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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2013
Volume 13 Issue 14



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

HOLIDAY SAFETY FOR PETS
SEE PAGE 3

THE GOBBLE GOBBLE ISSUE

Construction, ADA access are concerns in early pier bridge design

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL City Hall wants to buy a bridge.

The current bridge to the Santa Monica Pier was built in 1939 and is in desperate need of replacement.

After being scrutinized by City Council and local businesses, several designs for the Santa Monica Pier bridge were passed on for environmental review at this week's meeting.

Public Works Director Martin Pastucha called the current bridge "substantially obsolete."

"The sufficiency rating of the bridge is at 29," he said. "Just for comparison purposes, bridges rated under 50 are not even eligible for rehabilitation due to the level of degradation."

One of the options that was approved for study, called Alternative 1, involves building a new bridge that's 24 feet wider than the current one, with appropriately-sized car and pedestrian lanes.

"That creates, obviously, some issues when we come to tie back into the pier at the bottom of the bridge," said Jim Rucker, a project consultant.

The bridge, he said, would be wider than the existing pier.

Alternative 4, which the public and Pier

SEE BRIDGE PAGE 8



BIG THANKS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

St. Monica Catholic Church held its annual Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday for anybody in need of a hot meal and some company.

Willis Ware, early computer pioneer, dead at 93

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA Willis Ware, a former RAND Corp. engineer who helped build early computers in the 1940s and '50 and predicted the importance of PCs long before they became ubiquitous, has died. He was 93.

Ware was on the team at Princeton University that built the IAS machine, one of the world's first electronic computers, in the late 1940s. He joined RAND in 1952 to help build the Johnniac, another early computer that was based on the IAS.

SEE OBIT PAGE 9

Rain, snow hit East during the Thanksgiving rush

JASON KEYSER & MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. A wet and blustery storm along the East Coast made driving hazardous and tangled up hundreds of flights Wednesday but didn't cause the all-out gridlock many Thanksgiving travelers had feared.

Many travelers marveled at how orderly and anxiety-free the airports were during what is typically one of the busiest days of the year.

One big question lingered in New York: Will high winds ground Snoopy and the other giant cartoon-character balloons at the Macy's parade on Thanksgiving Day?

The storm for the most part unleashed wind-driven rain along the Northeast's heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor from Richmond, Va., to the tip of Maine.

Emerging from the weather gantlet was Katie Fleisher, who made it by car from Portsmouth, N.H., through rain and fog to Boston's Logan Airport with little trouble and discovered to her amazement that the panicked, cranky crowds she expected were nonexistent.

"We thought it would be busier here. But there've been no lines, and it has been really quiet all morning," said Fleisher, whose plan was to fly to Pittsburgh.

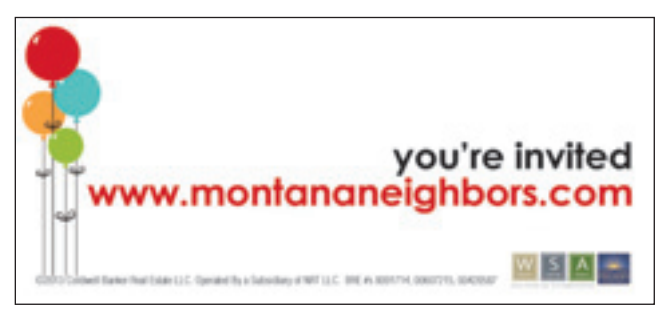
"Our flight is still on time, but we are checking the app every couple minutes," she said. "We are nervous, as we are traveling with two 1-year-olds, and any extra time on a plane would be horrible."

The storm was expected to drop around 6

SEE TRAVEL PAGE 9


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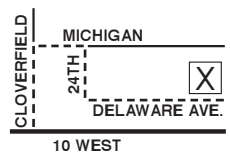


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013

Happy Thanksgiving!

Get your skates
Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Spend Thanksgiving on skates at ICE at Santa Monica, Downtown's popular annual skating rink. For more information, call (310) 461-8333.

Friday, Nov. 29, 2013

It's a wrap
Levi's Store
1409 Third St.,
10 a.m. — 9 p.m.
Visit a vintage Airstream trailer parked outside of the Levi's Store on the Third Street Promenade to receive free gift wrapping this Black Friday. All shoppers are welcome.

Photos with Santa
Santa Monica Place
395 Santa Monica Place,
11 a.m. — 8 p.m.
Bring your kids down to Santa's winter wonderland house for visits and pictures.

Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013

Market day
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave.,
8 a.m.— 1 p.m.
Restock produce after a hectic Thanksgiving at this weekly Farmers' Market. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Walk it out on Pico
Pico Boulevard
Between 27th Street and Centinela Avenue,
3 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The Pico Winter Holiday Art Walk will reflect holiday spirit in the form of entertainment, art, and, most importantly, food. The five-block stretch between 27th Street and Centinela Avenue will be transformed into a holiday getaway. For more information, visit picopassport.com.

Light the menorah
Third Street Promenade
1300 block, Sundown
Public menorah lighting, live music and dancing fill the air with the Chanukah spirit. For more information, call (310) 341-3837.

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013

Under the sea
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Back by popular demand, for a limited time only during the holiday season, Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium is offering its wolf-eel for adoption. Nine different marine animals on display at the aquarium are available for adoption year-long through the Aquadoption program, but the wolf-eel is only available through Jan. 1, 2014. For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

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

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

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



CORRECTION

An event listing published in the Nov. 27 issue of the Daily Press should have stated that the Pico Winter Holiday Art Walk is taking place on Saturday, Nov. 30.

LAX creates emergency response team

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Officials at Los Angeles International Airport are seeking volunteers among its full-time workforce to staff a response team designed to assist travelers during emergency operations.

The creation of the Airport Response Team — or ART — follows criticism that passengers were not kept informed after the deadly Terminal 3 shooting rampage earlier this month, the Daily Breeze reported Tuesday.

SEE **AIRPORT** PAGE 9

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Thanksgiving tips to protect pets

While most pet owners consider their pets to be a part of their family, the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control would like to remind everyone that most Thanksgiving food is only safe for your two-legged guests.

Consider the following list of what not to do with your pets during the holiday break. Work to ensure that your Thanksgiving festivities are not interrupted with a trip to the vet.

• Keep food and drinks out of the reach of your domestic animals. Be sure especially to keep chocolate and other desserts away from your pet's reach.

• Turkey bones can be deadly for pets. Turkey bones have splinters that can easily puncture a dog or cat's internal organs. If you wish to share some of the turkey meat with your pets, make sure the meat is boneless. Turkey can be a wonderful lean protein, you will just want to be sure to remove any excess skin or fat; stick with white meat, and make sure there are no bones.

• The best time to feed your pets (their own food) during this holiday is when you are about to sit down for your Thanksgiving meal. You can keep your pets busy during the interim by providing them with a toy or rawhide stuffed with treats.

