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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013
Volume 13 Issue 30



Santa Monica Daily Press

BEWARE OF KNOCKOFFS
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE TRAINING PAINS ISSUE

Fire station bond could cost taxpayers $81M

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Councilmembers winced over the potential cost of a new fire station but were clear that the new facility is critical to the public's safety.

City Council Tuesday voted unanimously to move forward with a $32 million bond that would cost City Hall $2.7 million every year over the next 30 years, or a total $81 million.

A final council vote on the decision to approve the bond, a majority of which will go toward a new fire station, will occur next year.

The fire station was previously to be financed by redevelopment agency funds, but the agency was dissolved, along with hundreds of others throughout California, to plug a state budget shortfall in 2011.

For a building that is going to last 30 to 50 years, City Manager Rod Gould told council the long-term bond makes sense.

"Because interest rates are relatively low and because Santa Monica's bond rating is

SEE BOND PAGE 8

Looking back on 2013's small business hurdles

BY JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Small business owners are probably glad to put 2013 into the books.

For many, it was a frustrating year of waiting. Waiting to learn about the new health care law. Waiting for lawmakers to solve budget disagreements. And waiting for the economy to improve. Many put off big decisions like purchasing equipment and hiring as they sought clarity. But in the end, owners fought inertia and appear to be looking forward to 2014. Hiring seems to be showing an uptick and lending to small businesses is improving.

Here's a look back at some of the big issues small business owners faced this year.

HEALTH CARE

Small businesses began 2013 with questions and by the year's end, there were few answers.

Companies struggled to sign up for insurance for employees on federally run websites. After a series of computer glitches and delays, the government said businesses would have to buy through brokers, agents and insurance companies until November 2014.

Coverage that goes into effect Jan. 1 or later must conform to the law. Many businesses sidestepped the requirements by renewing policies in 2013.

Owners had mixed reviews about coverage on government websites. Some with mostly younger workers found they'll be

SEE CHALLENGES PAGE 10



HELPING HAND

Paul Alvarez, Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

The UCLA Respiratory Therapy Team held their fourth annual Picnic in the Park for the homeless at Palisades Park Wednesday morning. Food, clothes and blankets were among the items handed out.

Congressman calls for SMO air pollution investigation

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

SMO Congressman Henry Waxman, D-Santa Monica, is calling on air quality officials to investigate a claims by scientists that there are high levels of ultrafine particle pollution around Santa Monica Airport.

A study released last week by scientists from UCLA and the California Air Resources Board suggested that ultrafine particle levels were between four and 37 times higher in the area downwind of SMO than in neighboring areas. Research on particulate matter pollution indicates it can cause a range of health impacts, including premature death, heart attack, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma and decreased lung function.

SEE SMO PAGE 8


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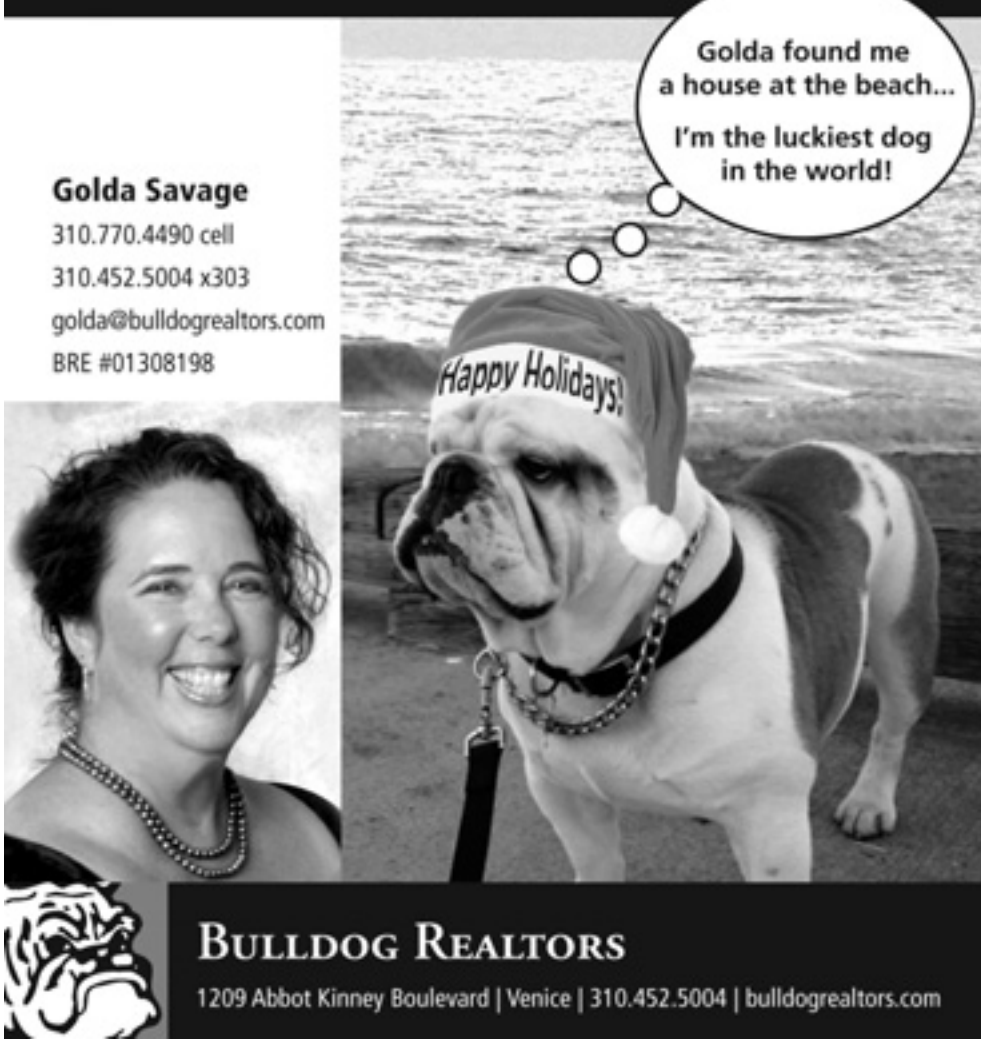
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013

Open for business
Parking Structure 6
1431 Second St., 1:30 p.m.
City officials will be on hand for the ribbon cutting for the renovated Parking Structure 6. The structure now consists of double the amount of parking spaces on three subterranean and eight above-ground levels, with space for up to 90 bicycles in racks and 19 motorcycles, and approximately 7,000 square feet of retail space fronting. Learn more at www.smgov.net

Homework help
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Drop in for some help with homework, with a focus on math and reading. Provided by trained volunteers. For grades 1-5.

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.

Uplifting stories
YWCA Santa Monica
2019 14th St., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Shine is a series featuring storytellers sharing their most treasured life lessons in hopes of bringing about positive change. This is a monthly series featuring professionals and amateurs. Admission: $5-$10 donation. For more information call (310) 452-2321.

Get funky
Zanzibar
1301 Fifth St., 9 p.m. — 2 a.m.
KCRW presents Afro Funké grand finale, a look back on the mission to reunite the global family through common rhythms and melodies. Celebrate 10 years of service to the Santa Monica community, maintaining a dance floor charged with purpose of uniting every culture in this bubbling melting pot of a city. Admission: $10.

Friday, Dec. 20, 2013

Take a tour
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
12:30 p.m. — 1 p.m.
Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docents are able to adapt the tour to focus on various aspects of this LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) gold-rated building.

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.

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.

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

Nearly 500 DUI arrests over weekend; Checkpoint planned for Friday

Law enforcement agencies from across Los Angeles County arrested nearly 500 drivers over the weekend for driving under the influence and more arrests are likely as they continue their crackdown during the holiday season.

Over the next several days, DUI checkpoints and extra local DUI saturation patrols will be deployed throughout the county, law enforcement officials said.

The Santa Monica Police Department will be setting up its own DUI checkpoint Friday at an undisclosed location within the city by the sea, said SMPD Lt. Richard Lewis.

Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Those caught driving impaired can expect jail, license suspension, and insurance rate increases, as well as fines, DUI classes, court probation and other expenses that can exceed $10,000, Lewis said.

"Over the course of the past year, traffic collisions involving impaired drivers/riders were involved in 89 collisions, which have injured 35 people," said SMPD LT. Jay Trisler.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of $6 for every $1 spent, Trisler added.

He reminded drivers that if they plan on drinking to have a designated driver or call a taxi to get safely home.

