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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013
Volume 13 Issue 25

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

ARE YOU TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIC?
SEE PAGE 4

THE VERY SCARY ISSUE

Nativity scenes switching locations – again

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK After decades in Palisades Park, Santa Monica's nativity scenes have another new home.

Last year, the nativity scenes were erected in front of Watts Commercial Properties on the 2700 block of Ocean Park Boulevard, but for the 60th anniversary of the nativity scenes, the group moved to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at 14th and Maple streets.

The nativity scenes were ousted from Palisades Park last year after City Council banned all unattended winter displays. The decision came after a holiday season during which atheists flooded City Hall's lottery, winning 18 of the 21 slots traditionally allocated for displays.

"We were very thankful to have last year's location and we believe that it worked well," said Hunter Jameson, head of the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee, which is comprised of various religious institutions.

"And we were given the understanding that we might be invited back in a couple of years, or possibly down the road, but that it would not be a site for successive displays one year after the other."

Last December, a federal judge threw out

SEE SCENES PAGE 8

Population growth rate highest in years

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California's population grew by the highest rate in nearly a decade over the last year, swelling the state's ranks to more than 38.2 million, new population figures released Thursday showed.

The state added 332,000 people between July 1, 2012 and July 1 of this year, a growth rate of 0.9 percent that is the highest since 2003-04, before the recession, the state Department of Finance reported.

Demographic experts said the increase highlights the recovery in the job market, especially since net migration added 66,000 people to the state — an increase of 71 percent from the year before. Alameda County, on the outskirts of Silicon Valley and home to a fast-growing technology sector, accounted for the largest share of the migration, with more than 15,000 new arrivals from other states and countries.

"We are at the beginning of an upturn in population growth driven by the reemergence of job growth in the state," said Stephen Levy, director of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy.

Santa Clara County, home to Silicon Valley, and Orange County, which houses a sizable number of tech firms, each received more than 15,000 foreign immigrants, he noted.

While population growth is largely driven by new births, the uptick in the state's growth rate stems from the rise in migration to California, said Hans Johnson, senior and Bren fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California.

For many years, counties in the San Francisco Bay Area were among the state's

SEE POPULATION PAGE 10



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

PARK IT: A man leaves the post office on Seventh Street on Thursday afternoon. More parking is in the works for the facility.

Post office creating more parking after residents complain about safety

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Nineteen on-site parking spaces are coming to Santa Monica's newest post office after much grumbling from residents and a congressman, United States Postal Service officials said.

Last year, when the postal service announced plans to shutter the historic Fifth Street building and reopen on Seventh Street, several residents and city officials appealed the decision citing, among other things, that parking would be an issue at the new location.

The appeal was denied but a letter from

SEE PARKING PAGE 10

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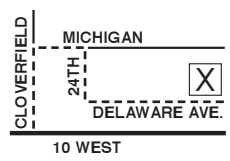
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Dec. 13, 2013

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.

Family melodies
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 3:45 p.m.
Join the library for a lively afternoon of folk music with Sandii Castleberry from the Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest. All ages invited. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Musical guy
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m.
Creating Arts Company presents "The Music Man." Smooth talking salesman "Professor" Harold Hill has everyone fooled — and the citizens of River City, Iowa are his latest prey. When local librarian Marian Paroo tries to expose him as a fake, Hill sets out to win her heart and save his hide. For more information, call (310) 804-0223.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013

Churn and burn
Santa Monica Pier, West End
10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
What happens when you combine artisanal butter churning, a 1980's fitness class, and the perfect holiday gift idea? Butter Aerobics. Join PopSoda's Jimmy Fusil and Mike Wait for a delicious holiday workout and come ready to sweat. Participation limited to 150 people per class on a first-come basis. RSVP does not guarantee you a spot so get there early. For more information, call (310) 458-8901.

Save a bundle
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m.
Author Nancy Miller presents extreme couponing. Join her for a lecture on how you can get the most for your money. Learn how you can use coupons (print and electronic) to save your (and your family's) hard-earned money. Just in time for the holidays. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Pub crawl
Citywide
5 p.m.
The Fifth Annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl will feature the city's best bars and restaurants to raise money for those in need during the holidays through a partnership with Westside Food Bank. With your official wristband you will receive drink and food specials at participating locations. For more information, visit santamonicapubcrawl.com.

Holiday read-a-long
The Christian Institute
1308 Second St., 6 p.m.
Take part in a free live reading of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. You're invited to read aloud from the master copy, follow along in your own copy, or just close your eyes and listen to the storyteller. Come and go as you please; event lasts approximately three hours. For more information, call (310) 394-4178 or visit thechristianinstituteofspiritualscience.org.

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013

What's a dybbuk?
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m.
theatre dybbuk presents a reading of "A Dybbuk," adapted by Tony Kushner, translated from S. Ansky by Joachim Neugroschel. It tells the story of a bride possessed by the dislocated soul of a tormented young man. The original play is considered a landmark work in the history of Jewish and Yiddish theatre.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Boozers beware

This holiday season law enforcement officers are warning people to not drink or drive as they will be out in force starting Friday through Jan. 1, according to a news release from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The Avoid the 100 DUI Task Force will be aggressively looking for drunk drivers, with plans in place for 66 DUI checkpoints, 201 local roving DUI saturation patrols, several multi-agency strike teams, 14 DUI warrant/probation sweeps and two DUI court stings targeting suspended drivers who were ordered by a judge not to get behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Data shows that the holiday season is a particularly deadly time due to the increased number of drunk drivers on the roads, officials said.

"Our task force will be highly visible during this enforcement period and those suspected of driving while intoxicated will be shown zero tolerance if they are over the limit," said Glendora Police Chief Rob Castro.

Nationally in the five years from 2007 to 2011, there were 4,169 people killed during the month of December in crashes that involved drivers with blood alcohol concentrations of .08 percent or higher.

In California during those same five Decembers, 505 were killed and thousands seriously injured, officials said.

Drunk drivers often face jail time, the loss of their driver's licenses, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, to lost wages due to time off from work. Even worse, a drunk driver can cause a traffic crash that claims someone's life, or their own.

Officials recommend calling a taxi or having a sober family member or friend drive you home if you have had even one drink. If you see an impaired driver on the road call 911 and never let someone you know who is drinking get behind the wheel.

Avoid the 100 DUI Task Force funding is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

– DAILY PRESS

CITY HALL

Sign up to count

City Hall's Human Services Division is looking for volunteers to assist with the 2014 Homeless Count, scheduled for Jan. 29 from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

Register now at www.smgov.net and search "homeless count 2014" or call (310) 458-8701.

Volunteers will hit the streets and visually count every person seen sleeping in public spaces. Over 200 volunteers are needed.

The annual count not only informs City Hall's homeless strategy, but is a good way to be a part of the solution, city officials said. Help make a difference locally. Groups are welcome and no experience necessary.

Security will be provided and all volunteers will receive training.

The staging station will be located at St. Monica Catholic Church Grand Pavilion, 725 California Ave. in Santa Monica.

– DP

OCEAN PARK

Get health care

The Westside Family Health Center in Santa Monica is available to help people without insurance sign up for coverage under the Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as Obamacare.

To avoid a penalty for not having health insurance in 2014, folks must enroll before Feb. 15. To have coverage kick in by Jan. 1, people must enroll in a plan by Dec. 23. All must have health insurance unless you are excluded from the law due to immigration status or a special exemption.

"With nine certified enrollment counselors, and more becoming certified soon, Westside Family Health Center is excited to be a part of this incredible, historic effort," said Debra A. Farmer, the center's president and CEO. "Our counselors can help you figure out which type of insurance coverage you qualify for and will explain the basics of health insurance and consumer rights and responsibilities under (the act). Our health center enrollment staff is not only highly trained, but they represent the community. We understand you, and treat you with respect."

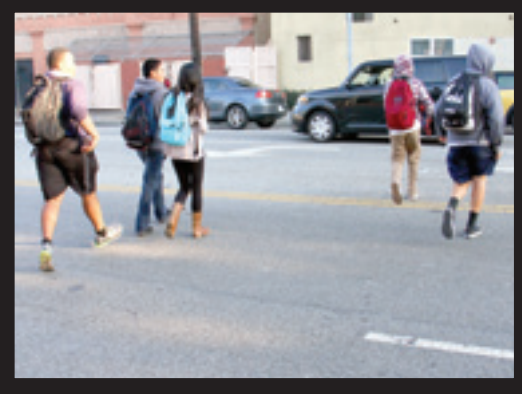
The center is a certified enrollment entity for Covered California health insurance plans. Free enrollment assistance to consumers shopping for health coverage using the online application at www.CoveredCa.com. To make an appointment for enrollment help or for more information, contact Ben Tolksdorf at btolksdorf@wfhcenter.com or call (310) 450-2191, ext. 206.



