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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 122

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

A POEM OF A TREE
SEE PAGE 6

THE UTILITY DUDE ISSUE

Second cinema in works for Downtown

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN A second new movie theater is being planned for Santa Monica.

ArcLight Cinemas is in negotiations with City Hall to put a theater on the land where Parking Structure 3 currently stands — on Fourth Street at Arizona Avenue, said Andy Agle, director of Housing and Economic Development.

A preliminary agreement that would allow ArcLight to start drawing up official plans could go before City Council later this month.

At that same meeting, council will consider final approval of another ArcLight theater proposed for the third level of the Santa Monica Place mall. Those plans have been in the works since last year. The Santa Monica Place theater could include up to 13 screens and 1,500 seats.

The plans for the theater on Fourth Street are still in the very early stages but, Agle said, despite the fact that they include more pro-

SEE THEATER PAGE 7



FLIPPING OUT
Alvin Hsing performs martial arts stunts Tuesday afternoon at the original Muscle Beach in Santa Monica.
Paul Alvarez Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

Samohi student pleads not guilty in tussle with teacher

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE One of two Santa Monica High School students arrested after an alleged fight with a teacher plead not guilty to five misdemeanors Tuesday, according to the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office.

Blair Moore, 18, is accused of, among other things, using violence as retaliation against a school employee who was attempting to carry out his duty. He's also accused of possessing a razor blade and marijuana.

Moore is a resident of Los Angeles, according to police reports. There are numerous ways an out-of-city resident can qualify for enrollment in the district. The Daily Press was unable to determine Moore's reason for eligibility by press time.

He was arraigned at the Los Angeles Airport Court. Charges were filed by the City Attorney's Office.

On Friday morning, the Santa Monica Police Department was called to Samohi for a report of battery.

A cellphone video taken by a student shows science teacher Mark Black fighting with a student. In the video, Black, who is also a wrestling coach, pins the student to the ground.

The fight reportedly broke out after Black tried to stop a student from selling marijuana in class.

Two students were arrested — Moore and

SEE STUDENT PAGE 8

Bloom's bill that would end orca shows stalls

FENIT NIRAPPIL
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A bill that sought to end killer whale shows at SeaWorld in San Diego and phase out their captivity was put on hold Tuesday, dousing an escalating fight between animal activists and supporters of the major tourist attraction.

The bill's author, Assemblyman and former Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), agreed during the bill's first hearing before the water, parks and wildlife committee to revisit his proposal after further study. As a result, AB2140 is dead for this year and the soonest lawmakers could vote on the proposal would be mid-2015.

"It's unfortunate that much of the conversation has been fueled ... by fear and invective and misinformation," Bloom said.

SEE BILL PAGE 9


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Salsa aerobics
1450 Ocean
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12:30 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Come experience an exhilarating aerobic dance workout with a Latin flair, and learn some muy caliente Latin dance moves while toning muscles and burning calories. All levels welcome. Drop-in registration is available for $20, but call ahead as slots may have already been filled. For more information call (310) 458-8300.

Mindful meditation
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
4 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Teens in grades 9-12 are encouraged to attend this special workshop on mindfulness, which can help ease stress, manage negative emotions, calm racing minds, and improve sleep by training the brain to focus on the present moment. Facilitator Samantha Snowden completed a certificate in Mindfulness Facilitation from the UCLA Mindful Awareness Research Center (MARC) where she now works with families and youth as a mindfulness teacher on the UCLA campus. For more information, visit the Main Library Youth Services Desk, or call (310) 458-8621. This event is free.

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Start up
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 p.m.
Learn how to navigate a web browser, locate information, evaluate online sources and print web pages. Beginner level. Seating is first come, first serve. For more information, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

Shake it up
1454 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Santa Monica CityShakes' production of "The Merchant of Venice" asks viewers how we can forgive those who have wronged us. Is there a time when justice and vengeance should win over mercy and compassion? This show will engage your senses in an up-close-and-personal, intimate space. For more information, visit cityshakes.org.

Spring is here
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
"Spring Awakening" is a rock musical adaptation of Frank Wedekind's 1891 expressionist play about the trials and tribulations, and the exhilaration of the teen years. It's Germany, 1891. The beautiful young Wendla explores her body and asks her mother where babies come from. Elsewhere, the brilliant and fearless young Melchior defends his buddy Moritz — a boy so traumatized by puberty he can't concentrate on anything. For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

Friday, April 11, 2014

Global flavor
Third Street Promenade
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
International food, music, artwork, jewelry, dancing, performances and celebration from around the world. For more information, call (424) 272-7001.

Cats with skills
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 7 p.m.
The playhouse welcomes Samantha Martin and her Amazing Acro-Cats as they spring into Santa Monica. The one-hour show features over a dozen fabulous felines (former orphans, rescues, and strays) walking tightropes, pushing carts, skateboarding, jumping through hoops, ringing bells, balancing on balls and turning on lights. For more information, visit circuscats.com.

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

Suspect in L.A. police shooting wanted to be peace officer

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A man suspected of shooting up a police station lobby and wounding an officer before being critically injured in a gunbattle had wanted to become a Los Angeles police officer and was rejected, authorities said Tuesday.

Daniel C. Yealu, 29, applied through the personnel department but never made it to the Police Academy, Cmdr. Andrew Smith told The Associated Press.

Smith said he did not know when the application was made and had no information about why Yealu was rejected.

Investigators also didn't immediately disclose a possible motive for the Monday night attack.

Yealu mentioned last year that he had applied to the Police Academy, was earning good money as a security guard and had plans to buy a condominium, his father, Danny Yealu, told the Los Angeles Times (http://lat.ms/1gJipWJ).

His son showed no warning signs before Monday night's attack, said Yealu, 58.

The younger Yealu brought a Glock pistol into the lobby of the Police Department's West Traffic Division station, walked 25 feet to the front desk, said "I have a complaint" and started shooting, police said.

Yealu and the desk officer were both shot several times in the close-range gunfight that followed. A second officer was involved in the shootout but wasn't struck by bullets.

The desk officer was shot in the shoulder and elsewhere. He wasn't wearing a bullet-proof vest, but a backup pistol in his left pocket deflected a shot to his leg, Police Chief Charlie Beck said Tuesday.

It is "an amazing story of survival," Beck said.

Yealu was hospitalized in critical condition.

The name of the wounded officer wasn't released but he is a seven-year veteran, Beck said.

Police Commission President Steve Soboroff said the officer was in good spirits and chatting with hospital visitors.

"He's got a big smile on his face," Soboroff said. "And his mom was there and

SEE **SHOOTING** PAGE 8



PROPS

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

Samohi's Jonah Mathews was named to the first team All-CIF-SS Division 1AA team last week.

Passwords vulnerable after flaw discovered

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Passwords, credit cards and other sensitive data are at risk after security researchers discovered a problem with an encryption technology used to securely transmit email, e-commerce transactions, social networking posts and other Web traffic.

Security researchers say the threat, known as Heartbleed, is serious, partly because it remained undiscovered for more two years. Attackers can exploit the vulnerability without leaving any trace, so anything sent during that time has potentially been compromised. It's not known, though, whether anyone has actually used it to conduct an attack.

Researchers are advising people to change all of their passwords.

The flaw was discovered independently in recent days by researchers at Google Inc. and the Finnish security firm Codenomicon.

The breach involves SSL/TLS, an encryption technology marked by the small, closed padlock and "https:" on Web browsers to signify that traffic is secure. With the Heartbleed flaw, traffic was subject to snooping even if the padlock had been closed.

The problem affects only the variant of SSL/TLS known as OpenSSL, but that happens to be one of the most common on the Internet.

Researchers at Codenomicon say that OpenSSL is used by two of the most widely used Web server software, Apache and nginx. That means many websites potentially have this security flaw. OpenSSL is also used to secure email, chats and virtual private networks, which are used by employees to connect securely with corporate networks.

Despite the worries, Codenomicon said many large consumer sites don't have the problem because of their "conservative choice" of equipment and software. "Ironically smaller and more progressive services or those who have upgraded to (the) latest and best encryption will be affected most," the security firm added.

A fix came out Monday, but affected websites and service providers must install the update.

Yahoo's Tumblr blogging service uses OpenSSL. In a blog post Tuesday, officials at the service said they had no evidence of any breach and had immediately implemented the fix.