Funding for the checkpoint is provided by a grant from the state Office of Traffic Safety.

– KEVIN HERRERA

COUNTYWIDE

Don't buy knockoffs

During the holiday shopping season everyone is looking for a great deal, especially when it comes to buying luxury items like purses or shoes. Sometimes those deals can be too good to be true.

Officials with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Counterfeit and Piracy Enforcement Team are reminding consumers to be on the lookout for knockoffs and to report them when they see them.

That's because counterfeit goods and piracy cost American businesses more than $200 billion each year in lost revenue, depriving local governments of lost income or tax dollars that could have been generated through legitimate sales, officials said.

Those goods also impose a serious health and safety risk to consumers. Whether it's counterfeit prescription medication or cigarettes that contain unknown substances, consumers are being deceived into believing these are safe and legitimate products.

Deputies served approximately 46 search warrants last year, made 75 arrests and seized over $15 million in counterfeit products. The products seized ranged from luxury goods to health and safety items like pharmaceuticals, batteries, contact lenses and laundry detergent.

Los Angeles County Crime Stoppers has partnered with several companies and law enforcement to combat counterfeiting and piracy. To report suspicious or illegal activity, call deputies at (323) 981-5300 or visit www.lacrimestoppers.org.

There is no foolproof way to know the difference between a bargain and a fake, but labels and packaging can be revealing indicators. Look for missing or expired "use by" dates, broken or missing safety seals, missing warranty information, or otherwise unusual packaging, officials said.

Whether purchasing online or at retail locations, only purchase from authorized retailers listed by the manufacturer. If you are uncertain whether a retailer acquired its products from a legitimate distributor, ask for verifiable information from the retailer about the source of the goods.

– KH



David Mark Simpson *dave@smdp.com*

NO MORE: Omelette Parlor owner Bob Hausenbauer, who's owned the restaurant since 1994, smiles while talking with longtime customers Wednesday, the final day of operation for the Main Street breakfast spot. Hausenbauer said his landlord priced him out. He hopes to relocate soon, but most likely not in Santa Monica.

Omelette Parlor is toast

Main Street breakfast spot closes after 37 years

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET Sometimes you just want to write a nostalgic story about the closing of a classic restaurant: the memories, the old cook's tales, and the regular who reads her newspaper with her coffee.

But this is Santa Monica so invariably, even on the last day of the Omelette Parlor's 37 year run, conversation turns to politics and development.

Owner Bob Hausenbauer, who's owned the restaurant since 1994, says that the landlords, American Commercial Equities (ACE), offered inequitable terms and that he's been priced out of the city by the sea.

Marvin Lotz, an executive with ACE, would not comment on plans for the space.

"There are always two sides to a story," he said in an e-mail. "Please understand I cannot discuss the specifics of a tenant's lease. We are sorry to see the Omelette Parlor leave and wish him the best."

With just hours to go before closing, fans of the establishment squeezed in a last meal. Everyone complimented the food, but they had more to say about the neighborhood.

Tom Dunn lives around the corner and he's been coming to the Omelette Parlor for more than 20 years.

What's his favorite item on the menu?

"Umm, take your pick. Everything's good."

What's he think about the restaurant closing?

"Tragic. Everything else has been changed, built up," he said. "I mean how many more shoe stores do we need that don't sell anything? How many more corporate things do we need? You walk down the street and it's a ghost town now. It used to be this friendly place. This place was like a landmark. The same thing happened on the [Third Street] Promenade. They drove everyone out, all the little people. For 10 years that was the greatest place on earth and then they just ruined it."

Pat Forkin, of New York City, recalled protesting incoming chain restaurants in Manhattan in the '80s. The same thing is happening to Santa Monica, he said. He visits family in Santa Monica regularly and he always eats at the Omelette Parlor. The corporate chains are pushing out the local flavor, he said over triangles of French toast.

"They're the only ones that can pay," he said. "Because they have investors and food that is unbelievably bad, and it's cheap. They all look

SEE **CLOSED** PAGE 9

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How to keep a holiday party from getting awkward

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I am hosting a rather large holiday dinner with both friends and family invited. This is a tradition and it has always been very nice and a lot of fun.

But this year is a little different because one of my husband's sisters has had a very bad marital situation this past year. Her husband left her and it turned out he cheated on her. She was devastated, but from what we can tell she is considering taking him back and there may be some reconciliation. They have been married a number of years and, quite frankly, this has come as a shock to everyone in the family. Their eldest daughter, who is still young and most would agree immature, is no longer speaking to him.

Truthfully, we do not know what is going on. We do not know if they are back together or not, if they are trying to make it work and certainly do not know what the family members, especially the eldest daughter, are thinking and feeling.

We have invited them to come to our dinner, but have not heard back from them. We really do not know what to think or how to act if they do come? How should we act if they come? How do we handle the tension between the father and daughter?

I don't feel like I can hide my negative feelings toward him and I find myself wanting to ask questions. What should I do? How should we act? Should we not invite them?

Signed,
Torn

DEAR TORN,

I can see and understand your dilemma, but I think we should consider all of the possibilities before drawing any conclusions.

When someone in the family has had an affair and there's a lot of tension, holiday get-togethers can be very awkward indeed.

You said that you already invited them, but they haven't responded. I do not see how you can now disinvite them. If you did, that would definitely bring bad blood between you. If they have not answered, there is a very good chance that they are thinking about all of the same things that you are and my hunch is that they will back out gracefully this year. They probably don't want to air their dirty laundry in front of all of you, and even if they said nothing, it sounds like they are in a very raw state that would make things obvious and tense for them and the rest of you.

That being said, they probably will skip this year and all of your worry will have been for not.

If they do come, it will probably be because they have worked things out to some degree and are feeling more comfortable.

It's my opinion that you should just play host and treat them like everyone else. Do your best to make them feel comfortable. This will benefit you and them and everyone else there, whether the others know the situation or not.

As host, it's your job to help everyone feel at ease and enjoy themselves.

I can understand your feelings, but I think you need to put them aside while hosting your holiday party. Just act the same as you do every other year.

Definitely do not ask questions; this is not the time or place for it. Also, it may not really be your business. Often we get involved in situations like this when, truthfully, it should be left up to the people directly involved to work out. We all need to be careful about getting drawn into these situations because the people involved often will try to get us on one side or the other and we may only be hearing part or half of the story.

It is usually the most vocal and seemingly wounded who will pull us in and, unfortunately, many of us think in terms of the heavy (bad one) and the victim. However, relationships usually do not work this way; it takes two to tango! More often than not we are not getting the entire picture so it truly is best to stay one step removed. We can be supportive while keeping an appropriate boundary.

One of the worst things you can do is invite one and not the other or bad mouth the other, only for them to end up back together and then you end up being the bad one or, at the very least, in a pretty awkward position.

I suggest you have a relaxing and fun holiday party and let the powers that be take care of your in-laws. Just be a good host and tend to yourself and your guests.

DR. JOANNE BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Visit her at www.drbarge.com or send your anonymous questions to newshrink@gmail.com

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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Culture Watch

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



Photo courtesy The Actors' Gang

MERRY MEN: In a mad medley of holiday music, the Queen Boy Dancers, costumed in bright green T-shirts, red Santa caps, red shorts, black socks and shoes, do high-energy choreography to rival the famed Rockettes in 'Queen Family's Very Special Holiday Special'

Antidotes to holiday blues

IF YOU LIKE YOUR HOLIDAY entertainment laugh-filled, but still wondrous while serving a great purpose, make your next stop the Actors' Gang Theatre in Culver City. The annual "Queen Family's Very Special Holiday Special" is a romp!

We begin with the concept that we're watching a live telethon and pledge drive (shades of my life at KCRW) where the extended and deeply dysfunctional Queen family is trying to raise money for the sole purpose of continuing to bring these holiday telethons to you.

Master of Ceremonies Jim Queen, played by Brian T. Finney, the same actor whom I raved about in the company's highly lauded production of "Heart of Darkness," is an overextended gambler, desperately pushing against the clock to raise the $100,000 he owes his bookie.

He raided the family foundation and lost it all, and now has to cover his bets. That's the real reason for this year's telethon. An increasingly desperate Jim is being threatened with a 24-hour deadline — or else.

Keeping things thoroughly rude, the bawdy drunken grandmother offers her scathing critiques and comments throughout the show. Politically incorrect doesn't begin to cover these snarky nuggets.

