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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013
Volume 13 Issue 29

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

HOW SWEET THE SOUND
SEE PAGE 4

THE GO CLIPPERS ISSUE

Six fitness trainers apply for group classes in Palisades Park

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK No need for a lottery for fitness training licenses in Palisades Park.

The lottery deadline expired this week and only six trainers applied for group licenses, well below the maximum limit of 20.

Permits for holding fitness classes at all parks will be required starting Jan. 1 but only 10 have been purchased thus far, said Karen Ginsberg, director of Community and Cultural Services.

With the permit requirements just two weeks away, the 10 applicants is a far cry from what city officials observed earlier this year.

A week-long study by City Hall found that there were 73 groups with more than two participants and 74 groups with one or two participants out in Palisades Park, Ginsberg said.

Some of those numbers could reflect one

SEE FITNESS PAGE 9



NEW HOME

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The Lanzarotta family views the nativity scenes at their new location at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on Tuesday afternoon. The scenes had a long-time home in Palisades Park until a ban last year forced them onto private property. Last year they were located on Ocean Park Boulevard.

State OKs disputed parking structures

Tongva Park, Olympic Drive to follow, city officials say

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN City Hall can cross six items off the long list of problems caused by the redevelopment agency dissolution.

Six disputed Downtown parking structures are off the hook, California Department of Finance officials told City Hall in a letter earlier this week.

Tongva Park and the extension of Olympic Drive remain in dispute, according to the state, but city officials are confident that they will be approved.

Every redevelopment agency in the state folded in 2011 to plug a budget deficit after a California Supreme Court-backed decision by Gov. Jerry Brown.

In October, City Hall agreed to pay the state a $57 million settlement over RDA funds, ending the first half of the dispute. Properties are the second part of the dispute, with the state refusing the transfer of 11 parcels and projects that used RDA funding for financing.

Now that they've agreed to relinquish Parking Structures 1 through 6, only Tongva Park and four plots related to the extension of Olympic Drive are left untransfered.

The state told city officials that if Santa Monica's local redevelopment successor agency oversight board adopts these two projects as government-purpose assets, they too will be relinquished, said Andy Agle, director of Planning and Economic Development. Department of Finance spokesperson H.D. Palmer confirmed this to be true.

SEE STRUCTURES PAGE 10

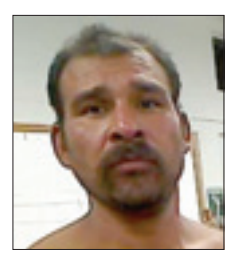
Illegal immigrant pleads guilty to attempted murder

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

DOWNTOWN An illegal immigrant who stabbed a man waiting for a bus with his girlfriend in Downtown has plead guilty to one count of attempted second-degree murder and was sentenced to nine years in state prison, Santa Monica police said.

Upon his release from prison, authorities said Francisco Leon-Urbalexo, 40, of Sonora, Mexico will be released to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation.

Investigators used DNA evidence to link him to the stabbing, which took place Aug. 13, 2012. Police said the victim, a 19-year-old Los Angeles man, had just left a local restaurant on Santa Monica Boulevard in



LEON-URBALEXO

SEE GUILTY PAGE 8

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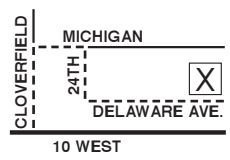
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April Rocha Photography
Santa Monica Daily Press

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 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.

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.

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.

Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013

Housing Commission meets
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4:30 p.m.
The Housing Commission is dedicated to preserving existing affordable housing in Santa Monica and creating new housing opportunities for residents with low and moderate incomes. For more information, visit smgov.net.

Meet a legend
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
In his memoir, "I Remember Me," legendary funny man Carl Reiner weaves a tapestry of colorful tales, from his days as a young boy growing up in the Jewish section of the Bronx to his later years as one of Hollywood's most revered and respected comedians. At this special event, Reiner shares stories from his career working alongside greats like Mel Brooks, Dick Van Dyke and so many others. A book sale and signing follows the author's talk. This event is ticketed. Free tickets released in the Main Library lobby one hour prior to program. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Friday, Dec. 20, 2013

Musical guy
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m.
Creating Arts Co. 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.

Art that grows
bG Gallery
1431 Ocean Ave.,
5 p.m. — 10 p.m.
bG and Hamilton Galleries present a unique holiday exhibit of giftable works: "From Little Things Big Things Grow." Inspired by the Paul Kelly song of the same name, this exhibit explores how from small beginnings exponentially larger things can rise naturally, spiritually, and socially. Artists were given the title as a theme and asked to come up with an artwork with their own interpretation. Cost: Free. For more information, call (310) 878-2784.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Local woman missing

The Santa Monica Police Department is seeking any information as to the whereabouts of longtime Ocean Park resident Cynthia Smith.

Disabled, Smith is often seen with her golden retriever service dog, Channi. She was last seen in Santa Monica on Nov. 26.

A survivor of a major stroke and resulting brain surgery in 2007, Smith is 53, 5-foot-7, has blue eyes and weighs approximately 165 pounds. She has curly, reddish-blond hair and may have been driving a burgundy-red colored four-door Acura with a sunroof.

This disappearance is highly uncharacteristic of Smith. Her family and friends are very concerned that she might have had another stroke and could be in a hospital somewhere unable to identify herself.

If you have any information regarding Smith, contact Sherry Boyd at sherryaboyd@gmail.com. Or, contact the SMPD at (310) 395 9931 and refer to case No. 13-154115.

– JACK NEWORTH

SACRAMENTO

English standards for Common Core up for review

California is taking another step forward in enacting the new Common Core for English language arts by gathering public comment on new guidelines and standards, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said Tuesday.

The English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade 12 (ELA/ELD Framework) will provide guidance for implementing the new Common Core State Standards and California's new English Language Development Standards. Addressing both English language arts and English language development, the ELA/ELD Framework will help ensure that California's students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and careers. The ELA/ELD Framework will help teachers, publishers, and other educators design instructional materials, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional learning.

"Across California, teachers and administrators are hard at work making this transition to modern new standards," Torlakson said. "With this framework, we're working to help guide that process, and I look forward to the public's feedback."

Standards define the knowledge and skills students should acquire at each grade level. The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards for English language arts in 2010, and the new English Language Development Standards in 2012. This new ELA/ELD Framework is aligned to those standards. The board last approved a framework in this area in 2006.

The ELA/ELD Framework breaks new ground by providing a blueprint for relating English language development for English learners to the English language arts standards for a cohesive program, education officials said. The draft framework focuses on the teaching and learning of English literacy and language in the English classroom and includes strategies for extending that focus into all subject areas.

It also provides direction to educators to enact the standards in the context of California's diversity and helps them teach the critical thinking skills students will need for 21st century jobs. The ELA/ELD Framework has two primary audiences: educators and developers/publishers of curriculum programs and materials.

The public has until Feb. 13, 2014, to review the ELA/ELD Framework, available in hard copy throughout the state and also online. The draft framework is on the California Department of Education's web page, (www.cde.ca.gov) where the public may leave comments via the digital survey or by e-mail. Interested parties may also visit one of the 23 Learning Resource Display Centers statewide to review hard copies of the draft framework.

– DP



CYNTHIA SMITH

Witnesses tell of car rampage at Venice Beach

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES A woman in a wheelchair testified on Tuesday that a car slammed into her back as it plowed through a crowd at the popular Venice Beach boardwalk, turning a cheerful summer evening into a scene of pain and death.

Nancy Martinez, 28, wore a back brace and tearfully recounted the rampage in court.

"It threw me," she said through a Spanish interpreter. "I flew."