SEE **SECURITY** PAGE 7

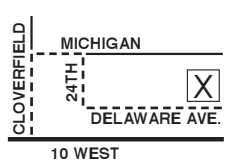


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ah, this eve of destruction

Editor:

Was reminded this day of that P.F Slone song Barry McGuire sang in 1965.

It came to mind when wondering about what became of those many Village Trailer Park home-owning residents who left the scene as development contention concerning the park played out over these recent seven or so years.

Recall those entrepreneurs who wanted to end the trailer park business, change the zoning on that cozy, plant-blessed, historic post-WWII unique few acres in Santa Monica's east end, so that they could then put up more too-large, neighborhood-inappropriate buildings on it? And that the stresses over those years of struggle impelled many, when pressured, to abandon their homes and become renters elsewhere?

Recall too, that for those owning their homes at the VTP who instead stayed to endure living through those years of uncertainty, it became recently shocking to learn that our local government gave up on them and their ownership rights, to actually then facilitate actions so the entrepreneur could proceed with the development? So much for home-ownership rights, actually affordable housing, and zoning/rent-control protection, right? Not to but mention honorable and ethical governance?

But — saving the day — early this March, as yet the next chapter of this development thievery assault on these residents' lives was about to occur, a respite came when one among the home owners in the VTP settled a legal dispute over the injustice all had been so long suffering. The terms of that settlement graciously offered those remaining residents some seemingly significant money in recompense for what had been done to them. That action, it seemed, giving at least some solace for these seniors, many being elderly and of very limited means. For having their home-ownership agreement so rudely threatened and their lives so insensitively compromised, it looked like they might yet be OK after all that abuse.

Sadly though, that recent settlement gain proved not enough and the residents' plight too seemed yet to be well enough addressed. With housing costs rising again (Remember that economic bubble back in '08 and '09, which served to put us in this modern depression we're still having a hard time with?) the settlement monies granted these home-owning residents turns out to cover only about what they might have net if they had sold their homes. Not enough to make it possible for them to survive very long as renters in Santa Monica, and certainly very far from enough for them to buy a home anywhere near where they have built their lives for these decades. But for this unbidden, greed driven effort to force them from their homes, likely none of these residents would, given these again-hardening economic times, even be thinking now of selling their homes; these times, they have indeed changed, and not for the better if one is not already employment secure, debt free, and quite flush.

No, after years of building their lives in this now problematic little town — just as its government seems needing to soon face dealing with the consequences of its overdeveloping aims and, with that, the finding of a remedy for the adversarial way it seems now treating its constituency in managing community matters — these remaining trailer park home owners also still face burdens. For one: the still-persisting need for them to soon move from their homes so this development can proceed, and, with that, the need to endure yet more of this poor treatment, as they head now (so to speak) toward their own very personal eve of destruction.

David Latham
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Careful with that axe, Eugene

FOR THOSE OF US FORTUNATE ENOUGH to live here, we all know that Santa Monica is a pretty interesting place, and apparently it's also interesting, for various reasons, to people who don't live here.

Some of those reasons involve overstuffed bikinis romping on our famous beach, as seen in movie palaces and on TVs worldwide. Our courthouse draws attention on a pretty regular basis too, mostly for the real life legal dramas of horrible hardened vicious violent criminals, like OJ and Britney. Oops, check that. My apologies. OJ was not convicted, in his criminal trial.

But they did finally find longtime Santa Monica resident "Whitey" Bulger, hiding in plain sight, and convicted him of 11 nasty murders, even though we had to ship him back to Boston for trial. You see how that runaway production keeps killing us? Economically anyway.

So now Santa Monica makes the international newswires again. (Just kidding. There are no more international newswires. The cellphone videos went viral. You knew that.)

The bad news is, it's for a Santa Monica High School teacher getting into a fight with a student, in the classroom. The good news is, it's become a cause celebre for discussing the rights and responsibilities of teachers in the classrooms, and how the system supports them, or doesn't. The bad news is, it publicizes us as a place where students sell drugs in our classrooms, with extra credit for taking a swing at the teacher, pulling his hair and stabbing at him with a pencil (presumably sharp, allegedly No. 2). The good news, it tells the world our grey-haired educators are tough. The bad news, it revealed we have a superintendent of schools with bad judgment. By her own admission.

All the above, of course, is based on a string of allegations, which probably won't be sorted out yet by the time you pick up today's paper. Except the last one, and that's the one that immediately bothered me.

We do need an investigation, we do need the facts, beyond just the video and the accounts of eye witnesses. But what I saw on the video was a teacher who immobilized an alleged law-breaking student, with his wrestling moves, without throwing a punch or really harming the kid. I admire that restraint and skill.

I don't know Coach Mark Black at all. But based on the remarkable outpouring of support for him from those who do, literally 19,000 "likes" on the designated Facebook page in two days, I'm inclined to think he didn't act out of character, without any provocation or proof, and attack one of his students for no reason at all.

There has been, of course, plenty of overreaction. Cries that Superintendent Sandra Lyon's suspension of Black throws all teachers under the bus. That he should immediately be "rehired" (he wasn't fired) and Lyon just as immediately fired (wouldn't that be the same unfair reaction they're complaining about?). That the student should be expelled immediately, no hearing, guilty by video. (On that point, let's not forget, this is a kid, we all did dumb things at that age.)

That still leaves the reaction letter/e-mail sent out to Samohi families by Lyon as a standout fumble. I can understand her initial reaction upon seeing the video. But the person we trust (and pay a truckload of money) to run our school system should know better than to put something on the record before knowing anything for sure. (Even your eyes can deceive you.)

Lyon wrote, on Friday: "Until the investigation is complete, we will not have all the details that led up to this incident; nevertheless, based on what I have viewed, the kind of physical restraint used by the teacher is unacceptable. I have placed the teacher on leave pending the outcome of an independent investigation." (But she didn't note then, and she surely should have, that it's standard policy and practice to do so.)

And, even more of a one-sided slap: "We have been in contact with the student's family, and we will work with them to offer the support that they may need." Ahem. And, your teacher, who may well have been doing the right, even heroic, thing?

Unfortunately, these words were picked up and repeated without investigation or qualification by media, including local media, and a distorted image of Santa Monica, almost impossible to reverse, has gone out to the world.

Within 24 hours, Lyon understood that she had reacted hastily (or, she simply feared the firestorm of reaction it created). The Los Angeles Times reported that Lyon later wrote a memo to the school board, which acknowledged "many teachers at Samohi were upset with my earlier message, as many, even those involved in the end of the incident, had not seen what happened prior to that." Right. What if the student had pulled a knife or gun, just before the videos started, would she still consider Black's actions "utterly alarming?"

The Times also quoted a Lyon memo to another teacher: "I am sorry if my earlier message disappointed Samohi staff."

Lyon acknowledged in a statement to the "community" Saturday that her remarks about the teacher and wrestling coach have "caused great anger."

"There is concern that my statement reflected a pre-judgment of the teacher's conduct prior to completion of an investigation," she wrote. "There is also concern about my failure to address the conduct of one or more students who were involved in the incident. In retrospect, I understand how my statement has created these concerns. I apologize …"

That's good that she apologized. But it doesn't end there. The proper channels must examine whether or not Lyon's actions constitute consideration of removal. Her hasty reaction caused considerable damage to our community. It's a deal breaker, in such an important leadership position.

Too bad she didn't exercise the kind of restraint that Mark Black seemed to. She had much more than a split second to think about it.

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

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‘Mad Men’ end in sight for Weiner with new season

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK Chat with Matthew Weiner these days and you feel the added depth of his “Mad Men” immersion.

When its bifurcated final season begins Sunday at 10 p.m. EDT on AMC (with seven episodes, to be followed by seven more next year), the second of those final hours will be shooting, while the fifth of seven final scripts will be taking shape on the page.

And then?

The looming end has taken root in the “Mad Men” conversation among fans, even as they mark time waiting for the 14 new installments. Meanwhile, Weiner, as the auteur of this landmark drama series, voices both resolve and wonderment at his task of bringing “Mad Men” in for a landing.

His goal, he says, is not to wallop the audience with a grand parting shot, but something more gently profound: “to leave the characters in a place where they’re going to be in viewers’ imaginations forever.”

Weiner has said many times he hit upon some semblance of that “fitting end” several years ago.

And yet: Pulling the plug on a TV series goes against every instinct of the person in charge, he says — the person whose primary duty is to keep the show alive and well, week after week.