Between the "live" shots, the stage action devolves into screaming arguments between various family members, stolen kisses of forbidden love between closeted cousins and secret affairs between in-laws.

But when the cameras are on, past the pitches for the dollars that will save Jim's skin, you'll be both delighted and dazzled by the amazing entertainers, real ones mind you, that they've recruited for this production.

In keeping with the court-ordered stipulation to increase the diversity of their shows, the Queen family has invited a tap dancing Wiccan zombie priest. He's a for-real tapper and quite the showman.

Ever see a guy balance a wheelbarrow on his chin? You will! And he'll catch a tossed hamburger on a spinning umbrella, too. His persona is a cross between Mr. Rogers and Christopher Walken.

And a beautiful aerialist dangles from a long scarf and ties herself into balancing act knots; it's a stunning act, a sort of mini Cirque du Soleil in action.

You'll crack up at the Stolzman family straight out of Amish country, including Jebediah, Jeremiah, Josiah and Abigail, who perform the act they do at barn raisings. Since musical instruments are the devil's tools, they bang painted plastic cups on wooden stools in perfectly timed percussive rhythm.

They do a verbal ode to "Rumspringa," the ritual year that the Amish grant their youth to work all their worldly desires out of their systems. This paean to debauchery celebrates sex, drugs, rock n' roll, and fantasy three-ways with Beyonce and Jay Z, as the young Amish rap out "You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone." I don't think they're coming back home any time soon.

I had to laugh out loud at the faux Silverlake band spoof, especially the reference to performing on my alma mater's signature music show, "Morning Becomes Eclectic." They are dressed as hipsters in hoodies, army jackets, a cutoff serape and farmer's overalls, and their entirely flat affect masks the emotional break-up drama that the band is experiencing. Hilariously, the musical instruments they play are cell phone apps!

In a mad medley of holiday music, the Queen Boy Dancers, costumed in bright green T-shirts, red Santa caps, red shorts, black socks and shoes, do high-energy choreography to rival the famed Rockettes. Covering all the bases, the mash-up includes "Carol of the Bells," Tom Lehrer's satirically punny "Hanukkah in Santa Monica," Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas," Elton John and Tim Rice's "Circle of Life" and "Happy Kwanzaa" by Teddy Pendergrass.

Sung from the rafters, a rousing round of "Jew on Christmas" by South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone will have you guffawing, while "Christmas Robots" by way of a German death metal band will blast you awake.

In the end, despite the threats, there'll be a happy resolution to Jim's gambling dilemma, which dovetails cleverly into a message about the Actors' Gang outreach work, which really is worth supporting.

The Actors' Gang puts on 120 performances a year, 40 are pay-what-you can, but they also offer free arts education programs that help more than 400 children a year. Their free Prison Project works with 100 inmates a year, helping them connect with their emotions creatively as they prepare to re-enter society. A free Shakespeare

SEE PLAY PAGE 7

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Sony Pictures Classics/David Appleby

SECRET COUPLE: Ralph Fiennes and Felicity Jones in 'The Invisible Woman,' a love story focusing on the relationship between Charles Dickens and his mistress.

Who in the dickens is Dickens?

BECAUSE WE IN AMERICA ARE SO fixated on Mark Twain, our "premier storyteller," we sometimes tend to conflate his personal history with that of England's "premier storyteller," Charles Dickens. As writers, public storytellers, and lecturers, they had much in common, especially when it came to humor, satire and impatience with social hypocrisies.

In Twain's case, however, his impatience seemed to manifest itself as grumpiness, especially in his later writings. He often appeared crotchety, quirky and inordinately self-absorbed. Whereas Dickens followed up on his writings by taking on the moral, and often the financial burdens of the poor, the orphaned and the "fallen" whom he wrote about.

At least, that's how Dickens is depicted by writer Abi Morgan and director (and star) Ralph Fiennes. In the new film "The Invisible Woman," based on Claire Tomalin's book of the same name, Dickens is seen as a warm and charming bon vivant, the life of every party and the center of every adoring mob. He reveled in his notoriety, to the extent that his wife could say, "You'll never know whom he loves more: his public or you."

The woman that this remark is addressed to is the young Nelly Ternan, played by a luminous Felicity Jones, with whom the 45-year-old Dickens has fallen in love.

Nelly is 18 at the time, and Dickens is married and the father of 10 children. But his wife "knows nothing," he says, while Nelly is understanding, intelligent, and able to discuss his writing and his philosophical concerns with him.

They are discreet, but there are rumors. And so, in accepting his love, Nelly agrees to become "invisible." He leaves his wife, but at that time divorce was unthinkable, especially for someone as prominent as he. So for 13 years, until his death, she remained his secret lover, their relationship invisible to the world around them.

It's an engaging love story, and beautifully told. Fiennes, who looks astonishingly like the photos of Dickens, is sensitive, gentle, and caring, and protective of Nelly's reputation. Fiennes, who also directs, ranges far and wide through England's lush countryside and London's squalid slums. He is aided by the elaborate costumes designed by Michael O'Connor and the fussy interiors of the 19th century homes designed by Maria Djurkovic.

But the final triumph belongs to Rob Hardy, whose cinematography absolutely glows. In one scene, especially, at the racetrack, the photography is so brilliant and sharp that it almost hurts your eyes to watch it.

Fiennes has also surrounded his character with exceptionally fine actors: the earnest Kristin Scott Thomas as Nelly's mother; Tom Hollander as Dickens' friend and collaborator, Wilkie Collins; Joanna Scanlan as Dickens' pathetic wife Catherine; and Perdita Weeks and Amanda Hale as Nelly's older sisters.

So, for anyone who is a fan of English period films, sentimental love stories, or Charles Dickens, this film is a must see. It opens in Los Angeles next week.

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Review: 'Anchorman 2,' bloated but still funny

BY JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

Can there be too much of a good thing? Where did that expression come from, anyway? If it's good, isn't more always better?

Discuss.

Or, actually, don't discuss. Because, in the case of "Anchorman 2" anyway, the question is sort of pointless, isn't it? Everything about both the original 2004 film, a cult classic of the Will Ferrell oeuvre, and its lead character, Ron Burgundy, was puffed up and absurd and ridiculous.

And so, why wouldn't the sequel be even more puffed up, more absurd and more ridiculous? As long as Ferrell's back (he is), and reunited with his wacky partners (he is) to form a veritable dream team of inappropriateness (they do), then what could be wrong?

Not that "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," again directed with total self-assurance by Adam McKay, is a work of fine art. It's a broad, low-brow comedy, which one imagines was concocted somewhat like a huge abstract painting: You throw gobs (or jokes) onto a big canvas, some spills over the edges, and it's messy and lumpy, but hey, it's all good, and anyway, the next gob is coming.

For those who may have missed the original, it brought us Burgundy, a TV anchor defined by his goofiness, self-importance, good-natured chauvinism, and polyester. Set in the '70s, the theme was gender equality; Burgundy's foil was Veronica Corningstone (Christina Applegate), who sought her own anchor chair.

In the sequel, the issue isn't gender but the very purpose of TV news: To inform, or entertain? We're in 1980, and Burgundy and Corningstone, now married, host a morning show together. Then she — alone — is offered an evening anchor slot. Burgundy? He's fired (the boss is a gruffly funny Harrison Ford, sounding quite Brokaw-esque.)

Ron tells Veronica she can't take the job without him. She accuses him of acting like Julius Caesar. "Who the hell is Julius Caesar?" he bellows. "I don't follow the NBA!"

Veronica takes the job and abandons Ron. But opportunity comes in the form of a job offer that sounds crazy: a new 24-hour news channel, being launched by an Aussie billionaire. Its name? GNN.

Burgundy heads for New York, stopping to gather the old news team from San Diego — er, San Di-AHgo, as he pronounces it: overly emotional sportscaster Champ Kind (David Koechner), now running a chicken joint; overly sexed reporter Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd), now photographing cats; and overly insane weatherman Brick Tamland (Steve Carell, reliably hilarious) now dead. Or so he thinks.

Burgundy's new nemesis is the impossibly good-looking, self-adoring anchorman Jack Lime (James Marsden, perfect in such self-mocking roles). And his superior is the overachieving Linda Jackson (Meagan Good), who finds Burgundy ridiculous but then inexplicably falls for him. Linda is not only a woman but black, a double-whammy for the chauvinistic Burgundy; their coupling, however improbable, leads to a very funny dinner-table scene with Linda's disapproving family.