Martinez and other witnesses testified at a preliminary hearing for Nathan Campbell, 38, a transient from Colorado who has pleaded not guilty to murder, assault and hit-and-run driving in the Aug. 3 tragedy.

Witness Kevin Salveson identified Campbell as the motorist.

"I saw part of his face and he was smiling," Salveson said of the driver. "I saw that he didn't have any remorse — smiling like he enjoyed what he had

SEE **VENICE** PAGE 8

$1.1B California paint ruling may prompt new suits

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Paint makers could face a surge of lawsuits after a California state court judge ordered three companies to pay $1.1 billion to help government agencies get rid of lead from an estimated 5 million homes in the state.

The ruling, while preliminary, was a rare loss for an industry that had turned back some 50 lawsuits filed nationwide over the last 25 years by public agencies seeking billions of dollars to remove lead-based paint from homes built before the federal government banned the product from the U.S. market in 1987.

"The California ruling is certainly a significant development," said David Logan, a class action expert and dean of Roger Williams University Law in Rhode Island. "If it gets upheld, it will open a new path to victory for public agencies."

Lisa Rickard, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Legal Reform, predicted "a surge of frivolous lawsuits" because of Monday's ruling, which the industry plans to appeal.

Exposure to lead is linked to learning disabilities and other health problems, especially among poor children living in older dwellings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention earlier this year said 535,000 children had dangerously high levels of lead.

In lawsuits against the industry filed on behalf of state and local governments, lawyers have argued that lead-based paint is a "public nuisance" like a major air polluter or a dumper of toxic materials into a river. The lawsuits claimed that unsafe levels of lead found in thousands of children's bloodstreams each year was caused by the paint industry.

But the lawsuits foundered for a variety of reasons. Many older homes have several layers of lead-based paint, making it impossible to determine which layer of paint was responsible for a resident's lead poisoning — if in fact paint was the culprit. Lead also is found in water, jewelry, toys and other places.

Other cases were dismissed after judges rejected the "public nuisance" claims, ruling that individuals must file individual lawsuits proving a paint company caused them direct harm.

Finally, the industry argued that the old paint is no longer a significant public health risk and that it

SEE **PAINT** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reduce taxes

Editor:

I was very surprised to read about the proposed $35 million bond for a fire station ("Council to consider $35M bond for fire station," Dec. 16). I was shocked and disappointed City Hall would even consider a way around the required two-thirds vote. There is a reason for a two-thirds vote and it is to insure that a large majority (not just 50 percent) of citizens approve of future tax increases. While City Hall may have found a loophole around it, I would question if it is legal and it is certainly not moral.

I was also surprised to read that just under half of the residents were against the bond. Generally in this city of nearly 75 percent renters, any bond is approved as the renters do not directly see the impact on property tax bills. Landlords are not necessarily allowed to pass through the full impact of bond costs due to rent control and renters have a very low relocation cost if at some point they can't afford the higher costs. Homeowners have no choice. The cost of selling a home, paying realtor fees, etc., is really not a very realistic option.

This would indicate to me that for once residents are fed up with new taxes and expenditures. If the fire station was so important, why did you spend $43 million on a new park, which is located where nobody lives? Why are you building a new library when the perfectly adequate Fairview Branch is only 0.7 miles or three minute drive or 13 minute walk away? Why are you paying police and fire employees over $200,000 per year?

All I seem to hear about is affordable housing. Why is City Hall seemingly always trying to make this an unaffordable place to live for the people who already live here? Let's stop worrying about providing inexpensive rental properties for people who are currently not residents and making it affordable for those of us who have invested their life savings to live here.

Please reduce expenditures and reduce property and sales taxes.

Nick Pondergracz
Santa Monica





Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The older the violin, the sweeter the music

I'M NOT ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT. I DO LET a few things slide by me.

I'm trying to remember if I ever went to a concert by our Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra before. I think so, but it was years ago. Then they fell off my radar.

I was going to go to their "Farewell Tribute to Santa Monica's Civic Auditorium" concert last May, but maybe I just couldn't stand acknowledging the thought of losing that cherished venue. Tear it down? It seems unthinkable. Maybe that was the beginning of my curiosity about the awful things about to appear, and the treasures to disappear, in my historic adopted hometown, and why.

What is it with that little stretch of Main Street, that there are people wanting to knock down the historic/iconic "Chain Reaction" sculpture and bury our architecturally beautiful, legendary concert hall? I've begun to understand that it's the ancient root of all evil — money. The land the Civic and "Chain Reaction" share is incredibly valuable, and any developer who could get his or her hands on it is going to be one fat cat. If our local government doesn't prevent it, who's to blame a developer from trying to make a buck (followed by seven or eight zeroes)?

But wait! Our elected officials do care. They recently appointed a blue-ribbon committee to find a way to save and restore the Civic. (Sad enough that across the street we will be losing another of our historic recreation sites, as our Bay Shore Lanes bowling alley is slated to be replaced by a four-to-six story whatever.)

So save the Civic, save "Chain Reaction," save money, save coupons, save our ship, and save all the things that make us Santa Monica and not West L.A. or Miami.

But what about our Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra? It very nearly went under last year, and it had nothing to do with developers, but certainly with money.

My walk to Barnum Hall last Sunday for their most recent concert made me very glad they're still here. It was a Beethoven-heavy program, and the opening "Symphony No. 6" ("Pastorale") was a delight. I spoke to several friends who have attended a little more (ahem) regularly than I who all agreed the symphony did an exceptional job with that one.

But even when they're not quite the Berlin Philharmonic, they're valuable purveyors of an evening or afternoon of classical music, well-played — and conducted. And their concerts are always free, as they have been since their founding in 1945.

Many of the musicians are unpaid, others union professionals. Which means you have a large group of people with other jobs and obligations, for whom it must be extremely difficult to get together for very many rehearsals. (The Berlin Phil musicians all get paid, you know. Handsomely.) Conductor Guido Lamell had us stand (tradition) to run through the bare basics of the concluding "Hallelujah Chorus" audience singalong, and as he finished and turned toward the orchestra, he turned back to us and quipped, "… and that's about how much rehearsal time as we get, too!"

Here are a few things I learned recently about our symphony. The history and politics of the last two seasons are pretty interesting.

After 67 successful seasons, always somehow raising the money from sources large and small, it looked like the end of the line. They had been operating in the red for five years and were fast depleting their reserves. The executive director resigned, and the maestro of 21 years, Allen Gross, stepped into that position. Not long after, the board of directors announced that there would not be a 68th season. I'm told that every one of them regrets making that public declaration.

Gross left shortly thereafter, late August of 2012, to start a new Orchestra Santa Monica. And he took almost all the musicians from the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra with him. But there's a whiff of rotting fish to that whole scenario.

You can't launch a new orchestra in a couple of months. You have to have some startup money, a place to play, and so on. There are appearances that he had been planning this for a while, and the board's announcement was his opportunity. Gross told the Santa Monica Daily Press in September that "we intend to be a permanent, viable organization. As we get going we hope to raise our profile and get significant support, both from personal donors, corporate support and grants to be able to continue this." So his stated intention was to compete with the wounded 67-year-old institution for very hard-to-come-by funding that would not likely go to two symphony orchestra in one small city.

Seeing a crisis that needed fixing, in came a new executive director, Alex Novakovitch, and the board was whittled from 12 to 10 members with only three holdovers, with a new chairman and president.

