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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013
Volume 13 Issue 28

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

LOCAL TEAMS EARN RANKINGS
SEE PAGE 3

THE WE WANT THE FUNK ISSUE

Downtown parking structures coming, going

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Just in time for the holiday shopping crush, Parking Structure 6 is set to open this Thursday.

Meanwhile, City Hall plans to demolish Parking Structure 3 in Downtown sometime in the future, said Andy Agle, director of Housing and Economic Development.

Parking Structure 1 will likely undergo the same seismic upgrades just completed for Parking Structure 6.

City Hall is planning to enliven the ground floor of Parking Structure 5, envisioning a large customer service center that may require the ousting of some current tenants. A deal that would have brought a Big Blue Bus customer service booth to the area recently fell through.

And the above mentioned structures, in fact all of Parking Structures 1 through 6, are currently in the middle of a dispute between City Hall and the California Department of Finance. Following the dissolution of Santa Monica's redevelopment agency, state officials are disputing the transfer of 11 properties that used redevelopment funds. City officials went to Sacramento to fight for the properties last month but, they say, it's going to be a long, slow process.

PARKING STRUCTURE 6

Demolished early last year, Parking Structure 6 has since been rebuilt and will have a soft opening later this week, said Jason Harris, economic development manager. The garage adds 700 new spaces to Downtown and several retail spaces to the ground floor.

Construction of the retail spaces will begin this summer, after City Hall executes

SEE PARKING PAGE 8



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

COMING SOON: Workers were putting the final touches on Parking Structure 6 on Monday.

Consent agenda cash to fix aging water mains

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL Last call for consent agenda. In tonight's City Council meeting that was moved up from the previously canceled Christmas Eve date, council members will consider $481,520 in spending with a majority going toward a water main replacement.

City Hall also stands to make more than $150,000 off a plot of land being sold to a local school.

About 9,000 feet of pipelines need to be replaced in City Hall's 250-mile network of water distribution mains. Cannon Corp. will do it for $264,820 starting next fall if council approves the item.

The system provides 12 million gallons of water to the city by the sea each day, city officials said. A 2011 study performed by the Water Resource Division looked at the areas with the highest potential for water main breaks and analyzed the cost to upgrade those sections. It focused on the oldest cast iron pipe installed before the 1970s.

Public works officials also studied the areas with the worst water pressure. Poor water pressure is often caused by rust buildup, which can negatively impact the quality of the water as well.

City officials identified 11 high priority stretches of piping in need of replacement. Many stretches on or near Olympic Boulevard top the list.

The work will take six to eight months, officials said. Cannon Corp. beat out 11

SEE CONSENT PAGE 9

Study: L.A. residents near light rail change travel

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A new study suggests that residents in famously car-obsessed Los Angeles may be willing to rely more on subways and light rail.

University researchers monitored the travel patterns of 103 households within a half-mile of six new light rail stations that connect downtown with Culver City.

The researchers found that members of these households drove fewer miles per day on average, and were more physically active.

While study co-author and University of Southern California professor Marlon Boarnet acknowledges that the study looks at just one rail line, he says the results suggest the region's ambitious investment in subways and light rail may sway residents to travel more by public transit.

The Expo Line which Boarnet and colleagues studied is scheduled to stretch to Santa Monica, near the beach, by 2015.


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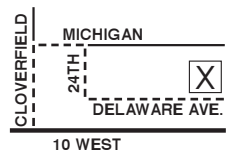
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013

Art for kids
Paint:Lab
1453 14th St., 9 a.m.
Kids 5-12 are invited to a special winter art camp. Cost: ranges from $55-$100. All art materials included in the price. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

Story time
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 11:20 a.m.
Story series for babies ages 0-17 months accompanied by an adult. Call (310) 458-8681 for more information.

Get your skates
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.

Council meets
City Hall
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
The City Council will discuss extending an interim zoning ordinance that guides development. They will also review plans for a new fire station. For more information, visit smgov.net.

Power search
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
6 p.m.
Tips and strategies to find the best information from your Internet searches. Intermediate level. Seating is first come, first serve. For more information, visit the reference desk or call telephone reference at (310) 434-2608.

Gritty flick
Montana Avenue Library
1704 Montana Ave., 6:30 p.m.
In director Gus Van Sant's gritty drama set in the early 1970s, a group of misfits robs drugstores to feed their addictions in "Drugstore Cowboy." For more information, visit smpl.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013

Special Planning Commission meeting
City Hall
1685 Main St., 6 p.m.
The Planning Commission will conduct the second of six public hearings on the Draft Zoning Ordinance that will set rules for future development. For more information, visit smgov.net.

Book it
Montana Avenue Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.
Discussion of Claire Tomalin's beautifully rendered biography, "Charles Dickens, a Life," which profiles the tumultuous life of one of England's greatest novelists. For more information, visit smpl.org.

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

Public employee salary data released

State Controller John Chiang has updated his public employee compensation website with the latest wage and benefit information for California city and county employees.

The site — publicpay.org — offers maps, search functions, and custom report-building tools. It also allows users to download raw data for their own research.

"Making compensation of public employees transparent provides taxpayers with the ability to be more informed and active in local government decisions," Chiang said.

The update adds wage and benefit data for 637,435 positions, with more than $38.6 billion in wages paid in 2012.

It also includes a list of the top 10 highest paid city positions in 2012. They include the city manager of Buena Park, who topped the list with total wages of $545,394. No Santa Monica employees made the top 10 list.

Santa Monica had 2,776 employees for 91,040 residents, according to the website, for an average wage of $67,930. The city of Vernon had highest average with $98,332.

Santa Monica's total wages, which include retirement and health costs, for 2012 was $188,573,708.

Santa Monica ranked ninth in that category. Los Angeles was at the top with total wages of over $4.2 billion.

– KEVIN HERRERA

WESTWOOD

405 Freeway closure tonight

Southbound Interstate 405 from Santa Monica to National boulevards in West Los Angeles will be fully closed the night of Tuesday, Dec. 17 from midnight to 5 a.m. Wednesday so lanes can be realigned to accommodate roadway widening and drainage work along the freeway's median, officials said.

The work is part of the 405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project.

Lanes will begin to close at 10 p.m. Southbound Sunset on-ramp closes at 7 p.m. Southbound Wilshire on-ramps close at 10 p.m. Southbound Santa Monica on-ramp closes at 10 p.m.

Detour: From the southbound 405, exit at Santa Monica Boulevard, turn left to eastbound Santa Monica, turn right to southbound Sepulveda Boulevard, turn right to westbound National Boulevard, and turn left on to the southbound 405 on-ramp.

The freeway lanes could be closed Wednesday if the work is not completed on time.

The I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project will add a 10-mile carpool lane and improve supporting infrastructure such as ramps, bridges and sound walls on the San Diego Freeway; while widening lanes from Interstate 10 to U.S. Route 101.

For more information, visit www.metro.net/405

– DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

All-star from Allstate

Allstate agency owner Larry Goldberg received Agency Hands in the Community Awards for his commitment to helping others. With these awards came $1,000 grants from The Allstate Foundation for both the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica and the Ocean Park Community Center.