Of course, underdog Ron has tricks up his sleeve. "Why do we need to tell the people what they need to hear?" he muses. "Why can't we tell them what they WANT to hear?" And they're off, satirizing today's infotainment brand of cable news. A routine involving an endless car chase and, well, Yasser Arafat (yes, Yasser Arafat) is one of the more inspired scenes in the film.

The starry cast also includes Kristen Wiig, intensely weird as only she can be. And there's the finale, a news-team rumble in midtown Manhattan involving more celebrity cameos than you ever thought possible. Sacha Baron Cohen as a BBC anchor? Only the beginning. Of course, it all feels like too much.

But you can't have too much of a good thing, remember?

"Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "crude and sexual content, drug use, language and comic violence." Running time: 119 minutes. Three stars out of four.

MPAA definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

PLAY
FROM PAGE 5

in the Park series each summer serves 1,400 kids and 900 adults, and they partner with 10 schools, and amazing nonprofits such as Inner City Arts and Homeboy Industries.

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"The Queen Family's Very Special Holiday Special" runs through Jan. 4, Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Bring a toy for Operation USA. The Actors' Gang is located at 9070 Venice Blvd. in Culver City. For tickets and info visit www.TheActorsGang.com or call (310) 838-4264.

ON A QUIETER NOTE

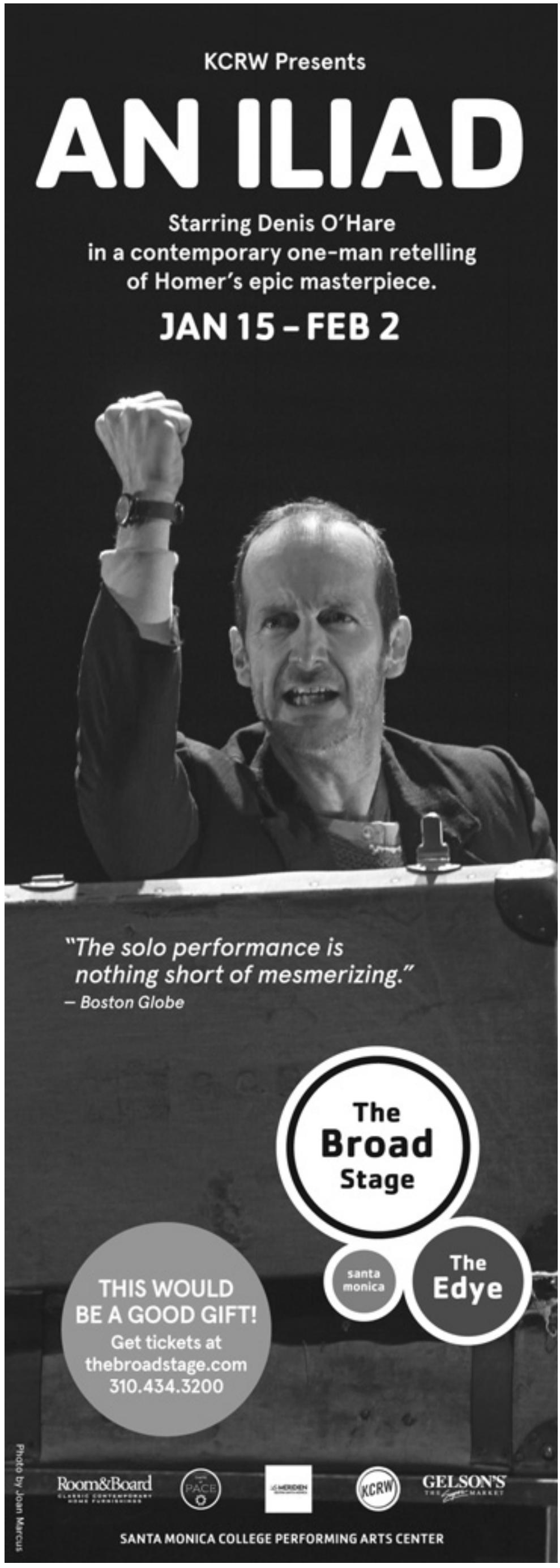
Theatre 40, the Beverly Hills-based professional theatre, will present a free program of holiday themed readings at Westwood Library on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. The humorous and touching seasonal selections to be performed include works from a number of authors, among them Loudon Wainwright, William Maxwell and Santa Claus.

The cast of performers includes Katherine Henryk, Daniel Leslie, Melanie MacQueen, David Reynolds and James Schendel.

Admission is free. Reservations are not necessary. The library is lovely, and located at 1246 Glendon Ave. in Westwood. Call for further info: (310) 464-1739.

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

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BOND
FROM PAGE 1

high, we can do it less expensively than most cities could imagine," he said. "I think it's prudent in this case and the need is apparent."

Fire Chief Scott Ferguson spoke to the need, explaining that for a variety of reasons, including the coming of the Expo Light Rail Line and new developments, the fire department needs more space for firefighters and vehicles. The new station would replace Fire Station 1, which was built in 1955 and does not meet seismic standards.

Previously, council asked city officials to poll the electorate to determine if they would support a different type of bond, one that would raise property taxes. More than half said they would. But not enough to reach the two-thirds super-majority that would be required to approve the bond in an election.

Other poll questions showed that a significant majority of the electorate favored ensuring that all fire stations meet seismic standards, so city officials decided to pursue a different bond, one that requires council approval.

This bond would not require a tax hike, but would come from the general fund over the next 30 years. The general fund pays for services like police and fire, as well as maintaining parks, after-school programs and libraries.

"There's an opportunity cost to committing $2.7 million a year of general fund money for 30 years, absolutely," Gould said. "Those are dollars that you cannot spend for services or other projects. Absolutely."

Councilmember Ted Winterer pointed out that City Hall can afford to make those cuts.

"We have cut, over the two-year budget, 5 percent per year in our expenditures and we've not been getting a lot of complaints about reduction in services," he said. "So it's certainly eminently doable to accommodate those extra $2.7 million in debt service."

Councilmembers Bob Holbrook and Tony Vazquez were interested in the feasibility of paying back the debt early. City officials said that the rate is locked in for the first 10 years. Noting that it is a complicated calculation, city officials could not determine on the fly how much could be saved if City Hall paid back its debt in year 11, but they said it would be "millions."

"That's a bridge that (City Hall) will be able to consider crossing in the 10th or 11th year," Gould said. "And at that time look at its cash position, look at its reserves, look at interest rates, look at its investment income, and decide whether or not it would be prudent to pay it off, all or portion of those bonds, at that time."

All council members who spoke were in agreement that the fire station needs to be built.

"This council is fortunate to spend a lot of time on exciting new things we do and social services and all the very enjoyable things that the city does for its residents," said Councilmember Kevin McKeown. "But I don't think we could ever afford to lose sight of the fact that one of our prime responsibilities here is public safety. And sometimes to provide public safety, you've got to cough up the cash."

CIVIC USES

Council voted unanimously on a list of interim uses allowed at the Civic Auditorium, which was shuttered earlier this year and is in need of an upgrade.

The cash for the upgrade was another casualty of the RDA dissolution that occurred in 2011.

City officials are hoping to make the space a destination for filming while the future of the building is debated. A television show and a few commercials have already been shot there.

The uses were supposed to be approved by council in January, but BMW recently approached City Hall about holding a five-week media event at the auditorium.

Public assembly is not allowed inside the auditorium — it's in need of a seismic upgrade — but BMW would store its cars there.

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SMO
FROM PAGE 1

In the letter to South Coast Air Quality Management District Executive Officer Barry Wallerstein, Waxman said he has "long been concerned" about air pollution at SMO and its impacts on those living near or working at the airport.

"The residents neighboring SMO and those who work there are entitled to a safe living and working environment, including clean air protected by pollution controls and responsible management practices," Waxman said in the letter.

Residents living around SMO in both Santa Monica and Mar Vista have raised concerns about pollution from piston-powered and jet aircraft landing and taking off from the airport for several years.

A spokesperson with the management district confirmed the letter had been received Wednesday afternoon but could not yet comment as it is still under review.

In the study, scientists specifically single out SMO as a "significant source" for the elevated ultrafine particle concentrations in nearby neighborhoods. It also cites traffic on Interstate 405, saying there were "striking and immediate" reductions in particulate pollution corresponding to a lack of traffic congestion because of Carmageddon, when the freeway was shut down because of construction. Scientists compared those levels to those during normal Saturdays.

