wanted to do. Bread takes up so much space. We thought we should find a wholesale bakery somewhere, with a little front. We'll make all of our breads."

They felt like Santa Monica was lacking good pizza options. Milo and Olive opened in 2011 and, once again, reviews were glowing.

"They've really taken Santa Monica and if they see that it's missing anything great they bring that here," said Erin Eastland, a Santa Monica resident who's been working as the couple's chef for the past seven months. "They really nailed what Santa Monica needed."

Eastland has been working in the food industry for the past 18 years and she said that the environment at the restaurant is different from anywhere else she's worked.

"There are a lot of 'this is why I love my job' moments," she said.

Since then Loeb and Nathan opened two more Sweet Rose Creameries.

Last year they thought it might be time to take a break with the expansion but they couldn't help themselves. An old acquaintance took them on a tour of an old building on the corner of on Seventh Street at Arizona Avenue and soon they were having that familiar conversation about what Santa Monica lacks. This time? Asian-fusion.

"There's some good sushi around here but not a lot of any other kind of Asian food," Loeb said.

They hope to open a Southeast Asian joint and a wine bar in the building by the end of the year.

Their plate is full right now, Loeb said, and they don't have plans for any expansion. But they've said that before.

"I always used to say I would do 10 restaurants in 10 years," Loeb said. "It's pretty close and Zoe always kicked me in the leg for saying that. I'm confident that when it feels like it's done I'll know it. Some years we'll take a break from expansion and refine what's already open. So it's a constant process: expand, refine, expand, refine."

dave@smdp.com







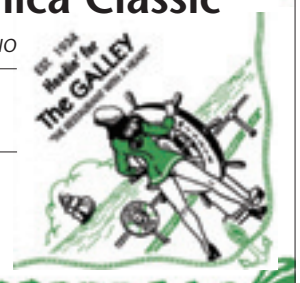


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SANTA MONICA PLACE CINEMAS PROJECT

The City of Santa Monica (the City) has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Monica Place Cinemas Project (the Proposed Project). In compliance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15072, the City has prepared this Notice of Intent to inform responsible agencies and other interested parties about the City's intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Monica Place Cinemas Project. The Mitigated Negative Declaration tiers with the City's Santa Monica Place Remodel Project Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, approved by the City of Santa Monica in September 2007, as well as the Santa Monica Civic Center Specific Plan EIR, certified by the City Council on June 28, 2005, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15152 and 15168.

PROJECT APPLICANT: Macerich Santa Monica, LLC

PROJECT LOCATION: 315 Colorado Avenue, 3rd Level of the Bloomingdale's Building at Santa Monica Place mall

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Project would convert the entitled, but vacant approximately 50,000 sf of retail space on the 3rd Level of the Bloomingdale's Building within Santa Monica Place mall into a multi-screen cinema with up to 16 movie theaters and a seating capacity of up to 1,500 seats. The Proposed Project may also include a lounge area and/or outdoor terrace area for ticket holders. Renovations would be limited to the 3rd Level of the existing Bloomingdale's Building, which would be increased in height by 36 feet to a height of approximately 84 feet above existing grade

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed online at http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Plans-Projects/ or in person at the following locations:

City Planning Division public counter
Room 111
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Office of the City Clerk
Room 102
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Main Branch
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Ocean Park Branch
2601 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

REVIEW PERIOD: As the project is not regionally significant, the comment period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration is 20 days as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15105. The comment period will commence on **February 14, 2014** and end on **March 6, 2014**. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public comments on the document during this period. Any comments on the Negative Declaration must be received within the public review period, in **writing, by 5:30 p.m. on March 6, 2014** and addressed to:

Laura Beck, Associate Planner
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: 310 458 8341
E-mail: laura.beck@smgov.net

ESPAÑOL: Se trata de un aviso de la intención de la Ciudad para adoptar una declaración negativa para un proyecto de cine propuesto, que pueda ser de su interés. Para más información, llame a Carmen Guiterrez, al numero (310) 458-8341.

