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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013 Volume 13 Issue 23



Santa Monica Daily Press

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SKAGGS RETURNS TO L.A.
SEE PAGE 12

THE WELCOME BACK ISSUE

Rape survivor support group to meet Friday

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Polly Johnson spent years avoiding discussion about rape but now she's going right at it.

Johnson formed a rape survivors group, Face-2-Face, which will meet for the first time this Friday at the First Presbyterian Church on Second Street.

The UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica is known for its world-class treatment and counseling for rape survivors but, Johnson said, Face-2-Face is not meant to be seen as a substitute for profes-

SEE GROUP PAGE 8

Local leaders planning for climate effects

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON When it comes to climate change, local officials have a message for Washington: Lead or get out of the way.

Local governments have long acted as first responders in emergencies and now are working to plan for sea level rise, floods, hurricanes and other extreme events associated with climate change.

As a presidential task force began its work Tuesday, local officials said they want and need federal support but worried that congressional gridlock and balky bureaucratic rules too often get in the way.

"Government, whether the White House or Congress, is not there to make you whole after a disaster," said Bob Dixson, mayor of Greensburg, Kan., which was leveled by a

SEE CLIMATE PAGE 10



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GET BUSY: Fans have a little fun during one of this summer's Twilight Concert Series shows. The popular concerts continue to be a big draw.

Looking back at the pier's 'test year' events

Festival Supreme a flop, Twilight Concert Series continues to shine

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER The Santa Monica Pier ramped up its events this year, leading to some successes and a few failures.

The Twilight Concert Series, in its 29th year, was nearly universally praised, while newcomer comedy event Festival Supreme was trashed by many attendees and pier businesses.

City and pier officials, as well as event organizers, are in the midst of determining what's next for these large scale events.

"We indicated that we would be working on developing revenue sources to cover the rising cost of free and low-cost public events," Pier Corporation Boardmember Susan McCarthy wrote in an e-mail. "So we encouraged staff to try new partners and strategies for events, promotions and marketing to that end."

Chair of the pier board, Judy Abdo, said they are currently in the process of deciding what to do next year.

"I guess it's a test year of seeing what works and doesn't work," she said. "When there is a test year then we need to get all the information from all the players about what worked and what didn't work and then use that for the event guidelines for the future."

Those guidelines are in the works now, she said.

Festival Supreme, a sold-out comedy event hosted by Jack Black in October, was not well-recieved. It has two stars out of five on Yelp, an online guide that aggregates user reviews. Twenty of the 35 reviews gave the festival one star.

Jackie Fernandez, of Studio City, was one of the one-star reviewers. She's critiqued more than 100 events and restaurants and most frequently assigns them four and five stars. Her biggest complaints about this event, which she paid more than $100 to attend, were the lines and crowds.

"Getting food was an hour, getting drinks was two hours, on top of the hour that you spent waiting in line to get in," she said. "It was bad. It was seriously, hands down, the worst event I've ever been to and I've been to a ton of events."

Fernandez said people were starting to get aggravated and that she felt unsafe.

SEE PIER PAGE 9

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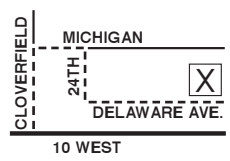


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013

So fresh
Third Street Promenade
8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Visit one of Southern California's finest Farmers' Markets for the freshest of the fresh. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Lace 'em up
Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue
2 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Hit the rink at ICE at Santa Monica, a popular holiday attraction. For more information, call (310) 461-8333.

Peace of mind
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 6 p.m.
Stop by the library for an evening of meditation. Wellness consultant Natalie Bell will lead the 30-minute session.

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013

Songs of the season
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m.
Join the library for the gift of music from the SMC Emeritus College Lyric Chorus when this 20-plus member women's chorus puts you in the mood for the winter holidays with their performance of songs of the season and Broadway tunes. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Talking films
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m.
Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray star in "Remember the Night," a heartwarming holiday romance from 1940. Followed by a talk with film scholar Vivian Rosenberg. For more information, visit smpl.org.

All of the lights
Third Street Promenade
7 p.m.
Join in the annual Downtown tree lighting ceremony near the corner of the promenade and Wilshire Boulevard. For more information, call (310) 393-8355.

Standout standup
Mi's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade
8 p.m.
See some of Comedy Central's brightest comics and they crack wise. Cost: $5. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

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**



Schools fear losing funds for low income students

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES New state income-verification rules could cost California schools millions in funding for low-income students, some district officials say.

Hundreds of families have yet to turn in income verification forms in Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno and elsewhere, The Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

Many districts are urging the state to guarantee them all funding due this year, based on last year's count of low-income students. Under the new rules, districts are receiving extra money for students who are low-income, learning English or in foster care. The additional funding amounts to about $2,800 per pupil in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

State officials say the rules are necessary to ensure the extra dollars go to those who actually qualify for them. Districts argue verifying incomes every year is too time-consuming.

Los Angeles Unified School District faces losing $200 million, and San Diego could miss out on $6 million, the newspaper reported.

"We have to make sure that the (new system) is being driven by real students and their needs," said Erin Gabel, director of government affairs for the California Department of Education.

Districts already verify students' family income every four years for a federally subsidized meal program. Officials say the notifications about the new rules went out late and some parents balk at divulging personal information.

In the Fresno Unified School District, hundreds of families have refused to fill out the income forms — possibly because of fears the information will land in the hands of immigration authorities, according to Ruth Quinto, the district's chief financial officer. Others might be confusing the new state forms with the federal meals documents they've already completed, some community organizers said.

"The whole thing is outrageous," Los Angeles Unified schools Superintendent John Deasy told the newspaper. "Give our kids their fair share."

In his district, only about 40 percent of 138,000 verification forms distributed to 380 schools with high poverty rates had been returned as of Friday, the initial deadline. Deasy said the state should simply accept the federal data.



HEADY MOVE

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

St. Monica's Trinity Gray (right) heads the ball as Isabel Abdalla from Heritage Christian tries to apply defense on Tuesday at Airport Park. The game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Stocks lower after hitting record; banks now in focus

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK Stocks fell modestly Tuesday as investors took a breather from a market that notched yet another record high the day before.

The market has hit several all-time highs in recent months, but with the holiday season and end of the year approaching many investors expect the market to be calm as 2013 winds down.

"It's quiet, and the only trading that will go on the rest of this year will be people selling for tax reasons and window dressing," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer for BMO Private Bank, which manages $66 billion of assets.

It's a common practice for portfolio managers, in the last couple weeks of the year, to close out positions, sell off poor-performing stocks and try to make portfolios look as good as they possibly can when they mail their year-end statements to investors. On Wall Street, the practice is sometimes called "window dressing."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 52.40 points, or 0.3 percent, to 15,973.13.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 5.75 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,802.62. The index hit an all-time high Monday.

The Nasdaq composite lost 8.26 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,060.49.

Banking stocks were mostly higher after investors got some clarity on new regulations.

Federal regulators voted to approve the Volcker Rule, which bars banks from betting on the market with their own money. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal agencies approved the rule, which will go into effect by July 2015 for the nation's largest banks.

Goldman Sachs increased $2.06, or 1.2 percent, to $169.73 and Morgan Stanley rose 38 cents, or 1.3 percent, to $30.77.

The Volcker rule is part of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law passed in 2010 in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

One of the few remaining events on the economic calendar this year is the Federal

SEE **STOCKS** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ditch cars

Editor:

Cars have simply got to go. On Saturday morning, an out of control car went through the fence north of Marine and 23rd streets and almost destroyed Santa Monica Municipal Airport.

Why, if that car had burst into flames (it was full of flammable, toxic liquid) as it well might have, then the vegetation on the hillside could have gone up in a vast conflagration and fanned by the wind, jumped to the runway and from there to the hangars and other structures and to all the aircraft and endangered the students at the SMC arts campus.

There is just no knowing how much destruction might have been caused – Los Angeles could have been burnt down just like San Francisco in the 1906 fire. It might have become another Pearl Harbor! It is high time to get this automotive menace off our streets. Cars are dangerous and we don't need them anyway (they're just rich folks' way of avoiding healthy exercise). We have plenty of sidewalks for pedestrians and the streets can be repurposed for bicycles, Segways and pogo-sticks. The medians could be torn up and linear parks and dog runs put all over the city. Cars just cause unacceptable noise pollution and dump hundreds of thousands of kilocalories of waste heat into our already warming global environment and contribute to the ever increasing entropy of the universe which can never be reversed.