The Allstate Foundation awards more than $1 million every year to nonprofit organizations across the country in honor of dedicated Allstate agency owners who give back. To be eligible for nomination, Allstate agency owners must volunteer with, mentor or lead a nonprofit of their choice.

– DP



Paul Alvarez Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

CHEERS: **St. Monica's girls' basketball team celebrates after winning their Winter Classic tournament last week.**

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

St. Monica girls ranked No. 9

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

ST. MONICA Coming off winning their own Winter Classic tournament last week, St. Monica girls' basketball learned on Monday that they are ranked No. 9 in CIF-Southern Section Division 4A in the first poll of the season.

The defending champs in the division are 8-4 on the season.

The Mariners are back in action on Friday at home against View Park.

Crosstown rival Crossroads is ranked No. 12 in this week's Division 4A poll.

Another Santa Monica-based team, New Roads, is ranked No. 8 in Division 5A.

TRIO OF BOYS TEAMS EARN RANKINGS

Having moved up to CIF-SS Division 1AA this season after winning the 1A championship, Santa Monica boys basketball is ranked No. 12 in the season-opening poll.

Mater Dei is No. 1 in the division.

A pair of local teams made it into the top 16 in Division 4A. Crossroads is sitting at No. 16 with St. Monica sitting just one spot ahead at No. 15.

daniela@smdp.com

Union to begin voting this week on UC contract

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Voting is set to begin on a contract for more than 12,000 researchers, technical employees and health care professionals who work for the University of California — a deal one labor observer said Monday could serve as a guidepost for other unions still trying to hammer out agreements with the system.

The tentative deal on the four-year contract was recently reached between UC and negotiators for the University Professional & Technical Employees union. The vote by members is expected this week.

The agreement prevents the creation of a two-tiered pension system that would have pushed back retirement benefits from age 60 to 65.

Under the proposal, workers would kick in an additional 1 percent to the pension plan in addition to the 8 percent workers already pay.

The proposed contract also includes cost-of-living

SEE **CONTRACT** PAGE 9



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

More parking for Expo

Editor:

I'm very much in favor of light rail ("When the train comes," The Q-Line, Dec. 14-15). But in addition to the points already raised in the Q-Line answers regarding traffic, safety, parking and crime, additional issues include noise pollution from train warning whistles for each crossing ... .

Train speeds will be lower both for safety and red light delays at crossings, increasing transit time. The capital outlay may be less by bringing the trains in at grade, but long-term costs may not be if lawsuits due to train-related accidents occur.

I understand it was decided to exclude parking at some stations to avoid traffic congestion in those areas, but in the process the powers that be missed a great opportunity to reduce traffic congestion on the east-west streets caused by the I-405 bottlenecks for residents who work outside the city.

Residents who cannot access buses, are unable to walk or bike to the stations, or who choose not to during inclement weather and hours of darkness are thus excluded from the light rail system, reducing its value to the city.

Jim Gerstley
Santa Monica



Our Town

Ellen Brennan — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Zoning process: Has anything changed?

THE PROCESS OF CRAFTING AND approving the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) was heavily influenced by the pro-development faction in town, much to the discomfort of the residents. The final was not what the residents hoped for, but they accepted it as a compromise, primarily because of a promise to:

"Preserve and protect existing neighborhoods against potential impacts related to development: traffic, noise, air quality and encroachment of commercial activities." LUCE Policy N1.4.

Since the LUCE was adopted, parts of it have been seriously rethought and restructured behind closed doors in "negotiations" where city staff and developers agree on what is best for developers and the city and how to convince the residents that this "really is in the LUCE." The LUCE referred to now is not the LUCE we approved and the promise of neighborhood protection is no longer a consideration.

Earlier, City Hall borrowed money from the housing fund to help buy the RAND property, and therefore, a number of affordable units were required when the property was developed. No developers responded to the initial request for proposals because the requirements of City Hall could not be fit into the allowable height and have the development be profitable. The second RFP brought one response. Related Companies said, "We'll try." They then determined that they could not make it work at the allowable height.

But because City Hall was on the hook for affordable units, and was now in negotiations with a developer, they decided to make an exception and allow more height than was legal for the spot at the time. What's built in the Civic Center Village is even taller than the council approved.

Last Tuesday, the council did two things in relationship to the City Hall-owned property on Arizona Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets. They asked for an alternative plan with a limited height of 84 feet, versus the 148-foot project proposed, and they entered into an exclusive negotiating agreement with John Warfel to develop the property.

While the president of Related California (invited by council) testified that he couldn't fit all the requirements into 84 feet, Warfel thought that his team could. Was this situation set up to justify a later council vote to approve a city-owned building taller than Downtown zoning allows, should Warfel find that he can't do it all in 84 feet? Cynical? We've seen it before. And remember, even if the council approves a taller project, it will be subject to a referendum.

After the LUCE was passed, development agreement applications began to pour in. As the float-up process started without a new zoning ordinance, residents pointed out that the process was "cart before the horse." The answer was, "Don't worry. The new zoning ordinance will correct any mistakes." My question is, "Who will the corrections benefit, the developer/City Hall coalition, or the residents?" Want to make a bet?

There is an alternative. By determining how many people can be supported by the present infrastructure — sewers, electricity, dependable water supply, parking and traffic solutions, schools, hospitals functioning right now — city officials could project the reasonable and appropriate amount of development for a workable city, taking into account the weekend influx of visitors. With that knowledge, coupled with the development agreement calendar, City Hall could make sure they don't overbuild and accurately predict how much developers should pay to increase infrastructure needed to support their developments.

But that would require a change of purpose on the part of city officials, political entities, and developers.

The draft zoning ordinance was released for review and comment in mid-November. It's the first major zoning update since 1988, and it is supposed to contain provisions to implement the LUCE, which was adopted in July 2010.

The draft ordinance and supporting documents, draft design guidelines, and a draft zoning district map are posted on the Planning Department's website at smgov.net/departments/pcd.

Hard copies of the draft ordinance are also available at all branches of the public library, and can be purchased for about $70 at City Hall.

The draft document is an inch-and-a-half thick and weighs about 4 pounds — not exactly light reading. Planning commissioners have complained that it's difficult to compare it with the current zoning ordinance because the format is completely different.

The Planning Commission began a series of study sessions regarding the draft ordinance on Dec. 11 and will continue its deliberations on Dec. 18, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, and Jan. 22. The commission is scheduled to reach consensus on its recommendations to the City Council on Feb. 5, however, at least one commissioner has expressed doubts that this schedule is realistic.

According to plan, the City Council will begin its review on March 3, 4, and 11, and is scheduled to vote on a first reading of the final zoning ordinance on March 25. The second reading and adoption of the ordinance is scheduled for April 8, and it would take effect on May 8.

On Dec. 17, the City Council is scheduled to extend the current interim zoning ordinance to May 31, 2014.

During the first Planning Commission hearing on the zoning ordinance, Commissioner Sue Himmelrich requested that written public comments be attached to the appropriate segment of the draft zoning ordinance. David Martin, head of the Planning Department, indicated after the hearing that he really wants to hear what residents want and may do something like Himmelrich suggested.