Stock market rises as investors assess earnings

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK The stock market rose for the fifth time in six days Thursday as higher earnings from several big U.S. companies helped investors shrug off discouraging news about jobs and retail spending.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber surged to its highest level in almost six years after the company's earnings beat analysts' forecasts. CBS also jumped after the broadcaster beat Wall Street's profit expectations and speed up its stock buyback program.

Investors' focus has returned to company earnings after concerns about growth in emerging markets and the health of the U.S. economy pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its lowest level in more than three months at the start of February. Analysts at S&P Capital IQ expect that earnings at companies in the index increased last quarter at the fastest pace in a year.

"The momentum from earnings continues," said Andres Garcia-Amaya, a global market strategist at JPMorgan Funds.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.57 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,829.83. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 63.65 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,027.59. The Nasdaq composite rose 39.38 points, or 0.9 percent, to 4,240.67.

Stocks also got a lift from deal news.

Time Warner Cable surged $9.50, or 7 percent, to $144.81 after the company agreed to be acquired by rival Comcast for $45.2 billion in stock. The deal would combine the top two cable TV companies in the United States. Comcast fell $2.27, or 4.1 percent, to $52.97.

The biggest gains in the S&P 500 were posted by utility companies. Gains in these stocks suggest investors are looking to play it safe. Utilities don't have the best growth prospects, but they pay steady dividends and operate in stable industries.

Stocks opened lower Thursday following lackluster reports on the U.S. job market and retail sales.

The number of people seeking unemployment benefits rose 8,000 last week to 339,000, the Labor Department said. Economist had forecast claims of just 330,000.

A separate report showed that cold weather caused U.S. retail sales to drop in January as Americans spent less on autos and clothing and at restaurants during a brutally cold month. The Commerce Department says retail sales fell 0.4 percent last month, the second straight decline after a 0.1 percent drop in December.

The stock market inched higher throughout the morning. Major indexes turned positive by late morning as investors assessed a handful of encourage corporate earnings reports.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber surged $2.77, or 11.5 percent, to $26.94 after it reported a big earnings gain. Strong sales in the company's core North American market helped the tire maker's results.

CBS rose $2.76, or 4.5 percent, to $64.61 after reporting fourth-quarter earnings and revenue growth that beat Wall Street's expectations. Advertising revenue was flat, but there was growth in content licensing thanks to the sale of shows such as "Hawaii Five-O" for domestic reruns.

Despite the recent signs of stabilization, the stock market is still going through a pullback driven largely by the Federal Reserve's decision to cut back on its economic stimulus program, said Barry Knapp, the head of U.S. equity portfolio strategy at Barclays.

The stimulus underpinned the stock market's rally last year, but policy makers have reduced it at each of their last two meetings. The Fed has scaled back its bond purchases from $85 billion a month to $65 billion a month.

Typically, pullbacks that are prompted by a change in Fed policy last between two and three month and push stocks lower by as much as 9 percent, according to Knapp.

"It seems a little too soon for (stocks) to have worked their way through this yet," said Knapp. "We don't think the uptrend is going to resume right away, stocks will probably still struggle a bit in the first half of the year."

In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year note fell to 2.73 percent from 2.76 percent on Wednesday. The price of oil was little changed at $100.35 a barrel. Gold gained $5.10, or 0.5 percent, to $1,300.10 an ounce.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Whole Foods dropped $4, or 7.2 percent, to $51.46 after the grocery chain reported fiscal first-quarter profit and revenue that came in below analysts' forecasts. The company, known for its organic and natural food offerings, also lowered its earnings projections for the year again as the company faces more and more competition.

— Cisco Systems fell 58 cents, or 2.5 percent, to $22.27, after the company reported late Wednesday that weaker revenue and special charges weighed down its second-quarter earnings.



Winter storms are threatening to chill U.S. economy

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The winter storms barreling across much of the United States are undercutting the nation's economy just when signs of stronger growth had begun to emerge.