Of course, there are some Thanksgiving dishes that are safe for our pets, such as mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. However, many times additional ingredients are used in recipes that can be forgotten about by the time the dishes hit the table. Nothing with alliums (i.e., onions, garlic, leeks, and scallions) should be ingested by your pet. They can lead to toxic anemia if eaten in a large quantity.

As a reminder, always keep your pet's license current. A current license and ID tag (affixed to your pet's collar) is the only voice a pet has if he or she becomes lost during the busy holiday.

– DAILY PRESS



CHECKING IT OUT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Santa Monica police officers point to where a man was found wandering nude around the median near the intersection of Euclid Street and Olympic Boulevard on Wednesday afternoon. Police on the scene say that the man appeared to be under the influence of drugs when they encountered him. After a brief struggle officers tased the man, who was transported to a local hospital. Westbound Olympic Boulevard was closed from 14th to Euclid streets as a result. The man was identified as Jackie Young.

Stocks climb after HP advances on earnings

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK Technology companies lifted the stock market Wednesday, keeping major indexes at record levels.

Hewlett-Packard surged, leading the gains for tech companies, after it posted a $1.4 billion profit for its latest quarter. The world's second-largest maker of PCs also issued a strong profit forecast for its current quarter.

Stocks also got a boost from some encouraging news about the U.S. economy.

In a sign that workers are in less danger of being laid off, the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits dropped 10,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 316,000, according to the U.S. Labor Department. In another bit of good news, consumer confidence rose in November, according to a private survey by the University of Michigan and financial data company Thomson Reuters.

"Today's economic news was generally favorable," said Terry Sandven, chief equity strategist for U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "In the absence of bad news, the path of least resistance for equities is up."

The stock market has surged this year on a combination of solid corporate earnings, a slowly recovering economy and easy-money policies from the Federal Reserve. The Fed is buying $85 billion in bonds every month to keep long-term interest rates low, making stocks more attractive than bonds for investors.

On Wednesday, the Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed four points, or 0.3 percent, to close at an all-time high of 1,807.23.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 24 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at its own record high of 16,097.33. The blue-chip index finished higher for a fifth straight day, its longest winning streak since March.

The Nasdaq composite advanced 27 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,044.75. The index closed above 4,000 for the first time in 13 years Tuesday.

The S&P 500 has risen 26.7 percent this year, putting it on course for its best annual performance since 1998. Much of the gain has come because investors have been willing to pay more for a company's stock in relation to its earnings.

The price-earnings ratio for S&P 500 companies has climbed to 15.1 from 12.6 at the start of the year. But it is still below the average ratio of 16.5 for the last 20

SEE **STOCKS** PAGE 9

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Your column here

Dr. Adam Silberstein — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tips for sane eating on Thanksgiving

MOST PEOPLE HAVE A LOVE/HATE relationship with Thanksgiving. It is wonderful being with family and friends, enjoying a long, relaxing weekend and being able to take a break from the daily stresses of your life. On the other hand, those stresses can be replaced with new ones: Being with family, trying to be a perfect hostess/host and wondering how you are going to stick to your diet on a day that is all about eating.

Thanksgiving is basically a great excuse to use for overeaters to, well, overeat! This holiday is the ultimate test for a foodaholic. Tables laden with traditional feasts that include stuffing and potatoes and casseroles and mac n cheese and pies galore!

But just because the rest of America is gorging doesn't mean you have to as well. Know this — it's OK not to gorge yourself on Thanksgiving. There is no hard and fast rule that you must be a glutton for the day. This might be a perfect time to make a new Thanksgiving tradition; eat less and enjoy the day more.

Here are some tips to help:

• Feast on family and friends, not on food. There is so much to enjoy at a get-together that isn't about the food. In our busy lives how often do we actually have the opportunity to spend concentrated time with people we care about? Celebrate the occasion by connecting with loved ones at the table rather then binging.

• Remember Thanksgiving is still just a Thursday. So much energy is placed on this big day and all that comes with it: The planning, the meal, the guest list, the tradition. Getting through the "big day" without gaining the extra pounds is a national topic of conversation. Perhaps we should view the "big day" as just another Thursday. Thursday seems much easier to cope with then the "big day."

• Fail to plan, plan to fail. Most of us are exposed to large festive meals with more options then we are used to. If you are committed to not putting on the pounds, have a plan. Have a sense of what items you will eat and how much you will have. You may want to use the one plate rule to help with portion control. Perhaps you will sample everything in small amounts. Regardless of your specific menu, planning is always better then winging it.

• Don't face the challenge alone. Bookend with a friend. Tell someone you can be honest with before the meal what you will eat or won't eat and call them after the meal to let them know about your success. Commitments take on a new meaning when they are shared with others and not just with ourselves.

• Remember your last food hangover. Take yourself back to your last binge: The fatigue, the guilt, the pain and bring that memory to the table. Do you really want to wake up the next morning feeling stuffed with aches and stomach cramps. How many Tums did you need last year? Can you recall those pants feeling that much tighter the day after? Remember the regret you had and asking yourself why you ate this or that? Think it through and maybe your last hangover memory will help you stay healthy and balanced through the meal.

• Ask yourself what a "reasonable" person who you truly respect would say about your food choices. Remember the key word is what is "reasonable." I sometimes say to people if 100 of the best doctors saw your plate what would they say — reasonable or not reasonable? Picture your plate filled with food items and imagine a team of experts surveying your choices. Imagine how good it feels to know your choices would be endorsed as healthy by the experts.

• Honor and respect your triggers. If you lost the battle with the pumpkin pie last year why would you go in the rink with it again this year? If you know you struggle with the dessert year after year don't take it on. After all, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

• Sometimes Disneyland is not the happiest place on Earth and neither is the Thanksgiving table. The table may be filled with family who you may not be thrilled to break bread with. Have a plan for coping with your family, especially the difficult members. Try to get yourself seated next to a family member who you enjoy hanging out with. If you are disappointed with the adults, perhaps you want to sit with the kids. If you find yourself stuck with no out and are seated in what feels like hostile territory, my suggestion is to ask people around you about themselves. People love to share about themselves, especially if they have an audience.

• Take care of yourself. Know you're not being weird if you call your host to ask ahead of time what is being served. If you are serious and committed about keeping it healthy, there is no harm or insult in getting a sneak preview of the menu.

For more information on **DR. SILBERSTEIN**, check out www.sourceforhelp.com

The Q Line

Getting to the bottom of things

City officials recently admitted that they have no clue as to how a more developer-friendly zoning map was including in the Land Use & Circulation Element in regards to A-lots ("Residents, City Hall propose corrections to planning document," Nov. 13). That change has already led to one development proposal that currently would not be allowed.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Given that City Hall doesn't know how the change occurred, should an independent investigation be conducted? What do you think happened?