At the very least the City Council should levy a fee to enter or leave Santa Monica by car (residents included) which would discourage use of the transportation infrastructure just as they have done with planes at the airport. In fact, the City Council should form a "Motor Vehicle Commission" and, to avoid possible conflict of interest like they have done with the Airport Commission, appoint only people without cars or any germane knowledge to staff it.

Finally, I shudder to think that if I had been walking on that sidewalk, I might have been "runned over and kilt" by that car – it was right at street level! Since our economy and well being do not depend on automobiles, I say let's get rid of them while we still can.

Bill Worden
Venice, Calif.





Curious City

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

If you love Santa Monica, act now

IF YOU VALUE OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE here in Santa Monica, a world free of nuclear weapons, or public art, or peace, or the responsibility to do the right thing about the care and preservation of gifts of art to the city, or if you just want to have a good time, be entertained by some top-notch talent and hang out with one of Santa Monica's legendary characters, don't forget tonight is Jerry Rubin's 70th Birthday Save Chain Reaction Peace Party, at Rusty's on the Santa Monica Pier, 6 p.m. — 11 p.m. For the info, search "Save Chain Reaction."

When I wrote about my recent affairs of the heart, I left out an important message for everyone. Well, two. The first is, it's hereditary. Hereditary, hereditary, hereditary. If your parents, grandparents or siblings had heart problems, you are more at risk than for any other factor. (Doesn't mean if you're clear on that count that you should start on the cheeseburger and heavy butter diet.) But out of five of my highly regarded heart specialists I queried, all five unequivocally named genetics as the most important factor. The surgeon who operated on me gave it a number: 75 percent. If you have that factor, it doesn't mean you should ball up in a corner waiting to die, but it's important to be aware of symptoms, and to get yourself checked out.

The other thing, that few people know: more women than men die of heart disease. And they have different symptoms. Again, inform yourself. Women are nine times more likely to die from a heart problem than from breast cancer.

SAVE SANTA MONICA

Sounds extreme. Alarmist. An overreaction.

Nope.

There is movement afoot. More and more people every day are realizing what's happening to our fair city, are horrified and distraught, and are banding together to try to turn things around.

What's happening is what many would call runaway development, of so many projects all over the city, of such massive proportions, that it will change forever the Santa Monica you know and love today. Exceptions to our zoning laws and long-term planning guidelines are being handed out like Halloween candy. Developers rule, and the people's voice is not being heard.

Three skyscraper hotel towers (15, 21 and 22 stories) within blocks of each other on Ocean Avenue are speeding toward approval. And once they're approved, there is precedent and nothing will be able to stop more of them on our cherished Ocean Avenue. Hello, Miami Beach.

A lot of people love to stroll Main Street, a stone's throw from the ocean. Will you still love it when it's a dark canyon of four- to six-story buildings, instead of the two stories that we've had for so long?

The old Papermate factory site at Olympic Boulevard and 26th Street is going to become a three-quarters of a million square foot housing-retail-business development. If you think the traffic around there is bad now, come back in a couple of years.

A 285-room hotel at Wilshire and Seventh Street. Two six-story hotels across the street from each other, Downtown at Fifth Street and Colorado. One block away: two new apartment-retail complexes, eight-story and six.

Remember Norm's and its neighbor, the big antique mall, and the Denny's across the street and all three big parking lots? They're going to be covered in apartments and retail, right where the Metro will come roaring through every few minutes. Good luck sitting in that traffic. (Altogether, 10 new mixed-use developments on Lincoln Boulevard are planned within three blocks north of the freeway.)

Here's the one that kills me: goodbye AMF Bay Shore Lanes. And guess what replaces it? Yes, more apartments and retail. Hard to believe it was just seven years ago that Santa Monica took the lead in California's effort to limit the size of new developments.

The above is just a fraction of what's in the popeline. Are you concerned yet?

The people who are getting informed are people just like you and me, who live in Santa Monica, love it and intend to stay. They're the ones who count. The folks for whom this is a temporary layover, just another dot on the map — we're happy to have you here, but you'll leave and not look back. We want our grandchildren to grow up here. We're the ones our City Hall and City Council should be serving, and they're not.

A group of highly respected architects calling themselves SMART (Santa Monica Architects for a Responsible Tomorrow) are meeting, brainstorming and acting. They have five stated goals it's hard to be against: To preserve the uniqueness of our beach culture; to maximize light, air, views and green space; to build to a human scale; to create a walkable and drivable city; and to be a smart, connected and sustainable community.

Prominent local realtor Kate Bransfield, after years of attending neighborhood meetings but seeing no results, declared herself frustrated and now ready to make things happen.

"I'm a realtor but I'm also a Santa Monican, since 1989. I love our sweet little city and will work hard to stop the insanity." She recently posted, "The momentum is palpable. We're on the brink of taking our city back."

Architects and realtors — shouldn't they want increased development? Of course. So when they stand up and say slow down, we should pay attention.

Who else? All kinds of people — young and old, artists, executives, students, retired — who cherish Santa Monica and don't want to see it ruined forever by overdevelopment. The ranks are growing daily, and it's not just talk. Action is being taken. It's not too late, but very soon it will be. We need every voice.

The big picture and how it got this way and how it can be slowed down is ridiculously complicated and, of course, political. Two things everyone can do: no matter where you live there is a neighborhood association you can join. They are talking, they are all banding together for a stronger voice. You can learn there, and be part of the solution.

Once you get your feet wet, go to the Facebook page for "Santa Monica Government, Politics, Policies and People." Ignore some petty squabbling there, and you can learn a lot.

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 27 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com.

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STATE BRIEFS

WASHINGTON

NTSB hearing on SF crash postponed

The National Transportation Safety Board has rescheduled for Wednesday its hearing into the crash-landing of an Asiana jet at San Francisco International Airport that left three Chinese teens dead.

The hearing was originally scheduled as a two-day series of panels Tuesday and Wednesday, but it was postponed due to wintry weather. It will now be consolidated into a single day, starting at 8:30 a.m. at NTSB headquarters.

The safety board wants to examine whether the Korean airline's pilots were overly reliant on the Boeing 777's computer systems when they approached too low and slow before striking a seawall and tumbling across the runway in July.

The board said the hearing will focus on "pilot awareness in a highly automated aircraft." There are also plans to review the emergency response.

Three teenage girls were killed. One died during the crash, a second was run over by a fire truck on the tarmac, and a third died at San Francisco General Hospital. More than 150 of the 307 people aboard the flight were injured.

In briefings held days after the July crash, investigators said pilots of Asiana Flight 214 relied on automated cockpit equipment to control the jetliner's speed as they landed at the San Francisco airport, and they realized too late that they were in trouble.

Increasing automation has been a tremendous overall safety boon to aviation. But the automation has also changed the relationship between pilots and their aircraft, and an overreliance on automated cockpit systems has figured in dozens of air crashes and incidents in recent years.

Asiana Airlines' newly appointed chief safety officer Akiyoshi Yamamura, who plans to attend the hearing, told reporters in Seoul last week that safety is the airline's "top priority" and that it continues to improve oversight of pilots.

The pilot at the controls when the plane crashed was only about halfway through his training on the Boeing 777 and was landing that type of aircraft at the San Francisco airport for the first time. The co-pilot was on his first trip as a flight instructor.

At least 61 passengers are suing the airline, according to federal court records.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

Lawmakers call for drought declaration

With another dry winter looming, California lawmakers called on Gov. Jerry Brown and President Barack Obama to declare a drought emergency and federal disaster in the state.

In a letter sent Monday, Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Democratic Rep. Jim Costa urged the governor to take immediate action. A separate letter signed by dozens of other California lawmakers called for the same declaration.

The lawmakers cited the California Department of Water Resources' announcement of low water deliveries for Central Valley agriculture due to light rainfall projections.

"While it is early in the 2014 water year and therefore projections on allocations are conservative, what is clear is that we have had two years of dry conditions that have depleted our reservoirs and reduced carry over storage to historically low levels not seen since 1977," Feinstein and Costa wrote.

While a drought has not been declared, a dry 2014 could be the third straight year with subpar rainfall.