CALLING FOR SAFETY

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Above: Members of the Pico Youth & Family Center Youth Council try to gain support from Santa Monica High School students asking City Hall to build a crosswalk at the intersection of Seventh Street and Plco Boulevard. PYFC has met with city officials and a traffic light is now being proposed for the intersection. The proposal will be before the City Council in February. The group wants the intersection now, not next year.
Right: Samohi students jaywalk across Pico Boulevard near Seventh Street on Thursday after school.



How to sell the health law

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Can your uncle be a better pitchman for the health overhaul than the president?

Supporters of the insurance law kicked off a national campaign Thursday urging family members and friends to spread the word to their loved ones about the availability of coverage.

The hope is that familiar faces can do something President Barack Obama, thus far, has not achieved — getting millions of healthy, younger adults to enroll for coverage under the federal health care law.

The concept borrows from basic political thinking — an individual is more likely to be convinced to make a decision by a trusted family member or friend, rather than a droning TV ad, a politician or a stranger knocking at the door.

"Meaningful discussions between friends is what makes the most difference in people acting," said Peter Lee, executive director of Covered California, the state-run exchange that is spearheading the campaign.

"When friends tell friends, people know that the voice matters," Lee added.

To get the chatter going, the "Tell a Friend Get Covered" campaign will lean heavily on celebrity endorsements, online videos and

SEE **HEALTH** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Keeping up with the Rubins

Editor:

Jerry Rubin is as original as P.T. Barnum! Quit feeding this clown's ego and start paying attention to more deserving individuals in our community. Kim Kardashian has nothing on this man!

Michael Higgins
Santa Monica

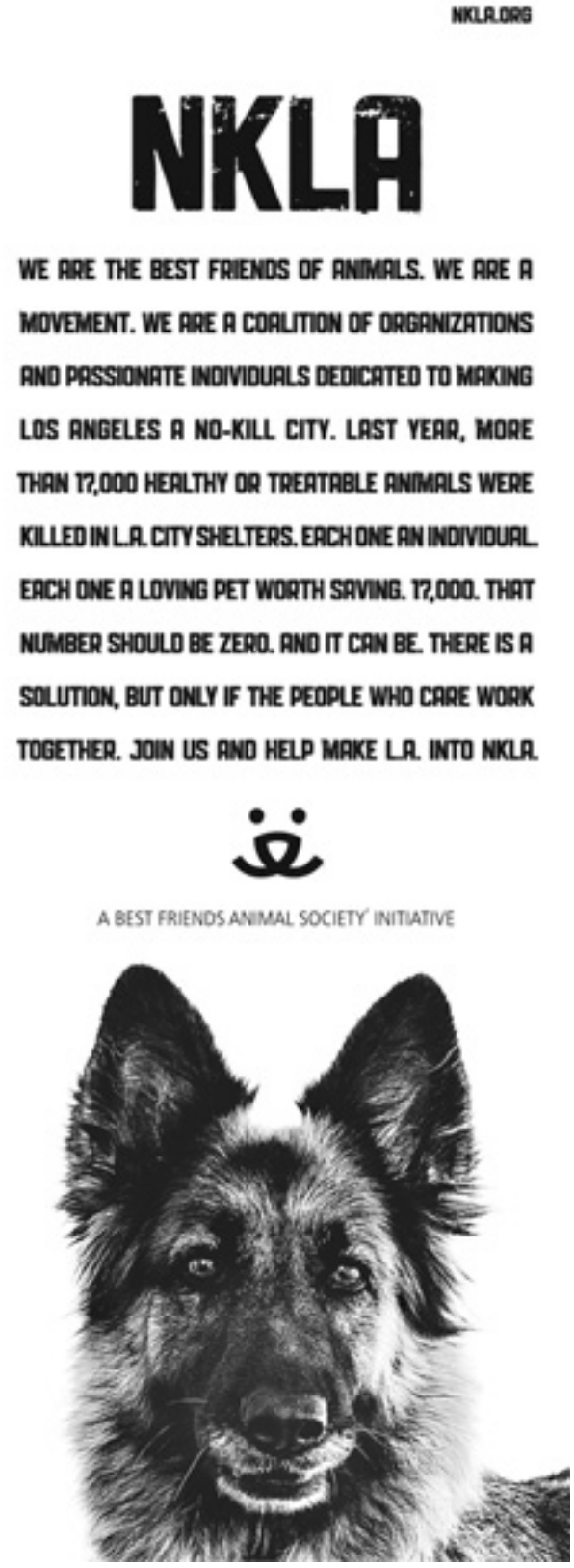
No more nuclear

Editor:

The recent nuclear famine study released by Physicians for Social Responsibility clearly outlines the grave threat to humanity still posed by nuclear weapons. The study provides another argument for ridding the world of nuclear weapons once and for all.

According to the report, even a "limited" nuclear war between India and Pakistan would cause global climate effects for a decade – causing crop failures that put up to 2 billion people at risk of starvation – all this with just one half of 1 percent of the world's arsenals, or 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs. To eliminate the risk posed by nuclear war or nuclear terrorism, we need to reduce nuclear arsenals around the world to zero.

Dr. Janet Maker
Los Angeles



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Black cats, broken mirrors

THIS COULD BE A LONG DAY FOR triskaidekaphobics. Then again, having a condition with that many letters is never a good sign. But what is it? Hint. Check the date at the top of this column. Another hint? Some famous triskaidekaphobes include Napoleon, Herbert Hoover, Mark Twain and FDR. (A lousy hint, but an intriguing group.)

Actually, triskaidekaphobia refers to an abnormal fear of the number 13. You see today, if you hadn't noticed, is Friday the 13th, which causes anxiety and fear in a surprising number of people. If you're one of those, today you might want to avoid open ladders and wait until tomorrow to hang that living room mirror.

Being at least a little superstitious seems to be a universal human condition. I think it comes from the absolute chaotic human existence, when from one moment to the next we don't know if the earth will quake or some AR-carrying psycho will snap.

As a child my earliest introduction to superstitions occurred in Santa Monica. I was in the back seat of the family's 1949 Pontiac as my mother drove my sister and I to the beach. It was on that very drive that my sister also explained that one day, I too, would die. (Thank you, sis — not!)

But, as my sister continued to tell me, if I could hold my breath as we would soon drive past the entire length of Woodlawn Cemetery at 14th and Pico, I could avoid this horrible fate. But, being so young, I didn't have much lung power and couldn't hold my breath. (Though I faked it.) It was then I knew I was doomed. My sister, however, managed to hold her breath and, wouldn't you know, she's the healthier of the two of us to this day. Go figure.

Speaking of Woodlawn Cemetery, on the Internet it's described as the "Final resting place of the stars." In fact, the late actor Glenn Ford, born and raised in Santa Monica, is buried at Woodlawn. (Though he lived to be 90.) So is the late actress Irene Ryan, most famous for playing "Granny" on "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Scrolling further, it says that "the actor who played Ingrid Bergman's husband in 'Casablanca' is also buried at Woodlawn." Paul Henreid was an accomplished actor. I wonder how his family appreciates his being remembered as just the guy who played Bergman's hubby.

Henreid's character was Victor Laszlo. At least they could have mentioned that.

Trivia alert: Reportedly, at the time of filming, "Casablanca" was considered by many experts to be a "B" movie with a paltry budget and it was rumored that Bogart, among others, thought it was going to be a total disaster. Don't you love experts?

Meanwhile, this morning millions will awaken with dread, anxiety and depression. (And not all because of how bad the Lakers are. That's just my reason.) It's estimated that Friday the 13th phobia afflicts 17 to 21 million Americans. (Which is approximately the number who think Elvis is alive, though I'm not sure there's a connection.)

It's also estimated that in the U.S. on Friday the 13th $800 to $900 million will be lost because people will not fly or do business they would normally do. This is according to Donald Dossey, founder of the Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute in Asheville, N.C.