Retail sales tumbled in January after a smaller decline in December, the government said Thursday. The news came as another snowstorm blanketed a third of the country, likely ensuring that February will mark a third straight month of weak job growth.

Some economists responded by lowering their overall growth estimates for the January-March quarter. Freezing weather usually slows the economy during winter before growth picks up once temperatures rise again. But the onslaught of snow days this winter could prolong the slowdown.

For one thing, harsh conditions tend to rob many hourly workers of income. The avalanche of nasty weather means that waiters, limousine drivers and store employees might never recoup their lost wages later in the year, said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial.

Snow days that were declared across the Eastern Seaboard forced many parents to stay home from work. Atlanta closed its schools for a third straight day, Philadelphia for the fifth time this winter.

At the same time, home heating bills have escalated for many such families, many of whom have no choice but to reduce spending elsewhere.

"You disrupted incomes for some people permanently," Swonk said.

She estimates that economic growth during the first three months of this year will be "well below" a 2 percent annual rate — a steep drop from the 3.2 percent rate in the final quarter of 2013.

Several major retailers and restaurant chains have blamed winter storms for chilling sales. McDonald's, the world's biggest burger chain, said bad weather hurt its U.S. sales last month. Whole Foods said weather was one reason its fiscal first-quarter profit and revenue fell below expectations. And Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, in late January blamed severe weather for a fourth-quarter drop in revenue.

Based on data from 50,000 retailers, sales plunged 9.6 percent during the height of the polar vortex that gripped much of the nation in January compared with the same period last year, the firm Applied Predictive Technologies said.

For all of January, retail sales fell a seasonally adjusted 0.4 percent, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That marked the second straight decline after a 0.1 percent drop in December.

The retail sales report is the first look at last month's consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of all economic activity. Many economists had predicted that stronger consumer spending this year would cause growth to accelerate.

But auto sales fell 2.1 percent in January. The industry reported a 3 percent drop compared with a year ago, the first year-over-year drop since August of 2010.

February isn't looking much better.

Some dealers lost power or had no customers for two or three days this month. The salt supplier for the auto mall AutoServ in Tilton, N.H., said this week's shipment would be the last because of a shortage, said AutoServ CEO Dennis Gaudet.

Last month, consumers spent less on clothing and furniture. Department store sales extended a decline after a weak holiday shopping season. Even online shopping — the fastest source of retail spending growth year-over-year — fell 0.6 percent last month.

When Americans did buy more, much of the increase was at gas stations, and that was because of rising prices. Their purchases of building materials and groceries also rose.

"These gains may also have been driven by weather," said Peter D'Antonio, head of U.S. economic forecasting at Citigroup. "People evidently bought shovels, snow blowers and salt. And they stocked up on food."

Evidence of a slowdown is a deflating sign after the economy had rounded into January fanned by momentum gathered in the second half of 2013. Economic growth achieved a solid annual rate of 3.2 percent in the October-December quarter after an even better 4.1 percent rate the previous quarter.

The forecasting firm Macroeconomic Advisers responded Thursday to the drop in retail sales by reducing its estimate of growth this quarter to a 1.7 percent annual rate from an earlier forecast of 1.9 percent. Moody's Analytics cut its forecast to a 1.9 percent annual rate from 2.2 percent.

Ryan Sweet, an economist at Moody's Analytics, said weather likely put a "noticeable dent" into growth. He estimated that it shaved up to a full percentage point from first-quarter expansion. He added, though, that the expiration of extended unemployment benefits at the end of 2013 and reduced food stamp benefits also hampered retail sales.

Several other economic reports suggest that growth slowed. Factories received fewer orders in December. Signed contacts to buy homes have plummeted to their lowest level in more than two years.

And the past two monthly job reports were sluggish. Only 113,000 workers were added in January. That's slightly better than the 75,000 jobs for December. But average job creation for the past two months combined has been about half the pace of average monthly job gains over the past two years.