But I'm reminded of Martin's statement to those present at one of the early meetings he held with members of the neighborhood council. He said, "I'll listen to what you have to say, but my decisions will be based on my professional expertise." Keep in mind that his professional expertise was gained during his 10 years in the development industry, and the bottom line focus in Planning Department staff reports make that clear. What's changed? Nothing I see.

Authored by **ELLEN BRENNAN,** contributed to by the Our Town group, which can be reached at ourtownsantamonica@gmail.com.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Keeping your eyes peeled

THIS PAST WEEKEND I SPENT FOUR days being motivated, educated, activated, engaged, and inspired. It was physically exhausting. It's amazing how just sitting for hours can be so taxing. But as I was listening to top speakers and marketing experts explain how to take my experience and knowledge as a divorce lawyer, extract the real message of what and why I do what I do, and share it with a wider audience, I was so attentive that all my energy was sapped at the end of the day.

In a ballroom at the LAX Westin, I and several hundred other people crowded into tables and chairs to be shown how to develop a comprehensive business and marketing plan to become "Big Money" speakers by the Guru of Gab, James Malinchak, and his bigmoneyspeaker.com crew.

You probably know him from ABC as the "Secret Millionaire" who gave away money to worthy charities. But he's an amazing motivational speaker, tremendous marketer and an educator par excellence.

I kind of have a business crush on the guy. I left the conference with my head chock full not just of ways to market my law firm, mensfamilylaw.com, and my professional services, but with a new attitude.

Part of the appeal of going to a weekend seminar like this is that the promoter brings in amazing public speakers who will inspire and educate. For a guy like me who wants to expand his public speaking skills and business, having the opportunity to hear speakers like Les Brown and Joe Theismann is equivalent to a young real estate developer learning from Eli Broad.

These men shared not just their business experience, but also a wider message of being aware of the life around you, the people in your life and how many amazing moments are all around us, but we miss them. They speak of the value of going where others aren't to find business opportunities, but that also applies to seeing our life in a wider context. To see what others are missing is an advantage in both business and in life.

That message was not lost on me.

I woke up yesterday morning at 5 and as I took my dog out for his morning constitutional the full moon was shining through a ribbon of clouds. It was one of those moments that looked like a set painter created it.

As we walked along the bluffs of Palisades Park, overlooking the Santa Monica Pier as it glowed in the distance with the Ferris wheel's constantly changing colors and patterns, the moon reflected off the water. It was one of the moments that seared itself into my memory for future reference.

As the dog follows an endless parade of smells from palm tree to palm tree, I dodge joggers, joggers who are focused on the next step, listening to their iPods and missing the great view. I could be wrong. Perhaps they jog in the park because of the view and I only see a small portion of their attention, but I think they are not appreciating their surroundings as much as they could be.

I assume this because it happens to me all the time. I get busy with work, charities, pursuing a career as a keynote speaker or some other distraction. There's the constant flow of Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook and the never ending firehose of information from CNN, MSNBC and Huffington Post about the latest crisis in the sale of bottled water, or other non-news news story.

This was a well-timed weekend seminar for me. As the year winds down, I leave for a much needed vacation to renew and recreate myself for next year. The reminders to step back and enjoy the moment were welcomed and valued. Not only because they are important to remember, but also because to see the forest you have to stop looking at the trees for a moment.

Over the next two weeks as I relax by the pool, I'll be charting my course for 2014. I started this year off with a goal to have more vacation time. I did that. I wanted to be more productive. I did that. We'll see what I come up with for next year.

This is my last column for 2013, so with that, have a merry Christmas, happy Kwanzaa, and a festive New Year's! See you in 2014.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles divorce and child custody lawyer specializing in father's and men's rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra

The Q Line

On the deck

Santa Monica Pier officials have tried to create new, innovative programming on the historic structure this year with mixed results. The Twilight Concert Series continues to be a major draw as have other events.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What kind of events would you like to see the pier host in the future and why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.


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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Downtown L.A. on pace for driest calendar year

With little rain in the forecast, downtown Los Angeles is on pace for its driest calendar year on record.

The National Weather Service says only 3.49 inches of rain have fallen downtown so far in 2013. That's just 26 percent of normal to date.

The current record is 4.08 inches set in both 1947 and 1953.

Forecasters say there's a chance of showers on Thursday, but rainfall is expected to be less than a quarter of an inch.

The calendar year measurement differs from the region's commonly used "water season" totals. A water season runs from July 1 through June 30 because most rain in Southern California falls from late fall through early spring.

The driest water season was 2006-07, when downtown Los Angeles received just 3.21 inches of rain.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Coach accused of lewd acts

A 23-year-old East Los Angeles high school volleyball coach has been arrested for investigation of engaging in lewd acts with two 15-year-old female students, authorities said.

Jonathan Adam Roldan, a coach at Esteban Torres High School, was arrested at his home Friday, sheriff's Capt. Mike Parker said. Charges had not yet been filed. The case will be presented to the Los Angeles County district attorney's office Tuesday.

Sgt. Richard Ruiz said Roldan had been working at the school for roughly three years.

A message seeking comment was left at a number listed for Roldan. Sheriff's officials did not know if he had an attorney.

Roldan is accused of engaging in an ongoing sexual relationship with one 15-year-old girl that lasted from October 2013 through December 2013, Ruiz said. The student told a teacher Friday afternoon, and the teacher informed administrators, who immediately alerted authorities.

During their investigation, a second 15-year-old girl alleged that she'd also been inappropriately touched in one instance, Ruiz said.

The encounters were allegedly in Roldan's pickup truck and usually at night, Ruiz said. The truck wasn't parked on school property, and afterward Roldan would usually give the girl a ride home, Ruiz said.

Investigators were at the school Monday conducting interviews and asking any other possible victims to come forward.

Roldan was being held on $1 million bail and was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday.

Gayle Pollard-Terry, a Los Angeles Unified School District spokeswoman, said she was working on a statement.

The investigation is being handled by the Sheriff's Department's Special Victims Bureau.

– AP

LOS ANGELES

TV Hall of Fame to add Louis-Dreyfus, Leno

The Television Academy is adding six new members to its Hall of Fame, including former "Seinfeld" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Jay Leno.

The academy's Hall of Fame selection committee announced the list of inductees for 2014 on Monday.

Louis-Dreyfus is a four-time Emmy Award winner and Leno is known as the host of the "Tonight Show." They'll be joined by media magnate Rupert Murdoch, writer-producer David E. Kelley and network executive Brandon Stoddard.

Sound pioneer Ray Dolby will be inducted posthumously.

The new Hall of Fame members will be honored at a Beverly Hills ceremony in March.

Past honorees include Lucille Ball, Walt Disney, Bob Hope and Bill Cosby.

– AP

WESTMINSTER

OC school district worker faces child porn charges

A maintenance worker for the Huntington Beach City School District faces charges of allegedly possessing and distributing child porn.

The Los Angeles Times reports 51-year-old Roger Scott Hewson will be arraigned Monday on one count of possession and control of child pornography and one count of distributing obscene matter.

District Superintendent Gregg Haulk said Friday that Hewson, of Fountain Valley, was put on unpaid leave after being arrested in November.

Haulk said Hewson, a painter for the district, was not often around children and usually painted when school was not in session.

If convicted, he faces more than three years in state prison and would be required to register as a sex offender for life.

He is out on $100,000 bail.

– AP

LOS ANGELES

Oil field blamed for illnesses to be modified

An urban oil field blamed for causing chronic respiratory illnesses and nosebleeds in a South Los Angeles neighborhood will be modified to prevent leaks and decrease pollution.

The Los Angeles Times reports Sunday that Allenco Energy Co. plans to upgrade its air pollution control systems, inspect and repair tanks, and make other changes.

The company voluntarily suspended operations Nov. 22 at the request of California Sen. Barbara Boxer. Since then pollution and reports of respiratory ailments have dropped.

Allenco is under investigation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the city attorney's office and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health has called for a comprehensive audit of the facility to better determine the health hazards its poses.

– AP

Southern California home sales fall in November

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO Southern California home sales fell in November as investors showed less interest and the supply of properties for sale remained thin compared to last year, a research firm said Monday. Prices held steady from October.

There were 17,283 new and existing houses and condominiums sold last month, down 10.4 percent from the same period of 2013, DataQuick said.

The median sales price in the six-county region was $385,000, rising slightly from $383,750 in October to match a three-month high. The median price rose 19.9 percent from last year — the 16th straight month of double-digit annual increases.

Waning interest from investors and all-cash buyers followed a sharp increase in prices earlier this year. Prices have held steady for the past six months.

Absentee buyers — mostly investors and second-home purchasers — bought 26.1 percent of the homes for sale in November, down from 28.7 percent the same period last year and 32.4 percent in January. It was the lowest level of investor activity in two years.

Buyers paying all cash accounted for 27.2 percent of sales, down from 34 percent a year earlier and 36.9 percent in January, according to the San Diego-based research firm. It was the lowest level of cash purchases since September 2010.

John Walsh, DataQuick's president, said November sales were underwhelming.

Sales also were influenced by tight supplies.

The California Association of Realtors said there was a 3.6-month supply of homes for sale in the Los Angeles metropolitan area in October — the most recent figure available — up from a 3.3-month supply a year earlier. Supply in a normal market is considered five to seven months.

Sales of lower-priced homes fell sharpest, which DataQuick said reflected a lack of inventory. Homes that sold for below $300,000 tumbled 36.7 percent from last year; sales between $300,000 and $799,999 climbed 5 percent; and homes for at least $800,000 increased 5.1 percent.

All six counties posted lower sales, with Ventura showing the steepest drop (16.5 percent), followed by Los Angeles (11.3 percent) and San Diego (10.5 percent).

Orange County, Southern California's most expensive, registered the strongest price gains, with the median sale rising 24.4 percent from last year to $560,000.

Ryan O'Neal, university make final pitch to jury

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES A jury should honor Farrah Fawcett's wishes and force Ryan O'Neal to hand over a portrait of the late actress done by Andy Warhol to the University of Texas at Austin, a lawyer for the school argued Monday.

The Oscar-nominated actor's attorney, however, urged jurors to allow O'Neal to keep the portrait, calling the university's pursuit of the artwork a case of greed that contradicted what Fawcett told friends about its ownership.

The lawyers made their cases during closing arguments in the case. Jurors began deliberating later Monday then left for the day without reaching a verdict.

Fawcett's image was displayed throughout closing arguments by university attorney David Beck and O'Neal's attorney Marty Singer. For much of Singer's arguments, an actual-size copy of the 40-inch by 40-inch Warhol portrait was displayed within a few feet of jurors.

O'Neal contends the artwork was given to him as a gift by Warhol and did not belong to Fawcett when she died in 2009. The "Charlie's Angels" star left all of her artwork to the university; her gift included another version of the Warhol portrait created in 1980 for a television special on his craft aired by "20/20."

O'Neal told jurors while testifying that his version represents an important connection to his longtime lover.

In his closing argument, Beck screened clips from Fawcett's reality show and the "20/20" broadcast and also showed Fawcett's trust and insurance documents that he said support the school's claim that it now owns the portrait.

"You've seen Farrah, you've heard from Farrah," Beck said. "Please, please, speak for her."

Singer, however, told jurors to look at the footage closely and not accept the university's contentions.

"There's something you never hear from Ms. Fawcett on tape," Singer said. "She never said, I own both portraits."

Jurors have heard nearly three weeks of testimony from Fawcett's former collaborators and numerous friends.

Craig Nevius, a reality television producer who collaborated with Fawcett on her reality show, testified that he believed O'Neal stole the portrait from the star's home days after her death.

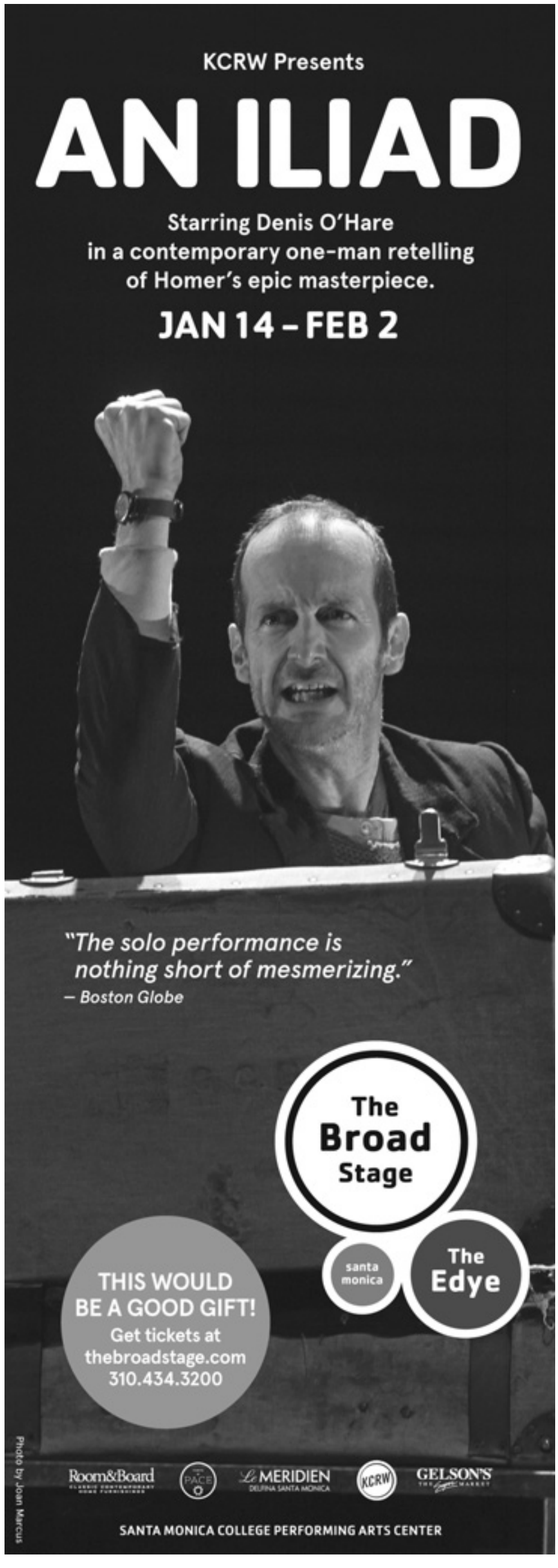
However, several of Fawcett's friends and a former caretaker testified for O'Neal that she told them that one of the Warhol portraits belonged to the actor.

One of the Warhols hung in O'Neal's home from 1980 until 1998 — a year after Beck contended the couple's relationship changed when Fawcett caught the actor having an affair.

The lawyer reminded jurors that they had been shown evidence that the actress paid for insurance for both portraits from at least 2002 until the time of her death.

O'Neal testified that he brokered the deal for Warhol to make the Fawcett portrait in exchange for receiving one copy. Beck, however, pointed to "20/20" footage that showed Fawcett appearing onstage at a Houston party and telling the audience that the artist had agreed to paint her portrait.

Singer described O'Neal and Fawcett as being like a married couple throughout their nearly 30-year relationship, despite never exchanging marriage vows. He said the actor had permission from the trustee of Fawcett's estate to remove the portrait from the home of the actress.





PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

leases with tenants. Downtown Santa Monica Inc. has approved five businesses for the ground floor:

- Haagen Daas, an ice cream shop;
- Orangetheory, a group fitness studio featuring interval-based cardio and strength training;
- Espresso Cielo, a coffee shop;
- KC's Chocolate Cafe, serving gourmet chocolates;
- Electric Yoga, a Iyengar yoga studio with women's athletic apparel.

PARKING STRUCTURES 3 AND 1

All of the structures built in the 1960s and '70s have undergone seismic strengthening except for structures 3 and 1, Agle said.

Last week, council reached a preliminary agreement with a developer for a nearby project proposed on Arizona Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets. The agreement, as currently written, includes 1,220 parking spaces, 580 of which would be public.

This, Agle said, could alleviate some of the parking needs Downtown.

"Some Downtown stakeholders are hopeful that if enough public parking is built at Fourth, Fifth [and] Arizona, in the long term, we could convert both PS 3 and PS 1 to other uses that would help enliven that part of Downtown," he wrote in an e-mail.

The short term plan, he said, is to demolish Parking Structure 3 and reconstruct Parking Structure 1. There is no timetable set for demolition.

PARKING STRUCTURE 5

Plans for Big Blue Bus to sublet its Transit Store and open a customer service center below Parking Structure 3 are on hold.

A deal, which would have put California Love, a clothing store, in the Transit Store's current space on Broadway, fell through when city planners realized the property has a shortage of bathrooms.

Currently, the Transit Store shares a bathroom with the adjacent cigar store, Lone Wolf, said BBB spokesperson Suja Lowenthal. The retail spaces are required to have independent bathrooms, she said, and any subleasing deal would first require them to be built.

"What we went to council with did not include the costs associated with adding new restrooms," she said.

BBB officials are not currently negotiating with any prospective tenants, but the space is still on the market.

Subleasing the store at the rate that California Love had agreed to would have saved BBB $219,000 over the next four years.

Plans to move BBB's customer service center to Parking Structure 5 kicked off a long-term conversation about what to do with its ground-floor retail. One plan involves merging Central Parking's customer service area with BBB and several other transit and City Hall public service booths.

Freeing up room for the customer service center could necessitate ending leases with a few of the tenants, some of whom have been around for decades.

Peter Katsikides, 74, owns the barber shop below the structure. He's been there for 21 years, he said, and City Hall has never approached him about moving out.

"It'll never happen," he said. "I want to die here."

dave@smdp.com



CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

other bids and was selected for its experience in urban coastal municipalities like Beverly Hills and Manhattan Beach.

TRASH BINS

City Hall wants to continue its replacement of boring, old concrete public-trash cans with newfangled solar powered compactors. Council will likely grant $100,000 to be spent on the Big Belly/Smart Belly compactors in the next year.

Thirteen of these cans were added to Main Street last year. They only need to be emptied twice a week, unlike the roughly 400 concrete bins, which require daily collection. Public works officials say that this will eventually reduce route hours required by collection trucks. It's unclear from the report how many bins $100,000 will buy City Hall.

Only Waxie Sanitary Supply submitted a bid and they will likely get the contract.

It includes two one-year extensions bringing the potential total to $300,000. Over the next three years, City Hall would like to complete bin replacement on Main Street and begin replacements Downtown, on Montana Avenue and Pico Boulevard.

FLOORS AND CARPET

An increased budget for carpet and flooring rounds out the trifecta of Department of Public Works' requests in this consent agenda. The department wants another $100,000, with $15,000 going to HM Carpet and $85,000 going to Elite Floorcovering bringing the annual total for the two companies to $350,000.

Additional projects have been identified, city officials said, resulting in the need for increased funds. Carpet and flooring replacements are planned for 1450 Ocean, City Hall, Fairview Library, Main Library, Joslyn Park Auditorium, the Public Safety Facility, and the Santa Monica Pier Carousel Building, city officials said.

The original contract asked for two one-year extensions totaling $650,000. This item asks that an additional $100,000 be added to the contract extensions, bringing the potential three-year total to $950,000.

PROPERTY SWAP

City Hall wants to sell a plot of land on 20th Street to Crossroads School of Arts and Sciences and concurrently buy an easement from the school on another plot of land.

The 772-square-foot public parcel on the 1700 block of 20th would go for $154,400 and allow Crossroads to put up a new science building.

City Hall wants to buy a 20-year easement on Crossroad's property at 1748 21st St. for a future bike path. Given that the bike path is still in the planning phase, City Hall would pay a $16,700 deposit on the land and would pay $150,300 if they decide to exercise an option on the land.

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CONTRACT
FROM PAGE 3

increases totaling of 11.5 to 13 percent over four years, in addition to regular step pay increases.

The university system also has reached other agreements in the past two months with unions representing nurses, lecturers, librarians and police officers.

Some observers say the deals might help other unions at the bargaining table, including one that represents more than 20,000 hospital employees who have participated in a pair of walkouts this year.

"According to some of the unions, there have been improvements at the negotiating table," said John Logan, director of labor and employment studies at San Francisco State University. "That gives some hope that a similar agreement can be worked out."

Logan said the two-tiered pension plan has been central in many of the negotiations with the UC system, and getting it knocked out of a proposed contract will help the unions' future prospects.

"I guess I would argue it's not a good deal for anyone that there would be a worse pension system for current or new employees," he said. "Hopefully we will see more of these kinds of deals in the public sector where sides can reach fair agreements."

Jelger Kalmijn, president of the professional and technical employees union, said the UC system never raised an issue of "financial constraint" during two years of negotiations. Kalmijn believes UC administrators didn't make retaining its employees a priority.

"The university is nonprofit and a lot of people come here to work for their whole life," Kalmijn said. "And that's why benefits are so important. It makes sense for the university to get good people here and keep them here."

UC officials called the agreement fair and the result of hard work on both sides.

"It has been a long road and we are pleased that we have been able to work through the issues and negotiate fair terms for our hard-working employees," said Dwaine B. Duckett, UC vice president of human resources.





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Initiative: Carbon-credit dollars for timber lots

NIGEL DUARA
Associated Press

RAINIER, Ore. For most of Oregon's history, the forests like the ones near Paul Nys' house were places where a landowner could get wealthy. Cultivated from seed, rows of trees were grown to a healthy middle age and then chopped down, buzzed into lumber at sawmills and shipped out.

Over the years, the retired schoolteacher has had many offers to buy his property, like many other landowners in the state's timber region, from both timber companies and developers. And each time, he would say no thanks.

Now 74, Nys and his wife have an unusual offer: Instead of getting money so someone could chop his trees down, he might get paid to leave them up. It's part of a program to preserve the forest land so that the trees can help absorb greenhouse gases.

And why not, he said. He worries about their health when they can longer care for themselves. The money could be used to help pay for medical bills. For those with fewer than 500 acres, like Nys, the arrangement could net participants more than $1,000 per year.

"My father, who lived to be 100 years old, always said we just rented the land," Nys said. "It's a trust, and we're happy to take the money from it."

Dotting the forestland, along the spines of two mountain ranges, are small tracts of timber lots that date back to the earliest days of Oregon homesteaders, family forests inherited by people who use the land as their retirement plans, stocks and savings accounts.

Nys has been reading trees since a Swede with no heirs deeded the land to his family decades ago.

He doesn't have to look far for examples of the forces that have shaped Oregon's landscape. At the south rim of his property there's a bare, brown patch of hillside, cleared of trees and their stumps by the timber company that owns the land.

The new program is based on the very opposite of that concept. Trees act as "carbon sinks," each one a great big straw that sucks carbon dioxide out of the air and into the tree and its root system. In a voluntary carbon market, companies that pollute or use lots of power, especially in the health care industry, seek to offset their carbon emissions by buying up the carbon-absorbing capacity of farms like Nys'.

Through a system established by the initiative, the carbon would be bundled and sold to health care companies, and Nys will pocket dollars based on the 20-year carbon-absorbing capacity of his trees. That could start at more than $5,000 as an up-front payment for the first five years of the deal, and continue to generate about $1,000 to Nys for the rest of the life of the contract.

The transaction is a delicate balance. Stories abound of carbon-credit scams, from nonexistent forests in the Philippines to schemes to defraud tribes in the Amazon, so the project's leaders are cautious when introducing timber owners to the concept.

But in the Oregon initiative, proponents say, everyone benefits. Corporations lower their carbon footprint, landowners get money for health care and the environment benefits from healthy trees.

"Everybody tells us they're doing a social good," said Catherine Mater, who conceived of the initiative, called Forest Health-Human Health. "Everybody makes the claim, but no one's able to show us the social value. We can."

Mater is a senior fellow at the Pinchot Institute in Corvallis, Ore., where researchers identified the chief reason landowners wanted to sell: their health care bills.

"Their biggest fear wasn't taxes, it wasn't development," said the institute's Brian Kittler. "It was their fear of not being able to afford their health care costs."

Left with bills to pay, these aging lot owners have few options. They can cut down the trees and turn them around for straight cash, or sell the land entirely, usually to developers looking to build residential or industrial lots.

So the initiative sought to avoid the forest land sell-off while paying the owners' hospital bills, with 10 percent of the money going to a community health care fund.

Their solution begins on land like Nys' tract.

The initiative calculates the carbon absorbed by Nys' forest land and bundles it with the carbon absorbed by the forest land of his neighbors. That bundle is then verified by an independent auditor that makes sure the trees exist and are indeed drawing the amount of carbon promised.

If it passes muster, the bundle is presented at a virtual international carbon marketplace, like a stock market for carbon credits, to companies looking to offset their carbon emissions. The Oregon forestry bundles will be targeted at companies in the health care sector.

Mater said she envisions similar projects on farms in places like Iowa, where the young are leaving home and farmers are looking for ways to make money off their land.

The idea of linking carbon credits to social welfare has taken off elsewhere, including a project that generates carbon credits from reforestation of the Mississippi Delta. One of its investors is a railway that runs routes through the delta.

American Carbon Registry spokeswoman Mary Grady said the connection between social good and improving the environmental makes sense for a buyer who wants to show it is investing in a local community.

"They (carbon-credit sellers) are targeting a certain buyer audience that's going to want to relate to that story," Grady said.

To Nys, the carbon credits represent the possibility of financial freedom. His children and grandchildren wouldn't be burdened by the bills for his health care, while the forest he's cultivated for a quarter-century is ensured to stand for decades, if not longer.

"It's a trust and an investment," Nys said. "It's what I'm leaving to everyone who comes after."

U.S. stocks rise on signs of stronger economy

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Stocks raced higher after two down weeks, as investors warmed up to the idea that the economy is getting better.

Stocks have fallen lately after good economic news as investors worried that the Federal Reserve would think its stimulus was no longer needed. But Monday's gains, driven by two corporate deals and a strong report on manufacturing, suggested that investors are focused more on growth and less on the central bank's actions.

For a while, investors felt, "'Oh my goodness, we won't be able to survive without Fed support.' But people are actually seeing that things really are getting better," said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial.

The Fed meets for two days beginning Tuesday, and officials could signal when the Fed will dial back the stimulus that has helped boost the stock market this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 129 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 15,884.57, after rising almost 175 points in the morning. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,786.54. The Nasdaq composite was higher by 28 points, or 0.7 percent, at 4,029.52.

The gains ended what had been a four-day losing streak for the S&P 500 index, beginning the week on the upbeat note after two down weeks.

Two major deals caught investors' attention: Chipmaker Avago Technologies is buying LSI Corp. for $6.6 billion. Avago rose $4.45, or 10 percent, to $50.10, while LSI rose $3.05, or 39 percent, to $10.96.

AIG is selling its aircraft leasing business for about $5.4 billion to Dutch leasing company AerCap. AIG has been selling major assets after getting a bailout during the financial crisis. Its shares rose 55 cents, or 1 percent, to $50.28.

The Avago-LSI deal helped make tech stocks the biggest gainers among the 10 industries in the S&P 500. Others winners included computer hard drive makers Western Digital and Seagate, which benefited from analyst upgrades.

Of those 10 industries, only consumer staples fell.

Also Monday, the Federal Reserve said factory production accelerated in November as auto production surged. The gains in manufacturing could help boost economic growth.

Just last week, such positive reports made investors nervous. They feared the Fed would think the economy was doing so well that its $85 billion in monthly bond-buying was no longer needed.

The Fed will release a statement and projections for the economy Wednesday. Economists are almost unanimous in believing the Fed will not begin winding down its stimulus program yet.

This year's stock rally has been fueled by that stimulus, higher corporate earnings, and a slow but steady recovery in the U.S. economy. All of the big indexes are up more than 20 percent.

Karyn Cavanaugh, market strategist with ING U.S. Investment Management, said she doesn't expect such large returns next year — maybe more like 10 percent.

"But that's actually good for investor confidence," she said. "When they see these big huge numbers, I think they look at it with kind of a jaded eye and think, 'Is that really sustainable? Maybe it's already run its course so I want to get out.'"

Energy stocks rose, led by Tesoro, which runs refineries and gas stations. It was up $2.07, or 4 percent, at $58.37. Exxon Mobil rose $1.91, or 2 percent, to $97.22 after being upgraded by Goldman Sachs.

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TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
WNW swell continues - plus sets out to the west in the region; SSW-S groundswell continues; DEEP AM HIGH TIDE; "Fair-Good" conditions developing as tide drops for best breaks

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
More SSW-S groundswell; WNW swell fades; DEEP AM HIGH TIDE; Improving "Fair+" conditions developing as tide drops

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
SSW-S swell continues; WNW leftovers; keeping an eye on conditions

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
New SSW-S swell; possible new NW swell mix; keeping an eye on conditions; larger sets possible for standout spots; 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 11, 2013**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 9

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 Los Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	A
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	C	C
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	B	A
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	A	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	B	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
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.	B	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+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	F	D
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	B
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	C	C
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	B	B
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	B	B
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty).	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	F	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A

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

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theatre for more information.

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

Out of the Furnace (R) 1hr 46min
1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Delivery Man (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13)
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
1:05pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:20pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
11:05am, 4:35pm, 9:45pm

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
12:30pm, 3:20pm, 4:00pm, 6:40pm, 10:00pm

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min
9:00pm, 10:30pm

Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
1:45pm, 7:40pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
11:50am, 1:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm

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

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

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

Sleeping Beauty (La belle endormie) (NR) 1hr 22min
7:30pm

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

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

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**

GO HAVE SOME FUN TONIGHT, CAPPY!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Return calls as soon as possible, and schedule a meeting quickly. Listen to your inner voice in the afternoon. Your intuition will push you in a new direction. Your ingenuity and imagination also will kick in. Tonight: Love being at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Weigh the pros and cons of a risk. What seems good in the morning might feel like a bad bet by late afternoon. Someone you see nearly every day could cause a problem. Tap into your intuition, and look to fulfill a long-term goal. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will head into the morning determined to follow through on a call or meeting that evaded your attention yesterday. You could feel empowered by an unexpected message or statement. Snap to it!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could start off the day on the wrong foot, but by the end of it, you'll be smiling despite the fact that a roommate or loved one seems irritated about an issue. You will feel confident that you can handle that problem, and you'll be right! Tonight: Do what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Pivotal meetings in the morning will force you to take stock of your life. By the afternoon, a quieter, more sensitive mood weaves through your day. Expect the unexpected where you feel vested. Steer a steady course. Tonight: Go for a good night's sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You'll have a discussion with someone in power whom you might have considered a problem. It will turn out that you were worried unnecessarily. A meeting later today lets you see how angry a friend is. Tonight: Opt for a heart-to-heart talk with this friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might be more aware of a boss and his or her expectations. In a sense, you tend to go along with this person's ideas probably more than you need to. Tonight: You could be up very late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to a key associate or adviser who is an excellent source of information and who serves as your confidant. A child or loved one could act in the most unpredictable way. Tonight: Nothing self-destructive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Deal with others directly. Do not delegate; otherwise, you could feel very uncomfortable with the results. Others appreciate your presence more than you might be aware. You have a way of brightening up others' days. Tonight: Join a friend to catch up on holiday news.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Others defer to you frequently. Your dominance and how you see a situation could change radically. With the understanding that people need to develop their own sense of timing and responsibility, you'll toss your crown to others. Tonight: Now go have some fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Pace yourself; you have a lot to accomplish. An unexpected matter needs resolution. First you need to detach in order to find the right answer. Deal with a problem and understand that you might be partially responsible for what has happened. Tonight: Hunker down at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your creativity emerges, which might make you rather unpredictable. A friend or associate might decide to join in the fun. When looking at your Christmas list, you could come up with several great choices. Tonight: Use your high energy constructively.

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

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

This year others, both from your professional and personal life, constantly seek you out. Their requests will run the scale of possibilities, and some of them could be excuses just to be around you. If you are single, your popularity is undeniable. Know that you don't need to commit unless you want to. You could meet someone very special in the summer. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other's company and want to spend more time together. You even might schedule that long-discussed vacation. CANCER handles your funds too carelessly. Seek advice elsewhere.

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



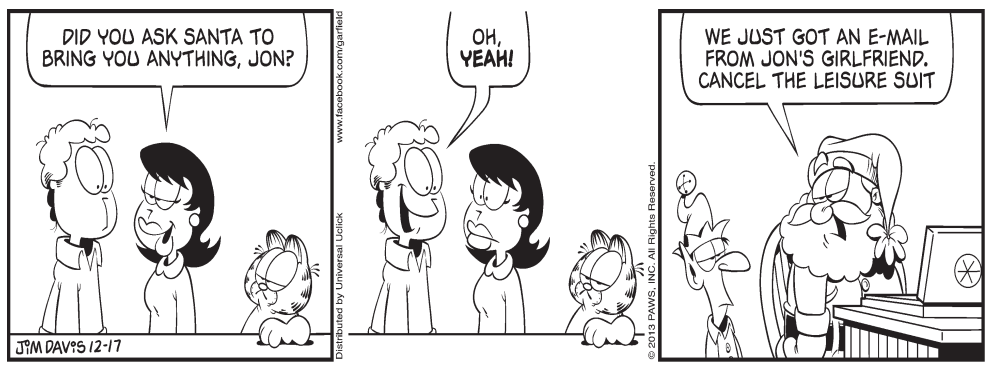
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★

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

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

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

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The Perfect Gift Guide 2013

...from stocking stuffers to handmade gems, bicycles to puzzles, party dresses to theater tickets, there's something for everyone! The full list of gift ideas at:

buylocalsantamonica.com/news-spotlights/

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MYSTERY REVEALED!

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader John Kreiss correctly identified this photo of St. Monica Catholic Church's new community center located at the corner of California Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 June celebrant
5 Shady spot
10 Add zest to
12 Island south of Sicily
13 2010 John Goodman movie
15 Canine command
16 Opening
17 Stir-fry vessel
18 Be short with
20 Vend
21 Civil War general
22 Grove growth
23 Avoid
25 Wound reminder
28 Luminous glows
31 Like bad excuses
32 Stately dance
34 Lyricist Gershwin
35 Write hastily
36 Early auto
37 1930 Joan Crawford movie
40 Tribal leader
41 Second airing
42 College VIPs
43 Airport area