In case you were wondering (or even if you weren't) triskaidekaphobia is not a new thing. It comes from the Greek treiskaideka, so that tells you it's been around for a while. There's even a biblical reference to the unlucky number 13. Apparently Judas, the apostle who betrayed Jesus, was the 13th guest to the Last Supper.

Numerologists consider 12 a "complete" number as in there are 12 months in a year, 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 gods of Olympus, 12 labors of Hercules, 12 tribes of Israel, and the aforementioned 12 apostles of Jesus. By exceeding 12 by 1, some suggest that "the number elicits restlessness and fear."

Again, according to Dossey, many airports skip the 13th gate; hospitals and hotels regularly have no room number 13 and more than 80 percent of high-rise buildings lack a 13th floor. As it happens, The Shores, where I live, has a 13th floor. In fact, when I first moved in I resided in apartment 1336. (Which, now that I think about it, explains a lot.)

But, if you happen to suffer from triskaidekaphobia, the good news is that we won't have another Friday the 13th until next June. So, for the rest of the day, all you have to do is be careful not to break any mirrors, stay away from black cats, and don't walk under any ladders. And, oh yes, if you drive past Woodlawn Cemetery, be sure to hold your breath.

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Your column here

LeeAnn Hall
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Living wage job gap calls for charting a new course for U.S.

IN AUGUST, FAST FOOD WORKERS walked off the job in 50 U.S. cities, demanding a raise to $15 an hour. The strikes touched off a national debate about raising wage floors.

But this debate has been missing some critical context: a data-driven analysis of what it actually takes to make ends meet in America today, and how the $15 threshold and other proposals stack up.

People who are working full-time should earn enough to be able to make ends meet. This is a basic American value.

But it turns out $15 an hour falls short — for most family structures, far short. Furthermore, our current economic path isn't creating nearly enough jobs that pay above even this basic threshold.

These are some of the findings of a new economic study, released Dec. 3 by the Alliance for a Just Society, providing the data-driven analysis needed to put the wage debate in context.

The study, America's Changing Economy: Searching for Work that Pays in the New Low-Wage Job Market — 2013 Job Gap Study, calculates what it costs to make ends meet by analyzing state-level data on the components of a basic, no-frills household budget — including food, housing, utilities, child care, health care, and transportation. The Job Gap Study uses these household budgets to calculate living wage levels in 10 states, including lower-cost states like Idaho and higher-cost states like Connecticut, and also New York City. It calculates living wages for five different household structures, from a single individual to two working parents with two kids.

So what is a living wage? The study finds the living wage for a single individual ranges from $13.92 an hour in Montana to $22.66 an hour in New York City. For two working parents with two kids, the living wage ranges from $17.69 per parent in Idaho to $24.52 per parent in New York City. For a single parent with one child, it ranges from $19.36 in Montana to $30.02 in New York City.

How many job openings will pay these living wage levels, under current economic trends? Not nearly enough. Even at the lowest living wage level, the number of job seekers for each projected job opening that pays a living wage ranges from five to one in Colorado to 25 to one in Connecticut. This is a serious "job gap."

At the national level, the numbers are similarly troubling. With 20.8 million job seekers in 2012, there are seven job seekers for every projected job opening in occupations with median wages above $15 an hour.

Low-wage jobs are on the rise since the official end of the recession in 2009: jobs with median wages below $15 an hour grew from 36.6 percent of total employment in 2009 to 39.5 percent in 2012.

This isn't just a "jobless recovery," it's an economic course that has slashed 4 million better-paying jobs (above the $15 median wage threshold) and replaced them with 3.6 million lower-paying ones (below the $15 threshold).

The findings of the Job Gap Study cast the wage-raising proposals in a new light. Raising the federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, for example, still falls far short of any living wage level.

As for the fast food workers' call for a $15 an hour wage, it only begins to get in the ballpark of the lowest living wage thresholds, which seems a modest target.

This debate about wages is important for our whole economy. Because when 50 million workers don't make enough to cover the basics — as we have now — the whole economy stagnates.

If we don't want the trend toward low-wage jobs — and anemic growth — to become America's "new normal," we need to chart a new course with the rules we write for the economy.

One element of this course should be responsible wage floors — floors that uphold the principle that people working full-time should be able to make ends meet while re-orienting job growth to create more economy-boosting jobs.

LEEANN HALL is the executive director of the Alliance for a Just Society, a national research, policy and organizing network with affiliates in 10 states. The alliance has produced the pioneering series of Job Gap Studies annually for 15 years.

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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California prostitutes win victim compensation

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Spurred by emotional testimony from sex workers, California officials voted Thursday to change a 1990s-era anti-crime regulation and allow prostitutes to receive money from a victim compensation fund if they're raped or beaten.

Under the current system, those harmed in violent crimes can be paid for medical costs and related expenses, but prostitutes are excluded because their activities are illegal.

Marybel Batjer, chairwoman of the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, called the rule "repugnant," adding in a later interview that, "Rape is rape, period."

The three-member board voted unanimously to end California's status as the only state with such a prohibition, though it will take several months to formally repeal the regulation.

The board acted after hearing what Batjer and fellow board member Michael Ramos called passionate and compelling testimony from several sex workers who said they have been assaulted.

"They've been raped, abused, crimes committed against them," said Ramos, the district attorney in San Bernardino County. "They're victims. Nobody deserves to be raped, I don't care who you are."

He said law enforcement generally has been trying to change perceptions and practices involving sexual assault victims, and in particular those victimized by human trafficking.

"I think we sent a big message today from this board for the state of California, that we are now going to mirror some of our other states that feel the same way. It's a national issue," Ramos said in an interview after the board's vote.

Jon Myers, the board's deputy executive officer, said the current rule was enacted in 1999 during an era when the state was generally getting tough on crime.

The American Civil Liberties Union and organizations representing sex trade workers asked for the regulation change.

Carol Leigh, a representative of the Bay Area Sex Workers Advocacy Network, said she was raped by two men who entered the massage parlor where she worked.

The men "took a knife to my throat and demanded sex and money," she told the board. "I realized that, as a sex worker, I was a sitting duck, that the system, basically, was set up so that I felt that I couldn't go to the police. ... The rapists know, and they see us as targets."

Kristen DiAngelo, who also identified herself as a sex worker, testified that she was raped, beaten, repeatedly choked, robbed and held captive overnight in downtown Sacramento in 1983.

"I was told that if I prosecuted this guy, by the police, that I would be the one going to go to jail," she said. "What happens when we have a regulation like this, it segregates us from the normal population. It makes us inhuman, non-helpable. You allow predators to hone their skills.

"These are hate crimes, and they need to be stopped," she added later.

Other victims sent written testimony that was read to the board or testified without identifying themselves because of the nature of the issue.

"This regulation says that prostitutes are asking for rape," testified Rachel West, a spokeswoman for the US PROStitutes Collective, which joined with the Erotic Services Providers Union in seeking its repeal. "It divides women into good and bad victims."

Changing the rule had the support of district attorneys in Alameda, Santa Clara and Sutter counties, along with the victim-witness program director for Santa Barbara County's district attorney's office. They say sex workers often are coerced into their trade and so should not be denied benefits if they are harmed.

The conservative Criminal Justice Legal Foundation says its goal is to "assure that crime does not pay," but in this case agrees with changing the rules.

"Prostitution is a crime, but it's a minor one," said Kent Scheidegger, the foundation's legal director. "If someone's been a victim of a major crime like rape or battery, it shouldn't disqualify them from restitution."

There was no opposition at Thursday's hearing, or at previous public hearings on the proposed rule change, which applies to any activity related to prostitution including pimping or soliciting.

California created the nation's first victim compensation program in 1965, and formal rules barring payments to those involved in criminal activity have been in place since 1999. Such rules also bar reimbursement for those injured as a result of their involvement with illegal drugs, gang activities or consensual fights.

The program gets its money from fines and restitution paid by criminals, along with federal matching funds. It reimburses victims of violent crimes for expenses including medical care, counseling, lost income and increasing home security.

"Whether someone is engaged in prostitution shouldn't have anything to do with whether they've been beaten or raped," Kimberly Horiuchi, an ACLU attorney, said in an interview before Thursday's hearing. "Anytime we walk down the road that 'the victim deserved it,' it sends the wrong message."