Hiring could remain lackluster in February, too. Thursday's snowstorm overlapped with a government survey that's being used to calculate this month's jobs report.

"It's quite possible that we have to brace ourselves for another soft jobs report," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "That's due to the snow."

There are also signs that the momentum at the end of last year was weaker than initially thought.

Retail sales for December were revised downward in Thursday's report. What was initially a 0.2 percent gain was revised to a 0.1 percent loss. Some economists suggested that growth during the October-December quarter would be slightly downgraded from its initial 3.2 percent annualiz increase.

As a result, the pace of retail sales growth over the past 12 months has slowed. Purchases have risen 2.6 percent compared with January 2013.



SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **61.3°**

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Small 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
Small NW swell mix eases; deep morning high tide;
watching for a slightly better NW swell to move in overnight

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small new NW swell mix possible - larger sets out west in the region; deep morning high tide

MONDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high
Watching for potential new NW swell - larger sets out west in the region...stay tuned, STILL STORM DEPENDENT

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 -- 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

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 21572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (broach 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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
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.

Dodgers have a crowd competing for 2B job

BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. The Los Angeles Dodgers return a lineup virtually intact from their NL West championship run.

The only real uncertainty is at second base, where Mark Ellis left via free agency to the St. Louis Cardinals.

While the Dodgers would love for Cuban defector Alex Guerrero to win the job, manager Don Mattingly knows it might be a shared assignment when the team opens its season with a pair of games against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Sydney on March 22-23.

"It's hard for us to say we can make a decision on that," Mattingly said. "We can take a look at a combination of guys, what guys look like in camp, could it be a platoon-type situation? Is one of those guys a utility guy that can play a lot of second? I just think there's too many questions for us to be able to say, 'I want an everyday guy' and try to force that. If it's a square peg I don't want to force it into the round hole. So I'm going to try to see what we've got first."

There's a long list of candidates for the job, among them ex-shortstop Dee Gordon, Justin Turner, Justin Fellers, Miguel Rojas and Chone Figgins.

"Competitive I guess is what it is," Mattingly said. "I think we've got a number of guys we're going to be looking at."

Although many had been there for a couple of days, position players officially reported to the Dodgers' spring training facility on Thursday, with the first full-squad workout set for Friday.

Gordon, son of ex-major league pitcher Tom "Flash" Gordon, was among the lightest players in the majors at just under 150 pounds last year. He's up to a healthy 179 this year. Don't expect that to diminish his speed. He's one of the fastest players in the game.

Two years ago, he came to spring training anointed the starting shortstop and leadoff hitter. But he struggled at the plate, then went down with a thumb injury. That led the team to acquire Hanley Ramirez, and it's been an uphill climb for Gordon since. He played most of last season for Triple-A Albuquerque.

The second base opening is a new opportunity.

"I'm just going to go in, play hard, play my game and whatever happens happens," Gordon said. "If I go out and do what I need to do, I won't have a regret about anything, good or bad."

He said shifting to second shouldn't be a problem.

"I love second base. It's great," Gordon said. "I mean, I love shortstop as well. I'm still working at shortstop, not saying I want to be the shortstop or anything. I'm just working there because it helps my feet, keeps my feet moving. It makes the transition to second base a little easier."

The Dodgers obviously think the job should be Guerrero's eventually, signing him last October to a four-year, $28 million contract.

Guerrero, too, is a shortstop by experience.

"We haven't got to see him play at all," Mattingly said. "I've seen video. One thing I do know is the guys that our scouts have told us can play, they can play. And they've told us that Alex can play."

Turner, a utility infielder, is a non-roster invitee who hit .280 in 86 games for the New York Mets last season and signed a minor league deal with Los Angeles. Fellers hit .297 in 89 games for Albuquerque last year and .188 in 27 games for the Dodgers.

The slick-fielding Rojas hit .233 for Double-A Chattanooga in the Cincinnati organization in 2013. The 36-year-old Figgins, who had some good years with the Los Angeles Angels, also signed a minor league deal with the Dodgers.