"Although pollution reduction due to decreased traffic is not unexpected, this dramatic improvement … provides clear evidence air quality can be improved through strategies such as heavy-duty-diesel vehicle retrofits, earlier retirement of [dirty vehicles] and transition to electric vehicles and alternative fuels, with corresponding benefits for public health," the authors wrote in the study.

For the study UCLA researchers drove an electric Toyota RAV4 equipped with air pollution monitors through residential streets in Boyle Heights, downtown, West Los Angeles and a part of Mar Vista known as North Westdale.

They focused their measurements, taken during summer afternoons in 2008 and 2011, on an especially troubling type of soot called ultrafine particles, which are found in vehicle exhaust. The pollutants are a tiny fraction of the width of a human hair, can lodge deep in the lungs and move into bloodstream and the brain, posing a health risk to people with respiratory and cardiovascular disease, according to the L.A. Times, which first reported on the study's findings.

In one encouraging sign, the scientists detected a drop in ultrafine-particle pollution between 2008 and 2011. The improvement was most noticeable in West Los Angeles, a wealthier area where researchers suspect people are buying more new vehicles with cleaner, more efficient engines, according to the Times.

The same team of UCLA researchers and the South Coast Air Quality Management District have focused on SMO air quality impacts before. UCLA scientists found then that people who live and work near SMO are exposed to higher levels of air pollution.

The management district found in 2011 that ultrafine particle and black carbon emissions were substantially higher than normal at monitoring sites at SMO during short time periods when planes were getting ready for takeoff. Further health studies were recommended to better understand the potential risks associated with exposure to these and other combustion-related emissions.

Some of the recommendations included increasing the width of a blast fence, reducing holding times for all get aircraft, redirecting the exhaust during pre-flight and limiting traffic for larger commuter aircraft.

Waxman wants to know from the management district if there are existing regulations to address ultrafine particle pollution and what additional steps can be taken. Waxman is a ranking member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee.

"The community has brought this air pollution issue to light more than two decades ago," said Martin Rubin, director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution. "Enough with the soft ball questions already."

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David Mark Simpson *dave@smdp.com*

LAST MEAL: The Omelette Parlor features classic photos from Santa Monica's past. The Main Street restaurant, a staple for 37 years, is now, too, history.

CLOSED
FROM PAGE 3

alike. A place like this, they all have their own personalities. Now it's all homogenized."

Hausenbauer sat at a booth surrounded by fan's of the restaurant preaching to the choir.

"Santa Monica is addicted to the dollar," one of them said on the way out.

"I hope this place stays empty for the next two years," said another.

Hausenbauer sat silently, looking grim.

Patrons have literally been crying all week, he said.

Most rewarding over the past two decades have been the relationships with long-term customers, he said. He's watched toddlers turn into professionals in the time that he's own the restaurant. That is the value of independently-owned places, he said.

"I don't know what'll happen to Main Street moving forward," he said. "I think it'll become much more like the promenade in the next 10 or 15 years. That's just national chains and no local identity. The local identity in Santa Monica is about to permanently disappear and I'm pretty sure it already has."

Malibu is currently considering an ordinance that would limit "formula retail" in the city. Formula retail is defined by Malibu as companies with more than 10 businesses worldwide. The issue is expected to go before Malibu City Council next year.

Hausenbauer hopes to open again within six months, somewhere outside of the Santa Monica border.

"A lot of people … look forward to going there for breakfast and for lunch, so it's disappointing, it's discouraging," Gary Gordon, executive director of the Main Street Business Improvement Association, told the Daily Press last month. "This is a pretty big loss."

Sunlight from the big windows covered Rita Perrella, who sat at the breakfast bar reading a book.

She's eaten at the restaurant nearly every day for the past eight months, she said. She recently moved to the area. But they know her name, she said. They don't bother her for sitting and reading.

Perrella doesn't know where she'll go next. She lives on the beach and she likes to walk to breakfast, but there aren't too many options.

She doesn't care to get into the politics of a changing neighborhood but she's careful to mention something that happened in September, just before they announced their closure.

"They remembered my birthday," she said, smiling in awe. "They got me cards and they sang me 'Happy Birthday.' I was totally shocked."

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Defense bill gives Obama rare Guantanamo victory

BY NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Many detainees at Guantanamo Bay may be closer to heading home under a bipartisan deal reached in Congress that gives President Barack Obama a rare victory in his fight to close the prison for terror suspects.

The compromise is part of a broad defense bill awaiting final passage in the Senate this week. The House approved the measure last Thursday. It's the first time since Obama came to office promising to close Guantanamo that Congress is moving to ease restrictions instead of strengthen them. And it could signal changing political views of the prison for terrorism suspects now that the war in Afghanistan is winding down.

Obama's achievement was somewhat a surprise, after the Republican-controlled House earlier this year voted overwhelmingly to make it harder to transfer detainees. But the deal to move in the opposite direction passed with hardly any opposition and little attention — perhaps overshadowed by more prominent defense bill debates over Iran sanctions, military sexual assaults and spying by the National Security Agency.

But even with the deal, Obama still faces big obstacles to closing Guantanamo. Congress has effectively blocked him from doing so for his first five years in office, and he faces declining clout in his final three. Yet the president seems determined as part of his legacy to push for closure of the prison he argues never should have been opened and "has become a symbol around the world for an America that flouts the rule of law."

Congressional proponents of keeping Guantanamo open say they felt they had to allow for transfers to other countries to maintain a more important priority — a ban on detainees from coming into the United States. The administration also pushed for the ability to transfer detainees to the U.S. for imprisonment, trial or medical emergencies but lost on that front, leaving Obama a thorny predicament of what to do with captives considered too dangerous to release.

Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe, who worked on the compromise as the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he'll continue to fight to keep Guantanamo open even as some colleagues are softening their position. "There's no place else you can house these terrorists," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday, adding some former detainees have re-engaged in terrorist activity.

"I look at this and I wonder why people don't want it," Inhofe said. "But the president doesn't and he's going to keep trying (to close it). And this bill stops him from doing it."

Obama renewed his commitment to closure this spring when detainees went on a hunger strike to protest indefinite confinement without charge, now going on for 12 years. Obama responded by vowing to make the case anew to Congress that the prison hurts the United States and appointing envoys at the State and Defense Departments to work toward closure.

"Guantanamo is not necessary to keep America safe," Obama said. "It is expensive. It is inefficient. It hurts us in terms of our international standing. It lessens cooperation with our allies on counterterrorism efforts. It is a recruitment tool for extremists. It needs to be closed."

Top administration officials, including Obama counterterrorism adviser Lisa Monaco and State Department envoy Clifford Sloan, made a quiet yet effective lobbying push to convince members to ease restrictions. They pointed out the annual cost of operating Guantanamo has reached more than $2 million per prisoner while other terrorism suspects are kept in U.S prisons at a small fraction of the price.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin championed the cause and predicts the resulting compromise could have a dramatic impact on the detainee population.

"About half of the detainees would be detainees that could be transferred to their third-world countries from which they come," Levin told reporters. "About half of the detainees would remain in Guantanamo because of the prohibition on transferring them to the United States for detention and for trial."

Half of the 160 detainees at Guantanamo as of this week were approved for transfer nearly four years ago, provided that the home country could provide security guarantees. But the Obama administration has argued that many approved transfers effectively have been blocked by restrictions imposed by Congress.

For instance, lawmakers have barred the administration from transferring any detainee without the Pentagon certifying that, among other requirements, the receiving country is not "facing a threat that is likely to substantially affect its ability to exercise control over the individual." Administration officials have said that's a bar too high in particular for Yemen, home to the world's most active al-Qaida branch and more than half the Guantanamo detainees.

The rules have prohibited transfers to countries where detainees who have been released previously have re-engaged in terrorism. That includes Kuwait, a key U.S. ally that has been lobbying for the return of its two remaining detainees and has built a still unused rehabilitation center to peacefully reintegrate them.

There's also been a prohibition on transferring detainees to countries that the United States has declared a state sponsor of terrorism. Guantanamo houses three Syrians who have been approved for transfer but would be barred from going home under the current rules. Sudan's government says its two remaining detainees were heading home Wednesday — one has completed a sentence after a conviction on terrorism charges and the other is so ill he's unlikely to pose a threat and was recently ordered released by a judge. Court ordered transfers are excluded from the congressional restrictions; otherwise the administration would not have been able to send even a debilitated prisoner home to certain countries.