Though victims can be reimbursed for up to $62,000 in expenses, the average compensation is just under $2,000. Last year, the board denied 28 claims because the victims were deemed to have been involved in prostitution-related activities.

This year the board amended its regulations to comply with a new state law that allows reimbursement for human trafficking victims regardless of their activities.

"Whether there was prostitution or not, if they were deemed to be involved in trafficking then they can qualify for our program," said Myers, the board's director.

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Five-finger discount lands a few in the slammer

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

MONDAY, DEC. 9, AT 5:50 P.M.,

Santa Monica Police officers on patrol responded to the 2400 block of Pico Boulevard – Rite-Aid – regarding a robbery that just occurred. When officers arrived they made contact with security who said they saw the suspect take two ice cream bars and some beer. The suspect then allegedly ate one of the ice cream bars and walked out of the store with the other and the can of beer hidden inside his coat. The security guard confronted the suspected shoplifter, who handed over the ice cream but denied having anything else. He then allegedly threatened to pull out a gun and shoot the security guard if he didn't move out of the suspect's way. The guard did and called police. Officers found the suspect walking along the 2200 block of Cloverfield Boulevard and placed him under arrest for robbery. The suspect was identified as Dale Russell, 48, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

MONDAY, DEC. 9, AT 1:40 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1300 block of Wilshire Boulevard – Rite-Aid – regarding a report of a suspected shoplifter in custody. When officers arrived they made contact with a security guard who said he saw a woman walk out of the store without paying for some batteries. He told police that a man took the batteries, gave it to his female companion and she put the batteries in her pocket. She then paid for some other merchandise, but not the batteries. Once outside the store she was confronted by security and handed the batteries back, saying she was "sorry." Officers detained the woman and her male companion. The woman, who was identified as Tracy Lynn Woodring, 46, of Santa Monica, was booked for petty theft. Her bail was set at $10,000. The male suspect, identified as James Galiners Rogers, 53, of Culver City, Calif. was booked for possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. His bail was set at $500.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7, AT 7:45 P.M.,

Officers on patrol along the 1500 block of Fifth Street said they saw a man riding a bike on the sidewalk in violation of the Santa Monica Municipal Code. When officers got closer they said they recognized the man from a prior arrest involving illegal drugs. The officers asked the man for his full name and date of birth to see if he was on probation or had any warrants. He said he had a warrant for failing to appear in court. Dispatch confirmed this and he was placed under arrest. Officers searched him and said they found a clear plastic bag containing methamphetamine. He was booked for possession of drugs and riding the bike on the sidewalk, in addition to the warrant. The suspect was identified as Journey Armond Dell, 42, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $10,750.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6, AT 8:35 P.M.,

Officers detained a man and a woman for crossing the street against a red light. As officers were trying to explain to the couple why they were detaining them, the man fled on a skateboard. Officers called for backup and continued to question the woman. They learned that she had a warrant for her arrest. Officers detained her and searched her. They said they found in her possession a glass pipe concealed inside her bra. The pipe had a white crystalline residue as well as a black burned residue. She was placed under arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia, crossing against a red light and the warrant. She was identified as Delilah Bowers, 31, of Santa Monica. Her bail was set at $250. No word on what happened to the dude on the skateboard.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4, AT 7:45 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 800 block of Broadway – Swingers diner – regarding a customer who left the restaurant without paying for his meal. While on their way to the restaurant officers saw a man matching the suspect's description walking northbound on Lincoln Boulevard. Officers detained the suspect for questioning. After running a computer check they discovered that he had a warrant for his arrest. The restaurant manager was also able to identify the suspect as the man who dined and dashed. He was placed under arrest for the warrant and defrauding an innkeeper. He was identified as Stephen Haskins, 27, of Long Beach, Calif. His bail was set at $25,000.

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

MOVING ALONG: A woman walks by last year's location of the embattled nativity scenes. The scenes once stood in Palisades Park before a city ban stopped the longtime practice.

SCENES

FROM PAGE 1

a case brought against City Hall by defenders of the public nativity scenes. The nativity advocates appealed that decision and the case is now with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Both sides have submitted their pleadings, Jameson said, and it's now up to the courts to make a decision or call for oral hearings. There is no timetable for the decision, he said.

Primo De Jesus, an activist and member of Trinity Baptist Church, one of the churches traditionally involved with the scenes, is suing City Hall and one of the atheists involved in flooding the nativity lottery in 2011.

His suit, which makes numerous allegations including hate crimes and irreparable injuries, is asking for more than $5 million in damages.

De Jesus, who will represent himself, said that he would use the cash to hire Boy Scouts to set up and take down the nativity scenes every day during the Christmas season. This, he said, would cost about $30,000 a year.

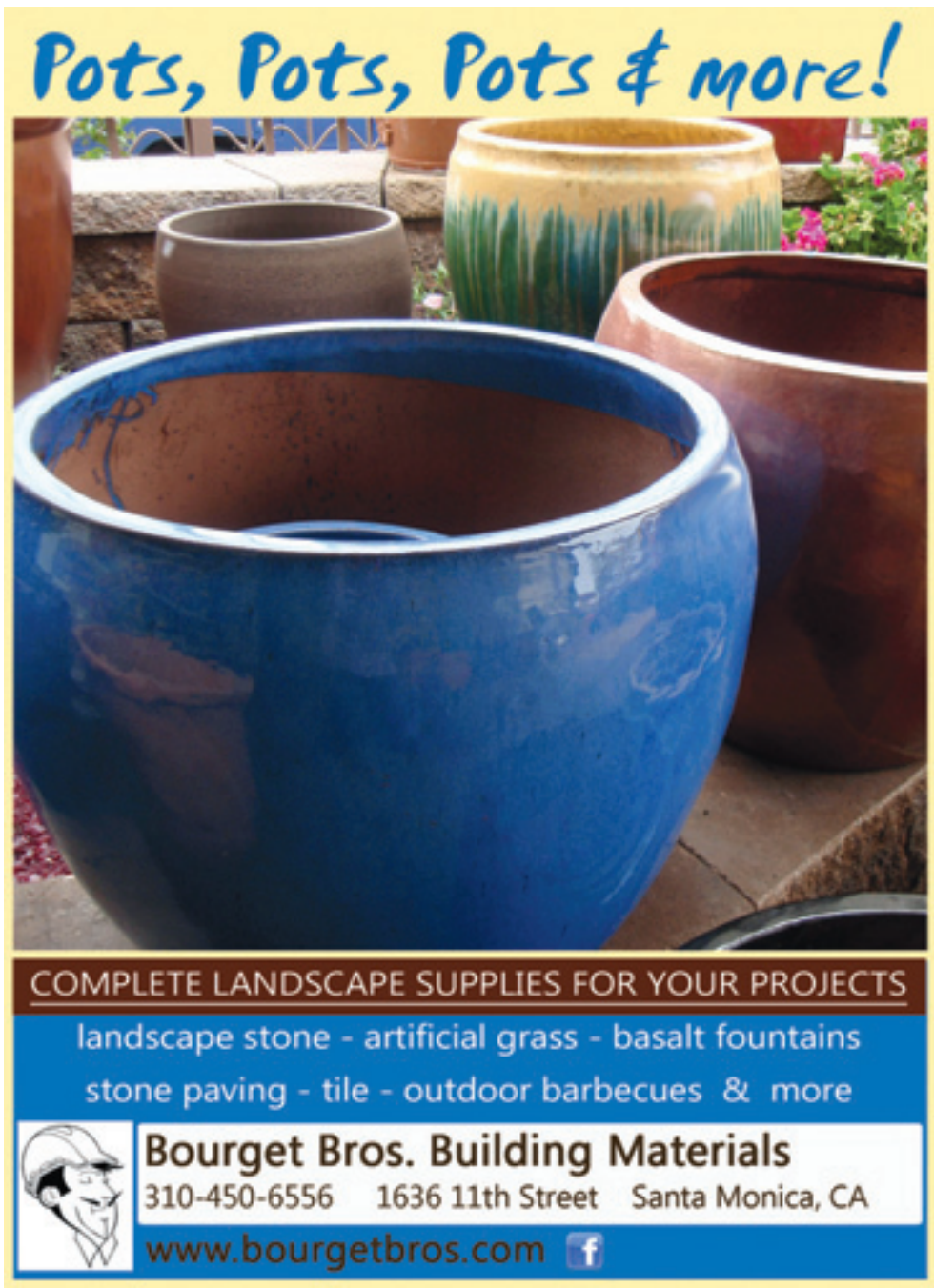
Damon Vix, the atheist defendant named in the case, had not heard about the suit before he was reached for comment from the Daily Press. He is no longer involved with the Santa Monica displays, he said.