Most of the state's water comes from the Sierra Nevada snowpack, so in dry years water managers dramatically cut deliveries due to environmental concerns.

Based on projections, the State Water Project in November said its initial allocation would be just 5 percent of requested deliveries in 2014. That number will change if rainfall exceeds projections, officials said.

The governor did not respond to a request for comment.

– AP

LOS ANGELES

Man released after arrest for coach calls

A Los Angeles man who placed prank calls about job openings for prominent professional coaches has been released from jail.

Kenneth Tarr was released on $20,000 bail Tuesday, according to Los Angeles County sheriff's booking records. His next court date is set for Dec. 31.

The 32-year-old Hollywood man was arrested a day earlier and booked on suspicion of felony eavesdropping for recording phone conversations without the consent of the people on the calls, which is illegal in California.

The case had yet to reach the district attorney's office Tuesday.

Los Angeles police said their two-month investigation includes coaches from across pro sports.

– AP

The Q Line

When the train comes ...

A recent Daily Press article found that the Expo Light Rail Line hasn't brought any significant changes to traffic or crime to Culver City, which had its portion of the line come into town a year and a half ago.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think Expo is going to bring negative impacts to Santa Monica or is it the fix to local traffic problems that many are promising?

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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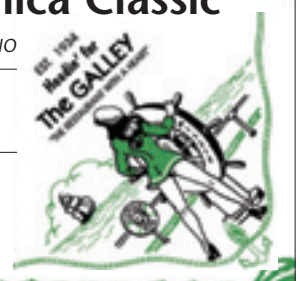


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Luxe leisure is in season

KIM COOK
Associated Press

"To the art of working well, a civilized race would add the art of playing well," philosopher George Santayana said.

For those with means, pursuing leisure can involve the finest components. Beautiful materials and craftwork can take these items into the realm of art.

"The market for these high-end sporting items is extremely fractured. No one is authentically showcasing these exceptional artisans in a way that celebrates their superior craftsmanship," says Pippa McArdle, co-founder of Bespoke Global, which sells custom-made home furnishings and accessories.

So what does play look like, at the luxury end of the spectrum?

WATER SPORTS

As journalist Tom Brokaw said, "If fishing is a religion, fly fishing is high church." Aficionados appreciate the craftsmanship of Willow Reels, started in Clarkston, Mich., by Chris Reister. He makes classic fly fishing reels out of aircraft-grade aluminum, brass, and ebony, redwood, or maple burl. You can buy the reels laser-cut with scroll, tribal or flower motifs, or have your own design inlaid. (www.bespokeglobal.com)

In Blue Ridge, Ga., Bill Oyster's eponymous company makes supple bamboo fly rods that he sells worldwide. Former President Jimmy Carter has one. The reel seats are hand-engraved, the cane is flamed to add spring and resilience, the finish guides are bronze and the hardware is blued, an electrochemical process that protects against rust. (www.oysterbamboo.com)

And then there are boats. Nick Schade, a designer and boat builder in Groton, Conn., draws inspiration from early Inuit and Aleut designs, crafting kayaks and canoes from a variety of cedars, fiberglass and carbon-Kevlar cloth. His Night Heron kayak is in the Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection. (www.woodenboats.com)

Plying the waters in a human-powered vessel requires a fine paddle; Sanborn Canoe, a Minnesota-based outfitter, offers some elegant ones, with names like Minnetonka and Gitchi Gummi. Made of woods like cedar, aspen and black walnut, they're painted with striking graphics that might leave you wondering whether to dip them in the water or mount them on the wall.

LAND SPORTS

Are teams chasing balls more your thing? Weekend gridironers might like one of the footballs or baseballs made by Leather Head Sports, started by Cooperstown, N.Y., homeboy Paul Cunningham. Rawhide-laced, in colors ranging from classic tawny caramel to royal blue and red, the balls are made of leather from the Horween company in Chicago.

Leather Head also makes the Lemon Ball Baseball, inspired by the original 19th century lemon-peel-style ball.

Hit a home run with one of Jamey Rouch's bats made of pieced cherry and walnut that comes from near his studio in Three Rivers, Mich. (Leather Head and Rouch: www.bespokeglobal.com)

Kara Ginther's hand-tooled bike seats and saddle bags elevate cycling to another level. Leaves, fronds, Scottish knitting patterns and even zodiac patterns have inspired her designs. (www.karaginther.com)

The look and feel of California 1950s surf culture can be found in purple heart, mahogany and walnut beach racquet paddles, outfitted with leather grips and loops. (www.artemare.co)

Remote-control vehicles at the luxury end are more like mini versions of real cars, with quality elements like titanium shocks, steel gears and leather seats. Retailers offer off-road vehicles, slick sports cars and speedboats, including several from high-end maker Traxxas which zoom at speeds up to 100 mph. (www.trendtimes.com)

AIR SPORTS

Once the sport of kings, falconry has developed a modern following in groups like The North American Falconers Association. Ken Hooke of Winnipeg, Manitoba, may be falconry's pre-eminent craftsman, making hoods for the sporting birds.

The hoods are placed over the birds' heads to calm them. Hooke makes them out of calf, goat, and exotic skins such as ostrich, iguana and red monitor lizard. (www.bespokeglobal.com; www.falconryhoodsinternational.com)

TABLE SPORTS

Alexandra Llewellyn was introduced to backgammon by her Egyptian step-grandfather. It became a lifelong passion, and she now designs eye-catching sets with photographic images of pheasant feathers, antlers and vintage female portraits.

"Growing up in the country, I've collected pheasant feathers for years. The peacock feather design was inspired by the game's Persian roots, and the carnival and nude women evoke gambling and nightclubs in the 1920s," Llewellyn says.

She recently made a custom backgammon set that documented a couple's life together. "Their first date, where they lived and their nationalities inspired the artwork," she says. "The leather compartments were embossed with hand-written quotes from their love letters, and the playing pieces were engraved with the places they've traveled over the years."

She also offers custom game pieces made of malachite, rock crystal, lapis lazuli, turquoise or jasper, encased in brass. (www.alexandralldesign.com)



Peter Jackson stands by 48 frames-per-second

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK Has Peter Jackson reflected on the massive chunk of his life that he's devoted to Hobbits?

"You're not going to make me are you?" he winces. "It's a long time. A long time."

The 52-year-old Australian director still has another movie to go, so he can be forgiven for not wanting to ponder too deeply the 16 years he's already spent in the service of J.R.R. Tolkien. The latest installment, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," is his fifth Tolkien film (part two in the three-movie "Hobbit" prequel to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy) and approximately hour 84 in the Middle-earth saga.

That may be a slight overestimate, but in any case, it's been a lot of Orcs.

The journey has largely been a smooth one. Each "Lord of the Rings" film was received rapturously, averaging about $1 billion a pop, and the trilogy culminated in the Oscar steamrolling of "The Return of the King."

But when Jackson turned his attention to Tolkien's first book, "The Hobbit," things got bumpier. He and New Line feuded over merchandising revenue from "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" was held up. Initially, Jackson was to executive produce with Guillermo del Toro directing a two-film adaptation, but after delays raged on, del Toro dropped out and Jackson returned to the director's chair.

When Jackson and Warner Bros. opted to make "The Hobbit" three films, a feeling of Hobbit overdose — and claims of overreaching — began to surround the project. The first film didn't enjoy nearly as warm a response from critics or filmgoers.

"An Unexpected Journey" made another $1 billion, but it was derided for its lengthy running time (182 minutes), its prolonged introduction of characters and its innovative use of 48 frames-per-second, double the industry standard. Jackson had already broken new ground with technical effects like the motion-capture technique used to create the hobbit mutant Gollum, and he hailed the higher frame rate as the future of filmmaking — a sharper image that could attract moviegoers like 3-D had.

But the 48 fps wasn't well received. Critics said the film seemed overamplified and that the increased clarity yielded a discombobulating hyper-realism that contrasted poorly with the set design.

With "The Desolation of Smaug," Jackson hopes to be righting the "Hobbit" ship. But he's resolutely sticking with 48 fps as the definitive way to see the movie: "It's by far the best way to see it," he says.

Yet Jackson and Warner Bros. have declined to show film critics Jackson's preferred version, instead only screening in advance the film in 24 frames-per-second.