Lamell, who, ironically, applied for the position 21 years ago when Gross got the job, stepped up in October and said, "I'll conduct, and program, and we'll do that November concert, and I'll do it without pay the first year." At that time he was left with only eight musicians, for an orchestra that should have 80. (Most of them have since returned.) But while Gross was an academic, Lamell was a working musician, a violinist for the L.A. Philharmonic, so he grabbed his Rolodex (that's a joke), looked under "musicians," and a month later the 68th season began. Lamell became only the seventh conductor/music director in the Symphony Orchestra's long history. Another contrast between Lamell and Gross: the former lives in Santa Monica, the latter Pasadena. (For those of you who care about that sort of thing. I do.)

My wife had an old family friend give her an album, of four 78s, by the then-named Santa Monica Civic Symphony Orchestra, led by Jacques Rachmilovich, of their recording of Tchaikovsky's "First Symphony," from that first 1945-46 season. (They were the first anywhere to record both his "First" and "Second" symphonies.) It's in almost pristine condition, and the symphony people were thrilled to get it and will probably feature the very cool cover (and possibly the inside info, which charmingly hypes in words and black-and-white photos, both the orchestra and Santa Monica) during their 70th year celebration next season.

Maybe that makes up for all the concerts I missed in the past.

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

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2013. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ronald Reagan would be smiling

BECAUSE RONALD REAGAN LEFT OFFICE almost 25 years ago we shouldn't be surprised that most young adults do not remember him. But the real question is whether his views about America and its place in history retain any relevance at all to today's Millennial generation.

When Reagan, after his presidency, spoke to a meeting of members of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association in 1992, he stressed the importance of passing on our hard earned freedoms to future generations and the willingness to fight to preserve them. He contrasted our Constitution with those of other nations, saying almost all the world's constitutions are documents that tell the people what their privileges are, while with ours, "we the people" tell government what it is allowed to do. Speaking of the importance of limiting overreaching government, he said, "This belief has been the underlying basis for everything I have tried to do."

Since the election of Barrack Obama, with his costly big government agenda, commentators have opined that the values associated with free markets, limited government and individual responsibility do not resonate with the millennial generation. This demographic segment of American society, those under 30 years of age, were huge backers of Obama. Many pointed to the president's youthful demeanor, his interest in sports, his addressing issues with appeal to the young, like student debt, as making him "hip" and "connected" in their eyes. Some pundits analogized him to a rock star, speculating that the president's popularity with young people would result in a permanent grip by the Democratic Party on the "youth vote."

However, a funny thing happened on the way to younger voters becoming permanent captives of those who would expand government and limit freedoms in exchange for the promise of future benefits.

A recent survey by the Harvard University Institute of Politics shows that millennials will not be so easily led down the garden path. Confidence in President Obama has declined so far that nearly half of millennials, and a majority of those under 25, would throw him out of office. However, those under the Capitol dome fare no better — these voters believe that members of Congress should be swept out, too.

The poll focuses on several issues that seem to have contributed to young adults' disillusionment with politics, political leaders and the president in particular. The first is the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare, which is opposed by 56 percent of millennials. Perhaps they've come to the realization that being told that they have to purchase something they may not want or need rubs them the wrong way.

The second is the surveillance by the National Security Agency of Internet, phone, and social media use by American citizens. Only 19 percent approve of being monitored in any of these activities.

Analysis by the Institute of Politics says, "Millennials are losing touch with government and its programs because they believe government is losing touch with them."

Reagan would not have been surprised that young adults have changed their attitude when confronted with clear evidence of the downside of concentrated government power given his unbounded faith in the judgment of the American people, both young and old, when they are provided the facts. However, he would, no doubt, have taken this opportunity to remind us to continue to reach out to every new generation, sharing the story of America, and telling them that "we the people" must hold tightly to the reins of government, or risk losing our liberty.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

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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How early is too early to plant?

DEAN FOSDICK
Associated Press

"Plant early and you'll plant often" is an old saying containing more than a kernel of caution. Timing is everything in gardening.

Start too soon and you'll lose your crop to lingering cold weather. Too late and you'll gamble with random occurrences.

So when is the right time to put plants in the ground?

That depends on your location; soil type and temperature; microclimates, and plant selection, said Shawn Olsen, an agriculture professor with Utah State University.

"One of the most underutilized tools in gardening is the soil thermometer," Olsen said. "Plant your cool weather crops when the soil warms to 35 or 40 degrees. Go with your warm weather crops when it gets up to 55 or 60 degrees."

Also pay attention to the variability of maturity dates listed on seed packets and plants, he said. "Many radishes, for example, mature in 30 days."

Microclimates play a large role, Olsen said.

"In this area, it makes a huge difference if you're planting on the top of a slope, the middle or on the bottom, because cold air tends to go down," he said.

Anything that is heat-absorbing or gives off infrared radiation at night is useful. That means planting alongside a house, stone walls or outbuildings.

"Generally speaking, the south side of a building is warmer; the north side cooler," Olsen said. "Learn to take advantage of that."

Loose, sandy soil with a sunny exposure will dry early, he said, while "wet, packed soil takes longer. Your plants will just sit there."

Have some season-extending tools available — cold frames, frost blankets, grow lights, high or low tunnels, row covers or a hobby greenhouse, said Lewis Jett, an extension horticulturist with West Virginia University.

"You can get a two-week buffer with planting aids," he said. "Some give you as many as three to eight weeks."

Raised beds or anything that warms the soil, like mulch, is going to be helpful, he said. "If a person is trying to be early, having some sort of a mulch down is critical to the crop — especially warm-season crops like melons or tomatoes."

It also pays to know your USDA plant hardiness zone.

"Look to your state extension service calendars," Jett said. "They'll give you the dates of the average early frost and the average late frost. A good time to start planting is right after that spring date."

Learn to distinguish between cool-season and warm-season plants.

Cabbage, broccoli, onions, peas, radishes, spinach and turnips are typical cool-season crops. These hardy plants will tolerate light frosts, prefer temperatures in the 50- to 60-degree range and lose some of their quality in the heat. They can be planted again in mid- to late summer for a fall harvest.

Tomatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon, eggplant and pumpkins, on the other hand, are tender plants craving warmth, or readings at least 15 degrees higher than the cool season varieties. Start them early in a greenhouse or indoors, transplanting them after nighttime temperatures moderate.

"The easiest way to get things growing is to put them under fluorescent lights in a PVC pipe network covered by greenhouse plastic," Olsen said. "Sunny windows generally don't have enough energy to grow plants."

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What happens when parents don't like to play?

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK Silvana Clark spent 10 years as a parks and recreation supervisor for the city of Bellingham, Wash., yet when it came time to raise children, there were certain things she just didn't love to play.

"When we played Monopoly we were the worst. We actually applauded each other if you could steal money out of the bank without the other person knowing it," she recalled. "We would say to our daughter, 'You stole $100. That was so good. Just don't do that with your friends.'"

When the younger of her two now-grown daughters was about 8, mom realized she hadn't experienced the scent of fresh-baked cookies filling their house.

"I just don't like to bake cookies, so I took a pot of water and I put cinnamon and vanilla in it and I boiled it," Clark said. "She came home from school and she goes, 'Wow, what's that smell? That smells so good.' And I said, 'Well if I were baking cookies, that's what it would smell like.'"

But there were countless other things Clark and her husband enjoyed, like making homemade Play-Doh, in mom's case, or pushing the girls on a rope swing that straddled a pond, in dad's. The couple lived guilt-free about the rest, believing their kids had plenty of quality time with their parents.

When it comes to "play," parents should not feel honor-bound to participate in exactly what their kids want to do, said Clark, who now lives in Seattle and has written a dozen primarily family-focused books.

Like it or not, the bigger question, she said, is whether parents have forgotten how to play altogether in these stressed-out, overbooked times, when dropping kids off at classes or other structured activities prevails, along with loads of time-eating homework.