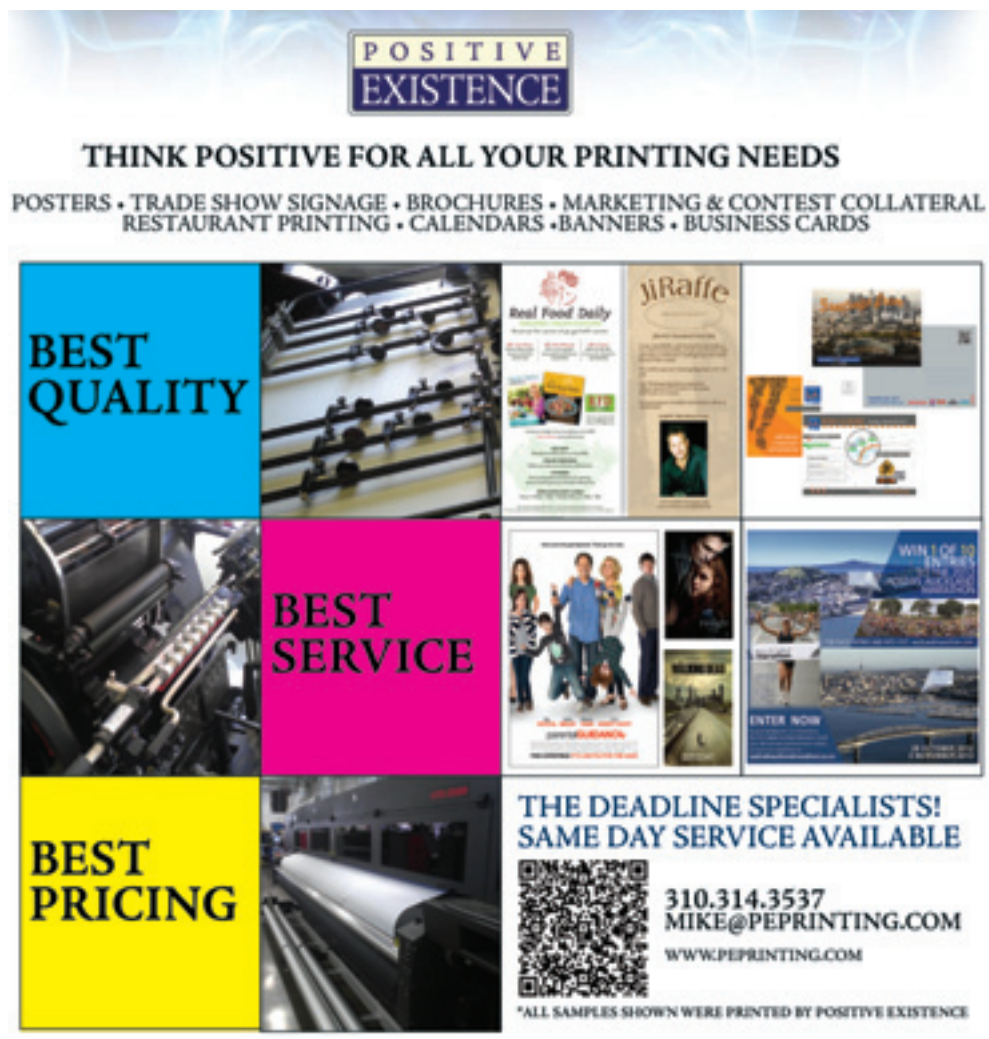
The nativity advocates will return to Palisades Park this Sunday at 3 p.m. for the opening ceremony of the scenes.

"That's our historic spot," Jameson said. "We've been there for almost the 60 year history of the scenes and we felt that it would be a fitting and appropriate spot to continue our historical presence there, which is certainly done in conformance with all the rules."

They plan to unveil a 24-foot-long banner at the ceremony that will depict nativity scenes and include text narrating the story. It will be staffed and on display at the park at various times throughout the season, Jameson said.

dave@smdp.com





HEALTH
FROM PAGE 3

other Internet traffic. For example, Maroon 5 singer Adam Levine, People magazine's "sexiest man alive" for 2013, urged his followers on Twitter to get coverage.

Since launching the program, the White House has benefited from celebrity support as it attempts to draw a crowd — Amy Poehler and Lady Gaga are among the actors, comedians and musicians who have pushed the overhaul. Fran Drescher and Kal Penn are among the Hollywood talent expected to lend a hand in the "Tell a Friend" campaign.

The latest marketing strategy comes after a troubled two months for the national overhaul — sign-ups have lagged and the disastrous launch of the federal government's website was blamed for dampening enrollments.

The Health and Human Services Department reported Wednesday that 364,682 people had signed up for private coverage under the law as of Nov. 30. That is more than three times the October figure but still less than one-third of the 1.2 million that officials had projected would enroll nationwide by the end of November. The administration's overall goal was to sign up 7 million people by next March 31, when open enrollment ends.

People face a Dec. 23 deadline to sign up if they are to have coverage by New Year's. California, the nation's most populous state with about 38 million residents, runs its own exchange and led the nation with 107,087 sign-ups.

Largely at issue is luring young, healthy people needed to make the overhaul financially viable. Premiums paid by the younger and healthier group, between 18 and 35, are needed by insurance companies to offset the cost of carrying older and sicker customers who typically generate more in medical bills than they contribute in premiums.

Lee said Covered California will cover most of the campaign's expenses, although the total has not been finalized. He estimated it would amount to a small fraction of the agency's marketing budget; Covered California expects to spend over $200 million on television and online ads, billboards, door-to-door visits and other sales pitches and promotions to convince people to enroll.

The campaign's website features videos, aimed at younger adults, that urge individuals to seek coverage.

In one, a mountain biker is seen crashing on a trail, then clutching his arm. In another, set to rap-style music, Obama impersonator Iman Crosson dances and tells viewers, "If you choose it, just use it, they can't refuse it, no pre-existing condition could ever make you lose it. So tell a friend or a random guy, I've got a game-changer right here that saves lives." Both videos rely on only generalities about the law, and neither mentions specifics about the cost.

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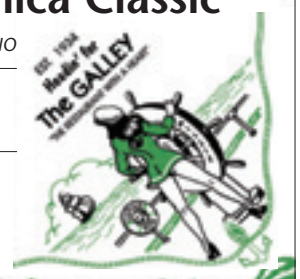




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City of Santa Monica

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SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

DATE/TIME: December 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- 08ARB105, 1444 11th Street: Multi-Family Residential
- 13ARB320, 1533 11th Street: Multi-Family Residential
- 13ARB348, 1212 3rd Street Promenade: Commercial
- 13ARB353, 311 16th Street: Single-Family Residential

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail scott.albright@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines, 2, 3, Rapid #3, 7, & 9 serve the Santa Monica Civic Center and City Hall.

POPULATION
FROM PAGE 1

slower growing regions due to restrictions on land and housing, but that has changed as foreign immigrants, many highly-educated and from Asia, have flocked there in search of jobs, Johnson said.

"If you attract young, well-educated migrants — which we are — many of them are at points in their lives where they're starting families, so that will have an impact on births," Johnson said.

Over the year, the state gained 169,000 foreign immigrants and saw nearly 103,000 residents leave for other states, the state reported.

Alameda and Santa Clara counties in the Bay Area saw the largest percentage increases in population, followed by Santa Barbara, Placer and Kern counties. Ten counties, mostly in more remote areas, saw population declines.

More than half of all Californians live in just five counties: Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino.

State officials use the annual population data to determine how to spend state money, distribute social welfare programs and assess the state's overall needs.

PARKING
FROM PAGE 1

postal service officials to appellants promised that the Seventh Street location, which opened in July, would include on-site and off-site parking, said Richard Maher, a spokesperson for the Postal Service.