"I was part of that decision," says Jackson. "We did feel that last year, we split focus in a way. People were reviewing the frame rate as well as reviewing the movie. I felt the technology dominated."

The director, though, says he's also worked to improve how the higher frame rate feels.

"I spent a lot of time in the color-grading room really putting my head into how we make the 48 not have a video feel," says Jackson. "Some of the criticism of the 48 frames was not actually to do with the frame rate per se, which is just making it easier on your eyes, reducing motion blur. It was to do with the fact that it felt like TV, like soap opera."

Moviegoers will get to choose. They can see "Desolation of Smaug" in 24 or 48, as well as in 3-D. Warner Bros. is increasing the number of theaters showing the film in 48 fps: 750 theaters, up from 450 on the first "Hobbit" movie. Internationally, it will play in 2,500 theaters, an increase of more than 800 screens.

The film, meanwhile, is finding much better reviews. Along with Benedict Cumberbatch's titular dragon created with motion-capture, Jackson has added a notable new character to Tolkien's tale. Evangeline Lilly plays the female elf, Tauriel, who's the fighting equal of Orlando Bloom's Legolas.

"It honestly was a cold-blooded decision to write a good, strong female role because there aren't any," says Jackson.

Earlier this year while shooting pickups from the original shooting of "Desolation of Smaug," Jackson also wrapped up leftover production for the third film, "There and Back Again," to be released next December. His time with Tolkien is finally coming to an end.

But Jackson's life is fully entwined with the films. He makes them with his wife and creative partner Fran Walsh. Their pugs make a cameo in "Smaug." Jackson, too, has regularly made appearances in the films. Since the timeline is about 60 years earlier in the "Hobbit" movies, he says his briefly glimpsed character in "Smaug" is the grandfather of his "Rings" cameo.

"I care so much about my cameo, I even map all the connections between the films," he laughs. "It's just silly fun."





STOCKS
FROM PAGE 3

Reserve's two-day policy meeting next week. The Fed is widely expected to scale back its stimulus program in the coming months, but few investors expect it will do it next week so close to the end of the year.

Economists expect the Fed to start pulling back, or "tapering," its economic stimulus in the first three months of 2014.

"No matter how you look at it, tapering is on its way," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist with Prudential Financial.

Twitter jumped $2.85, or 6 percent, to $51.99 after the company announced a new service called "tailored audiences," a platform will let advertisers focus on a specific group of people and target ads to them.

In other corporate news, Lululemon Athletica's founder said he would relinquish the company's chairmanship after his comments about the body type of potential customers caused a backlash. The yoga apparel retailer fell $1.22, or 2 percent, to $69.12.

General Motors named Mary Barra as its next CEO. She will replace Dan Akerson and will be the first woman to run a major U.S. car company. GM slipped 50 cents, or 1.2 percent, to $40.40. The U.S. government also said Tuesday that it had sold the last of its stake in the automaker, which it acquired following GM's 2009 bankruptcy and restructuring.

GROUP
FROM PAGE 1

sional help.

"The meeting itself is to provide a safe place for people who have been victims of sexual assault or rape and whatever you want to call it to come and just listen or bring issues that they're struggling with and to see if anybody else has gone through the same thing. To see if they might be able to help them," Johnson said. "It's really peer support."

The group is for men and women rape survivors of 18 years and up, or for minors with a guardian.

Johnson was raped in the 1980s and she said that the trauma causes people to turn inward.

"It's all bad, no matter what happens," she said. "The long-term effects of shame, guilt, which is totally inappropriate, but that happens. Suicide, which is ironic since it was something done to us and we want to kill ourselves. And drug abuse and severe depression and obviously problems with intimacy."

Johnson started talking honestly about her experience 15 years ago when she got sober.

"Nothing is going to happen for anybody if they're drinking and using because it's just a way to cover up the pain and fear and all the other (stuff) that goes along with it. Sobriety is a gateway to healing and it's a very very common thing. People will do whatever they can to not feel."

From there, she learned not to feel ashamed.

"I didn't ask for it," she said. "It happened. If you get diabetes it's not like people are wondering what were you wearing to get diabetes."

The fight against that silence that follows rape has become one of Johnson's missions in life. Last week, she took the LSATs with hopes that she will get into law school and one day change the sentencing guidelines surrounding rape.

Face-2-Face came out of a class called "writing for social change" that she took at Antioch University in Culver City.

"My project was to start a meeting," she said. "I wrote press releases and donation letters and other things and I thought: I'm going to do this and so I did."

Johnson speaks with relative ease about her past, stopping to laugh at her stumblings on the way to sobriety and acceptance. There's a strength in her ability to transcend the tragedy. This is a strength she got partially from opening up to other people, she said.

"There is a connection that happens with people, much like Alcoholics Anonymous or other forums that are meant to be pure support and healing," she said. "That is really lacking in, dare I say, the rape community because there really isn't one."

Johnson wants to get survivors talking so they can learn to be themselves again.

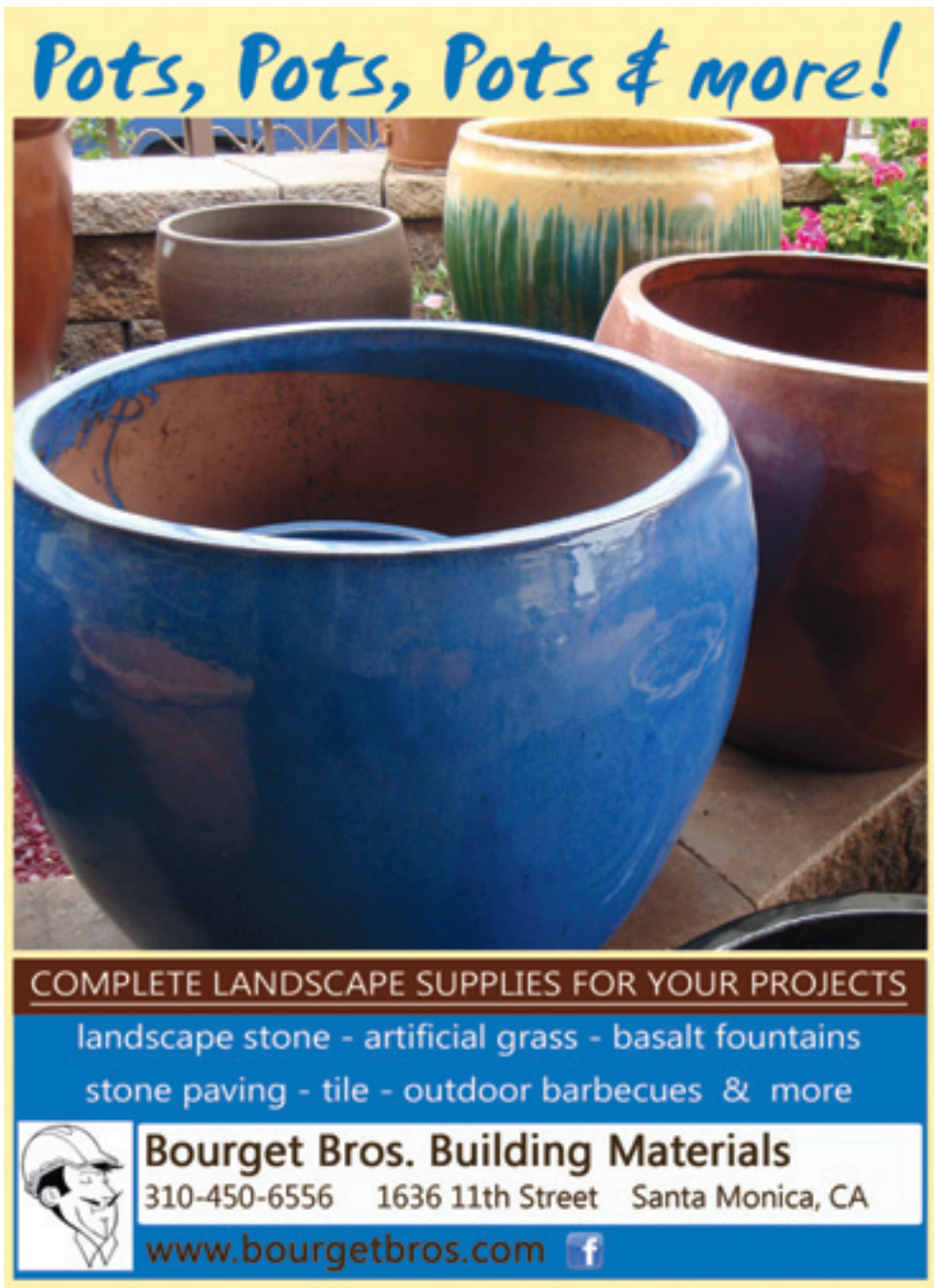
"You can see how the tentacles of that kind of trickle-down effect goes into the very fabric of our society," she said. "A lot of people are walking zombies out there."