"I'm totally shocked when I'll do a parenting seminar and I'll do something as simple as say, 'Why don't you play hide and seek in your house?' and people look at me and they'll go, 'What? I never thought of playing hide and seek in our house,'" Clark said. "I'm not asking them to construct a model of the Eiffel Tower or anything."

Quality time, she suggested, doesn't have to mean a hated board game or endlessly pretending you're a cat. It can mean a trip to the hardware store, if done with spirit — and even TV, something parents may depend on a little too much during school breaks.

One weekend ahead of the Tony Awards, her theater-loving family spent an afternoon drawing the New York skyline on a huge length of butcher paper and taped it to the wall. They taped down red construction paper for a red carpet leading to the TV room, bought sparkling cider and dressed in their fanciest clothes for the broadcast.

"As long as kids have your full attention, it can be as simple as taking the dog for a walk together or getting a bird feeder and reading about how to attract birds," Clark said.

Parents shouldn't feel guilty for not liking certain games or a particular type of play, agreed Rita Eichenstein, a developmental psychologist in Los Angeles.

"Your child will know how you are feeling, no matter how much you fake it, so it's best to create games and activities that you both find fun," she said.

In addition to developmental benefits for kids, play can reawaken and relax parts of parents' brains that help them live more in the moment , where children naturally dwell, Eichenstein said.

When a parent has to suck it up and play something they're not into, Clark suggests setting a timer for 15 or 20 minutes, or establish a special time of the week that's "kid choice."

Motivational coach Darah Zeledon in Plantation Acres, Fla., is the mom of five, ranging from 5 to 12, and acknowledges she has trouble unplugging if the laundry, dishes and spilled cat litter aren't dealt with.

"It saddens me to be this way because I recognize that this window is short and time is fleeting, and for not much longer will my kids be begging me to play with them," she said.

She's honest with her kids about it, though, and works to remain approachable.

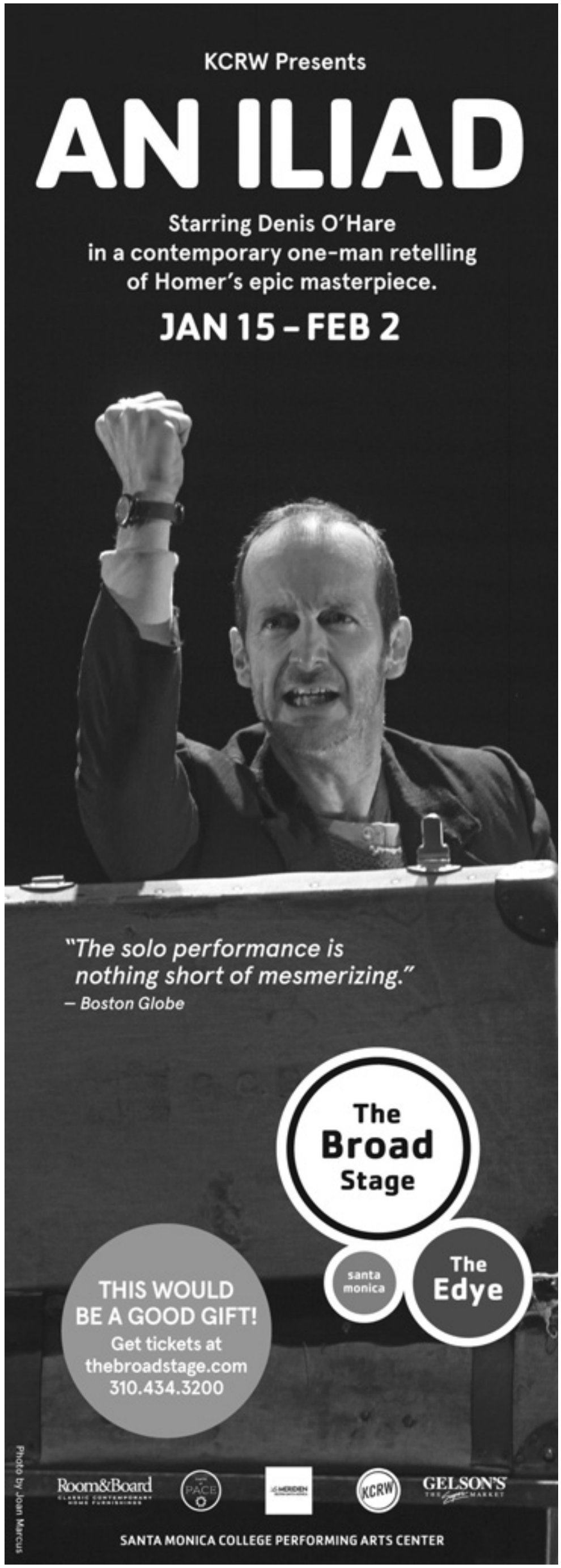
"My kids always tell me what they're feeling, even and especially when they're pissed at me for not taking the time to play with them," Zeledon said.

Patrick Lee, in the central Missouri city of Ashland, raised four daughters and fostered two sons. "I played some, but I didn't need to be their playmate all the time and I certainly didn't feel guilty about it," he said, noting that he worked from home during much of their upbringing and his wife homeschooled.

At 62, now a grandfather, he found himself looking back on those times during a family gathering at Thanksgiving. He was in a park far from home and was the only adult in the group to accompany a pack of young relatives on the slides. Eight other grown-ups stood on the perimeter and watched, he said.

"Now that my kids are grown, I don't regret my choices to let them amuse themselves," Lee said. "Those were formative, imaginative times for them. But sometimes I wish I had played with them more."





GUILTY
FROM PAGE 1

Downtown with his girlfriend around 6:20 p.m. when he was randomly attacked and stabbed multiple times.

The victim, identified by police as Jarred Hill, was hospitalized with moderate injuries.

Leon-Urbalexo fled the scene on foot.

Leon-Urbalexo was tracked by Santa Monica detectives to Yuma, Ariz., where he was being held by federal authorities for illegal entry into the U.S., and brought back to California through the extradition process in June of 2013 to face criminal charges.

kevinh@smdp.com

VENICE
FROM PAGE 3

done."

Prosecutors contend that Campbell intentionally ran his black 2008 Dodge Avenger up onto a sidewalk to bypass barrier posts and targeted vendor booths and pedestrians at the tourist spot, plowing into them at speeds of up to 35 mph.

Killed was Alice Gruppioni, 32, a newlywed from Bologna, Italy, who was on her honeymoon. Sixteen other people were hurt.

Public defender Philip Dube has said Campbell was "profoundly depressed" after the incident and he did not intentionally try to hit anybody. Dube has called it a horrible accident.

A judge will determine after the hearing whether there is enough evidence for Campbell to stand trial. The second part of the hearing resumed after nearly a month's delay so tourists who saw the events could return to California to testify.

John Drolette of Fresno said he was in an upstairs motel room overlooking the boardwalk when he heard a car engine revving, then saw the driver crash into an automatic teller machine and knock over several vendors' tents.

The motorist struck a woman and kept going with her on the car hood until she finally was flung off, Drolette said.

Mustafa Balci said he and his wife were inside their tent when the car plowed into both of them.

"I thought, 'it's going to stop.' But it didn't," he said.

Balci was struck in both knees and lost sight of his wife. Both were treated for their injuries at a hospital.

Santa Monica police Officer Brent Wilkening previously testified that Campbell walked into a police station in nearby Santa Monica only two hours after the crash and said he was the motorist being sought.

If convicted, Campbell could face life in prison.