Forty-four off-site spaces already exist but residents have complained that the area, located next to Interstate 10, is dangerous for those walking up to the post office. Further, they say, without on-site parking the post office is not accessible to people with disabilities.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Santa Monica, who supported the initial appeal, wrote a letter this week to postal service officials claiming that they weren't holding up their end of the deal.

"I am hearing from residents that the available street parking is not only insufficient, but potentially dangerous," he said in his letter to Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe. "Many feel they are risking an accident every time they back out of the available parking spots into oncoming traffic."

The off-site parking spots are perpendicular to the sidewalk and force drivers to back out into two lanes of traffic, often with their views blocked by other parked cars.

The 44 spaces were created to replace parking along Colorado Avenue removed to make way for the Expo Light Rail line scheduled to open in early 2016.

Postal service officials initially responded to Waxman by saying that eight to 10 spaces would be placed at the north end of the lot, but their engineer determined that the customer lot could be reconfigured to build 19 spaces, Maher said.

"All 19 will be in the customer parking lot … at the north end of the property and the work should be completed within a month," he wrote in an e-mail. "There will be over 60 customer parking spaces at the Santa Monica Post Office, on-site and street combined, when this lot opens."

Handicapped parking will remain on the street, as the street parking spaces are all closer to the entrance than this new parking lot, Maher said.

This could leave residents something more to be concerned about.

Resident Lorraine Zecca described seeing an elderly woman struggling to make it into the post office in a recent letter to City Hall. The off-site handicap parking is located near a secluded corner, far from the entrance, she said.

"First, who can walk that far," Zecca wrote in the letter. "Second, who even knows the spot is there. Third, there would be no way to determine if the spot is empty even if you desired to park there."

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U.S. stocks head for a third day of declines

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Wall Street's third down day in a row pushed stocks to their lowest levels in a month as investors worried that the end may be nearing for the Federal Reserve's support for the economy.

The Fed's stimulus efforts have been a key factor in the bull market that has pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 index 25 higher percent this year. Investors know it will end sooner or later. But the timing, and the fallout, are uncertain.

Until this month, stocks had risen for eight weeks straight. But stocks posted their biggest declines in five weeks on Wednesday, and dropped further on Thursday. Now they're on the verge of their second weekly loss in a row.

In afternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 90 points, or 0.6 percent, at 15,753. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was down three points, or 0.2 percent, at 1,779. The Nasdaq composite edged up two points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,005.

Stocks posted their biggest declines in five weeks on Wednesday, but the Dow is still up 20 percent for the year, and the S&P 500 is up 24 percent.

"We don't think we're in a bubble, however we do know we're in an expensive market," said Marty Leclerc, chief investment officer and portfolio manager at Barrack Yard Advisors.

Leclerc said indices have risen 50 percent over the past couple of years, while earnings are up 12 percent, so it "wouldn't be unusual to have a step backwards even in the confines of a bull market run."

In economic news, the number of people seeking unemployment benefits rose to about where it was before the Great Recession.

Also, U.S. shoppers spent more money on appliances, furniture and cars in November. Spending had been muted for months heading into the crucial holiday shopping period, a worrisome sign for investors. Retail sales rose 0.7 percent last month, the biggest gain in five months. October sales were also revised higher.

That's the kind of economic data that has been interpreted to mean that the U.S. economy is strong enough for the Fed reduce, or "taper," as it's called on Wall Street, its stimulus program.

"We get this taper mania, where every piece of economic data gets examined very closely," said Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist with Schaeffer's Investment Research.

Detrick doesn't think that will happen as soon as this month. "I don't think the data's been strong enough for that," he said.

Social networking stocks continued to be strong. Facebook jumped $2.56, or 5 percent, to $51.94 after the stock was added to the S&P 500 index. Twitter rose $3.16, or 6 percent, to $55.48.

Lululemon Athletica plunged $7.59, or 11 percent, to $60.76 after the upscale yoga clothing maker said sales will be flat in the next quarter and revenue for the year will be less than it had predicted. Several gaffes have hurt sales of its $100 yoga pants and other products. In the spring Lululemon pulled some of its pants from stores after complaints that they became see-through. Two days ago, founder Chip Wilson stepped aside as chairman, and the company named a new CEO.







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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **58.1°**

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
NW windswell up slightly; NW-WNW swell picks up late;
SW-SSW swell fills in a little more; stay tuned; deep AM high tide

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
NW-WNW swell tops out; SW-SSW swell holds/eases slightly; stay tuned; deep AM high tide

SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Fading NW and SW swell; Potential new long period WNW
swell building in late; stay tuned storm dependent; deep AM high tide

MONDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Potential new long period WNW swell tops out - stay tuned storm dependent;
new SSW-S groundswell builds in; deep AM high tide

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 4, 2013**

HEAL THE BAY · 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 · beachreportcard.org · brc@healthebay.org · 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 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 21672 Malibu Rd..	D	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
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.	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+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
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 DWW 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.

Injuries, losses prompt MLB to seek collision ban

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. Baseball officials are up front about this: They want to ban home-plate collisions to guard their investments.

Minnesota's Joe Mauer, a three-time batting champion, is less than halfway through a $184 million, eight-year contract. He was limited 75 games at catcher this year in a concussion-shortened season.

Buster Posey, another batting champ, has a $167 million, nine-year deal. San Francisco wants to ensure that he doesn't have another horrific injury like the one that ended his 2011 season.

That's why Major League Baseball's rules committee voted this week to prohibit runners from plowing into catchers. The rule will take effect next season if the players' association agrees, and in 2015 if the union doesn't.

"It's a great change, We protect our assets," Los Angeles Angels general manager Jerry Dipoto said Thursday as the winter meetings ended. "Some of the things we've seen happen in the recent past — Buster Posey, concussions with Joe Mauer, Yadier Molina getting blown up, they are some of the best players in the game. They mean so much to their team —the financial investments involved. And more importantly, the health of the individual."

Boston's David Ross, Detroit's Alex Avila, Oakland's John Jaso and Kansas City's Salvador Perez all missed time because of concussions this year.

"Collisions at home plate can significantly alter your ability to win games," said Andrew Friedman, Tampa Bay's executive vice president of baseball operations. "I just think athletes today are bigger, faster, stronger, and the catchers are in significant danger of long-term injuries that we can avoid. I think the heightened awareness to concussions influences it quite a bit."

Eleven players who were primarily catchers last season are signed to contracts running through 2016 and beyond, with a total of $565.45 million in remaining guaranteed salary, according to calculations by The Associated Press.

MLB watched as the NFL reached a $765 million settlement last summer in a concussion-related lawsuit by former players and a group of hockey players sued the NHL last month over brain trauma.

"How much is it that they're paid a lot more than they used to be?" said New York Mets GM Sandy Alderson, chairman of the rules committee. "It's a combination of those things. But I think what's crystalized our thinking is probably the concussion issue. Try to be proactive."

This year's winter meetings likely will be remembered most for the rules decision. There were just six trades — two more than during last year's drab session in Nashville, Tenn. As the meetings ended, the Chicago Cubs acquired Justin Ruggiano from Miami in a swap of outfielders, and Seattle completed its $240 million, 10-year contract with All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
7:30pm
Discussion following with director Steve McQueen; moderated by writer-director John Singleton.
This event is now sold out. There will be a stand-by line at the door on the night of the show.