Face-2-Face will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church at 1220 Second St.

dave@smdp.com









PIER

FROM PAGE 1

Marlene Gordon, who owns the Playland Arcade, said that some events are good but Festival Supreme was not one of them.

"I know we were very upset over some of the events but the Jack Black event, that was horrible for this place," she said. "They just did not do it correctly. In fact, at one point there were too many people in the tent on the west side of me and the police and I opened up my front doors to let the people out."

Martin Fleischmann, who promotes many pier events, acknowledged that it was a learning experience. It was no more crowded than the popular Twilight Concert Series events, he said, but the many stages restricted event goers' movement. He said he would think twice before planning an event with so many stages.

"It would require additional parts of the pier," he said. "On the parking deck itself? Probably not. Unless you're talking about smaller acts that could be distributed on smaller stages."

Way Over Yonder, a Newport Folk Festival event held a few weeks before Festival Supreme, had a few stages and went smoothly, Fleischmann said.

"It melded with the space and was a perfect example of what should happen at the pier," he said. "We had a stage on the deck and a small stage in the carousel, which proved to be very popular and logistically worked out fine."

Fleischmann's highlight this year was Trombone Shorty, a New Orleans brass musician who played during the Twilight Concert Series.

The Twilight Concert Series, which consistently draws larger crowds, has four and half stars after 56 reviews.

While these events don't necessarily translate to immediate dollars for the arcade, Gordon said, they are good for the pier.

"With that, people go to watch the concert but a lot of those people come back as our customers," she said. "They love the mood of the pier. They love the concerts and so they return another day to stick around and they're usually the local people."

It all depends on the event, Gordon said. It's during the winter that the pier needs the most help, she said.

"Summer, we always do well no matter what event it is, because of the warm weather and people want to come to the pier," she said. "We'll see with the events coming how it affects our business but I really don't know."

Fleischmann said the he can tell, anecdotally, that the big events help local businesses. For example, he said, Bubba Gump Shrimp was packed all day during Festival Supreme. Owners could not be reached for comment.

The Daily Press reached out to many pier business owners for this article but few responded.

Pacific Park responded with the following e-mailed statement: "As an amusement park and event venue, we share similar goals with Pier tenants, The Pier Corporation and the City. We want to build upon the Pier's traditions and remain relevant for the future."

Balancing the needs of all of the pier's players has never been an easy task, McCarthy said.

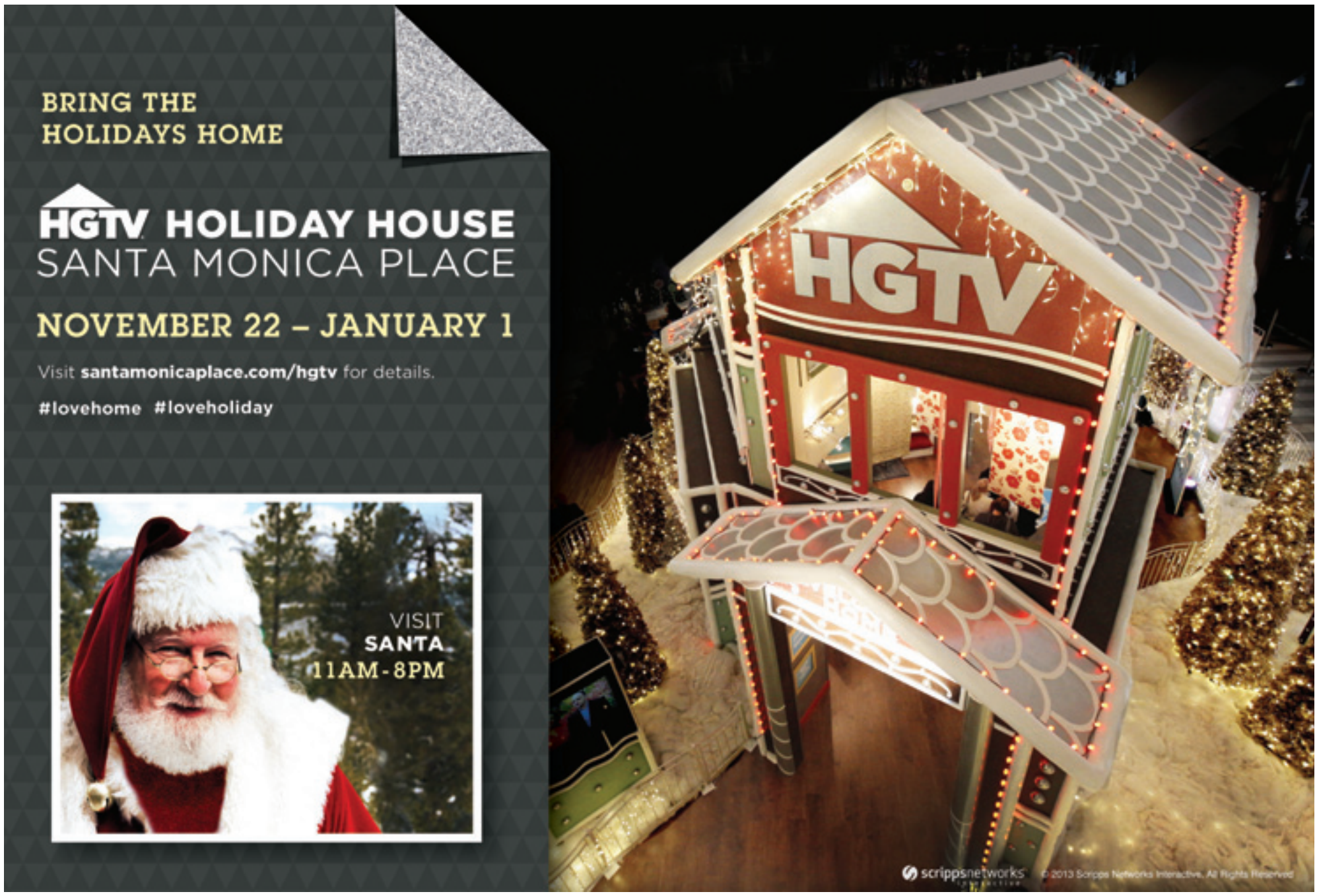
"Some events this year (and some in years past) were embraced by certain stakeholder groups but not by others, or by some individual group members but not others," she said.

Pier management officials are still evaluating the year's big events, saying that conclusions won't be drawn until early January.





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CLIMATE
FROM PAGE 1

2007 tornado.

Federal assistance was crucial after the tornado, which destroyed 95 percent of the town. But federal agencies "are there as a resource. You have to be engaged and involved if you really want your community to thrive afterwards," Dixson said after a meeting of a White House task force on climate preparedness and resilience.

President Barack Obama appointed the task force last month to advise the administration on how to respond to severe storms, wildfires, droughts and other events affected by climate change. All but four of the 26 task force members are Democrats.

The task force meeting occurred as the White House announced that John Podesta, a former chief of staff under President Bill Clinton, will join Obama's inner circle, focusing on energy and climate change issues.

Dixson, a task force member and a Republican, called climate resilience a key part of environmental stewardship. Neither issue should be partisan, he said, nor should it be left to the federal government.

"It has to come from the community level," he said. "It can't be an edict from the Beltway."

Greensburg's population has shrunk from about 1,500 people to 850 since the tornado, but Dixson said the town is thriving, even as it continues to recover.

Federal assistance also was crucial after a massive flood in Colorado in September destroyed nearly 2,000 homes, washed out hundreds of miles of roads and left many small mountain towns completely cut off. But even as cities and towns relied on the National Guard and other federal help in the storm's immediate aftermath, local leaders said the disaster illustrated problems with a one-size-fits-all approach.

In Fort Collins, Colo., for instance, nearly three dozen federal agencies were involved in fixing a road destroyed by a mudslide.