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FITNESS
FROM PAGE 1

trainer teaching multiple classes.

In October, City Council passed an ordinance requiring fitness trainers to pay fees to work out in public parks after some complained about the trainers and their clients taking over Palisades, ruining grass while disturbing the peace.

Group trainers at Palisades Park are required to pay $8,100, which Santa Monica Outdoor Fitness Coalition head Eric Dick says is too high, as evidence of the low turnout for permits.

"From the very moment they made that … decision to change the fee structure from what they had proposed, we knew immediately that that was going to price most of the trainers out," she said.

City officials had recommended a percentage-base permit fee, one that would be increased for Palisades Park to reflect its high demand as a workout space. Council, instead, adopted a fee-based permit suggested by a local trainer, Jeff Jordan, during the public comment portion of the meeting. He'd heard about the rates from another trainer based outside of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Dick called this "sloppy governance."

"Nobody bothered to do the math," she said. "It's absolutely prohibitive to ask people to pay what amounts to almost 25 percent of their revenues to train in the park."

City officials had estimated that the average annual salary of a fitness trainer is $40,000.

"They don't do this to get rich," Dick said. "They're not doing this so they can go buy a house at the north end of Montana."

Fitness training at Palisades Park was nearly outlawed completely, with three council members and seven neighborhood groups favoring a ban. Advocates of a ban have pointed to the fact that grass at the parks are worn out by trainers. These classes overcrowd the parks, ban advocates say, with trainers sometimes bringing in free-weights or loud boom-boxes.

"The people who wanted to ban training in Palisades Park, they essentially got exactly what they wanted," Dick said.

The ordinance is a pilot and will last for only a year.



File photo

WORKING IT: Lisa Foux (left) works out with trainer Lily Moler in Palisades Park.

Even outside of Palisades Park, trainers are saying that the fees are problematic.

Last week, about a dozen people spoke during the public comment portion of the council meeting, asking for fees to be reduced for Brad Keimach, who runs Beach Yoga with Brad. Council didn't bite.

Keimach has been teaching yoga for five and half years on the beach and class sizes run from three to 50 members. He charges $10 per person.

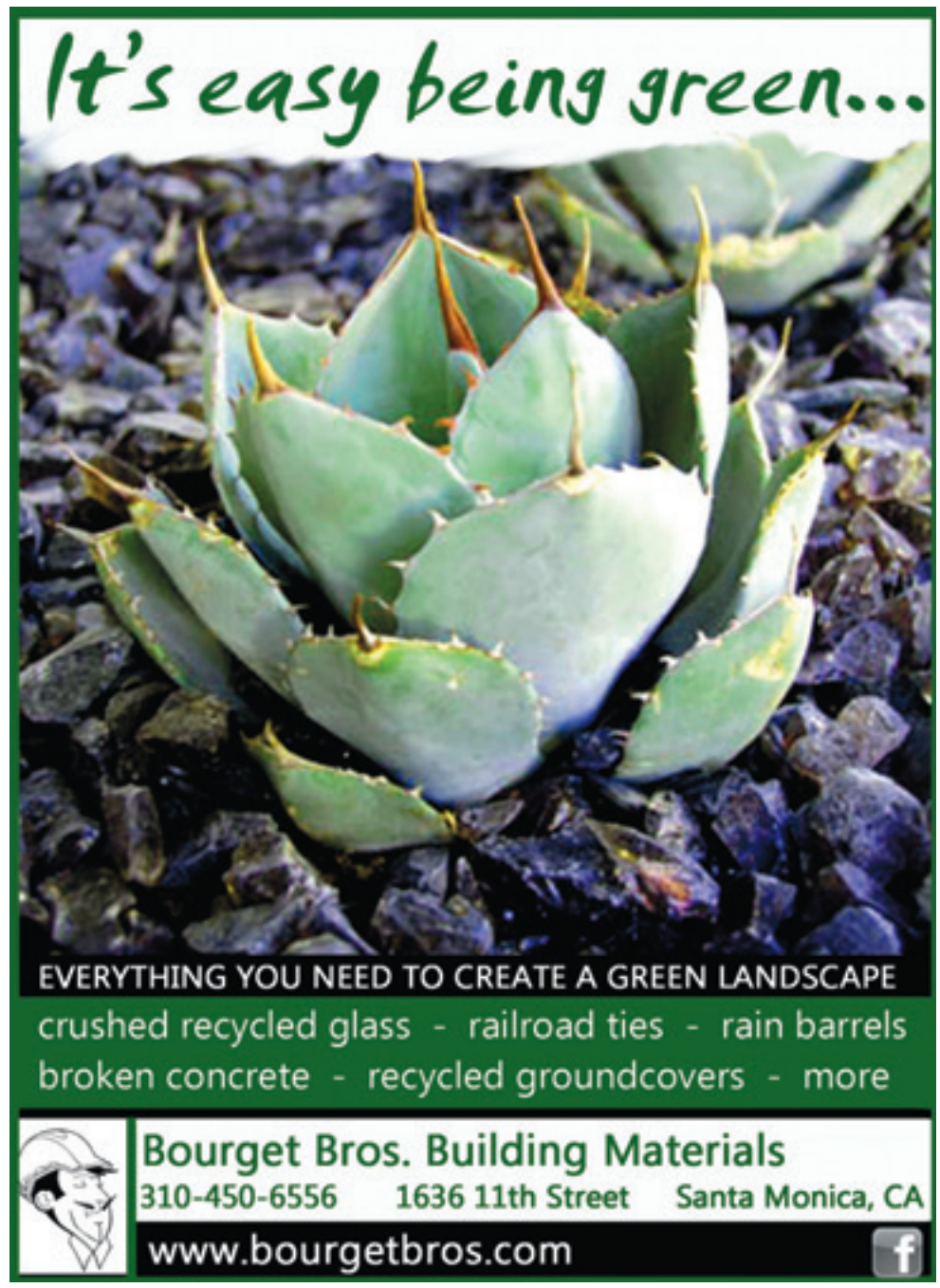
Keimach said the $6,000 fee —required of group trainers working out anywhere but Palisades Park and Clover Park— is too high.

He's turned to the Internet, asking for donations on Indiegogo, a crowd-funding website. In four days he's raised $2,939. If he can't get to $6,000, he'll buy permits for the first half of the year and then hang up the yoga mats.

"The problems they were trying to address don't exist on the beach," he said. "You can't wear out the sand. No one has ever asked us to move. There are not problems with crowding. So it's just a shame that they thought one size fits all."

dave@smdp.com







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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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School district launches homework survey

As part of its commitment to transparency and collaborative decision-making, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District invites all parents to participate in the district's online homework survey, officials said.

Principals will use the results of the survey to develop and improve each of their schools' homework plans.

Parents with more than one child in the district are invited to take the survey for each of their children. The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Results of the survey will be reported at the group level only and will not identify individual responses.

The survey can be accessed on the main page of the district's website and will available until Jan. 31, 2014.

Future surveys are planned that will give parents further opportunities to give feedback on various aspects of the district and their children's schools, officials said.

To access the survey, visit www.smmusd.org.

– DAILY PRESS

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Design-Build Entities to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

City of Santa Monica City Services Building (SP2250)

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Thursday, January 16, 2014**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: **Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.**
Santa Monica Public Safety Facility
Conference Room #5 (first floor)
333 Olympic Drive
Santa Monica, California 90401

All site tour attendees must sign in before the job walk. Participation in the tour is not mandatory but is strongly recommended. Interested parties should be punctual.

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE: $30,000,000

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time of bid submission. General Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids ("RFB").