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

Out of the Furnace (R) 1hr 46min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Delivery Man (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
10:45am, 1:45pm, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
9:45am, 1:45pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
10:30am, 1:10pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 11:20pm

Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
4:40pm, 9:45pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
9:30am, 11:20am, 3:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm

Dallas Buyers Club (R) 1hr 57min
10:40am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:10pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in HFR 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
12:15pm, 4:00pm, 7:45pm, 11:20pm

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

Inside Llewyn Davis (R) 1hr 45min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

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
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

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

SHARE SOME EGGNOG, LIBRA

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ An older relative could be changing, and this adds to your difficulty relating to him or her. Let go of your judgments and accept this person as he or she is. Tonight: Meet friends for some holiday cheer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You know when you hit a wall. Accept others as they are, especially if you can't get them to broaden their perspectives. Give up pushing them. When you do, many people will relax and open up because they won't feel challenged. Tonight: Join friends first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ The less said, the better, especially with what you might be thinking. Go off and do your thing, whether it is running errands or just getting your hair cut. Don't get so uptight about a money matter. Tonight: Finish up holiday errands.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Bring a morning snack for others, whether you go to the office or to the hair salon. Others naturally warm up with food. Express your love to people you care about. Tonight: Whatever you choose, go with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You will assume a leadership position. You might want to push a friend a little off his or her safe, rigid path so that he or she can function within the parameters of a project. Trust that this tactic will be successful. Tonight: Change your job description to leader of the gang.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your mind drifts to the possibility of going off and doing something new, probably involving the holiday. At the same time, a new friend might feel a bit put out. This person might be wondering if you will make time for him or her. Keep the peace. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Deal with a loved one directly who might have been touchy recently. Make plans to spend some quality time with this person in the very near future. Choose your time for a talk with care. Tonight: Share some eggnog with a loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Refuse to cause a problem. Don't try to manipulate or control someone else. Expect a backfire with that attitude. Try to understand this person's position first. Resist deciding that you already know where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Where there is Christmas music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You'll be driven to get your to-do list done. Consider whether the fast pace is worth it; you don't want to be too exhausted to enjoy Christmas. Tonight: Meet a friend for munchies in between doing some shopping.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Where others' resourcefulness falls flat, you'll save the day with a wonderful idea. Use your creativity well. You can delight friends and loved ones by expressing your originality. Several people will meet you halfway. Tonight: Let the intensity build with a partner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ A personal matter could demand more attention than you are ready to give. You understand that this issue might need to be resolved quickly. Consider handling it first, if you want to be effective. Tonight: Head home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You'll draw others toward you, but you might not want to hear everything they're saying. Distance yourself gently from someone who feels as though he or she is bombarding you. Do not take a loved one for granted; you won't appreciate the outcome. Tonight: Use your imagination!

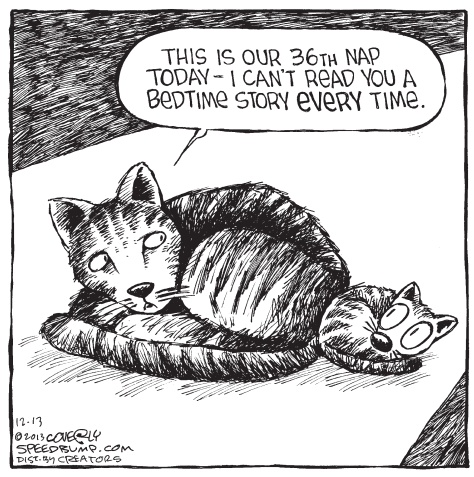
Friday, December 13, 2013

This year you open up to new opportunities once you eliminate your resistances. A partner or a dear loved one encourages you to take grounded risks. If you are single, you could meet someone who feels like you've known him or her forever. The intensity could nearly overwhelm you. If you are attached, the two of you break tradition and attempt to get into a new sport, hobby or pastime together. Laughter often surrounds the two of you. TAURUS often adds to your workload.

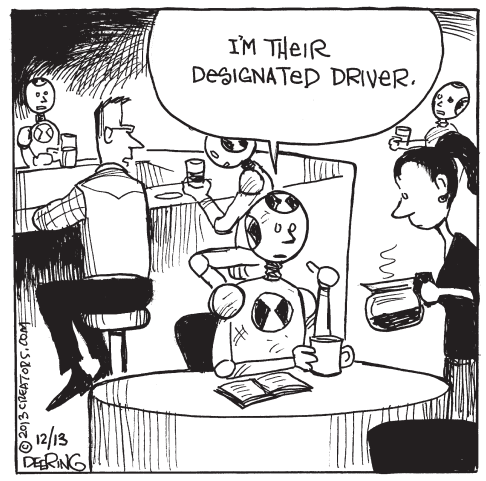
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

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

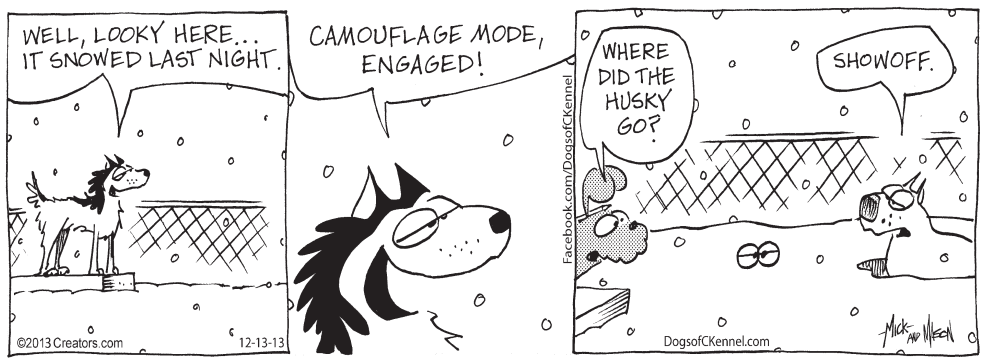
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



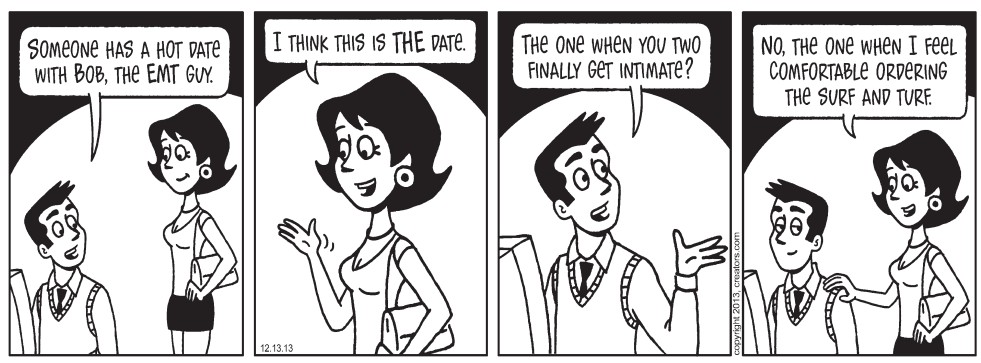
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

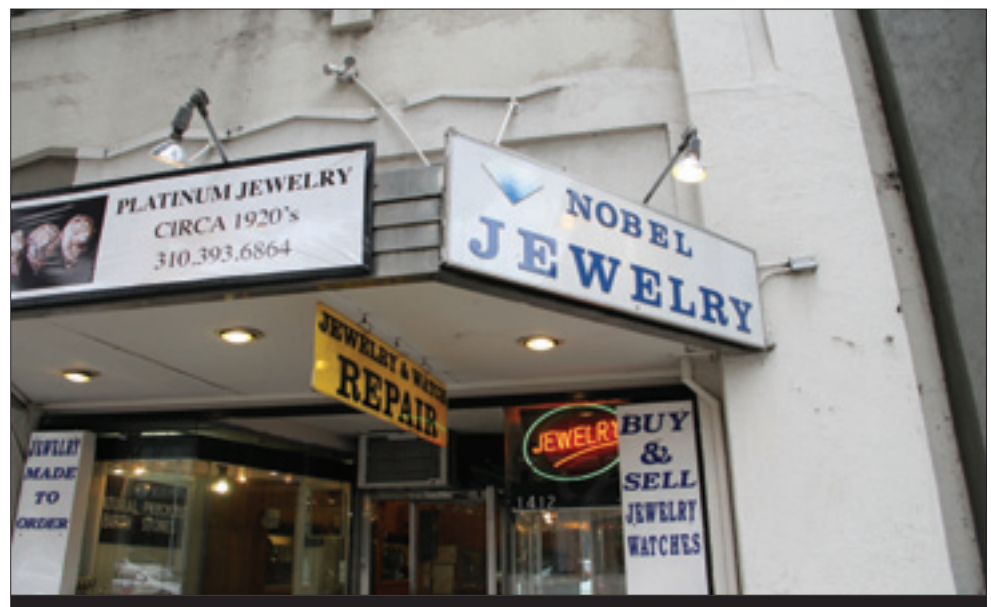
King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



MYSTERY REVEALED!

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Mystery Photo master Nick Steers correctly identified this photo of Nobel Jewelers on Fourth Street in Downtown. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press. Check out the weekend edition for another chance to win. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "The Rehearsal" painter
6 Like corsets
11 Like xenon
12 Laughable
13 Kitchen come-on
14 Available
15 Course goal
16 Mythical piper
18 Running bird
19 Fabergé creation
20 CDs' forerunners
21 Track act
22 Square dancer, at times
24 Friend
25 Rio native
27 Mineo and Bartolo
29 Grip tightly
32 Old hand
33 Movie role for George Burns
34 John of "Harold & Kumar" films
35 Bustle
36 UFO fliers
37 Hem and —
38 Zellweger of "Chicago"
40 Deal maker
42 Dandling spots
43 Release
44 Panache
45 Carries

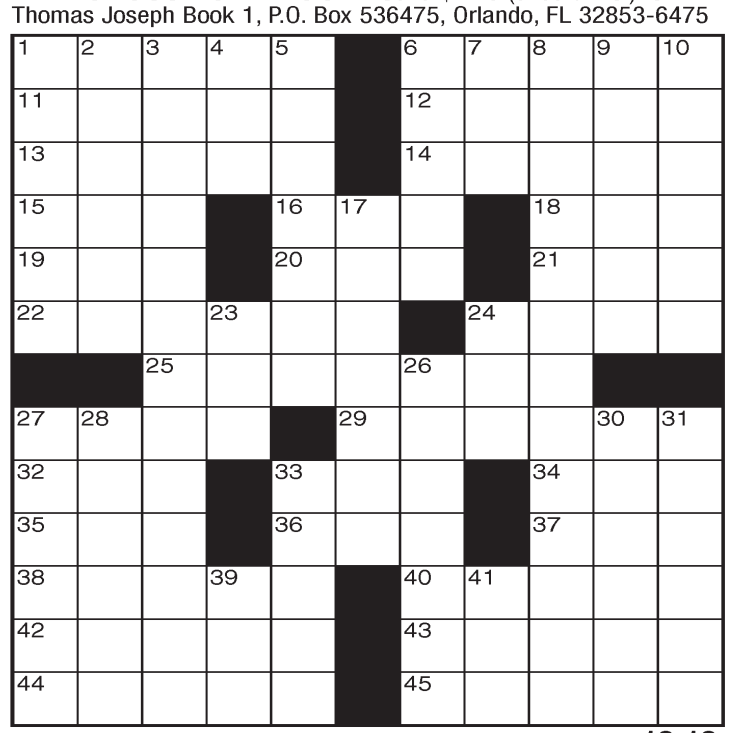
DOWN

1 It's a wrap
2 Incense
3 "The Monuments Men" co-star
4 Radius setting
5 Desk accessory
6 Detroit team
7 Abby's sis
8 "The Monuments Men" co-star
9 Paint type
10 Posse member
17 Pinkish yellow
23 — Palmas
24 Court feat
26 Tar
27 Welding byproduct
28 Zealous
30 Nickels and dimes
31 Instructional guides
33 Gaggle group
39 Twisty fish
41 Earthy

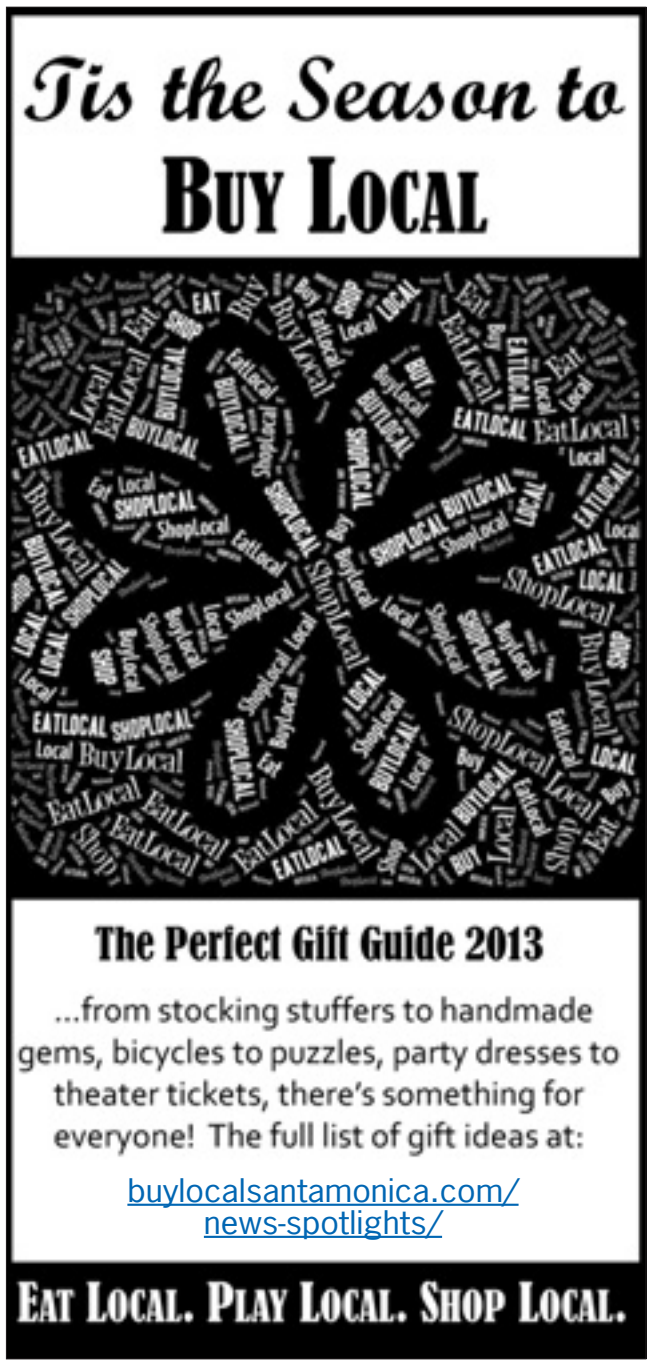
N	I	C	E	R	■	C	A	J	U	N
A	P	O	L	O	■	A	M	U	S	E
B	O	O	M	S	■	B	I	G	O	T
■	■	L	O	W	B	I	D	■	■	■
Y	A	W	■	E	O	N	■	C	O	W
U	P	H	O	L	D	■	L	O	L	A
C	H	I	L	L	Y	W	I	L	L	Y
C	I	T	E	■	F	E	E	D	I	N
A	D	E	■	V	A	T	■	W	E	E
■	■	■	H	O	T	T	E	A	■	■
Z	I	P	I	T	■	E	X	T	R	A
A	L	I	K	E	■	S	P	E	A	R
G	L	E	E	S	■	T	O	R	T	E

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



12-13





NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Is the signature smell of Texas A&M University more "Italian lemon, bergamot and iced pineapple" (that open into "a body of vivid florals, raw nutmeg and cinnamon") or more "bat feces" and "chilifest stink"? The two commentaries were contrasted in a November Wall Street Journal report on the introduction of Masik Collegiate Fragrances' Texas A&M cologne (one of 17 Masik college clients) at around $40 for a 1.7-ounce bottle. Louisiana State University's scent conjures up, insisted one grad, the campus's oak trees, but so far has pulled in only $5,500 for the school. (To a football rival of LSU, the school's classic smell is less oak tree than "corn dog.") The apparent gold standard of fan fragrance is New York Yankees cologne, which earned the team nearly $10 million in 2012.

■ Many men have fallen for underage-sex stings (tricked by NBC's "To Catch a Predator" or by law enforcement nationwide), but perhaps Cliff Oshman, 64, of Daytona Beach is the first to have brought his wife and young daughter along to meet the girl he was seducing. Oshman was arrested in October, and as usual, the "victim" did not exist except as the persona of an undercover cop.

TODAY IN HISTORY

2000 – The "Texas Seven" escape from the John B. Connally Unit near Kenedy, Texas and go on a robbery spree, during which police officer Aubrey Hawkins is shot and killed.

2001 – The Parliament of India Sansad is attacked by terrorists. 15 people are killed, including all the terrorists.

WORD UP!

lipogram
\ LIP-uh-gram, LAHY-puh- \ , noun; 1. a written work composed of words chosen so as to avoid the use of one or more specific alphabetic characters.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Thank you Santa Monica for making *Meet Me Under the Fig Tree* a huge success!

Your generosity exceeded expectations with **8,345 pounds of food** collected for deserving families and the Westside Food Bank.

We hope you all enjoyed the special performances by The Santa Monica High School Orchestra and Bill Cunliffe.

The magic of the holiday season was shared by all

Photos are available at: www.facebook.com/MiramarFriends

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