"Half said, 'No, it can't be fixed,'" said Fort Collins Mayor Karen Weitkunat. "The other half said, 'Go ahead, that's a problem that needs to be resolved.'"

Weitkunat, who serves on the presidential task force, said her message to federal officials is simple: "Get out of the way and we can rebound."

The White House says it backs a local approach to climate change. That's a key reason President Barack Obama appointed the task force, which includes state, local and tribal officials.

"Climate impacts are really local," said Susan Ruffo, deputy associate director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. "They are about the place where you are, and everyone has to deal with this in a bit of a different way."

In states such as Florida, climate change is "about sea level rise," Ruffo said, while in some Western states the main effects are more frequent wildfires, as well as extreme flooding or drought.

While the task force is looking at federal money spent on roads, bridges, flood control and other projects, most key decisions are local, Ruffo said, citing zoning rules and building codes that could be adapted to account for climate change.

Some local officials said Washington needs to reconsider national policies that encourage people to build in beautiful but vulnerable areas.

"The first thing the feds should do is stop making things worse," said Boulder, Colo., Mayor Matthew Appelbaum. Specifically, by subsidizing flood insurance in low-lying areas and paying billions to fight wildfires that destroy property near national forests, the federal government is encouraging development "in all the wrong places," Appelbaum said at a recent forum on the impacts of climate change.

Even when Congress does act, it faces resistance. A law approved last year lowers federal subsidies for properties in flood zones. The measure, intended to keep the National Flood Insurance Program solvent after an onslaught of disaster-related claims in recent years, is under attack from lawmakers in coastal states worried about sharp insurance rate hikes for some property owners.

The pushback on the flood-insurance law shows the daunting task facing government at all levels, Appelbaum said.

"Maybe we'll never get up the political gumption to make everybody move" from flood- and fire-prone areas, he said, "but we should sure as heck stop encouraging people to increase development in those locations. The feds keep doing it."

Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, a member of the White House task force, said climate change demands immediate action. "We can't wait for Congress to gets its act together," he said. "We can't wait and we won't wait."

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Once-frothy Nasdaq tries to reach dot-com peak

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK It takes a long time to recover from a bad hangover, especially when you party like it's 1999.

The Nasdaq Composite is up 35 percent this year, but while other major indexes like the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 have celebrated all-time highs again and again, the Nasdaq remains 20 percent below its dot-com peak of 5,048.62.

That's a good thing because the biggest beneficiary of the late 90s internet mania was also its biggest victim. After cresting on March 10, 2000, the index lost nearly 80 percent of its value over the next two years, touching bottom on Oct. 9, 2002 at 1,114.11. The Dow fell 27 percent over the same period, and the S&P 500 dropped 44 percent.

Even as it soars faster than other indexes, the Nasdaq isn't what it was. While still tech-heavy, it's more diverse, reasonably valued and loaded with profitable companies, investors say.

"The Nasdaq is very different, in every measureable, quantifiable way, than it was," says Gavin Baker, who manages nearly $10 billion in assets for the Fidelity OTC fund.

Technology companies make up a smaller percentage of the index, roughly 42 percent, compared with 56 percent 13 years ago. The telecom industry is a little less than 2 percent, compared with 18 percent back then. And consumer-focused companies such as Amazon.com are a much bigger part of the index, making up 22 percent, compared with basically zero in March 2000.

The Nasdaq recently passed the 4,000 mark, a level last seen in September of 2000. But that doesn't mean its stocks are back in a dot-com-like bubble. Yes, it's still riskier than the Dow and S&P 500, investors say, because it contains hundreds of small companies and is heavily exposed to technology. But it is significantly less risky than it was.

When the bubble was at its biggest, the index had a price-to-earnings ratio of 194:1, which means investors were paying $194 for every $1 of earnings the companies in the index brought in. Today, the Nasdaq's P/E is around 23.5, according to FactSet.

What was powering its lofty valuation in the go-go years? It was companies like Pets.com and Webvan, which were never profitable and which investors valued based on "cash burn rates" and "eyeballs," instead of sales and profits. Now, Pets.com and Webvan, and those metrics, are dead and buried.

While Nasdaq's current rise can be partly credited to technology companies, these "new" tech names are much different from the ones that went public in the late 1990s.

Google, a Nasdaq company, debuted in 2004 when it was already profitable. Facebook, one of the index's largest companies, has enjoyed solid profits and strong revenue growth. And Apple, which has been a public company on the Nasdaq since the early 1980s, has seen mammoth growth. In March 2000, Apple was a $20 billion company that hadn't released the iPod. Today, it's worth $500 billion.

"These are profitable companies with mature business models and cash flow," Baker says.

Even some of the dot-com era's biggest busts on the Nasdaq have recovered.

Priceline.com hit $975 a share in 1999, only to plunge to less than $10 three years later. It now trades at $1,189.

Still, it may take a while for the Nasdaq to remove all the scar tissue from the dot-com collapse. The stock market is unlikely to keep rising at its scorching 2013 pace, so the Nasdaq is two years away, maybe more, from erasing all its internet bubble losses.

And there are some big Nasdaq stocks that never truly recovered. Intel and Microsoft haven't seen much growth for a decade — and that's not expected to change. Worldwide PC sales are forecast to fall 10 percent in 2013 to 184 million units, according to industry tracking company IDC. While Microsoft and Intel have diversified into other businesses, selling Windows software and computers remains Microsoft's bread-and-butter.

Intel traded for roughly $72 a share at its height. It's now $25. Microsoft had its dot-com peak at $58. It's down to $38.

"The so-called 'four horseman' of technology — Dell, Microsoft, Cisco and Intel — are not going to be the ones to take us to 5,000," says Dan Morgan, a portfolio manager with Synovis Trust, who specializes is technology companies.

So what will drive the Nasdaq to 5,000 if the old guard can't?

Morgan expects the high-flyers of the last five years — Google, Apple and Facebook — to continue pushing up the Nasdaq, which has even farther to go if it wants to reach its inflation adjusted peak of 6,845.83.

Biotechnology will also play a role, as health care now makes up 12 percent of the index's weight.

Gilead Sciences, maker of widely used flu vaccine Tamiflu and HIV medication Truvada, is now the 8th largest company in the Nasdaq and is up more than 3,100 percent since the index's all-time high in March 2000. Pharmaceutical company Amgen is the 12th largest company in the index.

"I'm optimistic we will eventually make a new high," Baker says, "but it's going to take time."





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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **57.9°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
WNW swell mix eases; offshore winds likely

THURSDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
WNW swell drops to traces; new SW-SSW swell creeps in

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
NW-WNW swell may rise up; SW-SSW swell fills in a little more; stay tuned

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Potential NW-WNW swell holds/slowly eases; SW-SSW swell holds/eases slightly; 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 **December 4, 2013**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 8
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 15
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 12 / 13

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+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
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+	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	C	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	C	F
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 24572 Malibu Rd..	D	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach 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.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	D	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	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).	C	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	C	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	C	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
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	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	D	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	B

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay is a 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.

Samohi's Tyler Skaggs returns to Angels in trade

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. The Los Angeles Angels traded slugging outfielder-first baseman Mark Trumbo to the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday as part of a three-team deal that also includes the Chicago White Sox.

Pitcher Hector Santiago moved from the White Sox to the Angels, outfielder Adam Eaton from Diamondbacks to Chicago, and left-hander Tyler Skaggs from Arizona to Los Angeles.

Arizona also will receive player to be named or cash from each of the other clubs in the deal made at the winter meetings.

Trumbo hit .234 with 34 homers and 100 RBIs this year, getting much of his playing time at first base because Albert Pujols was hurt. But he was deemed superfluous by Los Angeles, which needs starting pitching behind Jered Weaver, C.J. Wilson and Garrett Richards.

Santiago was 4-9 with a 3.56 ERA in 23 starts and 11 relief appearances. His fastball velocity has dipped from 93.8 mph in 2011 to 92.8 in 2012 to 91.8 last season, according to fangraphs.com.

Eaton hit .252 with three homers, 22 RBIs and 44 strikeouts in 250 at-bats for the Diamondbacks this year, when he also played with three minor league teams.

Skaggs, who went to Santa Monica High School, was taken by the Angels with the 40th overall selection of the 2009 amateur draft and was dealt to the Diamondbacks in August 2010 to complete the trade that brought Dan Haren to Los Angeles.

Skaggs made his big league debut in 2012, when he had six starts, but spent much of this year in the minors. He was 2-3 with a 5.12 ERA in seven starts this year for Arizona, leaving him with a 3-6 career mark.

All four players have low salaries for now. Trumbo and Santiago are on track to be eligible for salary arbitration after next season, Eaton following 2015 season and Skaggs after the 2016 season.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Chicken with Vinegar (NR) 1hr 50min
and
Inspector Lavardin (NR) 1hr 40min
7:30pm

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

Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:15pm, 7:15pm

Out of the Furnace (R) 1hr 46min
1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
4:15pm, 10:10pm

Oldboy (R) 2hrs 00min
1:45pm, 7:10pm

Black Nativity (PG) 1hr 32min
4:45pm, 10:00pm

Homefront () 1hr 50min
1:20pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:40am, 2:15pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
11:15am, 12:15pm, 2:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:15pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm, 10:40pm

Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
5:15pm

Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
9:55pm

Delivery Man (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:40pm, 10:35pm

Delivery Man (PG-13) 1hr 45min
7:55pm

Dallas Buyers Club (R) 1hr 57min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 10:40pm

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

Wadjda (PG) 1hr 38min
4:20pm

Before Midnight (R) 1hr 48min
9:30pm

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

Blue Jasmine (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:50pm, 7:00pm

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

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

COULD BE A LATE NIGHT, CANCER

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others don't hesitate to challenge you. You might feel as if you need to adapt to an authority figure's wishes. You could go overboard in your response. Don't worry; this person anticipates that you will stand firm in support of your beliefs. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ When given some perspective, you might think someone's idea is hogwash. You can be sure that, regardless of whether you say anything, the other party can see your facial expressions and/or hear the tone in your voice. Be diplomatic. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You work well with people in general. You'll find out how caring certain associates can be. Thanking someone for his or her support will mean more than you realize. Express yourself in a way that others will identify with you. Tonight: Where people are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Tension increases no matter what you choose to do or how you try to change your thoughts. You could be a little too tolerant of someone who makes heavy demands on you. Tonight: Could be late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out to a dear friend. Once you connect, you can relax. You might have been worried about a situation involving this person. Recognize how fortunate you are, especially with interpersonal matters. Tonight: Let your imagination go wild.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Use your intuition when dealing with a person who is fundamental to your well-being. You might need to have a discussion with him or her involving your welfare. Opportunities pop up out of the blue that encourage this talk. Remain optimistic. Tonight: Be a duo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Others will be challenging. You could have a strong initial reaction, but that will pass. You might be too concerned about a personal matter. For the time being, remain on topic and trust that the right time will come to work through this issue. Tonight: Return calls and emails.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize cooperation rather than willfulness. You often get caught up in wanting things to go a certain way. You could hear news that initially might not make you happy. Give yourself some time and you will react differently. Tonight: Try to clear off your desk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Let your fiery side emerge, and it will bring you a better sense of direction. At first, a conflict might seem inevitable between you and someone else. A sudden change will encourage a resourceful solution. Tonight: Say "yes."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Stay on top of a difficult situation. You might want change involving a personal matter. Trying to force what you want will not work. Allow someone some time to understand where you are coming from. Tonight: At home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Communication excels and allows greater give-and-take. At the same time, an opinion of yours is transforming. You could be surprised at how off a snap judgment might be. Tonight: Get together with a friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Take time to go over your holiday gift list. You will be much happier if you honor the amount you can spend on each item. You also could come up with a creative idea that might be more fun than a present would be. Follow your imagination. Tonight: Shop, then join a friend.

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

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

This year you open up to many plausible changes. You seem to go with the flow rather than fight the inevitable. Your creativity grows in bursts. Some of you will seek new avenues of self-expression as well. If you are single, you could meet someone who might serve as a muse. You will love the poetic tie here, but take a hard look at the relationship and its possibilities. If you are attached, the two of you might start acting like newfound lovers. You also might choose to update your mutual responsibilities; both of you have changed. Count on ARIES for excitement.

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

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



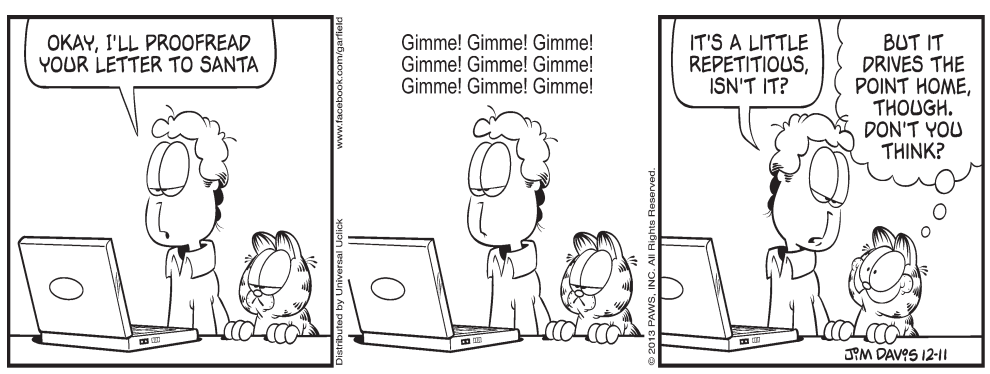
Strange Brew
By John Deering



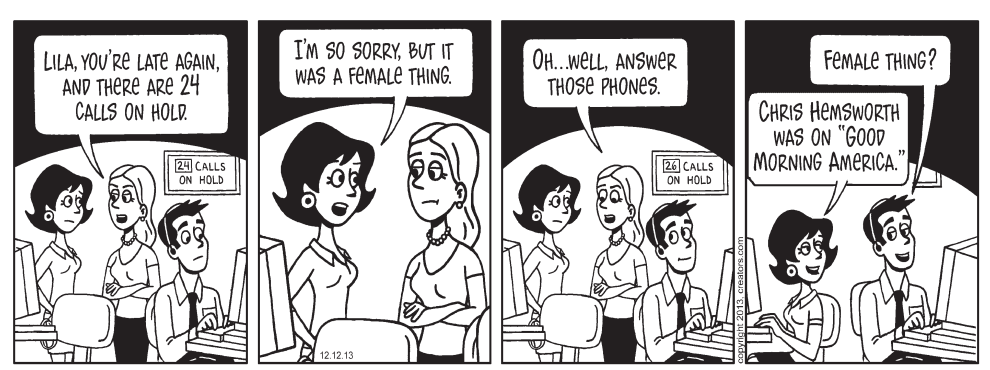
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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The Perfect Gift Guide 2013

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Constellation makeup
6 No longer fizzy
10 Suggest
11 Move smoothly
12 Prepared
13 Grapevine item
14 Concerning
15 Alternative to briefs
16 Letter after sigma
17 Do yard work
18 Spot
19 Too many to count
22 Free from fat
23 Gumbo vegetable
26 Passenger seats on motorcycles
29 Work wk. start
32 Zeus or Apollo
33 Guidebook feature
34 Counterpart
36 Cook's mint
37 Competitor
38 Director Kurosawa
39 Neck wrap
40 Kuwaiti coin
41 Grasped
42 Flower parts