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the General Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

City of Santa Monica - BBB Parking Lot Gates
SP2280

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **January 28, 2014,** to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

RECOMMENDED PRE-BID JOB WALK:
January 14, 2014 at 2:00 PM
Corner of 7th.Street and Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $90,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 45 Calendar Days
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Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

PAINT
FROM PAGE 3

never deliberately sold a harmful product.

On Monday, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge James Kleinberg rejected those arguments, citing corporate documents dating back to 1900 to rule that ConAgra Grocery Products Co., NL Industries Inc. and the Sherwin-Williams Co. marketed lead-based paint they knew was harmful for much of the 1900s.

The judge cited a Sherwin-Williams newsletter from 1900 conceding that lead-based paint was a "deadly cumulative poison" and then a 1922 company advertisement claiming its paint was safe.

"In the 1920s, scientists from the Paint Manufacturers Association reported that lead paint used on the interiors of homes would deteriorate, and that lead dust resulting from this deterioration would poison children and cause serious injury," the judge wrote in his 110-page decision. "It was accepted by the medical and scientific community before the 1950s, as reflected in literature from as early as 1894, that lead paint was a significant cause of childhood lead poisoning."

The three companies found liable have vowed to appeal the Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge James Kleinberg's verdict as far they can and that process is expected to take years. Kleinberg's ruling was made after a five-week trial conducted without a jury and 13 years after the original lawsuit was filed.

Only one other verdict was returned against the industry. A Rhode Island trial court judge did award the state $2.4 billion in 2006, but that verdict was overturned on appeal two years later.

DuPont is the only paint manufacturer to have paid any damages, agreeing to a $12.5 million settlement in 2005 to get out of the Rhode Island case before a verdict was rendered.

The 10 cities and counties awarded damages Monday are the counties of Santa Clara, Alameda, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Mateo, Solano and Ventura, and the cities of Oakland, San Diego and San Francisco.

STRUCTURES
FROM PAGE 1

Olympic Drive is under construction, Agle said, but once it's open the oversight board will deem it to be a government-purpose asset. With Tongva Park, the oversight board took action too early, state officials told City Hall. They need to re-adopt the park as a government-purpose asset now that it is open, Agle said.

In September, City Hall sent a four-page letter to the state explaining why the properties were vital public assets. They pointed to public parking structures in Santa Barbara that had recently been deemed valuable government-purpose assets by the state. In November, city officials, including Agle and City Manager Rod Gould, flew to Sacramento to argue that City Hall should keep all of the properties.

If the state had refused to transfer the parking structures, they would have been liquidated or operated as profit-making ventures, Agle said.

City Hall plans, including the long-term Downtown parking plan, were in limbo due to the uncertainty surrounding the structures, Agle said.

"I think the first thing we need to do is take a breath and recognize that this cloud that has been hanging over us has been lifted," he said. "Then we are going to need to regroup and think about what this means for some of our longer-term plans."

With state disputes winding down, city officials will turn to the State Controller's and Attorney General's offices, the other two government agencies trying to recoup RDA funds.

"They don't always talk to one another but they all have the same marching orders, which is maximize the takeback to the state," Gould told the Daily Press in October.

He called the state's decision "a welcome development at the close of the year."

"While there are still hurdles to crest in the new year and perhaps beyond, likely involving the State Controller's Office, this resolution of ownership of such key assets is a major step toward conclusion of the dissolution of redevelopment in Santa Monica," Gould said.

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Stocks slip as Fed Reserve starts stimulus discussion

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Nobody wanted to stick their neck out on Tuesday.

The stock market edged slightly lower as the Federal Reserve started a two-day policy meeting that may herald the beginning of the end for its economic stimulus.

Few expect that the Fed will announce that it plans to pare back, or 'taper,' its huge bond-buying program after its meeting wraps up on Wednesday. However, good news on the U.S. economy this month, including a blockbuster jobs report, and a budget deal in Washington appeared to have increased the likelihood of a change.

"It's just the taper drama, that's really all the market seems focused on," said Dean Junkans, CIO for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "The chances of them doing something tomorrow are higher than they were a month ago."

Major stock indices fell, but just slightly. The Standard & Poor's 500 index eased five points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,781. The Dow Jones industrial average crept down nine points, or 0.1 percent, to 15,875.26. The Nasdaq composite edged lower by five points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,023. 68.

Eight of the ten industrial groups in the S&P 500 declined, led by phone companies. Materials stocks and technology companies edged higher.

A couple of big companies bucked the downward trend after pledging to hand more cash to stock holders.

Boeing rose $1.16, or 1 percent, to $135.88 after the plane maker increased its stock buyback program by $10 billion and raised its dividend 52 percent. 3M climbed $3.73, or 3 percent, to $131.39 after raising its dividend by 35 percent. The company also forecast solid earnings next year.

Stocks have surged this year as the Fed kept buying $85 billion in bonds every month to hold down long-term interest rates. As well as boosting the economy, that stimulus has made stocks a more attractive investment compared to bonds.

The only setbacks for the market this year have come when investors were nervous that the Fed was about to cut back its stimulus.

The S&P 500 index dropped 1.5 percent in June when Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke outlined a potential exit for the Fed from its stimulus strategy. The index fell 3.1 percent in August when investors thought that the policy would change in September.

Instead of worrying about the market's immediate reaction to the Fed's announcement on Wednesday, investors should focus on the positive backdrop for stocks, said Liz Ann Sonders, chief investment strategist at Charles Schwab.

The economy is improving, companies are investing more, and earnings are forecast to grow at a steady rate, ensuring there will be demand for stocks.

"Dips that we get are not going to be terribly severe," Sonders said.

In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 2.84 percent, from 2.88 percent on Monday, as investors bought bonds on a day when the government said consumer prices remained flat. When prices rise, a trend known as inflation, the value of bonds falls.

In commodities trading, the price of gold fell $14.30, or 1 percent, to $1,230 an ounce. Oil dropped 26 cents, or 0.3 percent, to $97.22 a barrel.

Among other trends in the market:

NEW FRONTIER: Frontier Communications rose the most in the S&P 500. The stock jumped 47 cents, or 8.6 percent, to $4.78 after it reached a deal to acquire AT&T's fixed-line business in Connecticut for about $2 billion.

'LIKE' THAT HIGH: Facebook rose to an all-time high after the social media company said that it's testing video advertisements, creating a potential source of ad revenue. The company's stock ended the day up $1.05, or 2 percent, at $54.86, after peaking at a record $55.18.

NOSEDIVE: Delta Air Lines fell the most in the S&P 500, dropping 98 cents, or 3.5 percent, to $26.94.

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FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal WNW swell eases. Mostly shows for standout spots with 1-3' surf there

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**

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 -- 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, LAcurGUY, 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 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 (breach 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.

Heal the Bay

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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

Allez, Eddy! (NR) 1hr 40min
7:30pm
Discussion after the film with writer-director Gert Embrechts. Belgian beer reception to follow.