The congressional deal lifts those restrictions and allows transfers for those detainees who have been approved when the administration determines the transfer is in the national security interests of the U.S.

Administration officials say they are working with foreign governments to negotiate terms of transfers so there won't be a big movement overnight.

"The president directed the administration to responsibly reduce the detainee population to the greatest extent possible, and we would welcome much needed flexibility in this area," said National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden. "But even in the absence of transfer restrictions, our long-standing policy is to transfer detainees only if the threat posed by the detainee can be sufficiently mitigated and when consistent with our humane treatment policy."

CHALLENGES
FROM PAGE 1

paying more than expected. The law is designed to lower premiums for older and sicker workers by including younger, healthier ones in the pool of insured people. Many owners were disappointed by the limited choice of plans.

However, there were some positive reviews. Some owners said they were pleased with the premiums they found on the websites because they were comparable to the rates they were already paying.

Experts said it will take at least a year for businesses to know how the law will affect them.

BUDGET PROBLEMS

The $85 billion in budget cuts that took effect March 1 hurt small businesses with federal contracts. Some lost revenue and had to lay off workers. Companies like retailers whose customers include federal workers also lost revenue. Businesses in states with a large concentration of government facilities, including Virginia and California, bore the brunt.

The government shutdown and deadlock in Congress over the budget in October was more harmful to small businesses than larger companies. Some federal contractors couldn't get paid. Companies that wanted Small Business Administration-backed loans had to wait longer for approvals.

HIRING

In January, small businesses added 106,000 jobs, according to payroll provider ADP. But optimism about a small business hiring boom dissipated as the number of new jobs fell in February and then averaged nearly 70,000 through October. Owners said they weren't planning to add workers because they didn't have the sales to justify the expense, or they didn't need to hire to grow, according to an American Express survey back in the spring. Uncertainty about health care also made them wary.

Through most of the year owners stuck to those plans, but near then end of the 2013 there was a glimmer of hope. ADP reported that small businesses created 102,000 new jobs in November. More insight that could bode well for small business hiring next year, came from a Bank of America survey. Thirty-one percent of owners questioned in the fall said they planned to hire, and 56 percent of those owners said they needed employees to boost business in 2014. That could be good news for the broader economy because more than 99 percent of U.S. companies are small businesses, and they employ about half of U.S. workers.

LENDING

The largest of small businesses had an easier time obtaining credit in 2013, partly because small businesses are getting healthier, said Jeffrey Stibel, CEO of Dun & Bradstreet Credibility Corp. Revenue at larger small businesses had growth of slightly more than 1 percent, according to the company, which issues credit ratings on small businesses. The smallest of companies weren't as heartily embraced even though revenue at those businesses grew at a faster 2 percent pace. The difference? Banks tend to be more comfortable lending to larger companies.

Another positive sign for lending: The popular Small Business Administration 7(a) loan program showed growth. Banks made nearly $18 billion in SBA-backed loans in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30. That's up from above $15 billion the previous year, but still below the $19 billion in SBA loans granted in the 2010 fiscal year.





Fed decides to reduce bond purchases by $10B in Jan.

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The Federal Reserve has decided to reduce its stimulus for the U.S. economy because the job market has shown steady improvement. The shift could lead to higher long-term borrowing rates for individuals and businesses.

The Fed's decision amounts to a vote of confidence in the economy six years after the Great Recession struck. It signals the Fed's belief that the U.S. economy is finally achieving consistent gains.

The central bank said in a statement after its policy meeting ended Wednesday that it will trim its $85 billion a month in bond purchases by $10 billion starting in January. At a news conference afterward, Chairman Ben Bernanke said the Fed expects to make "similar moderate" reductions in its purchases if economic improvements continue.

At the same time, the Fed strengthened its commitment to record-low short-term rates. It said it plans to hold its key short-term rate near zero "well past" the time when unemployment falls below 6.5 percent. Unemployment is now 7 percent.

The Fed intends its bond purchases to drive down borrowing rates by increasing demand for the bonds. The idea has been to induce people and businesses to borrow, spend and accelerate economic growth. The prospect of a lower pace of purchases could mean higher rates.

Nevertheless, investors appeared pleased by the Fed's finding that the economy has steadily strengthened, by its firmer commitment to low short-term rates and by the only slight amount by which it's paring its bond purchases.

The Dow Jones industrial average soared more than 275 points, well over 1 percent. Bond prices fluctuated but by late afternoon, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note was unchanged at 2.88 percent.

The Fed's move "eliminates the uncertainty as to whether or when the Fed will taper and will give markets the opportunity to focus on what really matters, which is the economic outlook," said Roberto Perli, a former Fed economist who is now head of monetary policy research at Cornerstone Macro.

But Perli noted that the Fed has hardly withdrawn its support for the economy. It will continue to buy bonds every month to keep long-term rates down and remains strongly committed to low short-term rates. By keeping interest rates historically low, the Fed "will continue to remain very supportive of risky assets," Perli said.

The economy is improving consistently, and the Fed is "now recognizing the trend and decided to go with the flow," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo.

In updated economic forecasts it issued Wednesday, the Fed predicted that unemployment would fall a bit further over the next two years than it thought in September. And it expects inflation to remain below the Fed's target level.

The Fed expects the unemployment rate to dip as low as 6.3 percent next year and 5.8 percent in 2015. Unemployment has fallen faster this year than policymakers had predicted.

And Fed policymakers predict that their preferred inflation index won't reach its target of 2 percent until the end of 2015 at the earliest. For the 12 months ending in October, the index is just 0.7 percent.

The Fed worries about very low inflation because it can lead people and businesses to delay purchases. Extremely low inflation also makes it costlier to repay loans.

In its statement, the Fed says it will reduce its purchases of mortgage- bonds and Treasury bonds each by $5 billion. Beginning in January, it will buy $35 billion in mortgage bonds each month and $40 billion in Treasurys.

The bond purchases have helped keep long-term interest rates low to encourage more borrowing and spending.

The Fed's actions were approved on a 9-1 vote. The only member to object was Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He called the move premature because unemployment remains high and inflation extremely low.

The Fed's action comes after encouraging reports that show the economy is accelerating.

Hiring has been robust for four straight months. Unemployment is at a five-year low of 7 percent. Factory output is up. Consumers are spending more at retailers. Auto sales haven't been better since the recession ended 4 1/2 years ago.

What's more, the stock market is near all-time highs. Inflation remains below the Fed's target rate. And the House has passed a budget plan that seems likely to avert another government shutdown next year. The Senate is expected to follow suit.





SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **61.4°**

THURSDAY – **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.

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

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

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 -- 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 8
- 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 Las Alisa 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 24572 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'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.

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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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.

Officials prepare for winter-weather Super Bowl

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. Standing amid giant piles of snow in the shadow of MetLife Stadium, Super Bowl organizers said Wednesday that they're prepared to deploy thousands of trucks and tons of salt to prevent snowy weather from interfering with the biggest football game of the year.

Officials held the press conference to assure the public that snow or ice will not hinder the game on Feb. 2, when it will debut as the first outdoor, cold-weather Super Bowl in NFL history.

The stadium has several snow melters on hand that can clear the fields quickly, including one machine that can melt up to 600 tons of snow per hour, said the stadium's CEO, Brad Mayne. Removable snow chutes can funnel snow out of the seating and concourse areas, he said.

"As you can imagine, Mother Nature and her storms come in many different varieties," Mayne said. "And so we have to be flexible in how we address each and every storm."

Mayne pointed to the most recent storm to hit the region last week, which dropped 6.3 inches of snow and ice on the stadium just hours before the New York Giants played host to the Seattle Seahawks.

"Even though the storm ended just hours prior to kickoff, our experienced crew were able to have the stadium ready," Mayne said.

The stadium plans to have up to 1,600 workers on standby for the Super Bowl, which is double the typical amount of personnel used in most storms.

Officials said they would only consider rescheduling the game in extreme circumstances.

"It is our objective to kick off the ball at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 2," said Frank Supovitz, Senior Vice President of Events for the NFL. "And we're going to expend every effort ... to make sure that that gets done."

Transportation experts say a snowy football field isn't the issue -- after all, many NFL games have previously been played in the snow. But the players might be throwing passes in an empty stadium if the fans can't make it there during a blizzard.