Even for a series veteran like Weiner (who was a writer-producer of “The Sopranos” as well as the sitcom “Becker”), his mission to end “Mad Men” is “a totally antithetical thing, an exercise that is outside my realm of experience.”

Viewers will remember that at the close of last season, which spanned the stormy year of 1968, Don Draper (series star Jon Hamm) was left in disarray. He had been sidelined by his ad agency after suffering a meltdown at a client meeting. His loving wife, Megan (Jessica Pare), walked out on him after one too many broken promises.

The 1960s have been hard on Don. A man who, years before, assumed another man’s identity, he has shaped his sense of self, and his career, from cultural models that seem to grow increasingly outdated as the ‘60s wear on. Don — however charismatic and commanding his image — is on a downward spiral as he hits middle age, fast becoming an old fogy in a youth-obsessed era. Or so it may have seemed to some viewers.

Weiner doesn’t see him that way.

“There’s been a constant assertion about Don being out of touch, and that, by 1968, his style of advertising isn’t working anymore. I’ve never felt that,” Weiner says. “What I do feel, particularly last season, is that society has caught up to him. Identity issues caught up with society, which made the society more like Don. He’s never been MORE in touch.

“The world is changing. That was the original intention of the show. And change makes everybody feel out of place.”

Indeed, there have been signals that Don, swamped by painful recognition, is braced to take corrective action.

Last season’s fade-out found the man who, at the series’ start was fiercely guarded about his past, coming clean to his three kids: Don stood with them outside the former whorehouse where he, born Dick Whitman, was raised as an orphan.

Now, how does the new season pick up the action?

As usual, Weiner made sure the preview he shared with TV critics was accompanied by a laundry list of details not to be divulged: things like when it takes place and what’s going on with Don’s work and private life.

What, then, can be shared? That the episode, written by Weiner, is richly satisfying. That the cast (also including Elisabeth Moss, John Slattery, Vincent Kartheiser, Christina Hendricks and Aaron Staton) remains terrific. That the series seems headed confidently down its home stretch.

Pretty much the rest is meant to stay hush-hush.

But secrecy is not simply an obsession for Weiner. It’s a marketing strategy that serves “Mad Men” well.

“This was a decision I made at the show’s pilot stage,” he says. He pointed to January Jones, who plays Don’s ex and at the show’s inception was still his wife. “She was not part of any of the press material for the first season, because I didn’t want anyone who watched the pilot to know until its final moments that Don was married.”

Weiner laughs, recalling the first table read for this obscure new series on an also-ran network as he demanded confidentiality from his cast.

“Everybody looked at me like we’d be LUCKY” if spoilers were a problem for this show. “They were thinking, ‘You REALLY want us to keep things a secret?’

“Not all entertainment has to be this way,” Weiner acknowledges, “but I thought that the surprise of our storytelling would be a smart marketing decision. Luckily, AMC agreed, right from the beginning.” And as Weiner hoped, it helped get the show noticed — and still does.

The Q Line

Keeping animals safe

Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) recently introduced legislation that would curtail killer whale shows at animal parks. Now, there is a local group calling for the end of pony rides and petting zoos in Santa Monica.

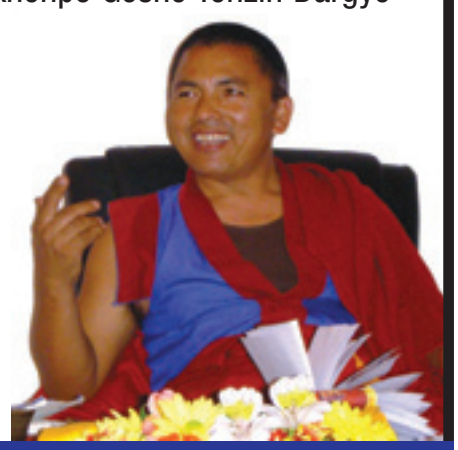
So, this week’s Q-Line question asks:
Do you agree that animals are being asked to do unethical acts or is this just alarmist banter?

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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Bonsai: The haiku of the tree world

KATHERINE ROTH
Associated Press

NEW YORK Many people have a bonsai story: a first bonsai, a struggling bonsai. And many of these stories do not end happily, at least for the bonsai.

But the very best bonsai stories are about passion and beauty and transformation.

"A dewdrop hanging for a split-second — that is bonsai," said Julian Velasco, the curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's bonsai collection and C.V. Starr Bonsai Museum. "It's very Zen-like. It's awesome."

For Velasco, who nurtures over 350 bonsai trees at the botanic garden — one of the largest and oldest bonsai collections on public display outside Japan — it all started with a bonsai he purchased as a young man at a street fair in San Francisco.

"Pretty quickly ... I knew it would be a lifelong path," he said.

Bonsai is horticulture, art, philosophy and even a way of life in the form of a single tree, lovingly pruned and trained to exist in a small pot so that it reflects the majesty of the natural environment, he explained.

"When you see the Grand Canyon or Yosemite, you are taking in the emotion of the place as much as the visual image," and bonsai is about that emotion, he said. It is the haiku of the tree world.

Luckily for beginners, who have not yet attained a level of oneness with their new bonsai, learning to nurture a bonsai has never been easier. Expert help, once found only in Japan or China, is now more readily available at bonsai clubs and shops around the world. The American Bonsai Society lists bonsai clubs across the United States and Canada, and Bonsai Clubs International lists clubs worldwide.

"Most U.S. states now have at least a couple of bonsai societies, and interest seems to be growing," said David Bogan of Evansville, Indiana, who is on the board of the American Bonsai Society.

"About 30 years ago a friend brought a bonsai for me from Hawaii, and I've been hooked ever since. Now my wife and I have hundreds of bonsai," he said. "Bonsai are a long-term commitment, though, and most take at least a decade to create. Some can hardly go a day without some kind of care. It's almost like having a pet."

Bonsai, Japanese for "planted in a tray," originated in China in around 200 A.D., and the art spread several hundred years later to Japan. The art of bonsai was introduced to the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and at least one of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden bonsais is over 200 years old.

Although Velasco said the ultimate goal is to "open your heart to the tree," he has a few more practical tips for novices.

The first is to choose a variety of tree suited to your environment. Bonsai are trees or shrubs, and most varieties should be grown outside, where they require a period of dormancy in winter.

For most people, however, who want to grow their bonsai indoors or keep them outdoors only in warmer months, tropical varieties like the ficus or Australian brush cherry, with its interesting flower and bark, are good choices. Both are sturdy enough to endure a few beginners' mistakes, do well indoors and can be kept outside so long as temperatures are above 60 degrees.

Another good option, particularly for people with access to an outdoor growing space, is Chinese elm, which is adaptable and can also be grown indoors.

The next step along the continuum of hardiness is junipers, particularly Chinese and procumbens varieties. Small varieties of azaleas, which are sturdy with nice leaves and flowers, are also popular among bonsai enthusiasts, Velasco said.

Outdoor bonsai are delicate, however, and need to be protected once temperatures reach 20 degrees and colder.

"Most people will bury just the pot part of the bonsai in soil and mulch up against a house or fence to protect it from drying winds. Burying the pot evens out the temperature for the roots so there are no sudden drops or super hard freezes," Velasco said.

Another strategy is burying just the pot part of the bonsai under a bench in the winter, and covering the bench with some clear plastic.

In addition to selecting the right variety, beginners need to understand bonsai stress and watering, Velasco said.

"A lot of times people bring home a bonsai and it drops its leaves and looks unwell. It's just stressed out. It needs time to adjust, and a little patience," he explained.

"Monitor the water very carefully. Without leaves it won't need as much water. Hold off on water until the soil dries out. And little by little, when you hold off on water, buds will start to appear. And as that starts to happen, the need for water will start to increase."

Many bonsai growers keep the tip of a chopstick deep in the soil toward the back of the pot as a moisture gauge.

"If the chopstick is moist you don't need to water. But you never want the roots in the pot to get completely dry. Water it only when it's almost dry," Velasco said.

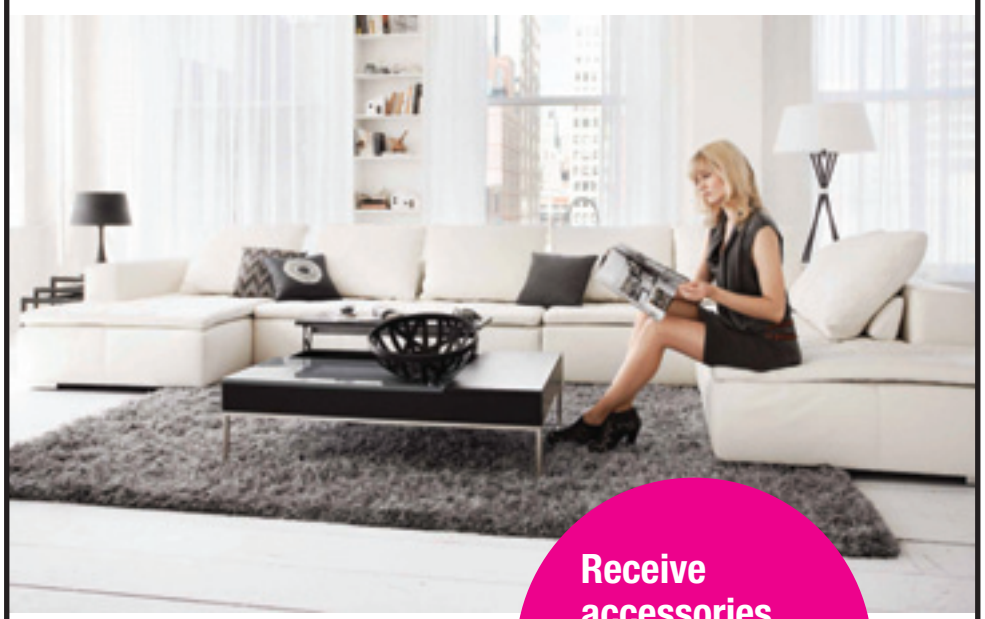
Water from the top down and make sure the water drains out the bottom of the pot.

As for pruning, allow the tree to grow five to seven leaves before pruning it back by about two leaves of the new growth, Velasco said.

"Only prune what's actively growing. Trees need to grow to be happy and healthy," he said.

"If you're on top of your game, the tree will repay you by being healthy and beautiful. Just try to appreciate what the bonsai is trying to express to you."

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THEATER
FROM PAGE 1

posed seats than the Santa Monica Place theater, it's unlikely that there will be significantly more screens.

"They're bigger auditoriums," he said. "That's where the large IMAX will be. When there's a highly anticipated movie that everyone wants to see on the big screen ... that's going to be the place to go."

Both theaters would show blockbuster films like, for example, "The Hunger Games," Agle said, but movie-goers will choose the venue based on viewing preferences.

"If you want to see a film like that in a more intimate setting you may choose to go to Santa Monica Place," he said. "If you want to see it in IMAX in the big auditorium, you'll likely choose Fourth Street."

The Santa Monica Place Arclight may have an IMAX screen, Agle said, but it likely won't be as large as screens planned for the Fourth Street location.

The Santa Monica-based mall operator Macerich, which owns Santa Monica Place, will likely serve as the developer for both projects.

City Hall would negotiate a ground lease with Macerich, who would in turn have a sublease with ArcLight.

Agle likes the set-up because it allows Macerich to change operators when the sublease expires if for some reason ArcLight falls out of favor with the public.

Some members of the Downtown Santa Monica Inc. Board of Directors were concerned that Macerich would have reasons to favor the Santa Monica Place location over the Fourth Street location.

"The theater will be a little extra that they had to do or they wanted to do at the time but I don't think they're going to be too concerned about the property value of that one theater being affected by how well the promenade is doing," said boardmember Bill Tucker. "I think they're going to focus on their shopping center."

Consultant Rob York pointed out that if the rent structures of the two projects are different there might be an incentive to show high-volume films at one location leaving the other location with the dregs.

"I would guess that ArcLight wouldn't allow that but it depends on who's got the leverage," he said.

Agle said that ArcLight has been having that discussion with City Hall.

"They've been very clear in terms of deal structure and how they operate that it needs to be their choice to put the movies where it makes the most sense," he said.

Other Santa Monica theaters are reducing seat totals, Agle said.

At its Second Street location, the Laemmle plans to significantly reduce seats and add a cafe, he said.

AMC, which has about 2,500 seats in the city, has not stated any official plans for their theaters, Agle said, but as a general rule the company is reducing seats to make the remaining ones more comfortable.

A deal that would have allowed AMC to build a theater on the same Parking Structure 3 property fell through in 2012.

"Likely what we'll see is a dramatic drop in the number of seats in the AMC theaters but I think they're still going to try to be an important player in Santa Monica," Agle said. "That's what they told us when they told us they wouldn't be negotiating with us anymore."

The Criterion is closed for good, he said. The building is being renovated and will reopen as retail, he said.

ArcLight, Agle said, is a good match for the city by the sea.

"They show the big blockbusters and also foreign and independent films," Agle said. "And given Santa Monica and the diversity we've got here, it seems like that's a nice mix."

If council votes to move the project forward later this month it will still have to go through numerous stages of planning with City Hall before coming again before council for a final vote.

Construction could start as early as 2016 and take up to 18 months, Agle said.

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SECURITY
FROM PAGE 3

"But this still means that the little lock icon (HTTPS) we all trusted to keep our passwords, personal emails, and credit cards safe, was actually making all that private information accessible to anyone who knew about the exploit," Tumblr's blog post read. "This might be a good day to call in sick and take some time to change your passwords everywhere — especially your high-security services like email, file storage, and banking, which may have been compromised by this bug."

Yahoo Inc. said its other services, including email, Flickr and search, also have the vulnerability. The company said some of the systems have already been fixed, while work is being done on the rest of Yahoo's websites.

The company reiterated its standard recommendation for people to change passwords regularly and to add a backup mobile number to the account. That number can be used to verify a user's identity if there are problems accessing the account because of hacking.



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STUDENT
FROM PAGE 1

a 16-year-old male. The 16-year-old, against whom police are seeking a charge of battery against a school employee, will appear in court at least 60 days from his arrest on Friday. He is a resident of Santa Monica, according to police reports.

Black was placed on paid leave. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is on spring break through April 20. District officials hope to complete its investigation before the break is over.

Moore is also charged with two counts of threatening a school employee with the apparent ability to carry out that threat, according to court documents.

His pretrial date is scheduled for April 22 and his trial date is May 6.

An online petition asking for the reinstatement of Black had more than 7,000 signatures by press time. A Facebook page in support of Black has more than 18,500 likes.

District Superintendent Sandra Lyon noted on Monday that his paid leave is a standard procedure and not a "determination of wrongful conduct or decision to suspend or discipline him."

Moore was released on his own recognizance with orders not to threaten or harass victims named in the case.

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SHOOTING
FROM PAGE 3

she had a big smile on her face, and tears in her eyes."

Officers serving a search warrant at Yealu's west Los Angeles home Tuesday turned up hundreds of rounds of ammunition and weapons, including two assault rifles, a shotgun and two handguns, authorities said.

Yealu had a license to work as a security guard starting in 2005 and as of last year had a license to carry a firearm, but it was canceled, records showed.

The shooting at the station 7 miles west of downtown occurred as some three dozen people were in another room attending a meeting of the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council.

Council member Daphne Brogdon said when gunfire erupted, she dove behind a lectern.

"I hid, and everyone else just hit the ground," she told the Times. "Everyone was trying to be really quiet, and the shots continued."

One of her council colleagues was next to her.

"We were just holding hands," Brogdon said, "looking at each other saying, 'Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God.'"

The shooting marked the LAPD's fourth on-duty injury in a month.

On March 7, a rookie officer was injured in a Beverly Hills crash that killed Officer Nicholas Lee, a 16-year veteran assigned to the department's Hollywood station.

A little more than two weeks later, another Hollywood officer was injured by shrapnel when a man opened fire at a Hollywood Hills home.

On Saturday, a longtime motorcycle officer was critically injured when he was pinned between two vehicles in Sun Valley. Beck on Tuesday described that officer's injuries as "catastrophic" and said he remained in "extremely critical condition."


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BILL
FROM PAGE 1

"It's clear that many committee members are simply unprepared to make a decision on the bill."

Bloom was inspired by the 2013 documentary "Blackfish" in which filmmakers argue that captivity and mistreatment of orcas make the animals aggressive. It examined the events leading to the 2010 death of trainer Dawn Brancheau in SeaWorld Orlando when the whale Tilikum pulled her underwater.

John Hargrove, a former SeaWorld trainer in Texas and San Diego who appeared in "Blackfish," told lawmakers at the hearing that orcas appeared agitated and dragged him underwater multiple times.

The bill would have banned the import, export and breeding of orcas while requiring SeaWorld San Diego to move its 10 killer whales out of tanks and into larger sea pens.

Witnesses for the marine park said that was not a viable option, and SeaWorld lobbyist Scott Wetch told lawmakers the bill would have likely resulted in the orcas being moved to parks outside the state.

Public outrage over the movie drove 1.2 million people to sign a petition that was delivered Monday to the Assembly by three elementary school students who successfully stopped an overnight school field trip to SeaWorld.

Dozens of animal rights activists packed the hearing room on Tuesday to support the bill, with more waiting outside.

SeaWorld dismissed their contention that orcas are too intelligent and too large for captivity.

"That argument is not based on credible peer-reviewed science," John Reilly, president of SeaWorld San Diego Park, said in an interview. "It's based on emotion and a propaganda film."

Reilly said the bill would be detrimental because almost every visit to SeaWorld includes a killer whale show or viewing.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce CEO Jerry Sanders said in a statement after the hearing that SeaWorld is important to the local economy because it provides thousands of jobs and attracts millions of visitors.

SeaWorld has mounted an aggressive public relations campaign to discredit the film for relying on what it calls unqualified former employees and biased experts.

The publicly traded company bought newspaper ads, set up a website countering "Blackfish," and criticized the film on Twitter. SeaWorld says it expects record revenue in 2013 despite the film.

Recent filings, however, showed a dip in attendance at the start of the year that the company attributes to a change in how holidays fall in the calendar year.

Witnesses for SeaWorld said the animals receive the highest level of care and provide opportunities for research to help conserve killer whales in the wild.

"The bill was deeply flawed and fundamentally flawed and didn't appear to have support today," Reilly said after the hearing. "We believe strongly there is an inspiration benefit to people seeing (killer whales) in our park."

Naomi Rose, a marine mammal scientist with the Animal Welfare Institute, a sponsor of the bill, said she was disappointed by the delay but believes science will ultimately show orcas are ill-suited for captivity.

"Nobody likes to wait, but I've been doing this for over 20 years," she told reporters after the hearing. "I'm playing the long game."

New York lawmakers have also been considering a bill to ban the captivity of killer whales, although there are none in the state. Rose said she had been working with lawmakers in Texas and Florida, where SeaWorld has parks in San Antonio and Orlando, to introduce similar legislation.

The bill tested incoming Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, who has not taken a stance but said in a statement that she supported the interim study. The delay in a vote spared the Democrat from San Diego from an awkward situation balancing pressure from the party's environmental base and one of the largest employers in her district.

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U.S. home market: Few buyers and not enough sellers

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Entering the 2014 spring buying season, the U.S. housing market faces an unusual dilemma: Too few people are selling homes. Yet too few buyers can afford the homes that are for sale.

"Both sides of the equation are in a funk," said Glenn Kelman, CEO of the real estate brokerage Redfin.

A 13.4 percent jump in the average price of a home sold last year, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index, hasn't managed to coax more homeowners to sell. And combined with higher mortgage rates, higher prices have made homes costlier for first-time buyers as well as for all-cash investors.

Average prices nationally are expected to rise by single digits this year. The gains could be strongest in areas with solid job growth, such as Seattle and Austin, Texas. And while construction will put more homes on the market, lack of affordability could keep sales flat to falling.

On the other hand, many lenders are easing the barriers for those with less-than-sterling credit. For these people, qualifying for a mortgage could become a little easier.

All of which leaves real estate, much like the rest of the economy, still trudging back to health nearly a half-decade after the recession ended. After last year's growth spurt, the housing recovery may have begun an awkward adolescence, one prone to fits and starts that can defy predictions.

Here are five vital signs that will shape home sales this spring and the rest of the year:

WHERE ARE THE SELLERS?

Good question. It's slim pickings for a lot of would-be buyers. That brutal winter we just got through prevented many East Coasters from listing their homes in recent months. About five months' worth of homes are on the market, compared with 5.9 months in 2012 and 8.3 months in 2011.

Housing supply previously dipped toward the 5-month level during the height of the boom in 2006, when buyers snapped up homes faster than they could be added. This time, fewer homes are being listed because 19 percent of owners are underwater on their mortgages — meaning the sales price wouldn't be enough to repay their loan.

Still, warmer weather, job growth and a strengthening economy are expected to encourage more listings this spring.

"We're all trying to figure out where the sellers are," said Redfin CEO Kelman. "Everyone seems to be waiting until April or May or June."

About 60 percent of Redfin buyers faced bidding wars in February, down from 73 percent at this time last year.

When few sellers emerged last year, prices for the limited number of homes available surged. Would-be buyers, facing a shortage of homes and locked in competition with one another, raised their offers.

Prices climbed in locales such as San Francisco, where a ton of money is chasing few properties and there's not enough construction. Bay Area homes have surged 23 percent, on average, the past 12 months, according to the S&P Case-Shiller index. That was faster than any other major metro area except Las Vegas, where much of the housing stock was rebounding from the depths of the recession.

This problem usually corrects itself. Higher prices should lure more sellers into the market who see an opportunity to cash out. That would then then lead to more listings and ease the face-offs among buyers. Sales data suggest that this has happened in Los Angeles, where more homes have been put up for sale, and they're staying on the market longer.

But around the country, many homeowners are still reluctant to sell because they would likely lose money on the deal. The 2007 housing bust still haunts the market.

About 19 percent of homeowners owe more on their mortgages than their properties would sell for, according to the online real estate database Zillow. An additional 37 percent are "effectively underwater": Their sale profit would be too low to cover the cost of listing their home and putting a down payment on a new property.

Still, each mortgage payment repairs some of the damage and improves a homeowner's equity. As home values grow further, more people will start to put their homes up for sale, and the supply should rise.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS NOT BACK (YET)

After the Great Recession officially ended in mid-2009, many economists predicted that pent-up demand for homes would drive sales in the years to come. Not exactly. Nearly five years into the recovery, buying remains subpar.

Sales of existing homes are projected to total 5 million this year, according to the National Association of Realtors. That's about 100,000 fewer than last year and far below the 5.5 million associated with healthy markets.

Much of that shortfall can be summed up simply: Too few first-time buyers. They bought about 1.5 million homes last year, about 500,000 fewer on average than they would have typically.

Last year's price increases makes affordability a growing obstacle for first-timers, said Jed Kolko, chief economist for the online real estate firm Trulia. Unlike current owners whose down payments come from selling a previous home, first-timers must amass a down payment. And higher home prices require more cash up front.

The situation is slowly improving for the 25- to 34-year-olds who would buy homes. About 738,000 of them found jobs in the past year. With more disposable income, more of them will move out on their own. Homebuilders have already ramped up apartment construction in anticipation of younger renters. That's a critical first-step before they eventually buy a house or condo.

"I don't think it will have a big impact on home ownership right away," Kolko said, "because it will take some time for young adults to save and build a credit history to buy a home."

CREDIT STANDARDS ARE LOOSER

You might have thought the economic meltdown would have shut off home loans to people with middling-to-weak credit. Yet something close to subprime borrowing has just started a comeback.

Wells Fargo is now offering mortgages to subprime borrowers with credit scores as low as 600, down from 640. (The median credit score for 30-year fixed mortgages had been around 730.) And non-bank lenders such as Carrington Mortgage Services are moving into that territory. Carrington has dropped its minimum credit score to 550. It's a sign that lenders are becoming less tight-fisted after restricting credit in the wake of the financial crisis.

Lenders are accepting borrowers they once rejected in part because they're hungry for more business after mortgage refinancing plunged in the past year as interest rates rose. The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate has risen about a percentage point to 4.4 percent from near-historic lows in May. A subprime borrower with a credit score of 550 would pay 7.15 percent, according to Carrington's rate sheet.

FEWER INVESTORS

Investors bought roughly one in every five homes sold last year, according to the National Association of Realtors. Most of them made all-cash offers and ignited bidding wars that other would-be homeowners lost. The investors' properties became rehab projects or rentals.

But the 2013 price jump should cause investors to play a lesser role this year. Areas that suffered the most during the recession's housing bust, like Phoenix, Las Vegas and Tampa, have seen prices rise. They're no longer the bargains that investors considered them to be a year ago, said Zillow's chief economist Stan Humphries. The result is that bidding wars won't likely be as fierce in 2014.

Not all investors are disappearing. They're pursuing areas where homes can most easily be converted into rentals and deliver higher returns. Home prices in Cincinnati, for example, rose an average 2 percent last year, but rental prices jumped 10 percent. Similar trends can be seen in the Midwest.

HIGHER-END HOMES ARE HOTTER INVESTMENTS

It's better to be on the luxury side of the real estate market for the moment. Prices generally rise faster than at the lower end. And buying activity has increased in the past year.

Sales of homes worth more than $1 million rose 14.4 percent over the past 12 months, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. By contrast, sales of properties valued at less than $100,000 dropped 18 percent. A key reason: Fewer foreclosed homes are being listed.

Prices for more expensive homes have also risen much faster, according to Zillow. The online real estate firm divided the U.S. housing stock into thirds based on price. Homes now worth $305,700 or more — the top one-third of the market— rose in value annually at a 3.38 percent average during the past 18 years. Those prices grew 20 percent faster than did the bottom two-thirds of the market.

"Essentially, it's a tale of two markets," said Zillow's Humphries. "Your experience as a top-tier homeowner was substantially different than for a bottom-tier owner."





U.S. stocks rise for the first time in four days

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK Maybe the sell-off was a little overdone.

That was the sentiment on Wall Street Tuesday as the stock market broke a three-day losing streak. The gain pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 index back into positive territory for the year.

The rebound was driven partly by bargain-hunting as investors picked up stocks that hold fallen the most in the slump over the previous three days. Utilities stocks also rose sharply as skittish investors bought less-volatile stocks.

"Longer-term investors should really use this as an opportunity to buy attractive areas that have sold off," said Kristina Hooper, US Investment Strategist at Allianz Global Investors. "For them, stocks are on sale."

Stocks have had a volatile start to April. After closing at a record last Wednesday amid optimism about the improving outlook for the economy, stocks fell sharply on Friday as investors decided that some of the high-flying stocks in the technology and biotech sectors no longer justified their lofty valuations.

The S&P 500 rose 6.92 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,851.96. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 10.27 points, or 0.06 percent, to 16,256.14. The Nasdaq composite rose 33.23 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,112.99.

Even as investors sent stocks higher, they were still being cautious. Investors typically buy utilities stocks when they are worried about volatility in the market. That's because those companies pay big dividends and demand for the power they generate tends to be stable, regardless of how the economy is doing.

On Tuesday, utilities rose 1.5 percent. The sector has gained 10.5 percent this year, making it by far the best performing industry group in the S&P 500. Health care stocks are the next best performers, gaining 2.7 percent over the same period.

Technology stocks and consumer discretionary stocks, among the biggest decliners in the three-day sell-off, also logged gains on Tuesday.

Facebook rose $1.24, or 2.2 percent, to $58.19. Google's class newly issued C shares rose $16.75, or 3.1 percent, to $554.90.

The recent volatility is making it tough for investors who are looking to get back into stocks after switching their investments to cash and bonds in the aftermath of the financial crisis and the Great Recession, said Mike Mussio, a managing director with FBB Capital Partners, a wealth management company.

"It is a little nerve-wracking for people entering the market just now, with cash they've had on the sidelines," said Mussio.

Corporations start reporting first-quarter earnings this week, which should help stabilize the market, said Joe Quinlan, chief market strategist at U.S. Trust. Quinlan attributed the stock market's recent wobble to investor's jitters ahead of corporate earnings.

Alcoa gained 28 cents, or 2.2 percent, to $12.81 in after-hours trading after the aluminum company posted earnings that beat analysts' expectations. Alcoa earned 9 cents a share after adjusting for the cost of idle capacity at aluminum smelters and mills. Wall Street analysts had forecast earnings of 5 cents a share.

Overall, corporate earnings are forecast to grow just 0.2 percent in the first quarter compared with the same period a year ago, according to S&P Capital IQ. That would be the weakest showing since the third quarter of 2009, when earnings contracted 1.7 percent.

"Seems like every time we come up to earnings season we get a little nervous," Quinlan said. "This will pass."

Energy company Chevron, and banks Wells Fargo and JPMorgan will report their earnings for the first quarter this week, as will Bed Bath & Beyond.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.68 percent from 2.70 percent on Monday.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Whole Foods Market gained $1.09, or 2.2 percent, to $51.38 after analysts at UBS raised their price target for the stock to $70 from $62. The analysts are optimistic that the high-end grocery store chain will be able to increase its profit margins as it expands.

—Gilead Sciences fell $2.22, or 3.1 percent, to $70.01 following reports that Express Scripts, the largest U.S. pharmacy benefits manager, plans to ask its clients to join a coalition that would stop using Gilead's Sovaldi Hepatitis C treatment once a rival medicine is approved for the U.S. next year. Express Scripts estimates that U.S. spending on Hepatitis C medications will surge 1,800 percent in 2016. Lawmakers last month have already questioned the pricing of Gilead's new drug.

— Dr. Pepper Snapple Group fell $2.06, or 3.8 percent, to $51.62 after Wells Fargo Securities cut their outlook for the company's earnings. The analysts say that the stock has peaked and that the company has limited opportunities to further increase productivity and that its beverages are continuing to lose market share.

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.3°**

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Blend of NW and SW swells continue; light morning winds

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high
Reinforcing NW and SW/SSW swells; light morning winds

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high
NW swell eases; SSW swell continues; deep AM high tide; watching winds/conditions

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high
NW swell mix lingers; SSW swell continues; deep AM high tide; watching winds/conditions

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 **April 2, 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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 3
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 14

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SMA Swain Barber Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A	B
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	A
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	D
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	D	B
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	A+
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	B	B
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	B

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

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

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

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

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

Without Tiger Woods, the Masters has an open look

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. One after another, some of the world's best players and favorites to win the Masters trudged up the hill on the opening hole to start their practice rounds.

Phil Mickelson. Rory McIlroy. Adam Scott.

It was typical of any Tuesday at Augusta National, except for the scoreboard to the right of where they were walking. The board has the names of all 97 players in the field, with blank boxes to put their scores when the tournament begins. On the far right side of the board is a list of this year's noncompeting invitees.

Tommy Aaron. Doug Ford. Tiger Woods.

"It's a weird feeling not having him here, isn't it?" said Phil Mickelson, a three-time Masters champion and the chief foil for Woods over the years. "He's been such a mainstay in professional golf and in the majors. It's awkward to not have him here. I hope he gets back soon. I hope he's back for the other majors. As much as I want to win — and I know how great he is and tough to beat — it makes it special when he's in the field and you're able to win."

Woods hasn't been the same all year, even before back surgery last week. He is missing the Masters for the first time. His presence looms as large as some of the Georgia pines lining the fairways, though it will be forgotten when the opening shot is in the air Thursday, and a green jacket is awarded Sunday.

Even so, Woods brings a buzz to any tournament, even at Augusta National.

And this year, his absence has brought talk of the most wide-open Masters in nearly 20 years. Las Vegas has installed Scott and McIlroy as the betting favorites at 10-1, followed by Mickelson, Jason Day and Matt Kuchar at 12-1.

McIlroy had his own version of a betting sheet on the table where he sat during his interview — the tee times for the opening two rounds. Told that 97 players were in the field, the 24-year-old from Northern Ireland figured 70 had a chance to win.

"There's a few past champions that play that might not be able to compete. There might be a few first-timers or a few amateurs that won't compete," McIlroy said. "But then you've got the rest. I'm just looking down the list here. Stewart Cink. Tim Clark. Ian Woosnam — no."

The room filled with laughter as McIlroy smiled and said, "Sorry, Woosie," referring to the 56-year-old former champion.

"You've got a lot of guys that can win, a lot of guys that have won PGA Tour events," McIlroy said. "OK, we're playing at Augusta. Because it's the Masters and because it's so big and so hyped up or whatever you want to say, you ought to remember that you're still playing against the same guys you play with week in and week out.

"I've beaten them before," he said. "They've beaten me before."

The PGA Tour is 21 tournaments into the season, and only one player (Zach Johnson) won while he was in the top 10 in the world. McIlroy and Scott each had comfortable leads going into the final round and lost to players outside the top 100.

"I think in the past, certainly that's been easy to go to events and look at a guy who is the guy to beat," Scott said, not naming Woods because he didn't need to. "I think that scope has kind of broadened now. There's a lot of guys with the talent and the form that aren't necessarily standing out above the others. But on their week, they're going to be tough to beat.

"I'd like to think my name is one of those guys," Scott said. "And I feel like I'm going to be one of the guys who has got a chance if I play well this week."

Scott had one more occasion to wear his green jacket Tuesday night as host of the Champions Dinner. Then, he sets out in a bid to join Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo and Woods as the only players to win back-to-back Masters.

For years, the Masters was seen as having the smallest group of contenders, and not just because it had the smallest field of the four majors. Augusta National is a puzzle that can take years to figure out. The roars that reverberate through the trees and from deep in Amen Corner on Sunday can be unsettling.

Scott won two years after he was a runner-up. Jason Day has completed two Masters and has yet to finish worse than third. As for Mickelson? There's no telling what he might accomplish next. Even though he has withdrawn from two tournaments with different injuries this year, Augusta invigorates the 43-year-old Mickelson.

All of them would love to be near the top of the leaderboard Sunday afternoon. By then, no one will be thinking about anything except a green jacket.

"No matter who is in contention or who is going to win this week, the Masters always provides a great finish," McIlroy said. "Regardless of who is there."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Afternoon of a Faun: Tanaquil le Clercq (NR) 1hr 31min
7:30pm

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

Sabotage (R) 1hr 49min
1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Mr. Peabody & Sherman (PG) 1hr 30min
1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

Divergent (PG-13) 2hr 19min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

Bad Words (R) 1hr 29min
2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:10pm

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

Metropolitan Opera: La Boheme ENCORE (PG) 3hrs 25min
6:30pm

300: Rise of an Empire (R) 1hr 47min
2:15pm, 4:45pm, 10:50pm

Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
10:45am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm

Noah (PG-13) 2hr 19min
10:55am, 12:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:20pm, 10:40pm

Divergent (PG-13) 2hr 19min
10:45am, 1:20pm, 4:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
3:15pm, 6:30pm, 9:45pm, 10:55pm

Muppets Most Wanted (PG) 1hr 52min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Grand Budapest Hotel (R) 1hr 40min
10:50am, 1:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

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

Le Week-end Le Week-end (R) 1hr 33min
4:30pm

Unknown Known (PG-13) 1hr 36min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

TIME TO BE NAUGHTY TONIGHT, ARIES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have get-up-and-go. Somehow, you can't help but surprise others with your actions. Someone close to you could be quite competitive or difficult. Let go of the situation, and allow an important discussion to take place another time. Tonight: Time to be naughty.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Stay focused on what you feel is important and must be handled right away. Do not lose focus on a domestic issue. You could be taken aback by what occurs if you ignore the matter at hand. Be more forthright with someone you care about. Tonight: At home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Listen to a conversation on many levels. Look at facial expressions, consider the tone of voice and pay attention to what is not being said. You will see that there are many facets to what you are hearing. Tonight: If you are tired, head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be financially exhausted by a situation. Listen to news with an open mind, especially if it involves your finances. Understand more of what you expect from a child or new friend. You could be demanding a lot. Tonight: Be more playful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You will encounter a sudden surprise, and you'll discover everything that is involved with the situation. Be more open to someone who seems to be on a rampage. This person might be justified in his or her actions.Tonight: Your smile warms up the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Know when to approach a situation differently. Others might reveal a lot, perhaps even more than you could imagine. If you question what you hear, people might become somewhat resistant. Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A discussion with a friend will provide ample material for a new project or fun happening. You might not be as sure of yourself as you would like to be. Stay more in contact with a group of associates or friends than you have in the past. Tonight: Make the most of the night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You'll be more in touch with someone's feelings than you realize. Others will seem so emotional that you might think they are out of control. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You are more than willing to take risks in your present mood. Fortunately, you'll become more conservative when you take a hard look at financial implications. Sometimes you feel overwhelmed by the amount of responsibility that is placed on you. Tonight: Follow the music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You have done your share of the effort when it comes to relating to a specific person. No one would be surprised if you decided to throw your hands in the air in frustration. Everyone has his or her limits. Tonight: Have a conversation with a trusted friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might be more receptive to a friend than you have been in a while. Keep reaching out to someone at a distance, and make the most of the conversation. Others will seek you out, so much so that you could need to screen your calls. Tonight: Be merry.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be surer of yourself and more content if you would let go of an issue that stands between you and a loved one. Be more in touch with a need to move in a new direction, but understand that you might not be ready to act just yet. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

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

This year you are unusually creative and intuitive. You find solutions quickly and without much worry. Others will notice this trait and come to you for help when they feel they have encountered one of life's knots. If you are single, the period after mid-July could draw in someone very important to your life history. You might note that this person is very different from other people you have dated in the past. If you are attached, you enjoy your home life together much more than you previously thought possible. Come summer, romantic fires add to the attraction between you. LEO can be quite charming.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
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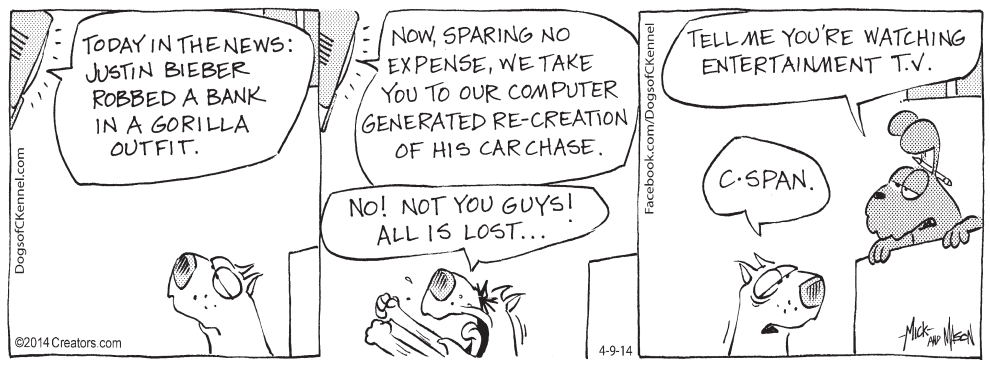
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



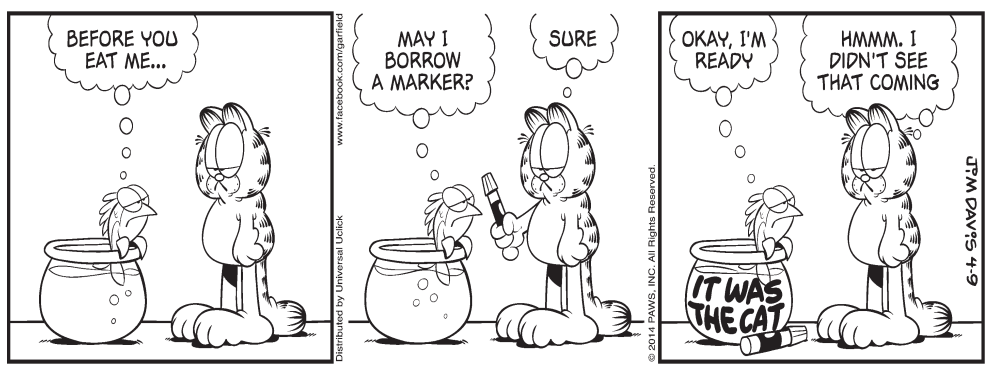
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★★

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

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MYSTERY REVEALED

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader Andrew Maximous correctly identified the Mystery Photo as the Santa Monica Pier sign. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press for his answer. Check out Thursday's paper for another chance to win. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dossier
5 Bakery pan
11 Track shape
12 Pay no attention to
13 Military level
14 Repeated verbatim
15 Put a stop to
16 Takes to court
17 Produces
19 Court concern
22 Like some gossip
24 Alarm
26 Writer Rice
27 Bills from tills
28 That is: Latin
30 Nasser's successor
31 — Alamos
32 Even a little
34 Puritanical fellow
35 "— pig's eye!"
38 Guatemala neighbor
41 Winter blanket
42 Film set on Pandora
43 Still life fruit
44 Houston team
45 Pale

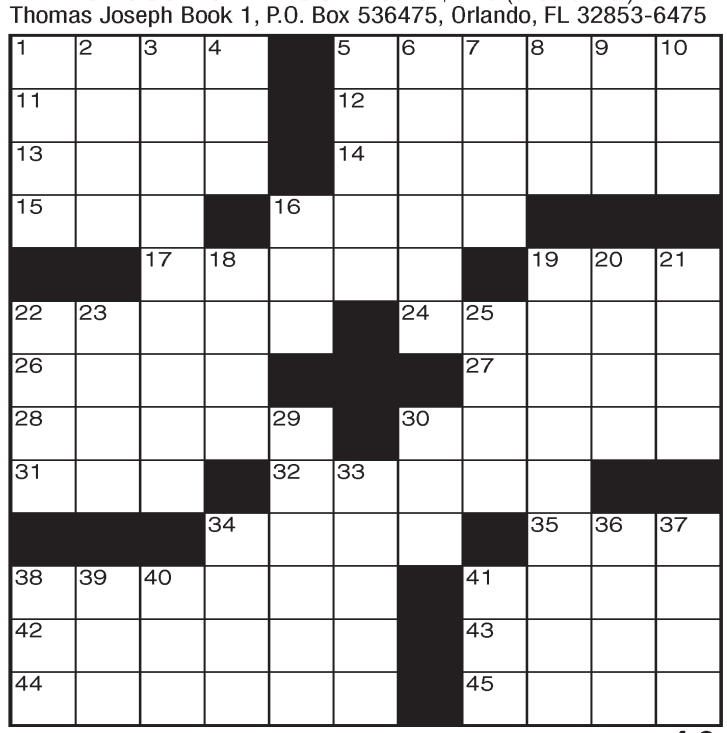
DOWN

1 Golf cry
2 Infamous czar
3 Hidden dangers
4 Antlered animal
5 Irritation
6 "If you say so"
7 Son of Seth
8 Youngster
9 Fuming feeling
10 Composer Rorem
16 Blue hue
18 High cards
19 Noncellular phones
20 Region
21 Sunset setting
22 Lockup
23 Take apart
25 Snowman's eyes
29 Lord of the jungle
30 Slump
33 Layers
34 Bread with a pocket
36 2014 Russell Crowe role
37 Wrong
38 Baseball need
39 Holiday lead-in
40 Indulgent
41 Restful resort

S	A	I	D	■	■	C	H	A	P	S
E	D	G	E	S	■	H	I	T	I	T
C	O	U	R	T	J	E	S	T	E	R
T	R	A	■	R	O	W	■	I	C	E
S	E	N	D	A	K	■	C	R	E	W
■	S	A	U	T	E	■	L	E	S	S
■	■	■	P	A	S	S	E	■	■	■
T	O	T	E	■	T	O	A	S	T	■
O	N	E	S	■	E	N	T	E	R	S
M	E	T	■	F	R	I	■	D	O	E
C	I	R	C	U	S	C	L	O	W	N
A	D	I	O	S	■	S	I	N	E	S
T	A	S	T	E	■	■	P	A	L	E

Yesterday's answer

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4-9



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ U.S. Rep. Robert Andrews announced his retirement in February, after 23 years of representing his New Jersey district, and in "tribute," The Washington Post suggested he might be the least successful lawmaker of the past two decades, in that he had sponsored a total of 646 pieces of legislation -- more than any of his contemporaries -- but that not a single one became law. In fact, Andrews has not accomplished even the easiest of all bill-sponsoring -- to name a post office or a courthouse.

■ November election returns for the city council of Flint, Mich., revealed that voters chose two convicted felons (Wantwaz Davis and Eric Mays) and two other candidates who had been through federal bankruptcy. Davis never publicized his 1991 second-degree murder plea, but said he talked about it while campaigning. (The Flint Journal acknowledged that it had poorly vetted Davis' record.)

■ The Internal Revenue Service reportedly hit the estate of Michael Jackson recently with a federal income tax bill of $702 million because of undervaluing properties that it owned -- including a valuation on the Jackson-owned catalog of Beatles songs at "zero." The estate reckoned that Mr. Jackson was worth a total of $7 million upon his death in 2009, but IRS placed the number at $1.125 billion. (In 2012 alone, according to Forbes magazine, Mr. Jackson earned more than any other celebrity, living or dead, at about $160 million.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1948 - Jorge Eliécer Gaitán's assassination provokes a violent riot in Bogotá (the Bogotazo), and a further ten years of violence in Colombia known as La violencia.

WORD UP!

deke
\ deek \ , verb;
1.
Ice Hockey . to deceive (an opponent) by a fake.

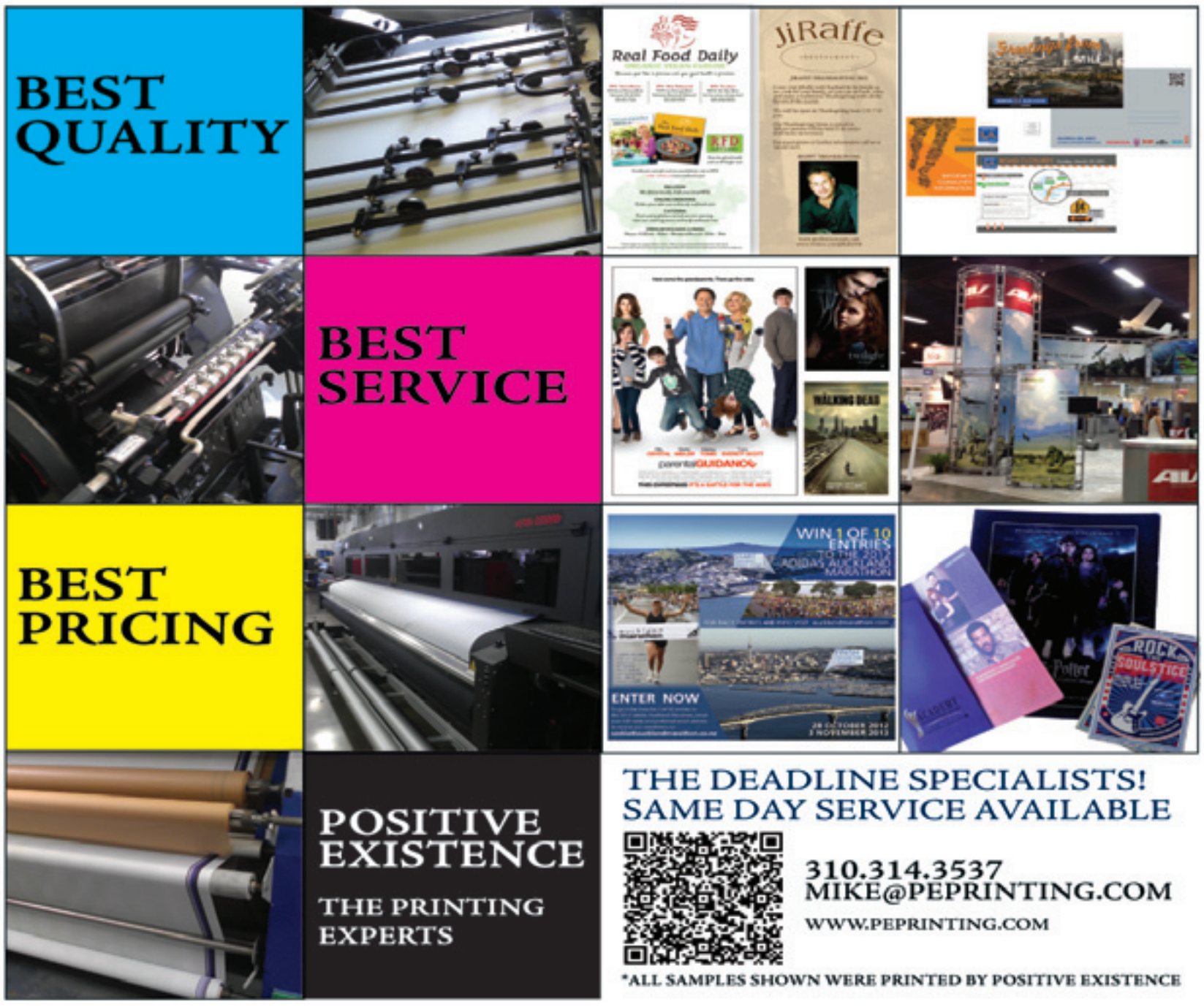
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