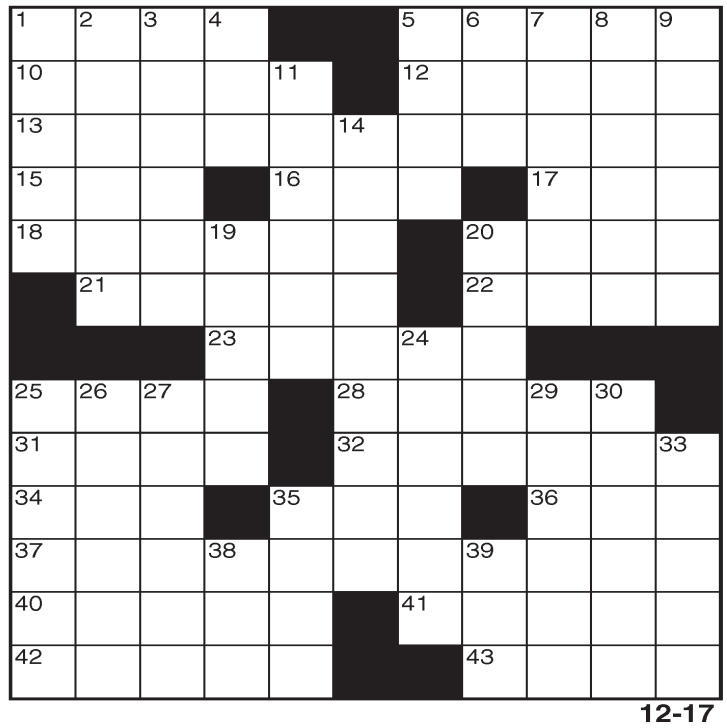
DOWN

1 Pane material
2 Irritating
3 Film set on Pandora
4 Cotillion girl
5 "Do I need to draw you —?"
6 Ewe's mate
7 Hand dryer
8 Peter of "Troy"
9 Irritate
11 1998 Winter Games site
14 "Elysium" star
19 Mission head
20 Exacting
24 Rock instrument
25 Like Bill Murray in "Ghostbusters"
26 King of music
27 Plummer of "Pulp Fiction"
29 Dawn goddess
30 Show to the door
33 1000 kilograms
35 Jelly buys
38 Toe count
39 One of the March sisters

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

Yesterday's answer

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



12-17



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) A young woman, accosted by a robber on Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill in October, told the man she was a low-paid intern -- but an intern for the National Security Agency, and that within minutes of robbing her, the man would be tracked down by ubiquitous NSA surveillance. She said, later (reported the Washington Examiner), the man just "looked at me and ran away (empty-handed)." (2) A 29-year-old cafeteria worker at Sullivan East High School in Blountville, Tenn., swore to police on the scene in October that she was not the one who took money from a co-worker's purse, and she voluntarily stripped to near-nakedness to demonstrate her innocence. "See? I don't have it," she said. Moments later, an officer found the missing $27 stuffed in the woman's shoe.

■ Katarzyna Dryden-Chouen and her husband Clive, busted in a London police raid last year with a marijuana grow operation that had netted an estimated (equivalent) of $450,000, insisted to a jury in October that their massive haul was not for sale but for "personal" use -- in that they worship the Hindu god Shiva, and truly believed that the world would end soon and that they needed a sizable offering to burn. (Actually, the jury bought it. "Distribution" charges were dismissed, but the couple still faces jail for their cultivation activity.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1960 - 1960 Munich Convair 340 crash: 20 passengers and crew on board as well as 32 people on the ground are killed.

1961 - Fire in the Gran Circus American in the city of Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the biggest tragedy in circus history.

1967 - Prime Minister of Australia Harold Holt disappears while swimming near Portsea, Victoria and is presumed drowned.

1969 - The SALT I talks begin.

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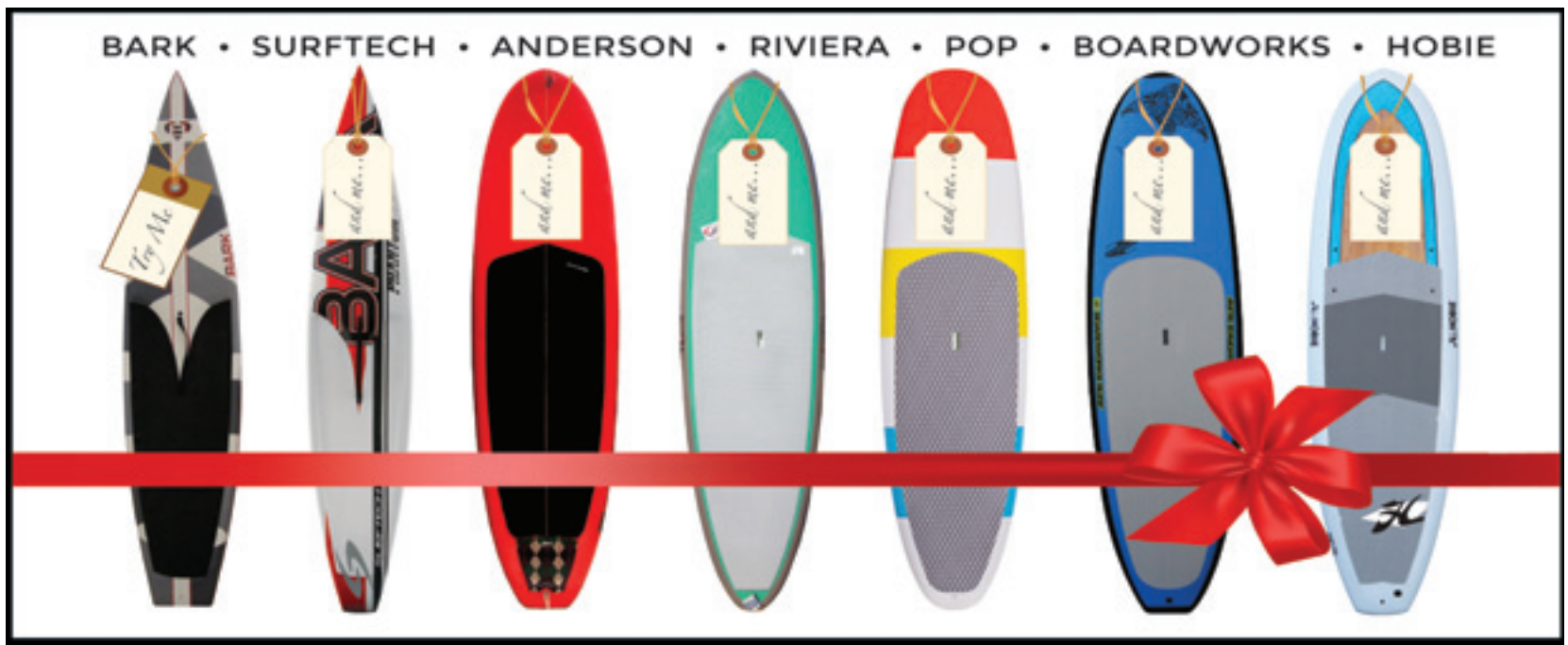
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Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale as of Mid December 2013			
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	**4,936,170**
North of Montana	=	$	**4,519,824**
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	**2,675,516**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

Buyers' Needs

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

- Raw Land/Teardown/Fixer - North of Montana, Brentwood, Palisades - $1,500,000 - $4,500,000
- Single Family Home - Santa Monica, Brentwood, Palisades, Bel Air, Malibu, Westwood - Min 3+1.75 - Pool/Room for Pool - $1,200,000 - $3,000,000
- Single Family Home - Crestwood Hills - Minimum 3+1.75 - Up to $1,800,000

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