Even if Guerrero gets the everyday job, those who didn't make it will vie for the job of backup for the infield positions.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Breakfast at Tiffany's (NR) 1hr 55min
7:30pm
The first few dozen audience members to arrive will receive Godiva chocolates. Happy Valentine's Day!

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 48min
11:40am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm

That Awkward Moment (R) 1hr 34min
2:15pm, 10:45pm

Winter's Tale (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:00am, 1:45 pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

About Last Night (R) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Vampire Academy (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:20am, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

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

RoboCop (NR)
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

Lego Movie in 3D (PG)
1:20pm, 6:50pm

Ride Along (PG-13)
11:00am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Monuments Men (NR)
11:15am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:30pm, 10:35pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
10:35am, 1:30pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:25pm

Endless Love (NR)
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Lego Movie (PG)
10:45am, 5:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Gloria (R) 1hr 40min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Past (Le passe) (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
4:00pm, 9:40pm

Dallas Buyers Club (R) 1hr 57min
4:10pm, 9:55pm

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

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

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

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

RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES TONIGHT, VIRGO

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might go overboard when dealing with a child or new friend. Your creativity will flourish as long as you are spontaneous. An associate might interject him- or herself into a situation without realizing it. Make this OK. Tonight: Be the Romeo or Juliet of the moment!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your feelings are a lot stronger than you realize. Someone in your immediate circle will encourage you to be more logical. You might feel as if this person is raining on your parade. Don't worry -- this behavior is only temporary. Tonight: Invite some friends over.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Remain spontaneous despite a co-worker's or friend's attitude. You have much more that you want to share, and you will. You suddenly might switch from being in a rage one minute to being even-tempered the next. Tonight: Do the Valentine thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might discover that you have more than one Valentine. Be careful when making plans, as there could be a conflict. Remember, chocolate works; nearly everyone loves it. Tonight: The going gets better as it gets later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You'll want to pursue an important matter. Let a domestic issue sit for now, because you won't be able to change it. Be optimistic, no matter what happens. You will find a way to turn this situation around. Tonight: Too many people want to be your Valentine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Listen to the feedback you get, though you might want to confirm what you hear at a later point. You could be moving a lot slower than usual until later today. Postpone any meetings where you have to be alert. Tonight: Recharge your batteries. TGIF!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Run with the moment, and focus on your long-term goals. You could feel unusually tight when managing your funds. You might want to take a risk, but know that a more conservative course serves you well. Tonight: Honor Valentine's Day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Are the changes you're about to make positive? You might want to get feedback from someone who is straightforward. If you have made a plan at a time when you felt less than great, it could reflect a certain amount of negativity. Be realistic. Tonight: Use your imagination.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Understand that your moods tend to go up and down. When push comes to shove, you might want to reach out to a partner. A friend could be overassertive, and you might feel the need to respond with irritation, if not anger. Tonight: Try to make peace, not war.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Reach out to a loved one or dear friend at a distance. You have a way of communicating that lets the other person know you care. Use the upbeat mood of Valentine's Day to spread good cheer. Tonight: All smiles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Listen to a loved one's feedback. Understand that the innate tension that seems to exist between you and others is part of the Full Moon today. Problems will be exaggerated in the present stellar atmosphere. Tonight: Look at the big picture, then celebrate Valentine's Day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Tap into your imagination when making plans. You might notice that a friend, family member or loved one could be quite tense. Pressure builds and tempers flare as a result of the Full Moon. Try to stay clear of all the uproar. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

Friday, February 14, 2014

This year you could become easily irritated or have a problem when interacting with others. Use the power of detachment, and try walking in someone else's shoes. You will gain insight and compassion as a result. If you are single, you will meet someone you adore sometime after spring. You will love being around this person. If you are attached, when you become less triggered by interactions with your sweetie, you will be more accepting and loving. VIRGO can be annoying with his or her need for precision.

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?
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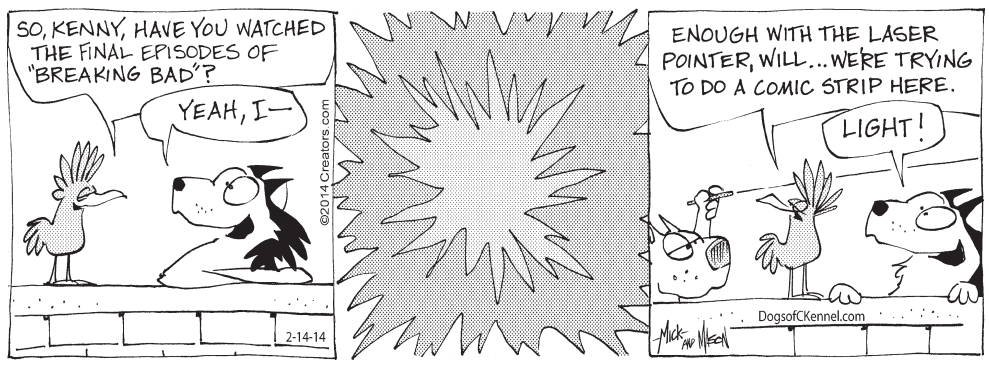
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



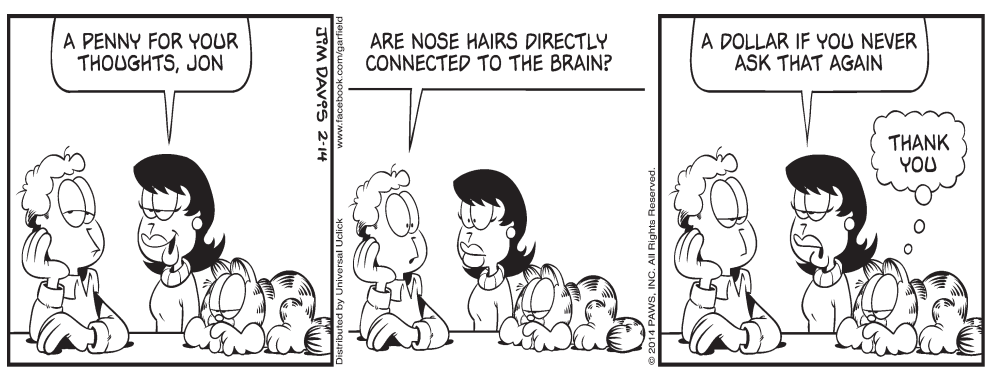
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Grate fill
6 Had longings
11 Message from the boss
12 Plow pioneer John
13 Location
14 Symbol of slowness
15 Wine list section
17 Apple or pear
18 Fill completely
20 Do copy work
22 Baby boxer
23 Trip
26 Came into existence
28 French cap
29 Cup bases
31 List-shortening abbr.
32 Victory goddess
33 Big party
34 Team
36 Chorizo base
38 Like lambs
40 Pitcher Satchel
43 Tango or twist
44 Essential
45 Sweetie
46 Yard tool