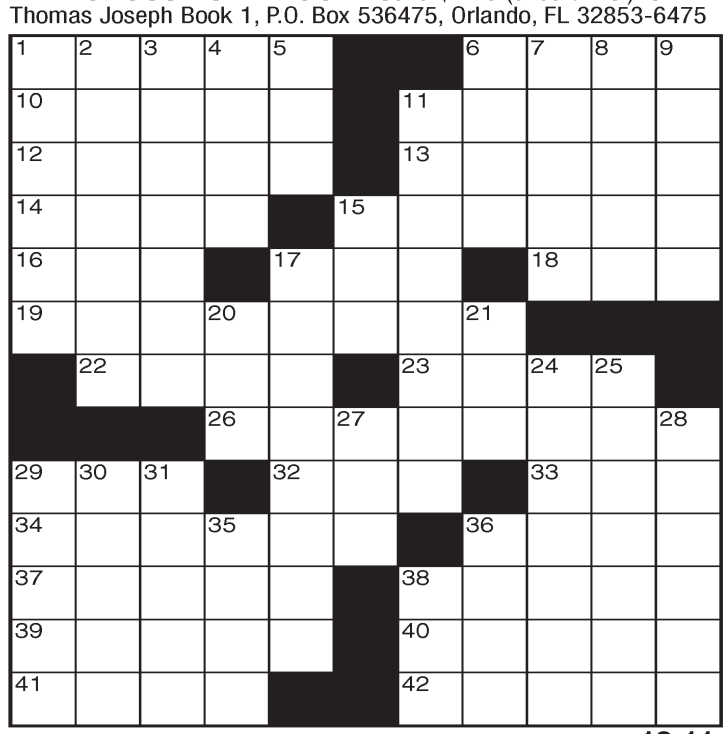
DOWN

1 Use a mister on
2 Pedicure target
3 Generally
4 Take the bus
5 Pig's digs
6 State of change
7 Bar fruits
8 Cherish
9 Not wordy
11 Aged
15 Scary cry
17 It often includes a windmill
20 Pet perch
21 Enjoy Aspen
24 Lettuce variety
25 Rues, for sure
27 Fireplace item
28 Harpoons
29 Swampy area
30 Chilled
31 Fleet-related
35 Cooking fat
36 Revue piece
38 Spots on TV

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



12-11



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Toilets are always a favorite protest symbol, most recently employed by David Labbe, disputing a zoning decision by officials in Augusta, Maine, preventing the sale of his house to Dunkin' Donuts (for, he said, three times what he paid), and he has begun lining his property with discarded toilets. Augusta-native Labbe says he has given up on his city and his neighbors (who fear traffic problems if a Dunkin Donuts opens). (On the same day, coincidentally, toilets made news in Los Angeles, where YoYo Li was about to open the city's first toilet-themed restaurant, patterned after several in Taiwan in which diners squat at tables and eat off commode-shaped serving vessels.)

■ In November, Michael Brown, 19, became the most recent person with poor decision-making skills forced to report to a police station (this, in College Station, Texas) in the middle of the night to ask that officers please remove the handcuffs he had been playing around with. (Following the officers' mandatory records check, it was learned that Brown had an arrest warrant for criminal mischief, and following a mandatory search, that he also had two ounces of marijuana in his pocket.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1960 – French forces crack down in a violent clash with protesters in French Algeria during a visit by French president Charles de Gaulle.

1962 – Arthur Lucas, convicted of murder, is the last person to be executed in Canada.

1964 – Che Guevara speaks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, New York.

WORD UP!

ochlophobia
\ ok-luh-FOH-bee-uh \ , noun;
1.
Psychiatry. an abnormal fear of crowds.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Announcements

Announcements

Register for Spring Baseball Spring registration for Santa Monica Pony Baseball is now open. Santa Monica Pony Baseball invites players ages 4-14 to sign up for its spring season. Santa Monica Pony Baseball is a community based program for everyone in the family to enjoy and we are proud to continue the tradition of baseball at Los Amigos Park that began in 1952. Register online today at santamonica-ponybaseball.com.

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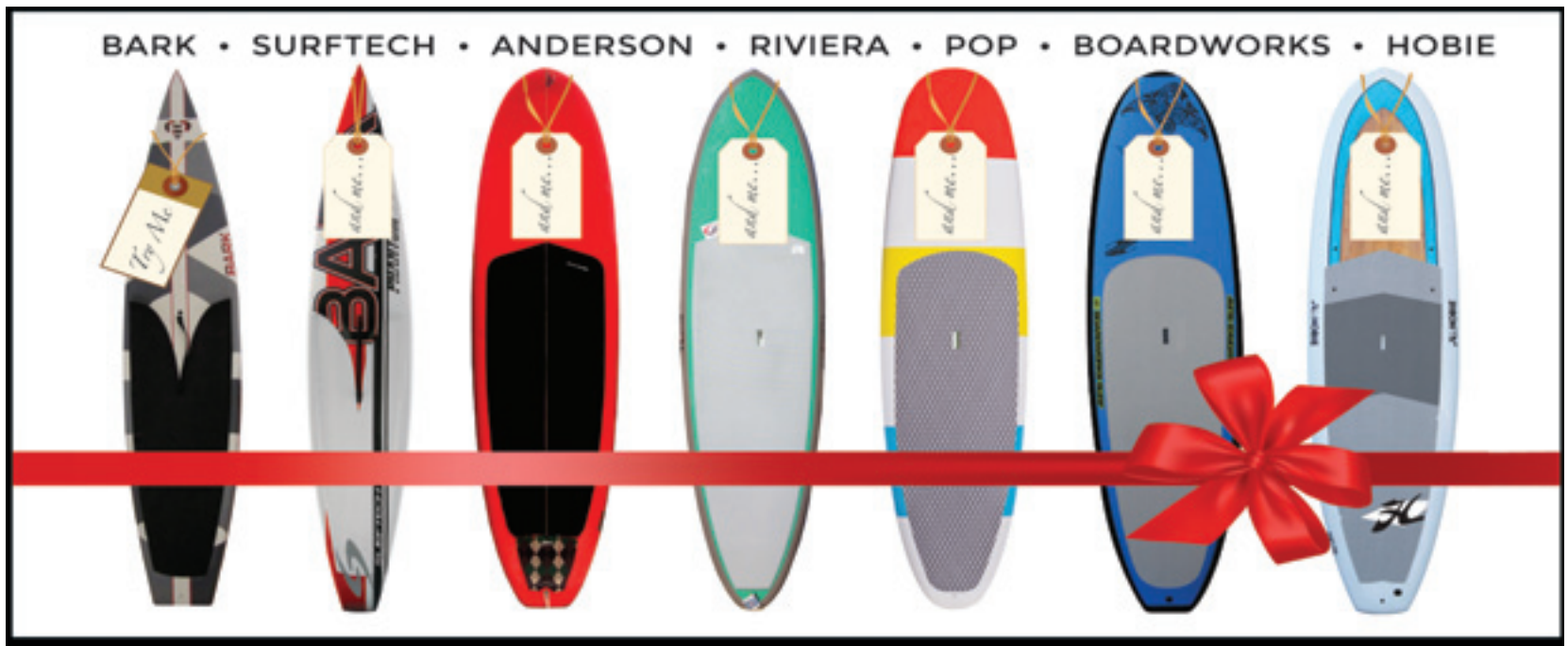
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Santa Monica Daily Press



Moving is the best medicine. Keeping active and losing weight are just two of the ways that you can fight osteoarthritis pain. In fact, for every pound you lose, that's four pounds less pressure on each knee. For information on managing pain, go to fightarthritispain.org.

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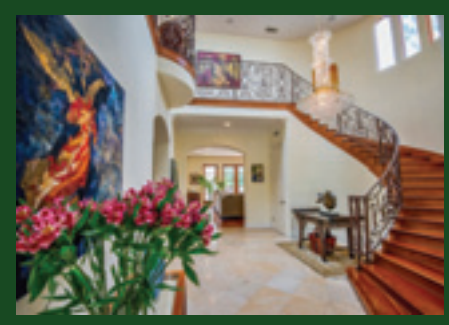
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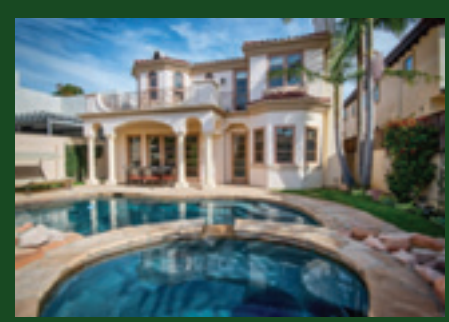




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Detached Guest House





Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale as of Mid December 2013			
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	**4,936,170**
North of Montana	=	$	**4,519,824**
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	**2,675,516**
South of Wilshire	=	$	**832,500**
Sunset Park	=	$	**1,863,000**
Ocean Park	=	$	**2,297,500**
Statistics updated every Friday			

Buyer's Needs

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

- Raw Land or Teardown - West of 10th St (either North of Wilshire/North of Montana) - Up to $4,500,000
- Major Fixer/Teardown - Anywhere on Westside - $700,000 - $1,100,000
- Single Family Home - Santa Monica, Brentwood, Palisades - Minimum 3+1.75 - $1,200,000 - $3,500,000

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