Filling MetLife Stadium on Super Bowl Sunday hinges open the reliability of New Jersey's rails and roads to funnel fans to the game.

"They'll play the game," said Mitchell Moss, director of the Rudin Center for Transportation at New York University. "The question is, they may have to hire mannequins to fill the stadium."

An ice or snow storm would jeopardize the region's airports, causing ground delays or cancellations that would prevent fans from arriving in New York City, including the scores of private jets that will likely touch down at Teterboro Airport, Moss said. Icy roads would also hinder the many buses that will ferry fans from Manhattan to the game.

During a nor'easter last February that crippled the region, for example, NJ Transit suspended bus operations across the state to decrease the number of vehicles on the road and help plows clear the pavement.

At the press conference, New Jersey Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Joseph Mrozek said the state can deploy more than 820 vehicles and about 60,000 tons of salt within a 30-mile radius of the stadium, with even more resources available statewide if necessary.

The state also has more than a quarter of a million gallons of brine and 850,000 gallons of liquid calcium in storage, which are used to treat salt when temperatures drop below freezing.

"We have the trucks, we have the manpower and we have the supplies to fight any major event," Mrozek said.

Interest in whether or not America will have its first snowy Super Bowl has ramped up so much that the forecasting company AccuWeather has created a website asking that very question: www.willitsnow.com.

Launched on Wednesday, exactly 45 days before the game, the site currently predicts a 30 percent chance of snow on Feb. 2. The site will be updated daily.

On Super Bowl Sunday, it'll update with hourly forecasts for fans who want to track the weather by the minute.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

White Christmas (NR) 2hrs
7:30pm
Introduction by Jeremy Arnold, Turner Classic Movies historian and researcher.

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

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Delivery Man (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:45pm, 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
10:55am, 5:00pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
12:30pm, 3:45pm

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
7:45pm

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

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
7:00pm, 10:15pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
7:00pm, 10:25pm

Dallas Buyers Club (R) 1hr 57min
10:40pm

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

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

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

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

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

Philomena (R) 1hr 34min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

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

RUN ERRANDS, PISCES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your optimism and enjoyment of your personal life come out, even when dealing with a difficult associate. Questions might arise in a meeting or in a discussion involving a friend. Tonight: In weekend mode.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You will speak and be heard; the modulation of your voice says it all. You would prefer to indulge a loved one rather than have to put restrictions on him or her. You will hear positive news, but recognize that you might not have all the facts. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Before you go out to complete any holiday shopping or other matters related to the next few weeks, balance your checkbook and take a hard look at your finances. Everyone loves to give gifts, including you, but creating situations that will be damaging later should be avoided. Tonight: Out late.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ A gesture to those in your daily life will mean a lot, and it doesn't need to cost a lot. A loved one might feel a bit down, as you seem to be everywhere but with him or her. This person will understand your actions, but know that he or she misses you. Tonight: It is your call.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Know when to pull back and find out what is happening. You might not understand the whole story, so speak to a friend or loved one who could give you a different perspective. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ A meeting will be more important than you realize. Push could come to shove, whether you like it or not. Your seriousness will help you communicate how important an appropriate response might be. Tonight: Listen to your instincts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Step up to the plate and assume your responsibilities. Your finances could stress you out inordinately, especially as you might be facing big bills and also coveting a special item for yourself or a loved one. Tonight: Join friends. Let go of the issue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to a relative at a distance. A situation could trigger you, but the matter at hand will transform soon enough. Let others' opinions filter in. Tonight: Indulge in some lighthearted holiday fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Deal with a loved one directly. You might feel as if you are carrying a burden that is hard to discuss; however, you must open up in order to release this weight. Tonight: Go out and finish up your shopping.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Listen to answers and defer to someone else. Allow greater flexibility. Going with the flow could be a lot easier than you originally might have thought. In the past few weeks, if you have managed to relax, you have experienced more freedom. Tonight: Join friends for some munchies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Pace yourself, and know full well what you need to do. A boss or higher-up could be on your case because he or she needs you to do more. You are in the holiday spirit. Therefore, you will try to meet all of your demands, and you might even succeed. Tonight: Take a nap.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Allow greater creativity to flourish. You have many ideas that could help you shorten your to-do list. Take the time to add some of the extra flourishes that represent the winter holidays. Tonight: Move quickly through your errands.

Thursday, December 19, 2013

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

This year you will feel as if the wind is at your back, as so much seems to flow in your life. The only person who can stop you is you. Sometimes your fears and insecurities prevent you from being as dynamic as possible. You might decide to do some personal work to release any issues that limit you. As a result, you could become more relaxed and confident. If you are single, you will attract someone of interest just by being yourself. If you are attached, the bond that exists between you becomes more intense. LEO always encourages you to take the next step.

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



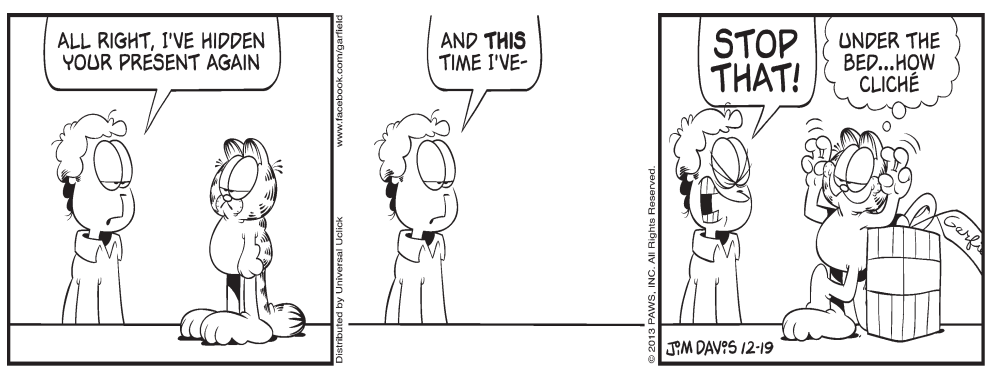
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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 Pert talk
5 Moulin Rouge dance
11 Canyon sound
12 Mead-owlark's cousin
13 Harrow rival
14 Knock over
15 God of wine
17 Kickoff aid
18 Malia's sister
22 Novel ideas
24 Patriot Allen
25 Seine water
26 Many a time
27 Door sign
30 Fry lightly
32 Ranch rope
33 Hallow-een mo.
34 Potential pipes
38 Bagel choice
41 Franc replacer
42 Wed in secret
43 Wild guess
44 Ornamen-tal shrubs
45 Swift jets

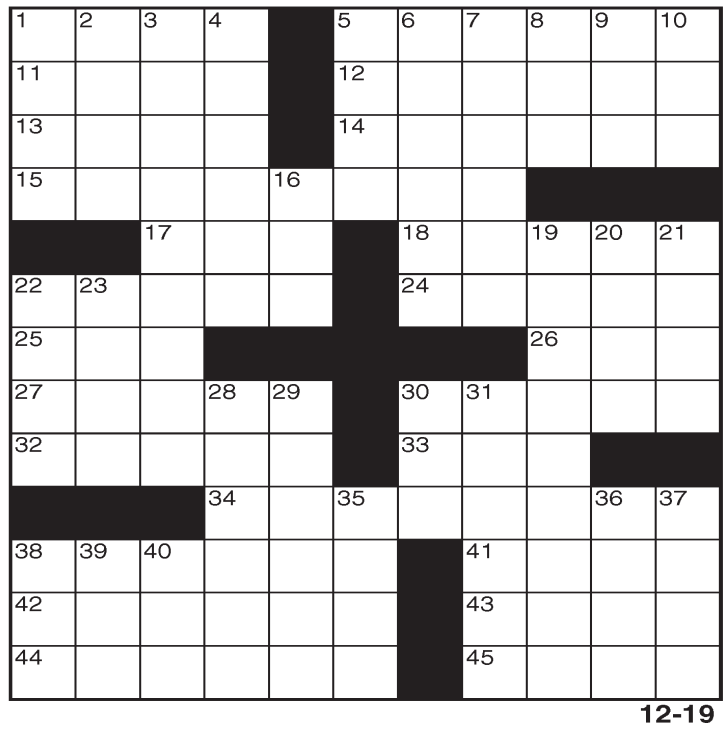
DOWN

1 Canary snack
2 Play start
3 Soccer game tie-breakers
4 Shake-speare creation
5 Barracks beds
6 Kindle
7 Attacks, puppy-style
8 Beat walker
9 Com-pletely
10 Once called
16 Agreeable answer
19 Public mentions
20 Knife handle
21 Poker payment
22 Zest source
23 Turner of film
28 Houdini feat
29 Tenant
30 Heir, often
31 Means of approach
35 Some wines
36 Baby sitter's bane
37 Shows sorrow
38 Sailing site
39 Wing
40 Lawn makeup

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

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



12-19

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ An exhaustive American Civil Liberties Union report in November showed that more than 3,200 people are serving life sentences in the U.S. for non-violent offenses (about 80 percent for drug crimes). Most were sentenced under "three-strikes"-type laws in which the final straw might be for trivial drug possession, for instance, or for a petty theft such as the $159-jacket shoplifting in Louisiana, or the two-jersey theft from a Foot Locker. Said the jacket thief, Timothy Jackson, "I know that for my crime I had to do some time but . . . I have met people here whose crimes are a lot badder with way less time." Added his sister, "You can take a life and get 15 or 16 years," but her brother "will stay in jail forever. He didn't kill the jacket!"

■ (1) Douglas Yim, 33, was convicted in September of murdering a 25-year-old man in Oakland, Calif., in 2011 after an evening of teasing by the man, who mocked Yim's certainty about the existence of God. (2) A 27-year-old yoga fanatic in St. Austell, England, drowned in a pit in May during a well-publicized attempt to create an "out-of-body experience" to get as close to death as possible but without going over the line.

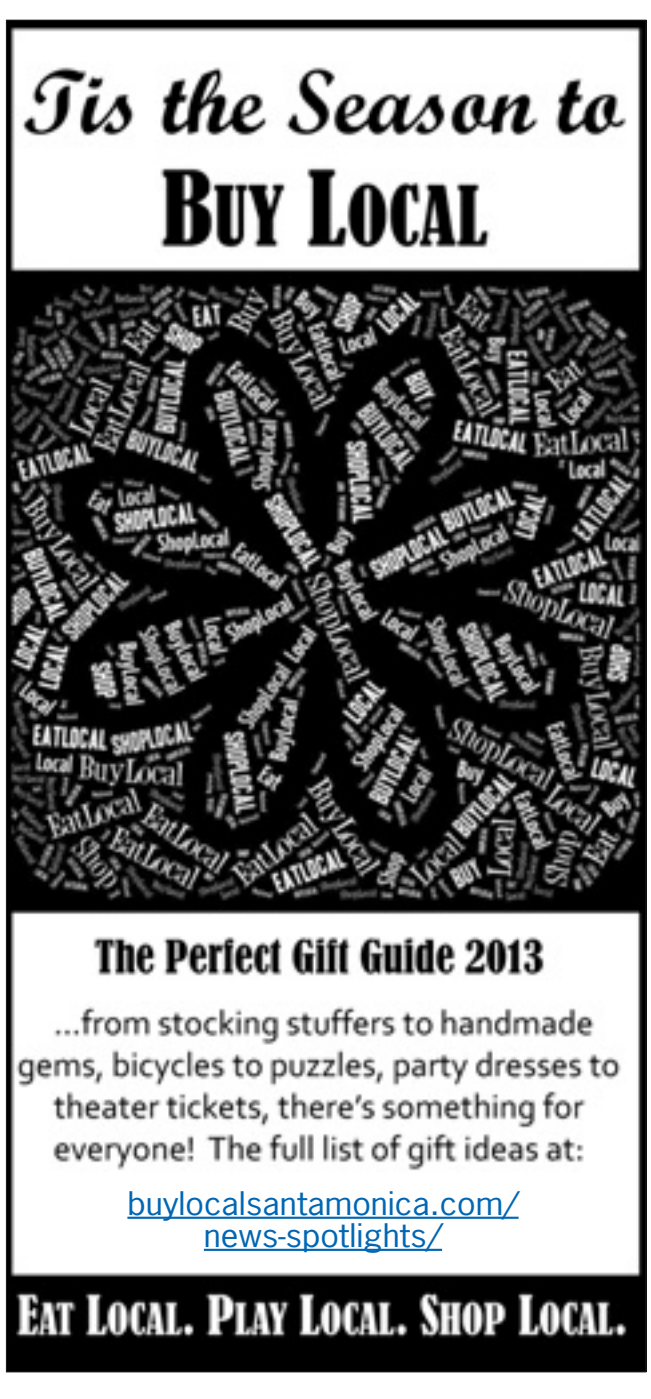
TODAY IN HISTORY

1998 – President Bill Clinton is impeached by The United States House of Representatives, becoming the second President of the United States to be impeached.

2000 – The Leninist Guerrilla Units wing of the Communist Labour Party of Turkey/Leninist attack a Nationalist Movement Party office in Istanbul, Turkey, killing one person and injuring three.

2001 – A record high barometric pressure of 1085.6 hPa (32.06 inHg) is recorded at Tosontsengel, Khövsgöl, Mongolia.

2001 – Argentine economic crisis: December 2001 riots – Riots erupt in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



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Services

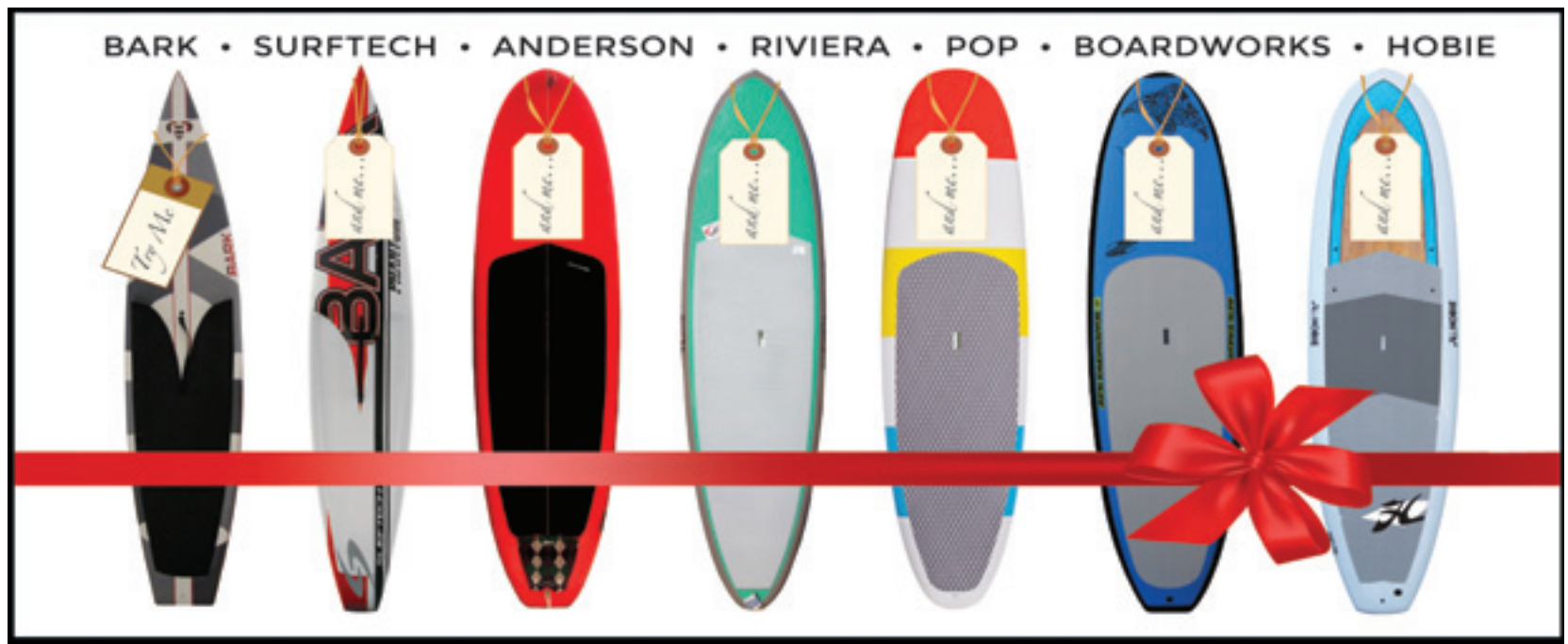
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Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale as of Mid December 2013			
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	2,049,800
North of Montana	=	$	4,533,176
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	2,675,516
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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