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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Culture Watch

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



Photo courtesy Michael Lamont/Geffen Playhouse

BLOODY MESS: **Spirits of mediums, serial killers and charlatans are conjured up in 'Play Dead.'**

A nightmare before Christmas

IT MIGHT SEEM SOMEWHAT MACABRE TO write about death and evil at this celebratory time of year. But there's a terrific show, "Play Dead," onstage at The Geffen Playhouse in Westwood that makes these subjects both entertaining and edifying.

You've probably heard of Penn and Teller, but I bet you've never heard Teller speak (he's the silent one). Instead of the usual "turn off your cellphone" pre-show announcements, we hear Teller, who co-wrote and directs "Play Dead," tell us that screaming is encouraged, that staying seated in the dark (and it does get completely dark) will prevent you from being killed, and that "We are never so alive as when we're scared to death." (And by the way, as a former radio person myself, I can tell you that Teller has a gently resonant voice, one I'd love to hear more of in future.)

With that as prelude, we're in the amazingly capable hands of performer and co-writer Todd Robbins. Dressed in a white suit, which will shortly become bloodied, he's surrounded by a cluttered carnival-esque collection of death masks, a caged mannequin, a neon "Jesus Saves" sign, a subtly shifting portrait of a beautiful woman, a noose, boxes with names, birth and death dates on them and other quirky oddities.

We quickly learn that he is here to entertain, scare and warn us against the evils committed by tricksters, phonies and psychics, all of which he then proceeds to execute on the astounded audience. Although he does actually eat a glass light bulb. Really.

It is hard to believe your eyes when the tricks he plays unfold onstage, and since we reviewers are on our honor not to reveal the surprises, I'll just hint at what you can expect.

A member of the audience will disappear in a brass coffin before your very eyes, a painting will come to life, and a séance table will lift, shake and rattle under the hands of two astonished volunteers. We'll also witness the disemboweling of yet another unsuspecting audience member.

Robbins tells the true stories of a Brooklyn serial killer; a Coney Island sideshow performer (who bites the heads off chickens); a former neighbor of his in Long Beach whose deep faith could not save her from being murdered; and a very sexy spirit medium who entranced her followers with messages from the great beyond.

Throughout you will scream, laugh and be both tickled and chilled by ghostly lighting effects, a rain of spiders, indefinable things brushing by you in the dark … in other words, you'll have one "hell" of a good time. As Robbins concludes, "The theatre is the one holy place where everything is false."

Visit www.geffenplayhouse.com or call (310) 208-5454 for details; "Play Dead" runs through Dec. 22.

VIOLENT PARADISE

Santa Monica Playhouse often hosts guest productions, and I'll be attending one this weekend called "Jamaica, Farewell."

This one-woman show appears at the Playhouse for occasional short runs and is in town this weekend for three performances only.

"Jamaica, Farewell" is written and performed by Jamaican actress Debra Ehrhardt, who tells us the story of how she risked her life to escape poverty, revolution, prison time and rape in an island paradise brought to the brink of ruin by violent political revolution.

An immigrant who beats overwhelming odds to get to America, she shares her determination and ingenuity as she takes us on her true-life journey, fleeing the underside of Jamaican life, and audaciously hoodwinking a CIA agent into helping her achieve her American dream.

Rita Wilson (the acclaimed actress and spouse of Oscar-winner Tom Hanks) has optioned the movie rights to "Jamaica, Farewell," which has been on a critically lauded five-year run internationally and across the U.S.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, there are two performances, at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and just one on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. The show returns to Santa Monica Playhouse in February.

Find out more at www.jamaica-farewelltheplay.com or call Santa Monica Playhouse box office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 1.

FOR THE YOUNG ONES

Los Angeles Children's Theater presents its first Children's Theatre Festival for the holiday season, with magical and musical stage adaptations of "The Velveteen Rabbit" and "Pinocchio."

"The Velveteen Rabbit (or How Toys Become Real)" tells the beloved tale of a

SEE CULTURE PAGE 7

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Telephone device for the hearing-impaired is **TTY: 877-735-2929** . If you have a disability that prohibits you from fully participating in this process please call **888-865-9779** during the dates above and be ready to provide your full contact information in order to obtain an application.

Due to the limited number of these apartments, the filing of an application in no way guarantees you an apartment.

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy BBC Films; Pathe Productions Limited

THE CAST AT WORK: Judi Dench and Steve Coogan star in 'Philomena'

Mothers in our midst

JUDI DENCH IS QUITE A DAME. AS ONE of Great Britain's greatest gifts to theater, films, and television, she has portrayed most of Shakespeare's heroines, from Juliet to Lady Macbeth, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I, Cleopatra, Sally Bowles in Cabaret, and M in seven James Bond films. The list stretches from 1957 on.

Dame Judi as an actor presents a consistent image of luminous intelligence, dignity, and forthrightness. So it is a thought-provoking diversion to see her portraying an unsophisticated woman too meek to protest the cruelties meted out to her by an order of Catholic nuns.

The film is "Philomena," a true story adapted from the book "The Lost Child of Philomena Lee" by Martin Sixsmith and directed by Stephen Frears. Steve Coogan, who plays the part of Sixsmith, wrote the screenplay with Jeff Pope and actor Coogan is marvelous as the brusque atheist/journalist who, for the sake of a good "human interest" story, takes on the task of helping a poor Irish Catholic mother search for her long-lost son.

The son, conceived in a one-night dalliance, inadvertently condemns his young mother to a home run by nuns who believed these unwed girls were evil and undisciplined and warranted severe punishment. In fact, after their babies were born, the girls were required to work in the laundry as virtual slaves for four years to "repay" the nuns for having "taken them in."

Moreover, the nuns ran an "adoption" business, selling the children to potential parents in America and elsewhere. Among the most poignant scenes in the film is the one in which the young Philomena watches her 3-year-old son, his face pressed against the rear window of a long black limousine, being driven away by a pair of strangers.

This same dreadful story of the punishment of "fallen" women was revealed in the film "The Magdalene Sisters" in 2002. That film dealt with four teenage girls who suffered through their four years in the "Magdalene laundries," but the most shocking revelation was the fact that the laundries and their cruel, intimidating practices were not fully shut down until 1996.

Philomena Lee did not speak of her early life, however, until the day of her son's 50th birthday. At that time she told her story to her daughter, who appealed to journalist Sixsmith to help her mother find her son.

Philomena, who had silently agonized over her lost son for 47 years, willingly joined Sixsmith wherever the search took them, including, eventually, to America.

It's a lovely film, laced with good-natured humor and Philomena's patience, fortitude, and, most of all, unshakable faith. Still a reverent Catholic, she accepted without recrimination the deceptions of the nuns who, even 50 years later, refused to help her in any way.

If there is anything missing in this well-told story, however, it is a sense of Philomena as a full-blown woman. She has a daughter. Was there a husband? What did she do with her life? It wouldn't be necessary to elaborate; she could fill in a few details in conversation with Sixsmith or with her daughter. It might distract a bit from the constancy of her concerns about the fate of her son, but it would give her character a little larger context.