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

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

Gravity (PG-13) 1hr 31minn
2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

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

The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff Encore (NR) 3hrs 20min
6:30pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
12:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:20pm, 10:40pm

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min
10:30am, 11:15am, 1:30pm, 2:15pm, 4:30pm, 5:15pm, 7:30pm, 8:15pm, 10:30pm, 11:10pm

Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
2:10pm, 10:40pm

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
11:05am, 5:00pm, 7:45pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
10:30am, 2:15pm, 6:00pm, 9:45pm

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

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

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 **news@smdp.com**

HEAD ON HOME TONIGHT, ARIES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might need a shake-up to get going. The alternative of a slow, lazy morning also could hold unusual appeal. How you choose to live is your call. Don't get involved in a partner's controlling attitude. Tonight: Mosey on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your morning provides an insight that energizes communication. You'll want to clear up a problem before you have a collision of wills. How you perceive someone could change as a result. Understand how controlling an individual is. Tonight: Don't cut off communication.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might not be aware of all the assets you possess. An unpredictable person could make you feel as if a mini-revolution is about to begin. Try to suppress the drama king or queen within yourself. Your clarity counts. Tonight: Your treat; be careful if shopping.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ No one can squelch your energy, regardless of how hard others might try. Your flexibility comes from the strength of your feelings and from your ability to process them. A loved one could display a need for more control. Tonight: Count on your lucky rabbit's foot.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take your time and consider your options if you witness someone acting unusal. Question how much you are coloring the moment with a bias before taking action. Be willing to adapt your schedule to the moment. Tonight: Listen to your inner voice.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Know that you can't manipulate someone to do what you want. It might look like you will succeed for a short period of time, but just wait for the rebellion that is likely to ensue. You'll want to present a case for following your suggestion. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Take a stand, and know your limits. Avoid getting into a contest of wills. Let others be and do what they want. Let experience be their teacher. A surprise heads your way. Tonight: Make sure you don't find yourself standing under the mistletoe with someone who is bad news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Forget about having a steady, scheduled day. The unexpected blows its winds in your direction, no matter how hard you try to dodge it. Once you can identify with someone, you will understand his or her actions. Tonight: Someone might think that you are being aloof.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your strength comes from detaching when the unexpected occurs around a loved one. Initiate discussions on an individual level. Someone will radiate once he or she is back on his or her feet. Tonight: Relax over dinner, then talk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others continue to run with the ball, which allows you to have more time for last-minute holiday details. You value tradition, so when a new idea or untried recipe comes your way, you might nix it. Newness adds excitement, though. Go for it! Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Recognize that you must deal with the more boring yet important aspects of your life. Temptations will point to fun happenings, but say "no" for now. Tonight: Get some R and R -- you're going to need it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might wonder why someone always seems to trigger you. Decide to be impervious to this person's actions. Maintain a sense of humor. This person simply expresses a mischievous quality every so often. Tonight: Find the mistletoe, then find the apple of your eye.

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

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

This year excitement and the unexpected will prevent you from being bored. Your ability to flex will be critical to your success and happiness. Look at the next 12 months as an adventure in your life. If you are single, don't commit until summer, at the earliest, even if you feel you have met your Romeo or Juliet. If you are attached, you will act like newfound lovers. Enjoy every moment! CANCER often demonstrates his or her caring for you.

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



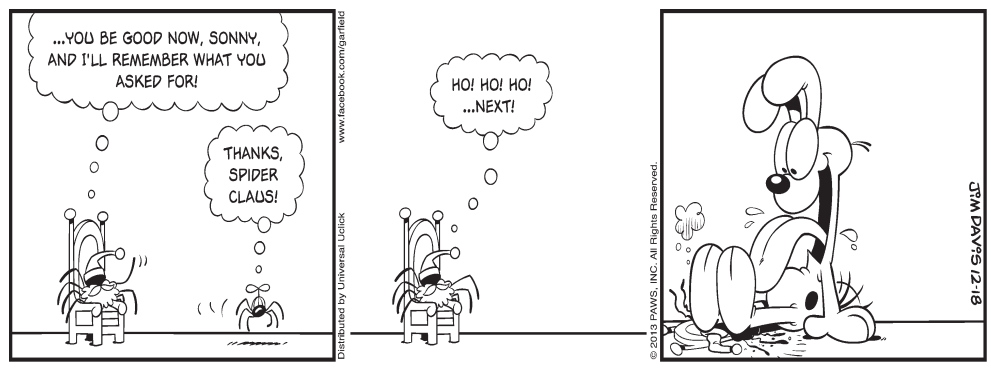
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dogsled command
5 Winter dripper
11 Last Stuart ruler
12 Realm
13 Put in the overhead rack
14 Cut off
15 Road rescue
16 Salon offerings
17 Ice skate part
19 Down in the dumps
22 Profit
24 Tango or twist
26 Con quarters
27 Folk learning
28 Valletta's island
30 Outlet output
31 Overhead trains
32 Nerdy guy
34 Clock reading
35 Memorable time
38 Horse operas
41 Baldwin of "Beetlejuice"
42 Warning lights
43 Lackluster
44 Light snowstorm
45 Spot

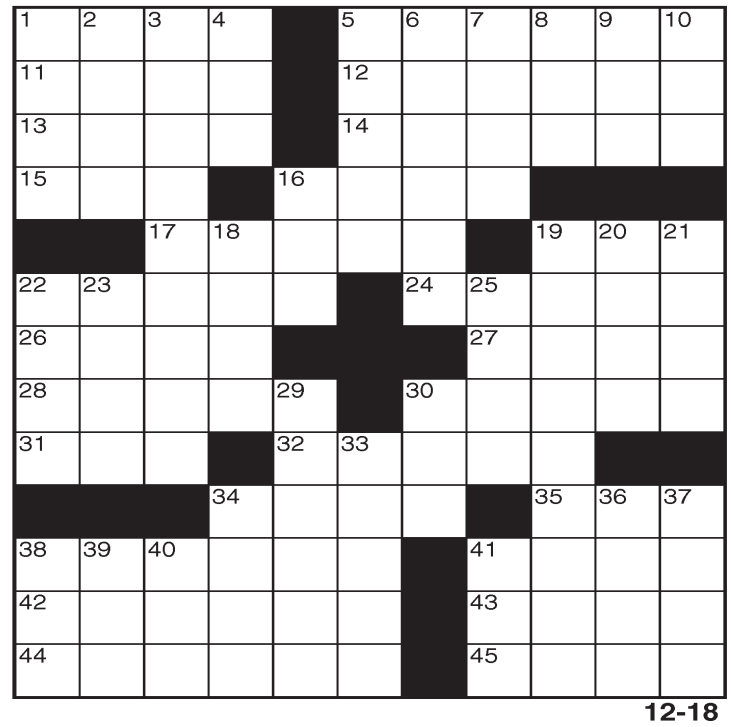
DOWN

1 Schooner part
2 "Do — others ..."
3 Grows rapidly
4 Cut down
5 Did nothing
6 Put in the fridge
7 Little devils
8 Beanie or beret
9 Tell tales
10 Break off
16 Guy's friend
18 Bouncy tune
19 European flowers
20 Plot unit
21 Forest grazer
22 High point
23 Schnitzel base
25 Soothing plant
29 Fond fellow
30 According to
33 Weak-willed
34 Munich mister
36 Gather
37 Needing aspirin
38 Not working
39 Totality
40 Letter after sigma
41 Presidential nickname

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



12-18

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/14
14 25 32 33 41
Power#: 34
Jackpot: $50M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/13
19 24 26 27 70
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: $636M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/14
10 12 18 22 31
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: $50M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/17
8 14 19 32 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/17
MIDDAY: 8 5 4
EVENING: 9 9 7

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 12/17
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:45.33

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Seattle City Council voted in October to seize a waterfront parking lot by eminent domain from the 103-year-old owner after negotiations to buy the property on the open market broke down. The state is funding a six-year tunnel-digging project in the area, and the city has decided it needs the property for not-yet-specified uses --except that in one part of the property, the city said it plans to operate a parking lot.