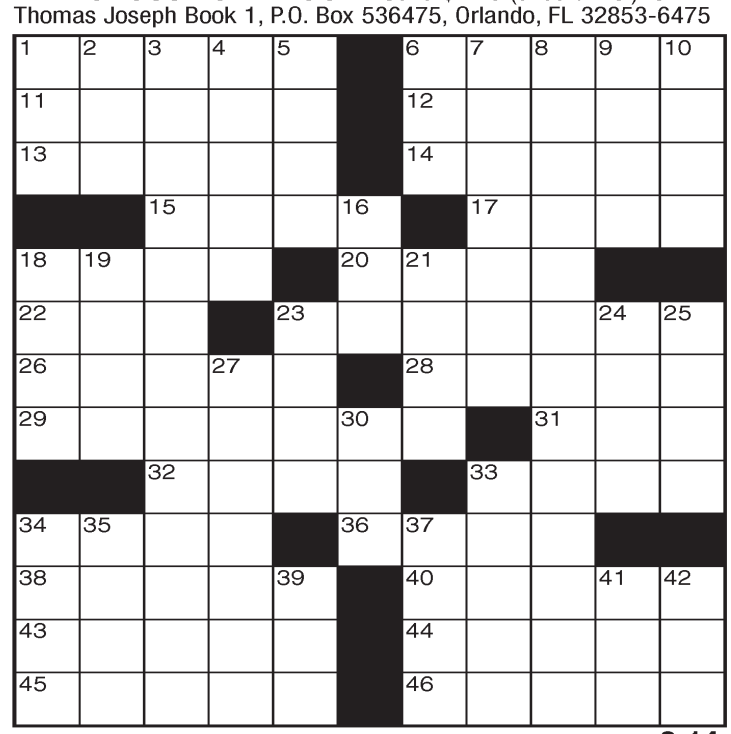
DOWN

1 Egyptian snake
2 Poivre's partner
3 Extremely exciting
4 Game leader
5 Future flower
6 Spots on TV
7 Franc part
8 Extremely sad
9 Huron neighbor
10 Proofing mark
16 Ready to go
18 Relaxing resorts
19 Mystique
21 Nicknames
23 Pursue
24 "Why don't we!"
25 Engrave
27 School course
30 Workout unit
33 Stock mark
34 Bar mixer
35 Notorious czar
37 Andy's son
39 Sushi choice
41 "My word!"
42 Mess up

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



2-14

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/12
36 44 49 52 57
Power#: 1
Jackpot: $330M

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

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/13
9 12 22 30 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/13
MIDDAY: 5 8 0
EVENING: 0 5 9

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/13
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:41.19

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**

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In ubiquitous public relations announcements around Pittsburgh, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) proudly points to its 52,000-person workforce delivering high-quality care. However, when the government sought to collect payroll taxes on UPMC, the company claimed it owed nothing because not a single employee actually works for UPMC. All 52,000 are, technically, on the books of UPMC's 40-plus subsidiaries, and a UPMC spokesman told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in October that he not only did not know which subsidiary the UPMC CEO worked for but which one he himself worked for. (He also said he did not know how many of the subsidiaries paid payroll taxes, but a UPMC attorney said its arrangement is "widely practiced throughout the business community").

■ Two 16-year-olds tried to pull off a street robbery at a housing complex in the Bernal Heights neighborhood of San Francisco in December, but one was arrested and the other is no longer with us. According to police, the victim cooperated fully with the two, but for some reason, one of the muggers fired his gun anyway. The bullet struck the victim (who was hospitalized, but will survive), ricocheted off his face and hit the shooter's partner, who died at the scene.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1924 – The Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company changes its name to International Business Machines Corporation (IBM).

1929 – Saint Valentine's Day Massacre: Seven people, six of them gangster rivals of Al Capone's gang, are murdered in Chicago, Illinois.

WORD UP!

pluvial
\ PLOO-vee-uhl \ , adjective;
1. of or pertaining to rain; rainy.
2. Geology . occurring through the action of rain.

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Announcements

Saint Jude thanks for your past help. Please continue more $ job for Colin, and all money returned.

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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.

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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.

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Handyman

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The Miramar is proud to announce that **Kathryn Gustafson**, a founding partner of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, has joined the team as landscape design architect.

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2012 Arnold W Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture, American Academy of Arts and Letters

2011 Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt's National Design Award

2011 Preservation Achievement Award, Boston Preservation Alliance, Boston, MA

As a partner in two offices, Gustafson Guthrie Nichol in Seattle and Gustafson Porter in London, Kathryn Gustafson has created some of the most acclaimed public spaces in the world, including: The Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago; Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial in London; Jardins de l'Imaginaire in Terrasson, France; and the winning entry for the Union Square – National Mall Design Competition in Washington, DC.



We look forward to collaborating with Gustafson Guthrie Nichol and Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects to create magnificent open spaces that will serve Santa Monica for generations to come.

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