"Philomena" opened in two local theaters on Nov. 22, but it will be playing in theaters throughout Los Angeles within the next week.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF MOTHER

In contrast to Philomena, the mother in playwright John Pollono's "Lost Girls" is a foul-mouthed harridan, but then, so is her daughter.

The mother, Linda, played alternately by Ann Bronston and Peggy Dunne, berates her daughter with nearly every sentence. The daughter, Maggie (Jennifer Pollono), shouts obscenities and insults and tells her mother to "shut up!" periodically.

But then, Maggie is distraught by the fact that her daughter Erica (Anna Theoni DiGiovanni) has disappeared in the middle of a crushing New England snowstorm. Plus, Maggie's car has been stolen.

To the rescue comes Lou (Joshua Bitton), Maggie's ex-husband, with his second wife, Penny (Kirsten Kollender). Lou is an ex-cop and a recovering alcoholic who gets his police buddies to look for Erica.

Meanwhile, Erica has persuaded a school friend, Scooter (Jonathan Lipnicki), to drive her to Florida so she can rendezvous with her middle-aged boyfriend.

From there the plot unravels in all directions, but it does hold your attention. John Perrin Flynn directs this dysfunctional family group well, except for the accents, which come and go. The setting is supposed to be New Hampshire, but the exaggerated accents are from Boston. (As is someone's reference to having lived in Somerville, which is a Boston suburb.)

Of note is David Mauer's dual set, which

SEE PLAY TIME PAGE 7

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



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Authors have a few tips for holiday books

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK With more than 100,000 books published each year, it's hard to know what works best for a holiday gift. A few "experts," from a prize-winning historian to some best-selling children's authors, have suggestions:

James McBride, whose novel "The Good Lord Bird" was this year's fiction winner of the National Book Award: "And the Earth Did Not Swallow Him," by Tomas Rivera. "It's a short group of vignettes," McBride says, "but I like the writing, imagery, voice and story."

Brian Selznick, whose "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" was adapted into a feature film by Martin Scorsese: "Ballad," by Blexbolex. "This book is unlike anything I've ever seen before," Selznick wrote in a recent email. "It's a puzzle, a fairy tale, an adventure, a love story, made with words and pictures used in a new, utterly beguiling way. The silk-screened images, made with unbelievable fluorescent ink, will draw you in and will leave you breathless till the end."

Rachel Kushner, author of the acclaimed novel "The Flamethrowers": Manning Marable's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Malcolm X. "I think it's absolutely incredible," she says. "An impeccable work of history about a very important American figure."

Alan Taylor, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian whose latest book is "The Internal Enemy," about slavery in colonial and post-colonial Virginia: "A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek," by Ari Kellman, the story of a bloody 1864 battle in Colorado that left more than 150 Native Americans dead and the debate surrounding a memorial site dedicated in 2007. "A book about how different people can remember an event in very different ways," Taylor says.

Ann Martin, author of "The Babysitters Club" series: "In the Company of the Courtesan," by Sarah Dunant. "A mesmerizing story set in 16th-century Venice," Martin says.

Mark Halperin, co-author of "Double Down," the best-seller about the 2012 presidential election: "Monsters: The 1985 Chicago Bears and the Wild Heart of Football," by Rich Cohen. Halperin praises the book's "nostalgia, great storytelling, and larger-than-life characters."

"Goosebumps" author R.L. Stine: "Fun Home," by Alison Bechdel. "This brilliant graphic novel was turned into the best musical theater play I saw all year," Stine says.

CULTURE
FROM PAGE 5

stuffed rabbit and his quest to become real through the love of his owner. Inspired by and closely following Margery Williams' original story, LACT's production explores the theme of how love creates a lifelong relationship with toys, friends, and family and makes such relationships "real."

"Velveteen Rabbit" includes a cast of mimes, clowns, robots, and toy horses, rabbits, china dolls, and a variety of other characters. Music, creative movement, wonderful animal costumes, magical effects, and interaction with the audience makes this show a "must see" for children aged 3 and up.

"Pinocchio" is also a story about love, but is told through the eyes and ears of a puppet who wants to be a "real" boy and his ever-present conscience Cricket. Inspired by the original Disney animated film and adapted from Carlo Collodi's original novel, LACT's "Pinocchio" is a world premiere that includes a naïve and mischievous puppet, Pinocchio; a kind and gentle wood carver, Geppetto; a slick talking Fox; a mime; Blue Fairy, and a host of puppets. With memorable songs, awe-inspiring magical effects, and continuous interaction with the audience, this is also "must see" show.

It all takes place at The Little Theater, an intimate 49-seat venue at 12420 Santa Monica Blvd. on the West Los Angeles/Santa Monica border. Tickets are available online at www.theblackboxtheater.org. The festival opens Dec. 7 and runs through Jan. 5.

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

PLAYTIME
FROM PAGE 6

morphs in seconds from Maggie's living room to the seedy hotel room that Erica and Scooter have holed up in to wait out the storm. The Murphy bed comes out from behind a wall, other walls reverse, and even the pictures turn to become other pictures, and it's all done by hand so quickly that it doesn't disrupt the continuity of the action.

This world premiere is presented by Rogue Machine Theatre at Theatre/Theater, 5041 Pico Blvd., in Los Angeles, and as many Los Angeles theatergoers already know, almost any play presented by the celebrated Rogue Machine Theatre is well worth seeing.

"Lost Girls will run Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sundays at 7 p.m. and Mondays at 8 p.m. through Dec. 16. For reservations, call (855) 585-5185.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.







Rendering courtesy City of Santa Monica

NEW? The City Council this week moved along design plans for a new Santa Monica Pier bridge.

BRIDGE
FROM PAGE 1

Corporation Board supported most widely, involves building a narrow pedestrian bridge that allows for emergency vehicle access and a second vehicle-only bridge at Moss Avenue.

This option includes adding a double-wide elevator from Colorado Avenue or a curving switchback adjacent path to allow an Americans with Disabilities Act-approved incline grade.

The current grade of the pier bridge is too steep and does not meet ADA standards. Anyone trying to get from Colorado Avenue to the pier either has to use a car or get help, Pastucha said.

There is already an ADA approved ramp from Ocean Front Walk up to the pier.

One suggestion involves installing an elevator that would drop disabled citizens down to the beach level, allowing them to use an ADA approved ramp up to the pier.

Currently, there is an elevator from the beach level up to Bubba Gump Shrimp restaurant.

Judy Abdo, pier board chair, is particularly concerned about ADA accessibility.

"I think it's critical that we have ways for people to get on the pier that are safe for them," she said.

Several Ocean Front Walk business owners said they were not contacted about the plans.

Pastucha said that postcards were mailed to these businesses and could not explain the communication breakdown. As a result, they held a meeting with the business owners last week.

They strongly opposed a Moss Avenue bridge, noting it would result in Ocean Front Walk properties being boxed in between two bridges and would block their views to the ocean.

Tom Moran, who owns Sea Mist Rentals, said that the traffic in the area would get worse and create confusion.

"The impact it would have on that area would be devastating," said his son, Duncan Moran.

Marty Mink, who owns several buildings in the area, said he didn't hear about the community workshops until late-summer.

"The Moss Avenue bridge will change the whole look, the feel, the open beach and boardwalk space that everyone enjoys," he said.

City planners added a few last minute changes to the design to reflect some of the concerns of the businesses, including temporary bridges that would cut down on construction inconveniences.

Despite the bridge's historical importance, the Landmark Commission decided not to protect the bridge, said Commissioner Roger Genser.

"Our concern is primarily compatibility and that the designs are compatible with the current pier," he said.

He is also worried that the views could be blocked by the bridges.

Councilmembers validated the concerns of the public and stressed that City Hall is still in the early stages of the process. After the environmental study, council will again debate the different options before giving the project the green light. Construction would begin in the fall of 2016 at the earliest.

Council agreed to spend an additional $400,000 for the environmental study, bringing the total consulting cost to $1.25 million. This is all reimbursable through the Federal Highway Administration, according to planning officials. There's not yet an estimate for the cost of the bridge, but that too should be reimbursed by the federal government.

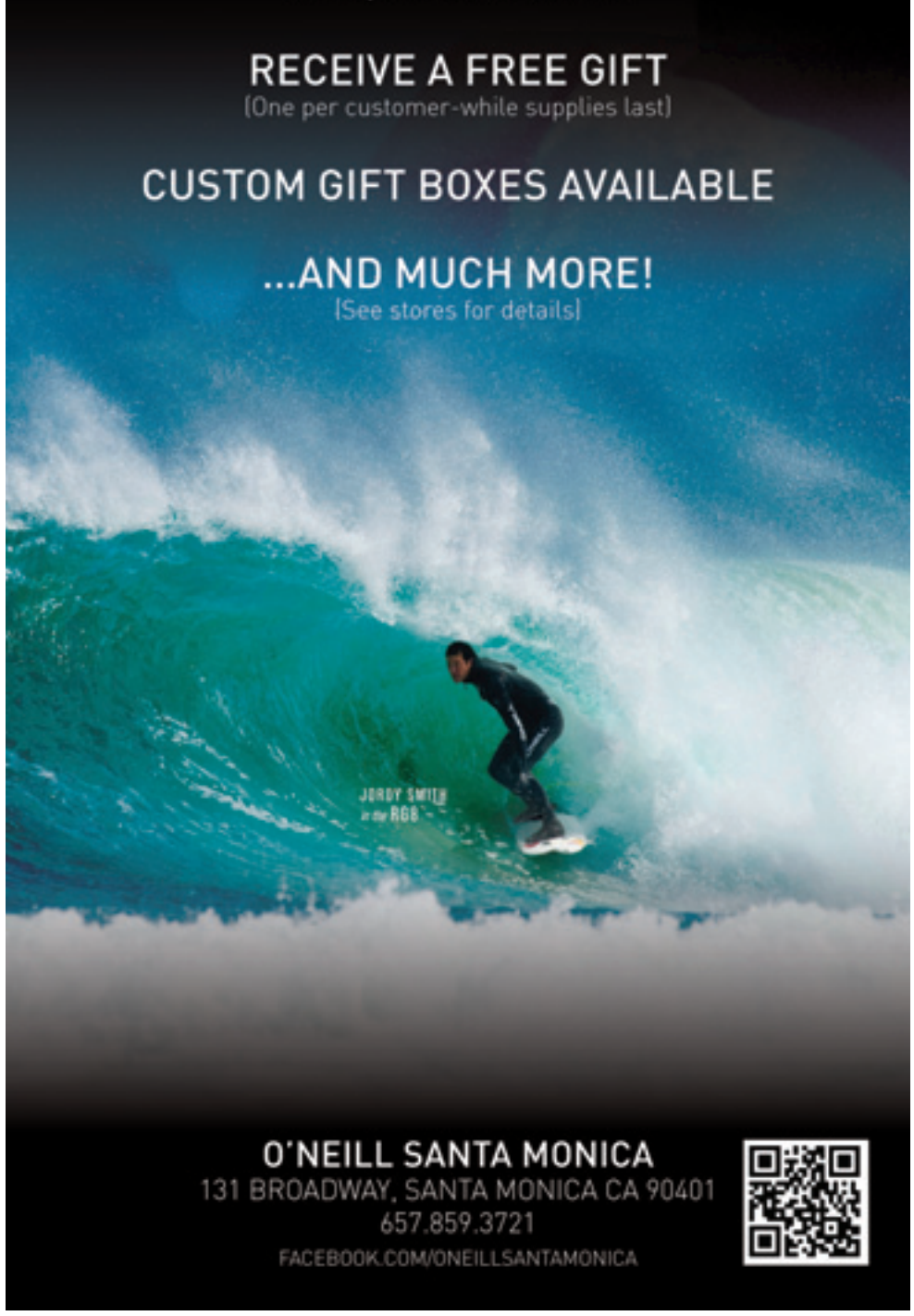
"We really have no choice," said Councilmember Kevin McKeown. "This is a project that must happen. The question is going to be how it happens."

He reiterated the fears of business owners who say that the construction time of 12 to 18 months will be burdensome.

"I just want to say to everybody who has concerns about this project: Yeah, we do, too," McKeown said. "This is not an easy project to contemplate. This constellation of things has been there since 1939."

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FRIENDLY EATS

Ray Solano *editor@smdp.com*

Will Rogers Elementary School students enjoy a meal during the Friendship Feast on Tuesday.

OBIT
FROM PAGE 1

RAND spokesman Jeffrey Hiday said that Ware passed away on Friday, Nov. 22 at his home in Santa Monica, Calif.

Much of Ware's research focused on the use of computers, both by society at large and the military, according to RAND Corp., where Ware spent more than 55 years.

"Willis helped usher RAND into the computer era at a time when computers existed mostly in the realm of science fiction," said Michael D. Rich, RAND's president and CEO, in a statement. "He was ahead of his time in thinking about the profound effects that computers could have on information privacy."

Ware is survived by two daughters, Deborah and Alison, son David, and their spouses, Edwin Pinson, Thomas Manoli, and Astrid Erling and granddaughters Arielle and Victoria Manoli.

STOCKS
FROM PAGE 3

years.

"When times are good, you have to ask if it's a sign that things are about to become bad," said Art Steinmetz, President & Chief Investment Officer at Oppenheimer Funds. But Steinmetz feels reasonably hopeful that stock valuations "are not overstretched."

In other corporate news, Analog Devices fell $1.38, or 3 percent, to $48.54 after the chipmaker reported sales late Tuesday that missed Wall Street estimates. The Norwood, Mass., company expects a seasonal slowdown to hurt revenue during the holidays.

Trading volumes were lower than average ahead of Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday, when financial markets will be closed. The New York Stock exchange and the Nasdaq will also close early on Friday.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.74 percent, up from 2.71 percent on Tuesday.

The price of oil dropped to its lowest level in six months as the U.S. government reported the 10th straight weekly increase in crude supplies. Oil dropped $1.38, or 2 percent, to $92.30 a barrel.

Exxon Mobil and Chevron, both members of the 30-company Dow, declined. Exxon Mobil fell 47 cents, or 0.5 percent, to $93.80. Chevron fell 36 cents, or 0.4 percent, to $122.42.

In other commodities trading, Gold fell $3.60, or 0.3 percent, to $1,237.80 an ounce.

AIRPORT
FROM PAGE 3

The team would be activated during emergencies and tasked with communicating with passengers and airport visitors. It would start with about 100 members but could grow to 300, according to Barbara Yamamoto, the airport's customer service director.

"We want them to focus on comfort, care and communication," she told the newspaper. "We have employees who want to help."

In the hours after the Nov. 1 shooting that killed Transportation Security Administration officer Gerardo Hernandez, many travelers waited for hours on roads in and around the airport, without knowing when they would let back into terminals. Streets near the airport were closed, so travelers who wanted to leave were forced to walk long distances.

On Nov. 5 City Councilman Mike Bonin introduced a measure asking airport officials to report back within 45 days about how they could improve crisis communication.

"One of the things that jumped out at me was the idea that a wide range of airport employees were not deployed to help share information with passengers," he said.

ART members will be mobilized to pass out water, snacks, diapers, formula and blankets. They'll also take customer calls on a special phone information line and assist with crowd control. Many will be expected to speak languages other than English.

The response team will consist of airport employees who usually have no duties during emergencies. Response team members could be called on to work at any time, and they'll be asked to work shifts as long as 12 hours. They would be paid wages, including overtime.

Team members will receive special vests, caps, whistles and flashlights, among other equipment.

Training will begin Dec. 11.

TRAVEL
FROM PAGE 1

inches of snow in parts of West Virginia and western Pennsylvania and up to a foot in a pocket of upstate New York.

Damaging winds gusting up to 60 mph were expected to rip through Boston and other coastal areas.

Those winds could prevent the giant balloons from taking flight this year at the Macy's parade. Safety rules that specify wind speeds were enacted in New York after a spectator was killed in 1997 in an accident involving an out-of-control balloon.

Flight cancellations piled up at East Coast hubs. By midday Wednesday, around 250 flights had been canceled, according to the tracking website FlightAware.com.

But that was a tiny fraction of the nearly 32,000 flights that were scheduled to, from or within the U.S. on Wednesday, the site said. And the weather in many places was improving as the day wore on.

Most of the cancellations involved Newark, N.J., Philadelphia and New York's LaGuardia Airport.

The longest delays affected Philadelphia-bound flights, which were being held at their points of origin for an average of about two hours because of the weather, according to the website.

The Philadelphia area was under a flood watch, with 2 to 3 inches of rain forecast before falling temperatures turn precipitation to snow.

Roads there were snarled. A deadly multi-vehicle crash that authorities said happened when a car hit standing water and spun out of control closed the westbound lanes of the Schuylkill Expressway for a while, and the eastbound lanes were shut down for several hours because of flooding.

At a rest stop on I-95 outside Boston, a Vermont family traveling to Sharon, Mass., was relieved that the roads were not that congested — and the weather didn't prove to be too much trouble, either.

"We didn't think we were going to get out today because of freezing rain, but it has been great," said Liz Kleinberg.

The storm, which developed in the West over the weekend, has been blamed for at least 11 deaths, five of them in Texas.

But as it moved east, it wasn't as bad as feared.

"This is a fairly typical storm for this time of year," said Chris Vaccaro of the National Weather Service. "Obviously, it's ill-timed because you have a lot of rain and snowfall in areas where people are trying to move around town or fly or drive out of town. ... But fortunately, we're at this point going to start seeing a steady improvement in conditions across the mid-Atlantic and Northeast."

More than 43 million people are expected to travel over the long holiday weekend, according to AAA. About 39 million of those will be on the roads, while more than 3 million people are expected to fly.

Travelers had some things to be thankful for this year.

The Federal Aviation Administration last month lifted restrictions on most personal electronic devices during takeoffs and landings, and some airlines, including American, have already begun allowing passengers to stay powered up from gate to gate.

And on the ground, gas prices dipped to an average of $3.29 a gallon.





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2 killed in collapse at venue hosting World Cup opener

STAN LEHMAN &
TALES AZZONI
Associated Press

SAO PAULO Part of the stadium that will host the 2014 World Cup opener in Brazil collapsed on Wednesday, killing two workers and raising urgent new concerns whether the country will be ready for soccer's signature event.

Brazil has been plagued by a series of setbacks including cost overruns, stadium delays, accidents, labor strife and massive street protests in the run-up to the June tournament, once envisioned as a coming out party for South America's largest nation, which is also scheduled to host the Olympics in 2016.

Wednesday's accident at Sao Paulo's Itaquerao stadium occurred when a construction crane crashed into a 500-ton metal structure that in turn cut through the outer walls of the venue, destroying rows of seats and slamming into a massive LED panel that runs across the stadium's facade.

The accident could delay delivery of the stadium, which was practically finished before Wednesday's collapse. FIFA has set a December deadline for all 12 World Cup venues to be ready. The World Cup begins on June 12 with Brazil playing at the Sao Paulo stadium.

Officials said there were no major structural damages to the stadium but declined to say how much the accident may affect the delivery.

"I don't want to know about FIFA right now, we are worried about the families of the victims," former Corinthians president Andres Sanchez told a news conference.

Sanchez said two people were confirmed dead and nobody else was injured. A fire department official had said earlier that three people had died.

One of the workers, 42-year-old Fabio Luis Pereira, was inside a truck that was hit by the metal structure. The other, 44-year-old Ronaldo Oliveira dos Santos, was resting in an area which was supposed to be isolated.

"Unfortunately nobody saw him and he himself knew that he was not supposed to be there," Sanchez said. "He was napping and unfortunately there wasn't time for him to get out."

The accident happened at lunchtime, so not many of the nearly 1,700 employees working on the venue were on site when the crane collapsed on top of the metal structure, causing the deadly domino effect.

"The sound was as loud as a thunderclap or a huge explosion," said Rodrigo Vessoni, a reporter with sports daily Lance who said he had just walked out of the stadium after interviewing Sanchez. "There was a lot of running around, a lot of shouting. It was frightening. Chills ran through my entire body. It was unbelievable. The noise was metal grating on metal. It was a terrible thing to see."

An official with constructor Odebrecht said a similar metal structure had already been installed with the same crane at the other side of the venue earlier this year.

"Everything was being done according to procedure," said Frederico Barbosa, the construction site's manager. "We will have to wait for the investigation to find out what caused the crane to collapse."

Sanchez reiterated that it appeared to engineers on site that the structure of the

SEE DEATHS PAGE 12

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **62.7°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high
BIGGEST LATE - WNW swell mix rapidly builds in - sets running 4-5'+ in the PM;
SE'erly winds may be an issue for some spots; stay tuned, storm dependent

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **4-5 ft** shoulder to head high occ. 6ft
BIGGEST EARLY - WNW groundswell holds early, then fades;
watching for improving wind/weather; stay tuned, storm dependent

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
WNW groundswell fades; stay tuned

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high occ. 4ft
Potential longer period WNW groundswell builds in; steep-angled S-SSE swell joins in; stay tuned

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 **November 25, 2013**

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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 -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / 5
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 0

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 Las Alisa creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	D	F
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	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	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+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A
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..	A+	ns
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	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.	F	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.

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DEATHS

FROM PAGE 11

stadium had not been compromised, meaning there could be enough time to get everything fixed in time for the World Cup. He said that around 30 percent of the stadium will be closed off pending authorities' investigations.

"Structurally very little was affected," he said.

Brazil is running against time to deliver the last six World Cup stadiums by the end of the year, although work at the Itaquerao was advanced compared to the other venues. FIFA has been pressuring local organizers to make sure all venues are ready by the December deadline so all test events can take place in time for the World Cup.

FIFA said it would not accept the same delays that plagued stadium construction before the Confederations Cup, when only two venues were delivered in time.

The Sao Paulo stadium, which cost nearly $360 million, will seat nearly 70,000 people for the opener. About 20,000 seats will be temporary and installed only for the World Cup.

The venue is scheduled to host another five matches, including a semifinal. It was initially expected to be built for the Confederations Cup this year, but delays with financing for the venue prompted authorities to scrape the project from the World Cup warm-up tournament.

"FIFA and the LOC have learnt of the death of workers at the Corinthian's Arena site in Sao Paulo with great sadness," FIFA said in a statement. "We wish to send our heartfelt condolences to the family of the workers who tragically died today."

Soccer's governing body said the "safety of workers is the top priority" to World Cup organizers.

"We know the safety of all workers has always been paramount for all the construction companies contracted to build the 12 FIFA World Cup stadiums," it said in a statement. "The local authorities will fully investigate the reasons behind such a tragic accident."

FIFA President Sepp Blatter said he was "deeply saddened by the tragic death of workers" at the Corinthians stadium. "Our heartfelt condolences are with the families," he said.

FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke said he was "extremely shocked by the news from Sao Paulo."

"Our thoughts are with the families of the victims of this accident," he said.

It wasn't the first problem with World Cup stadiums in Brazil.

One worker died during construction of a stadium in the capital Brasilia last year and another in the Manaus venue in March. Also in March, heavy rains flooded the construction site of the Maracana Stadium, forcing the cancellation of a FIFA inspection visit at the time. In May, a small part of the roof at the Salvador stadium fell in after it wasn't able to sustain the large amount of water that settled on top of it.

In April, another worker died at the construction site of the new Palmeiras stadium, which may be used for teams training for the World Cup in Sao Paulo. That construction site was stopped for 10 days then, when damage was not nearly as significant as it was at the Corinthians venue.

In Rio, the stadium which will host athletics in the 2016 Olympics has been closed for several months because of fears that its roof could collapse. Renovation work is underway at the venue.



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Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:00am, 4:30pm, 10:45pm

Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:30pm, 7:40pm

Oldboy (R) 2hrs 00min
11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:35pm

Black Nativity (PG) 1hr 32min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Homefront (R) 1hr 50min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:10pm, 10:45pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
10:30am, 1:25pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
10:00am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
10:10am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:05pm, 6:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm, 11:15pm

Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 8:15pm, 9:45pm

Delivery Man (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Dallas Buyers Club (R) 1hr 57min
10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

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

Book Thief (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

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

Philomena (R) 1hr 34min
12:30pm, 2:55pm, 5:20pm, 7:45pm, 10:10pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

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

DANCE TONIGHT, GEM

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Sociability surrounds you this Thanksgiving. Many people will tend to emote, yet they still will be enjoyable company. You might discover that you have very little to complain about. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your expectations for Thanksgiving are grounded in your past. You'll enjoy making the social rounds, so to speak, in that you like visiting with everyone and catching up on news. A loved one will be instrumental to the success of this Thanksgiving. Tonight: Help clean up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Others always dominate on Thanksgiving. Let the stress of the day fall to the wayside. A loved one will demand your time. Though you might grumble about possibly missing a game on TV, you'll give this person your attention. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You'll see life from a renewed, upbeat perspective. You won't mind doing all the holiday prep work, because family is what is important. For many of you, Thanksgiving is one of your favorite holidays. Tonight: Once you are done, kick back and enjoy your company.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You seem to have a naughty perspective on almost everything that happens right now. Your light playfulness will be contagious, but others seem to take it to extremes. A loved one might surprise you with his or her actions. Give this person the space to grow. Tonight: Swap jokes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You will have a tendency to go to extremes right now. You might indulge in way too much turkey or some other slightly addictive behavior. If you saw this type of behavior from others, you would be very critical. Be less judgmental in the future. Tonight: Rein yourself in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Some Thanksgivings are better than others. You have tremendous potential this year. Enjoying a loved one happens naturally. You could be jolted by some element of this Thanksgiving's celebration. Relax. You don't need to make a correction. Tonight: All smiles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You'll need to break free at some point during the day. That is not to say that you won't have a good time; you just need to indulge in a nap or take some "you" time. News about the possibility of a trip and/or visit will make you happy. Tonight: Mum's the word.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to spend some extra time with a friend, but because of the nature of the holiday, it could be difficult to do. Where there's a will, there's a way. A relationship could heat up, and you finally will see a desire become a reality. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take the lead and carve the turkey, especially if others have trepidations. It seems that whatever you do, loved ones find your actions nearly perfect. Tonight: Everyone turns to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance whom you care a lot about. This person might be a longtime friend. Open up to new possibilities, and stop working within a rigid framework. Tonight: Use your imagination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by what you hear and from whom you hear it. If something feels off to you, it probably is. Don't lose your focus on the holiday and a special loved one, no matter what is going on in the background. Tonight: Plan on some special time with a special person.

Thursday, November 28, 2013

This year, remaining goal-oriented serves you well. You easily could witness one or two of your life's aspirations become a reality. Your friendships might be changing as other dimensions of your life open up. If you are single, you might meet someone who could end up sharing part of your life history with you. If you are attached, the two of you can be found spending time together frequently. Take that special trip you have always spoken about. LIBRA is always gracious, but he or she can be superficial at times.

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

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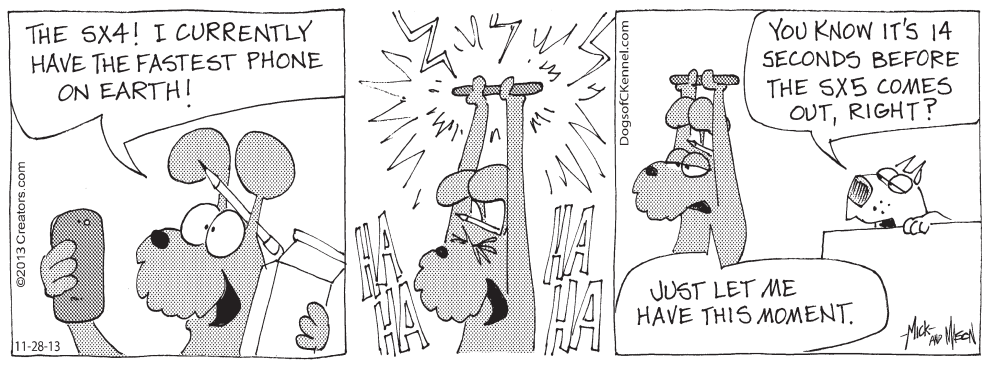
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



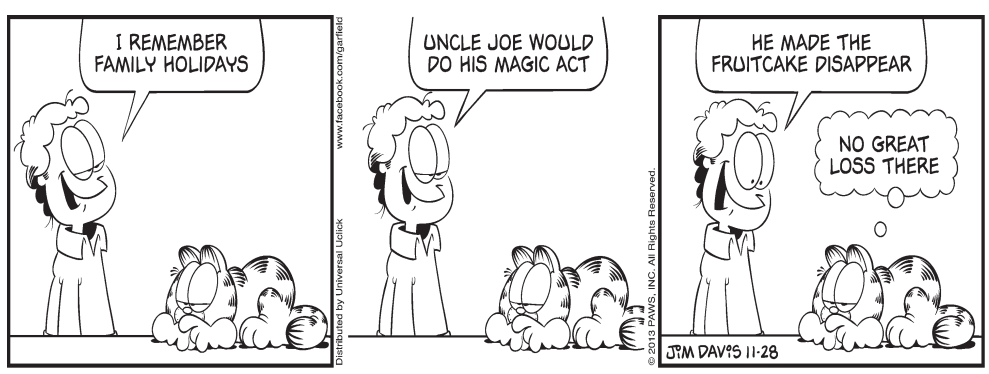
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

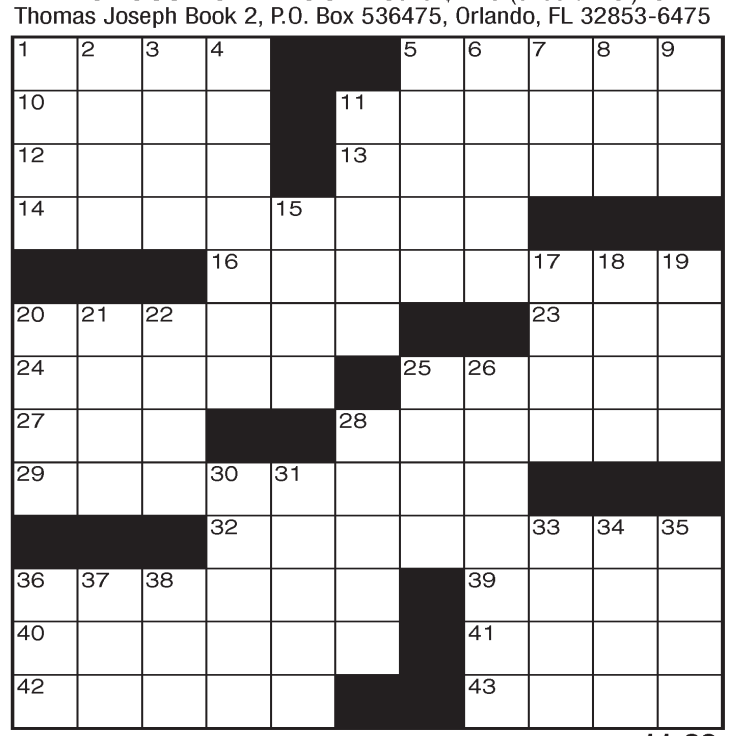
ACROSS
1 Diner side dish
5 Push rudely
10 Sight-seeing trip
11 Made like a geyser
12 Field unit
13 Art store buy
14 Turkey chefs
16 Kitchen appli-ances
20 Less fresh
23 Even score
24 Musical sounds
25 Carving knife feature
27 Bible boat
28 Shad-owed
29 Arrogant folks
32 Table protectors
36 Met events
39 Dueling weapon
40 Thanks-giving event
41 Ship of 1492
42 Catches
43 Edinburgh native

DOWN
1 Marquee name
2 Nuts
3 Mystique
4 Try for a pin
5 Ship poles
6 Bank job
7 Possess
8 Dachs-hund's doc
9 Harris and Asner
11 Aspara-gus piece
15 Corn settings
17 List-end-ing abbr.
18 Take the bus
19 Bun topper
20 Wild guess
21 Bullfight beast
22 "Lonely Boy" singer
25 Chocolate buys
26 Is attentive
28 Make fun of
30 Bit for Fido
31 Marsh croakers
33 Sweeping story
34 Nevada city
35 Place at the table
36 Make a choice
37 Hole number
38 Historic time

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

Yesterday's answer

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



11-28



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The California genetic testing company 23andMe was recently awarded a patent for a computer program that lets parents, by running probabilities through the known relevant cell and DNA variables (of over 240 conditions and traits), predict their "perfect" baby. Of course, the program can provide only the percentage likelihoods, and a company spokeswoman, anticipating a backlash against the concept of "designer babies," rejected the idea that 23andMe would work with fertility clinics.

■ Weird SportsCenter: (1) A Brazilian minor-league soccer match in September ended in a 2-2 tie only because, with minutes left, the trainer for one team stepped to the goal and cleared two quick tie-breaking shots that his players could not have reached in time. "It was our only chance," he said later. (The referee allowed play to continue.) (2) She Got Game: Bringing her basketball skills to an October five-on-five contest in Thimphu, the queen of Bhutan, 23, scored 34 points with 3 rebounds and 4 assists, and talked up basketball's imminent rise in the Asian kingdom to a New York Times reporter. The queen said she, and the king, play almost every day.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1909 - Sergei Rachmaninoff makes the debut performance of his Piano Concerto No. 3, considered to be one of the most technically challenging piano concertos in the standard classical repertoire.

1910 - Eleftherios Venizelos, leader of the Liberal Party, wins the Greek elections again.

1912 - Albania declares its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

WORD UP!

gelt
\ gelt \ , noun;
1.
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Happy Thanksgiving Santa Monica



Kate Bransfield