■ (1) Larry Poulos was stopped on an Arlington, Tex., street in September, bleeding from a head wound and complaining that he had just been robbed by two men. A friend of Poulos later corroborated that, but police also learned that the money Poulos had been carrying was the proceeds of his having robbed a credit union earlier that evening. He was treated for his wounds and then arrested. (2) At least 44 health workers were struck with a suspected norovirus in September at a Creative Health Care Management convention in Huron, Ohio. (Noroviruses are sometimes called the "Norwalk" virus, named after one notable outbreak in 1968 in Norwalk, Ohio, about 12 miles from Huron.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1999 – NASA launches into orbit the Terra platform carrying five Earth Observation instruments, including ASTER, CERES, MISR, MODIS and MOPITT.

2002 – 2003 California recall: Then Governor of California Gray Davis announces that the state would face a record budget deficit of $35 billion, roughly double the figure reported during his reelection campaign one month earlier.

2005 – The civil war in Chad begins when rebel groups, allegedly backed by neighbouring Sudan, launch an attack in Adré.

2006 – The first of a series of floods strikes Malaysia. The death toll of all flooding is at least 118, with over 400,000 people displaced.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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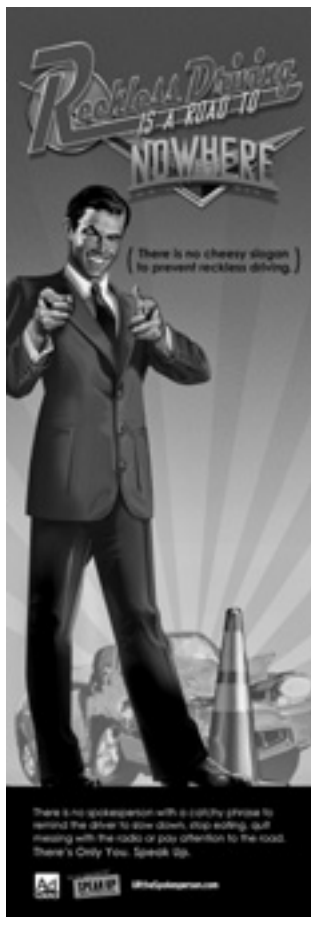
Services

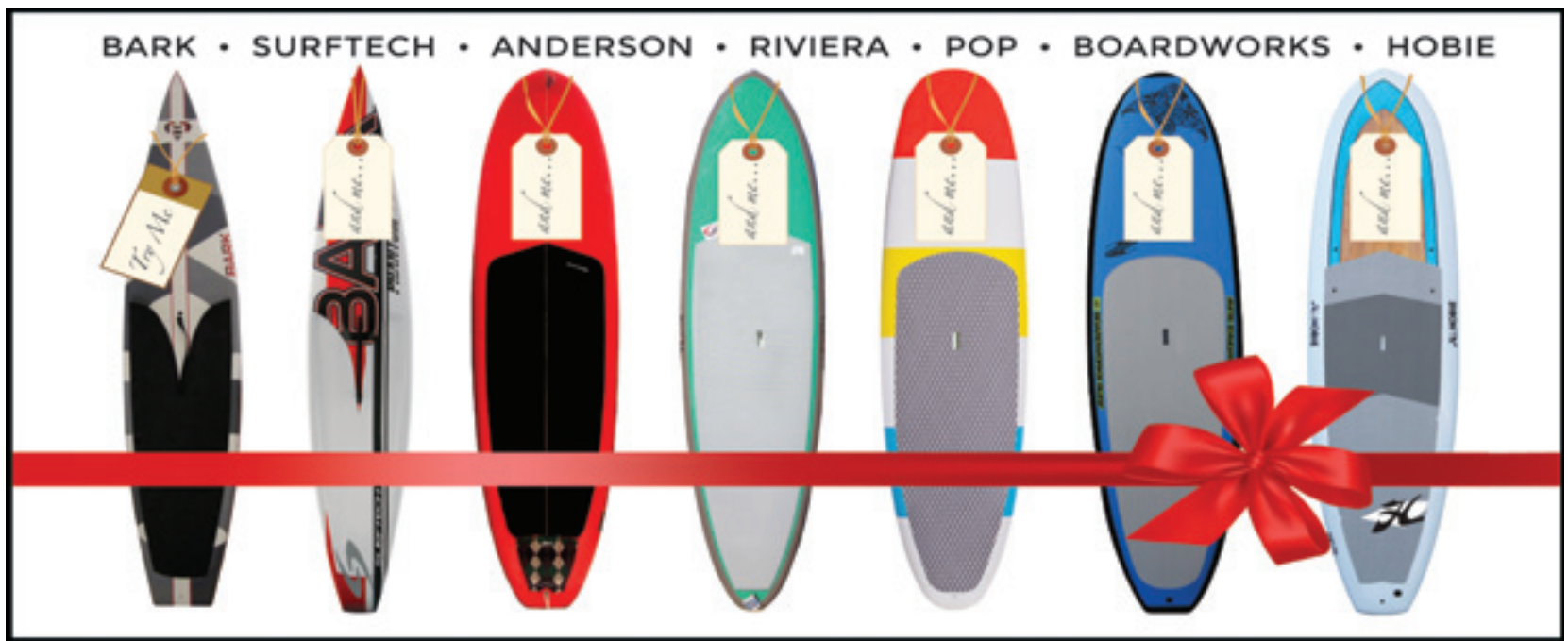
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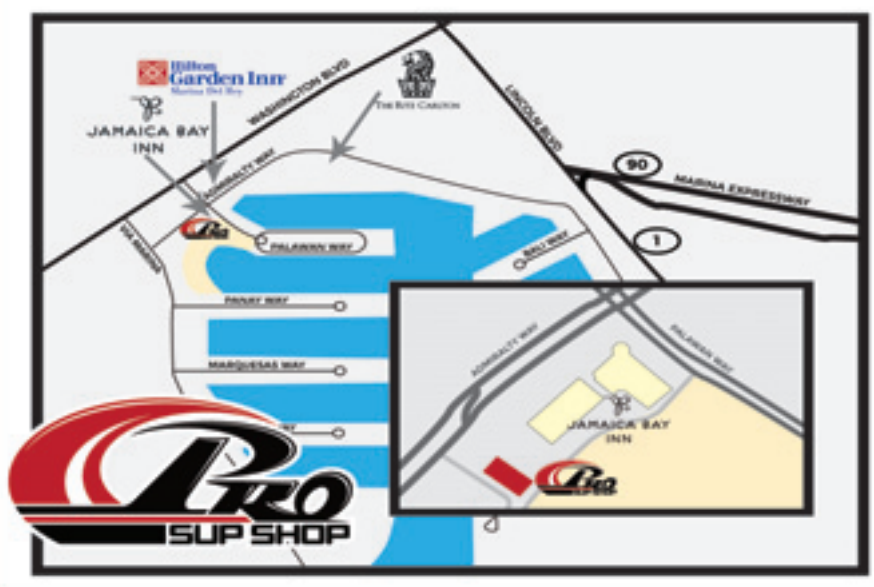


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Approx. 4,000 Square Feet
Detached Guest House





Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale as of Mid December 2013			
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	2,049,800
North of Montana	=	$	4,533,176
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	2,675,516
South of Wilshire	=	$	874,000
Sunset Park	=	$	1,738,286
Ocean Park	=	$	2,581,000
Statistics updated every Friday			

Buyers' Needs

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

- Condo (Single Level, Top Floor Only - Santa Monica - Min 2+1.75 - Wood floors, Laundry in Unit, Elevator Building, 2-Car Parking - $700,000 - $1,000,000
- Income Property - Santa Monica, Brentwood, West LA, Mar Vista, Venice, Marina del Rey, Playa del Rey, Culver City - 3 or More Units - $1,000,000 - $3,000,000

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Santa Monica GIRLS FASTPITCH

WESTSIDE SCHOOL of BALLET

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT