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DECEMBER 21-22, 2013
Volume 13 Issue 32

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*We have you covered*

WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEKEND
SEE PAGE 2

THE KEEPING THEM HONEST ISSUE

# City reviewing airport art studio lease

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

**AIRPORT AVENUE** Santa Monica Art Studios, which rents a 26,500-square-foot public space next to the Santa Monica Airport at a rate significantly below market value, is being reviewed by City Hall.

The contract, which was signed nearly a decade ago, includes a requirement that the spaces be subleased to artists at an average rate of $1.50 per month per square foot, said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. This was included to ensure affordability for artists, many of whom struggle to make ends meet in a city with high rents.

The Daily Press has repeatedly reached out to Yossi Govrin, the director of the art studios, seeking information as to how much artists are paying for studio space. Govrin has ignored e-mails and hung up on phone calls, always refusing to release the information.

Following an article in the Daily Press about the studios, city officials are putting

SEE STUDIOS PAGE 10



**SANTA SURPRISE**

Photo courtesy UCLA Medical Center- Santa Monica

**More than a dozen Santa Monica fire fighters and Santa Claus delivered presents to the pediatrics unit at UCLA Medical Center-Santa Monica on Thursday. The fire fighters buy and wrap the gifts themselves, and many of them come on their days off. The event was started four years ago.**

# Why 2013 was our year of guilty pleasures

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Entertainment Writer

This year, Hollywood reminded us of one long Kanye West rant — somewhat intelligible yet completely nonsensical; intriguing but annoying; and something you wanted to ignore but just could not look away.

How else to describe the feeling we had after watching West and Kim Kardashian simulate the conception of their daughter North West with the video "Bound 2?" Or hearing about another profane Alec Baldwin meltdown? Or watching Lady Gaga and R. Kelly grinding up against each other on "Saturday Night Live?" Miley twerking with little people? Or digesting the news that Simon Cowell will be someone's father?

It was bewildering, off-putting, jarring — yet entertaining at the same time. As bad as celebrity antics were this year, they remained our guilty pleasure. We'll never admit it, but these are the moments that had us riveted in 2013.

**ISN'T THE COVER OF US WEEKLY ENOUGH?**

Kanye West had many righteous things to rage about this year, from the fashion industry not giving him credit for brilliant, life-changing designs like leather jogging pants, to not getting respect from President Obama. But nothing seemed to upset him more than Vogue's apparent refusal to put his baby mama, Kim Kardashian, on the magazine cover. He likened her to this generation's Marilyn Monroe, called her the most

SEE REVIEW PAGE 11

# Schools closed because of cancer scare to be cleaned

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

**MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL** It's going to be a busy winter break for the Malibu school campuses.

Several rooms at the high school and middle school will be tested for cancer-causing PCBs, cleaned, and tested again all before the end of the break, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Sandra Lyon announced in a letter to parents and staff Thursday night.

The safety of the Malibu High School campus has been questioned since October when 20 staff members, including three diagnosed with thyroid cancer, wrote a letter to the district complaining of a variety of health-related issues.

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 10


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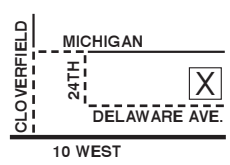
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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

**Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013**

**Meet the masters**
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 9:30 a.m.
Master gardeners provide free gardening tips, solutions to problems, seeds and seedlings as well as their technical expertise based on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program which provides intense training emphasizing organic gardening and covers vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, trees, soils, composting, pests and harvesting.

**A day with Frosty**
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m.
Who took Frosty the Snowman's magic hat? Franklin Haynes Marionettes presents a story about the gift of giving. Space limited. Free tickets available at 10 a.m. the day of the show. For more information, visit smpl.org.

**Lace 'em up**
Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue
10 a.m. — 12 a.m.
Hit the rink at ICE at Santa Monica, a popular holiday attraction. For more information, call (310) 461-8333.

**He is real**
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 3 p.m.
Creating Arts Co. presents a holiday classic that is sure to put a smile on the faces of even the Scrooges of the season. Based on actual events, "Yes, Virginia" follows 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon on a journey to discover if Santa Claus is real. She decides to write a letter to the editor of the Chicago Sun to find out the truth. For more information, call (310) 804-0223.

**Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013**

**Old stuff**
Santa Monica Airport
3100 Airport Ave., 8 a.m.
Antiques, collectibles and crafts market. All ages welcome. Admission: $5. For more information call (323) 933-2511 or visit www.santamonicaairportantique-market.com

**Get fresh**
Main Street Farmers' Market
2640 Main St., 9:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
A well balanced blend of certified California farmers, tasty prepared and packaged foods, entertainment and children's activities as well as local retail. The Main Street market hosts a variety activities including bands, a weekly petting farm or pony rides, arts and crafts, a face painter, a balloon animal designer as well as seasonal California grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, meats and cheeses. For more information call (310) 458-8712.

**Long hair don't care**
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Creating Arts Co. is proud to present a stunning new adaptation of the classic Grimm fairy-tale of the girl with magical golden locks, "Rapunzel." An interactive theatrical experience. Admission: $10-$34. Purchase online at www.creatingarts.org, call (310) 804-0223 or e-mail info@creatingarts.org.

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

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

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



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**DOWNTOWN**

### Pub crawl raises $20,000 for food bank

The SANTA Monica Pub Crawl, held Dec. 14, raised $20,000 for the Westside Food Bank for the second year in a row, helping to provide food for needy families in Los Angeles County, organizers said.

In the past five years, the pub crawl has raised over $65,000 for the food bank, allowing them to distribute over 350,000 pounds of food for the holidays.

"The Santa Monica Pub Crawl is the largest event ever held on behalf of Westside Food Bank," said Genevieve Riutort, chief development officer for the food bank. "We are so grateful to Kim Koury and the entire Spin PR team for all their hard work in making the event such a great success. The Santa Monica Pub Crawl introduces us to thousands of new supporters, and the combined efforts of the community of revelers makes a huge impact. Thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered. ... With half of our food going to children, this event has a lasting impact on the health of our community."

– KEVIN HERRERA

**OCEAN PARK**

### Health center holding clothing, food drive

The Westside Family Health Center is holding a clothing and food drive called Heart2Heart with the goal of donating 500 pounds of food and 75 bags of clothing.

Heart2Heart began when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck and health center employees wanted to do something to help Gulf Coast area residents. Now, every year the center selects two worthy community partners in need of food and clothing donations for their clients. This year, Heart2Heart will benefit St. Joseph Center Food Pantry and Safe Place for Youth.

The center has already collected and distributed more than 350 pounds of food and 44 bags of clothes since the drive began in late November.

"The clothing donation could not have come at a better time. Last night our young people arrived wet and tired but left warm and dry in their new clothing," said Alison Hurst, executive director and founder of Safe Place for Youth.

"St. Joseph Center is seeing greater demand than ever for help during the holidays," said Va Lecia Adams Kellum, executive director of St. Joseph Center. "We set a record at Thanksgiving by distributing nearly 800 turkeys, and more people are signed up for our Adopt-A-Family effort than in any past year."

St. Joseph Center provides working poor families, as well as homeless men, women and children with the inner resources and tools to become productive, stable and self-supporting members of the community.

Food items needed include juice, canned meats and soups, canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, beans and rice. Safe Place for Youth inspires, nurtures, and empowers homeless youth by providing street outreach, a drop-in center, and case management. Clothing items needed include adult-size gently used or new jackets, jeans, T-shirts, sweatshirts, new socks and new underwear.

The drive runs until Jan. 20. Donations can be brought to the center's main waiting room at 1705 Ocean Park Blvd. For more information, call (310) 450-4773, ext. 253.

– KH

**LOS ANGELES**

### Small quake jiggles western Los Angeles

A small earthquake has rattled the west side of Los Angeles and coastal suburbs.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the 8 a.m. Thursday quake measured magnitude-2.8 and was centered a mile northwest of Marina del Rey.

Residents of Marina del Rey, Venice, Santa Monica and Culver City reporting the quake on the USGS website mostly describe it as weak.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS



Photo courtesy Team Marine

**PLASTIC BOUNTY: Santa Monica High School students with Team Marine sort recyclables at the school.**

# Students donate $5K to purify drinking water

**BY DAILY PRESS STAFF**

**SAMOHI** Santa Monica High School Students and their families have collected and sorted approximately 100,000 recyclables since 2008, raising $5,000 to purchase water-purifying systems for kids in underdeveloped countries.

Benjamin Kay, a teacher at Samohi and coach of student group Team Marine, said money raised went to Water Solutions For Life, an organization dedicated to promoting water conservation and to providing water to those who need it around the world. The group uses the cash generated by recycling to purchase LifeStraws, which are portable water purifiers which last for up to a year. They can filter up to 264 gallons of water, removing bacteria and parasites that can make people sick and sometimes kill.

"This year we've already raised almost $1,000," Kay said in an e-mail to supporters. "You can save lives too and help the environment by recycling."

Kay urged those who are interested in helping to drop off recyclables to room S107 at Samohi or request a pick up by Team Marine members. Learn more at www.teammarine.org.

About 2.6 billion people — half the developing world — lack even a simple "improved" latrine and 1.1 billion people have no access to any type of improved drinking source of water, according to the World Health Organization. Roughly 1.6 million people die every year from diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera, attributable to a lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and 90 percent of these are children under 5, mostly in developing countries.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

### Think about the cost

**Editor:**

As I read your Dec. 19 headline and article, "Fire station bond could cost taxpayers $81M," I wondered how readers would react to the following headline: "Lost funds and Afghan/Iraq wars could cost Santa Monica taxpayers $4.1 billion." That's $46,200 per person in Santa Monica, as opposed to $920 per person for the fire station, enough to build 51 fire stations.

The $4.1 billion figure comes from (1) a recent article, which claims that since 1996 the Pentagon admitted it can't account for $8.5 trillion in missing funds, and (2) the most recent estimate of the eventual overall costs of the Afghan and Iraq wars by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard scholar Linda Bilmes, now pegged at between $4 trillion and $6 trillion (I have used the higher figure).

Taxpayers always express themselves on the costs of local human services. But nearly all remain silent when it comes to the trillions (nationally) and billions (locally) that are lifted from our common treasury to pay for wars and the staggering incompetence emerging from the Pentagon.

**John Marciano**
Santa Monica







## Your column here

Ted W. Lieu

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Protecting the rights of juveniles

**AT THE AGE OF 14, MICHAEL CROWE,** along with two 15-year-old friends, was charged with fatally stabbing his sister, Stephanie, at their Escondido home.

After several hours of nearly non-stop interrogations, Crowe and one friend confessed.

Later, a judge ruled the questionings psychologically abusive and coercive. But it wasn't until a year after the killing that the charges were dropped — and only then because DNA tests found Stephanie's blood on the sweatshirt of a mentally ill homeless man who had been in the neighborhood.

Yet, it still took until last year, 15 years after being formally charged, for Michael's name to be formally cleared.

Beginning in 2014, juveniles who find themselves in the same situation as Michael and his friends will have new protections against false confessions. On Jan. 1, 2014, legislation I authored, Senate Bill 569, will require all custodial interrogations of juveniles charged with homicide to be electronically video recorded.

My new law is exactly the kind of safeguard that would have protected Michael and his friend from their false confessions. Instead, Michael was the victim of a wrongful charge and the real killer was allowed to roam free for another year — endangering us all.

As highlighted by Michael's case, three injustices can result from false confessions.

• An innocent person is incarcerated.

• Criminal investigations end and the real perpetrator remains free to commit similar crimes, or worse.

• Victims' families are subjected to double trauma: The loss or injury of a loved one, plus the guilt over conviction of an innocent person.

A national study conducted by professor Samuel Gross of the University of Michigan identified false confessions extracted during police questioning of suspects as the second-most frequent cause of wrongful conviction. In fact, more than 25 percent of the more than 290 wrongful convictions overturned by DNA evidence in the U.S. have involved some form of a false confession.

As a result, it became imperative that California develop policies that enhance the fact-finding power of the criminal justice system through procedures designed to present the best quality of evidence possible in the courtroom.

With research indicating that false confessions occur with alarming frequency, juveniles remain the group most prone to wrongful convictions. Research also has demonstrated that brain development continues throughout adolescence and into early adulthood. Specifically, the brain's frontal lobes, responsible for mature thought, reasoning, and judgment, develop last.

The truth is adolescents use their brains in a fundamentally different manner than adults. They are more likely to act on impulse, without fully considering the consequences of their decisions or actions. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized these biological and developmental differences in recent decisions on the juvenile death penalty; juvenile life without parole; and the interrogations of juvenile suspects (Roper v. Simmons; Graham v. Florida; and J.D.B. v. North Carolina, respectively).

In particular, the Supreme Court has recognized that there is a heightened risk that juvenile suspects will falsely confess when pressured by police during the interrogation process.

Research also demonstrates that juveniles in police custody do not fully understand or appreciate their rights, options or alternatives. The research of professors Drizin and Leo of the University of San Francisco School of Law suggests that false confessions are often extracted from the most vulnerable suspects.

Specifically, in a database of 125 proven false confessions compiled by Drizin and Leo, 33 percent involved confessions from juveniles, most of who confessed to brutal murders.

Further, in a more recent review of exonerations between 1989 and 2004, 42 percent of the cases of juvenile exonerees involved false confessions, compared with 13 percent of the cases of adult exonerees.

Among the youngest of these juvenile exonerees, (12- to 15-year olds), 69 percent confessed to homicides and rapes that they did not commit.

The virtue of videotaping interrogations, and its strength as a public policy, lies not only in its ability to guard against false confessions, but also in its ability to develop the strongest evidence possible to help convict the guilty. The reforms contained within SB 569, specifically the requirement to videotape the custodial interrogations of juveniles suspected of homicide, will improve criminal investigation techniques, reduce the likelihood of wrongful conviction and further the cause of justice in California.

Unfortunately, justice was late for victims like Michael Crowe.

Ted W. Lieu represents the more than 1 million residents of State Senate District 28, which includes Santa Monica.




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The Q Line

# On the deck

**Santa Monica Pier leadership has 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, while a comedy showcase bombed.**

This past week, Q-line asked:
**What kind of events would you like to see the pier host in the future and why?**

Here are your responses:

**"I THINK THAT THE PIER MAYBE** should sponsor numerous free fishing lessons, also how to catch crab in the crab nets. It should be daily in fact, maybe two or three classes a day for the public to learn the details of fishing off the pier, safety rules to obey and how to clean and cook the fish properly ... and how to mingle it with other foods."

**"IN THIS ECONOMIC CLIMATE TODAY,** it's not feasible to go to the pier for the average person or young couple. The cost of any entertainment, i.e. event, such as the Ferris wheel ride and dinner, is not exactly an incentive to spend your hard-earned money. Perhaps if they lowered the cost of some food and entertainment, more people would come and enjoy and, in doing so, would bring more money to the city."

**"THE GREATEST DRAW FOR AN EVENT** on the pier would be to take our pro-development city officials to the end of the pier, place them on a boat and send them out to sea and give them the misguided compass they've been running the city with."

**"I THINK IT'S JUST GREAT TO HAVE ALL** kinds of wonderful things on the Santa Monica Pier. I just saw the picture of an exercise class. It's beautiful down there. Let's have all kinds of different things like dance classes, films, concerts and such. That will keep the pier in the world renowned."

**"THEY SHOULD HAVE A 10K RUN.** The pier isn't that long, but so what."

**"THE PIER NEEDS BETTER RESTAURANTS,** a nightclub and more performers/artists to keep it entertaining. I do love walking down there for sunsets. It's free to visit, but during winter months we need to keep people engaged. I think the new pier leadership is doing a great job of introducing new events, like the comedy show and the pier play. Keep it up. But remember, you have to make sure that all segments of the community are represented, not just the young hipsters."

**"PERHAPS FREE-FORM OR STANDARD** dances could be held in the daytime hours in celebration ... ."

**"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A BIGGER** Ferris wheel and more frightening roller coaster ride. Also, maybe bring back some more live entertainment or music like they used to do. Create a grand ballroom and have live big bands play. That would be a riot."

**"I LIKE THE FITNESS CLASSES THEY** have there and the games at Pacific Park. The carousel is always classic and the new seafood place is nice. I would like to maybe see more higher-end restaurants to go with the burger joint and Mexican food place. I think you need more variety when it comes to food so you attract a more diverse crowd of people. The main thing is to make sure the pier is clean and safe. No one will go there if they feel they will get robbed or have to deal with gang bangers. Remember the '80s?"

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# California's unemployment rate continues positive trend

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** California's jobless rate dropped to 8.5 percent in November, the state Employment Development Department said Friday, continuing a positive trend after increasing temporarily over the summer.

The unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point since October. It had fallen to 8.5 percent in June before bouncing back to 8.9 percent by August.

The U.S. Labor Department said California, Texas and Indiana reported the largest job gains in November as hiring improved across the country.

California added more than 44,000 non-farm jobs last month, with trade, transportation and utilities leading the way. That business category alone added 32,500 jobs.

Also gaining jobs were mining and logging, construction, manufacturing, information, and leisure and hospitality.

Four sectors lost jobs: financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and government. The financial activities sector was the biggest loser, down 4,900 jobs.

California has added 903,000 jobs since February 2010, when the state employment department says the economic recovery began. Since November 2012, nonfarm jobs increased by 226,200 jobs, up 1.6 percent.

Stephen Levy, senior economist for the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy in Palo Alto, said November's figures show Southern California is seeing a surge in jobs thanks to new construction, growing imports and exports through the region's ports, and emerging technology centers. That means Silicon Valley is no longer the state's only major job creator, he said in an e-mail.

Despite the gains, California still exceeds the national unemployment rate, which dropped to 7 percent in November.

Only four states were worse off: Illinois, Michigan Nevada and Rhode Island. Nevada and Rhode Island tied for the nation's highest rate, at 9 percent.

A year ago, California's unemployment rate was 9.9 percent.

Michael Bernick, a former director of the Employment Development Department who is now a fellow at the Milken Institute economic think tank, said in an e-mail that he expects steady job growth through 2014. But he predicted the economic rebound will bring more political and policy attention to the growing problem of wage inequity between the rich and poor.

On that front, the state employment agency reported that nearly 1.6 million people remained unemployed in California, down 34,000 from October and down by 256,000 from November 2012.

Earlier this week, the state employment department said it has notified more than 222,000 long-term unemployed Californians that they will lose their federally funded extended unemployment benefits at the end of the year.

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# Remains of U.S. soldier lost in Korean War come home

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES** Sixty-three years after Army Sgt. 1st Class Joseph E. Gantt went missing in action during the Korean War, his remains were returned to his 94-year-old widow in a solemn ceremony at Los Angeles International Airport before dawn Friday.

Clara Gantt wept as she stood in the cold before the flag-draped casket that was carried from a jetliner by military honor guard.

"He told me if anything happened to him he wanted me to remarry. I told him no, no. Here I am, still his wife," she told reporters.

Joseph Gantt was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, while serving with Battery C, 503rd Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, according to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office in Washington, D.C.

According to the office, elements of the 2nd Infantry Division were attacked by greater numbers of Chinese forces near the town of Kunu-ri, North Korea. The division disengaged and withdrew, fighting its way through a series of Chinese roadblocks. Numerous U.S. soldiers were reported missing that day in the vicinity of Somindong, North Korea.

After a 1953 exchange of prisoners of war, returning U.S. soldiers reported that Gantt had been injured in battle, captured by Chinese forces and died in a POW camp in early 1951 from malnutrition and lack of medical care. His remains were only recently identified. Information on when they were found was not immediately available from the missing personnel office.

"Sixty-some odd years and just receiving his remains, coming home, was a blessing and I am so happy that I was living to accept him," Clara Gantt said.

Burial with full military honors is scheduled for Dec. 28 in Inglewood, Calif.

Gantt joined the Army in 1942 and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He and Clara met on a train from Texas to Los Angeles and were married in June 1948. He was then sent to Korea as a field medic.

Gantt was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, a Purple Heart and other honors.

Nearly 7,900 Americans are still unaccounted for from the Korean War. According to the Defense Department, modern technology allows identifications to continue to be made from remains turned over by North Korea or recovered from that nation by American teams.

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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

# Obama puts a rosy spin on rough presidential year

BY JULIE PACE
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** Putting a rosy spin on a difficult year, President Barack Obama acknowledged frustrating "ups and downs" on Friday but exulted that the improving economy is creating new jobs and claimed crucial progress for his troubled health care overhaul. He predicted 2014 would be "a breakthrough year for America."

In his annual year-end news conference, Obama refused to dwell on his tumbling approval ratings, the disastrous rollout of his signature health care law or the pile of unfinished domestic priorities he leaves behind as he heads for a Christmas holiday in Hawaii. Asked whether this had been the worst year of his presidency so far, he laughed and said, "That's not how I think about it."

Yet not all was sunny. He did suggest that, given widespread criticism, he may alter the power of the National Security Agency to collect information on Americans.

And when it came to the start of his health care law, Obama conceded that "we screwed it up," and said, "I'm going to be making appropriate adjustments once we get through this year." It was unclear if he meant to signal high-level personnel changes.

Obama does have some reason to be optimistic. He spoke hours after the government announced the economy grew at a solid 4.1 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest pace since late 2011 and significantly higher than previously believed. And he heralded a modest bipartisan budget deal that cleared Congress this week, saying that while it's too soon to declare a new era of bipartisanship, Washington is "not condemned to endless gridlock."

Obama heads to his annual home-state Hawaiian vacation armed with dozens of recommendations from a presidential task force on ways to limit the NSA programs. The recommendations were released just days after a federal judge declared the NSA's bulk collection of Americans' phone records unconstitutional, ratcheting up pressure on him to make changes.

The president insisted that the NSA has not inappropriately used the massive amounts of data in its possession, though he added, "We may have to refine this further to give people more confidence."

After lying dormant for years, the government surveillance issues shot into the spotlight after former NSA contractor Edward Snowden leaked a trove of secret documents. Snowden is a fugitive from the U.S. and living in Russia, where he received temporary asylum. Some of his supporters have pressed Obama to grant him amnesty, though the president declined to comment on those calls.

"I will leave it up to the courts and the attorney general to weigh in in public on Mr. Snowden's case," he said.

The president opened his hour-long news conference with upbeat news on his health care law, announcing that 1 million people have enrolled in federal and state insurance exchanges since Oct. 1. That's more than two-and-a-half times the number on Nov. 30, when major fixes to the deeply flawed sign-up website were completed.

"The demand is there," he said. "The product is good."

Still, it was too soon to say whether the widely panned health care rollout had turned a corner for good. The HealthCare.gov website was down for part of the day Friday as technicians attempted to fix an error that occurred Thursday night when the site was undergoing routine maintenance. And the administration has had to enact a series of delays and exemptions for businesses and individuals, including one just Thursday for some people whose health insurance policies were canceled because of the law's new standards.

No one in the administration is known to have been fired over the health care failures. Obama said he would make "appropriate adjustments once we get through this year." There have been repeated calls for the ouster of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, but Obama gave no indication that was what he had in mind.

Other disputes lie ahead. Obama renewed his long-standing statement that he will not negotiate concessions with Republicans in exchange for legislation that will be needed in late winter or early spring to raise the nation's debt limit. "It is not something that is a negotiating tool. It's not leverage. It's a responsibility of Congress," he said, although he added he was willing to discuss other issues separately.

On a key foreign policy concern, Obama said it would be wrong to impose new sanctions on Iran at a time when the United States and other nations are testing an interim accord designed to curtail Tehran's nuclear program. If necessary, "we can pass new sanctions in a day," he said, referring to lawmakers.

The president also addressed his decision to include openly gay athletes in the U.S. delegation to the Winter Olympics in Russia, which has a national law banning "gay propaganda." Obama said the delegation, which includes athletes Brian Boitano, Billie Jean King and Caitlin Cahow, shows the U.S. doesn't make distinctions on the basis of sexual orientation.

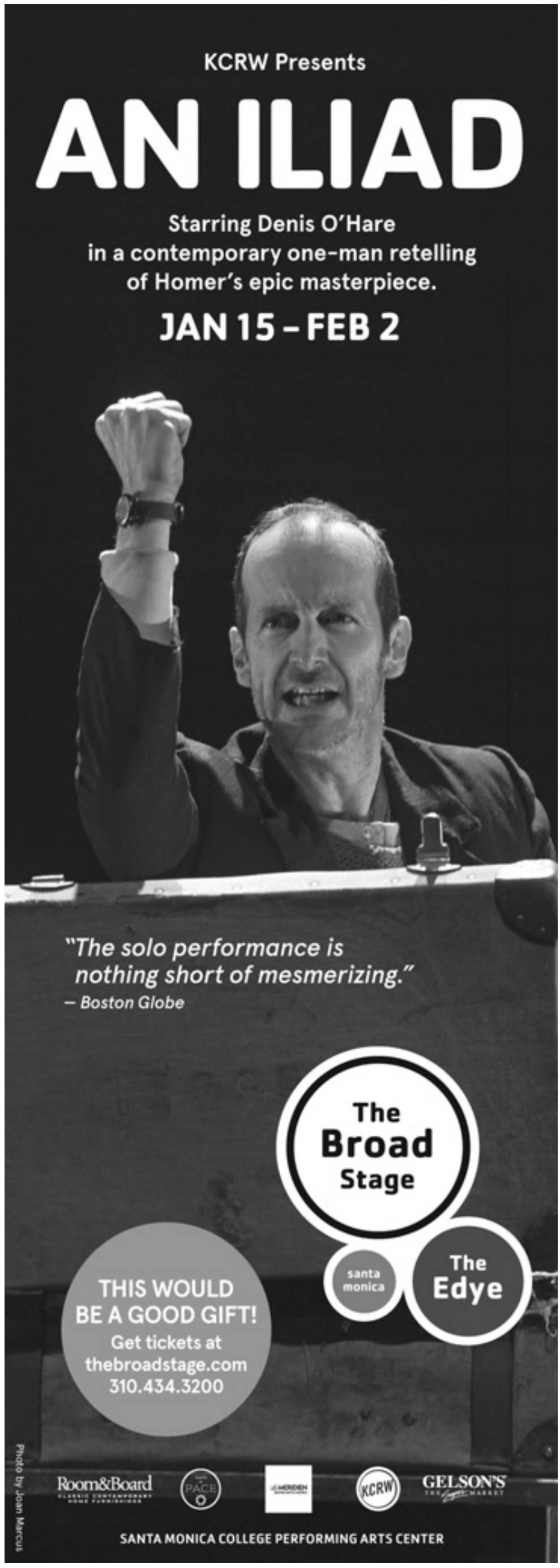
The Sochi Games are the first since 2000 to which the U.S. is not sending a president, former president, first lady or vice president. That decision has been seen as an indication of Obama's increasingly tense relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Following the news conference, Obama and his family were to depart for Hawaii. It's the first year that last-minute legislative wrangling has not prevented the president from departing on schedule.

Obama did leave behind a New Year's resolution before boarding Air Force One.

"My New Year's resolution is to be nicer to the White House press corps," he said.

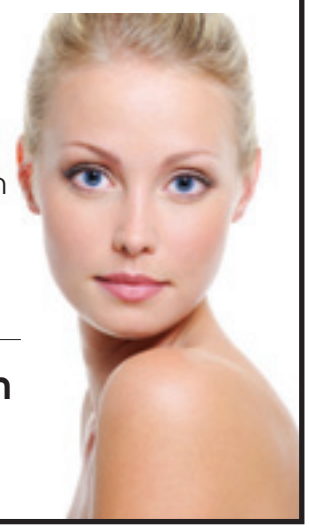


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## The Re-View

Merv Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com



**PEEKING AT PEKING**

Photo courtesy John Blanchette

**Ducks hanging out at Hop Woo. Make sure to try the Peking vareity.**

# East meets Westside

**MY PLAN WAS TO WRITE ONE ARTICLE** about Japanese restaurants, one about Korean, one about Chinese, and one about mixed-Asian restaurants. So I asked my Korean golf partner, Mr. Kim, "What's the best Korean restaurant on the Westside?"

He hesitated, like he does before each putt. He continued to think for a while. Then he replied, "I don't think there is a good Korean restaurant on the Westside." He said there might be one around Sawtelle Boulevard, but nothing of consequence.

That made writing about a Korean restaurant on the Westside somewhat speculative. But he didn't know about the Wharo Korean BBQ on Lincoln Boulevard just south of Washington Boulevard. That's a pretty good family-run Korean restaurant with a pleasant modern décor. The service is excellent and they have the BBQ grills in the tables. The main courses are accompanied by six little dishes of vegetables, including kimchi, one of the most healthy dishes in the world.

You have to go into the Korean part of town to really find the best Korean restaurants. There are so many good ones there that it hardly pays to try to list them. A favorite is the "corner" in an almost deserted shopping center one block south of the old Times building around the 5000 block of Wilshire Boulevard. It's not easy to describe the location because they don't have any signage in English, and there is no address showing.

We go to a number of good ones on Western Avenue near Wilshire (one in particular on the north west corner of Wilshire and Western, about 30 feet to the north).

When I was next with a Chinese friend I asked, "What's the best Chinese restaurant on the Westside?" He too hesitated. "Would you say that Sepulveda is on the Westside?" he asked. I knew he was thinking about Hop Woo, but I had to say "no," Sepulveda is on the other side of the 405 Freeway.

It's not easy to find a really good Chinese restaurant on the Westside. We go some Sunday mornings for dim sum at the Palace on Wilshire and Barrington. And I love the Peking duck at Hop Woo. When I have a group together we sometimes go to Hop Li on Santa Monica Boulevard.

But the great Chinese restaurants are out of the area. Ever look up "Chinese restaurants Santa Monica" on Yelp? Melisse is listed, along with Blue Plate Oysterette — clearly not Chinese restaurants. I don't know why, but it suggests a lack of Chinese restaurants in the area.

Then I thought about Vietnamese cuisine, and there I did know my favorite: the Saigon on Wilshire. They have great authentic soups, and a wonderful plate of very thin crepes with a selection of meats to roll up in them yourself. It's not only very tasty, but a lot of fun.

Finally I looked up Japanese restaurants on the web and realized that my editor would never give me enough space to write about them. It seems like hundreds are listed. How could I decide which to write about? As we all know, Japanese cuisine has overtaken the Asian restaurant market. Sushi is everywhere, second only to Italian food.

There are dozens of Sushi bars within Santa Monica, and a number other regional Japanese specialty houses. Below are the ones I frequent most often, many times with my son Spencer who lived in Japan for 12 years and knows a lot about food from cooking courses in Paris and a brief time as an assistant chef.

One way to look at the Japanese restaurant sector is to divide it into three sections — takeout, standard quality, and very expensive "experience" restaurants.

The only takeout Japanese food I eat is from Gelson's in Pacific Palisades. It's not great, but it's a good, fast snack food when I don't feel like cooking or going out. I know it's fresh when I buy it because I watch the guy make it.

I'm getting burned out on the $150 to $200 a person high-end Japanese restaurants. I've already reviewed the top three in prior articles. But if I do decide to take someone out for a special event my first choice would be Sushi Zo. They don't go too crazy-weird, and the preparations are interesting and very fresh so that it's almost worth the price.

The two sushi restaurants we frequent most often are the Sasabune Express in Pacific Palisades (bring your own sake) with top quality fish at incredibly low prices, and

SEE **ASIAN** PAGE 9

# ASIAN
FROM PAGE 8

the Hikari Sake House, a Korean-owned busy little spot on the corner of Santa Monica and Fourth Street, which boasts that it sells more Asahi beer than any restaurant in Los Angeles.

We sometimes go to Noma, on Wilshire and 20th Street. The tempura is pretty good and they have a few other hot dishes that are well made. Their sushi bar is OK, and very popular with the locals.

There are a number of good eclectic Asian restaurants around the Westside. Monsoon on the Third Street Promenade can be quite good. And Buddha's Belly in Downtown has some surprisingly good dishes at reasonable prices.

But the best of all is still Chinois On Main, which has been serving Wolfgang Puck's version of Chinese food for over 20 years.

Asian food has heavily influenced American cuisine. Many top-notch restaurants now have some Asian dishes on their menus, such as seared tuna salads, and even raw marinated fish. But for the real thing I think you have to gas up your car and go to that part of town where the real people from the country live.

**Merv Hecht,** the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

## If you go

**Hikari Sake House**
401 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, Calif.
90401
(310) 576-7011
http://hikarisakehouse.blogspot.com/
A traditional "Japanese drinking house" specializing in sushi rolls.

**Noma**
2031 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, Calif.
90403
(310) 453-4848
www.nomasushisantamonica.com/
A standard fare, traditional sushi bar with booths and a wide selection of dishes.

**Sasabune Express**
970 Monument St.
Pacific Palisades, Calif.
90272
(310) 454-6710
http://sushisasabune.tumblr.com/
A small space, a small menu, no alcoholic beverages, but top quality Japanese foods at incredibly low prices. Great for takeout.

**Sushi Zo**
9824 National Blvd.
Los Angeles
90064
(310) 842-3977
One of the top Japanese sushi bars in town. Talking is discouraged as it distracts from the experience. Bring gold bars to pay the check.

**Chinois on Main**
2709 Main St.
Santa Monica, Calif.
90405
(310) 392-3037
www.wolfgangpuck.com
One of the great restaurants in Los Angeles; expensive, unique, and very loud.

**Hop Li**
11901 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles
90025
(310) 268-2463
www.hoplirestaurant.com
A traditional old-fashioned Chinese restaurant with lots of space and a big menu.

**Le Saigon**
11611 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles
90025
(310) 312-2929
www.lesaigoncuisine.com/
An experience in real ethnic Vietnamese food. No alcohol; try the coconut juice instead.

**Hop Woo**
11110 W. Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles
90064
(310) 575-3668
www.hopwoo.com/
Almost like being in China, with few waiters who speak English. The best Peking duck in town, and small lobster tails for $12.

**Wharo Korean BBQ**
4029 Lincoln blvd.
Marina del Rey, Calif.
90292
(310) 578-7114
www.wharo.com/

**Buddha's Belly**
205 Broadway
Santa Monica 90401
310-458-2500

**Monsoon Cafe**
1212 Third Street Promenade
Santa Monica, Calif.
90401
(310) 576-9996
www.globaldiningca.com/monsoon/
Eclectic Asian-fusion dishes with something for everyone. Good for people watching on the promenade.

**The Palace**
11701 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles
90025
(310) 979-3377
Not the best dim sum, but the best on the Westside. A full menu of traditional Chinese food. Very crowded on Sunday mornings.












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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.




## STUDIOS
FROM PAGE 1

together a report about the Santa Monica Art Studio's lease. It should be released early next week, City Manager Rod Gould said in an e-mail. All airport leases are being audited in anticipation of their expiration next year, Gould said. City officials are gearing up for 2015 when they believe an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration to keep SMO open expires.

City officials will examine the affordability of sub-rents at the studios in this audit, Gould said. The sub-rents have never been audited by City Hall, Public Works Director Martin Pastucha told the Daily Press earlier this month.

City Hall passed on an estimated $4 million to 6 million dollars over the past 10 years in providing the studio space at an initial rate of 37 cents per square foot per month. This monthly rate has risen to 43 cents with inflation.

City Hall is currently taking in $9,885 per month from Santa Monica Art Studios.

Richard Abbitt, a managing director at Lee & Associates, a Los Angeles brokerage firm specializing in creative office space, estimated that the rates for a space like the hangar could go for $3 per square foot per month, bringing City Hall's potential revenue to $67,800 per month.

In a letter to the Daily Press that did nothing to shed light on the rental rates artists are being charged, Govrin mentioned that office spaces near the airport rent for $1.91 per square foot per month. That's four and half times the rates he is currently paying to City Hall.

The lease was negotiated by Jeff Mathieu, who is currently the city manager at Big Bear Lake. Susan McCarthy was city manager of Santa Monica at the time. Neither of them have any recollection of the lease negotiations.

dave@smdp.com

## SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

The district shuttered a building and several classrooms before taking PCB samples from the air, dust, and caulk at dozens of locations throughout the school. The air samples came back clean, but the dust and caulk samples contained PCB levels high enough to trigger Environmental Protection Agency oversight. One caulk sample, taken from the exterior of a library window, was found to have 37 times the amount of PCB required to trigger the agency's involvement.

At a Board of Education meeting earlier this month, officials with the EPA and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control told board members and parents that the campus is safe. Exposure to the PCB-laden caulk itself does not increase a cancer risk, they said. As the caulk deteriorates and the particles enter the air, the risk increases. Because the air samples came back clean, there is no immediate threat, they said.

An initial release from Lyon stated prematurely that the EPA had approved the proposed testing and cleaning, which will be done by National Response Corp. She later clarified, in a second letter, that the EPA had not yet reviewed the proposed testing at that time of the initial release.

EPA representative Steve Armann sent a letter to the district Friday approving the plans under the condition that all windows in the tested rooms remain closed and that the district notify the EPA three days before the final air testing. The EPA plans to send a representative to perform independent testing to ensure quality control.

The plans, proposed by the district's consultant Mark Katchen, asked that the air samples be taken with windows open.

Today and tomorrow, air samples will be taken from many rooms that were not previously tested, Lyon said in her letter.

"EPA is not requesting this testing," she said. "The district is undertaking the work to provide further assurances to the community as we return teachers and students to the previously vacated classrooms."

From Monday through Jan. 5 rooms will be cleaned for dust. Air and dust samples will be taken to ensure the rooms are safe.

All students return to school on Jan. 6.

At past meetings parents have expressed concern that a cleaning could stir up PCBs from the dust particles or the degrading caulk.

The EPA's oversight is not required for this type of testing.

"It is important to note that this interim plan is separate from the cleanup plan necessary to address PCB impacted caulk at Malibu H.S," Armann said in his letter.

The district is still required to submit plans for caulk remediation and that cleaning will require EPA oversight.

Paula Dinerstein, a representative of the Washington D.C. based Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility sent an e-mail to the EPA, asking, among other things, if the district has chosen an EPA-certified contractor to perform the clean-up.

Lyon mentions at the beginning of her letter that parents and teachers have expressed a desire to return to shuttered classrooms. After the cleaning, teachers will get the go-ahead to use the rooms.

"The timing of when teachers choose to return to their classrooms will be left to the teacher, as we do not want to unnecessarily further disrupt instruction," she said in the letter. "I will trust and rely on our teachers' judgment on working out that schedule."

The district is soliciting companies to perform soil testing and more air testing. The deadline for the applications was Friday. The selection will be made next month.

dave@smdp.com



# REVIEW
FROM PAGE 1

beautiful woman on the planet, and scoffed that two-time Vogue cover girl Michelle Obama couldn't Instagram a selfie photo of her nearly bare backside like Kim and cause the stir that Kardashian did. We see a rant about an IRS audit coming in 2015.

### AT LEAST HE GOT OUT OF THE KARDASHIAN CHRISTMAS CARD

Khloe Kardashian called it quits with troubled basketball star Lamar Odom after four years of marriage and months of endless tabloid headlines juicier than anything we'd seen in their reality show. The last straw for Kardashian allegedly came after video surfaced of a shirtless Odom and a male friend rapping semi-incoherently about smoking weed and scoring with lots of women. It doomed their marriage, but is a pretty good pilot for another Odom TV show.

### CAN WE STOP NOW, PLEASE?

This year felt like Miley Cyrus plowed into our consciousness with a concrete wrecking ball — oh wait, that really did happen. From her twerk-a-thon at awards shows to her nearly nude poses to that now- infamous tongue, we saw too many different sides (not to mention the backside) of the former teen queen. Please tell us that it was all a dream — and that Billy Ray is going to pop out and explain to Hannah Montana what can happen when you eat brownies but you don't know who baked them.

### WE STOPPED BIEBLIEVING A WHILE AGO

What happened to our favorite teen moppet? Over the past year, Justin Bieber went on a world tour of mayhem, from speeding in the streets of Los Angeles, to suggestions of smoking weed to spraying illegal graffiti in Colombia to stepping on the Argentinian flag (he said he meant no offense). We expected more from a young Canadian lad. Let's hope Toronto mayor Rob Ford hasn't become his new role model.

### A RECIPE FOR TROUBLE

Paula Deen let fly a career-ender when, during a deposition in a racial discrimination case, she admitted to using the N-word and described the vision she had of using all-black waiters to serve in a mock plantation scenario. Deen fell on her butter knife during a tearful, defiant interview with Matt Lauer on the "Today" show, but her empire crumbled, with everyone from Walmart to the Food Network dropping her like a hot cinnamon roll.

### WE'RE CRINGING ON PURPOSE

Brad Paisley and LL Cool J's "Accidental Racist," designed to be an ode to racial understanding, united people of all colors: We recoiled together after hearing lines like "If you don't judge my do-rag/I won't judge your red flag" and perhaps the topper, "If you don't judge my gold chains/I'll forget the iron chains." Paisley said he'd only wanted to try and have an honest conversation about race relations.

### PAYING TRIBUTE, AL JOLSON STYLE

Julianne Hough's decision to don blackface for Halloween to portray her favorite character from the Netflix show "Orange is the New Black" sparked an uproar, and drew an eventual apology from the actress, who said she never intended to hurt anyone.

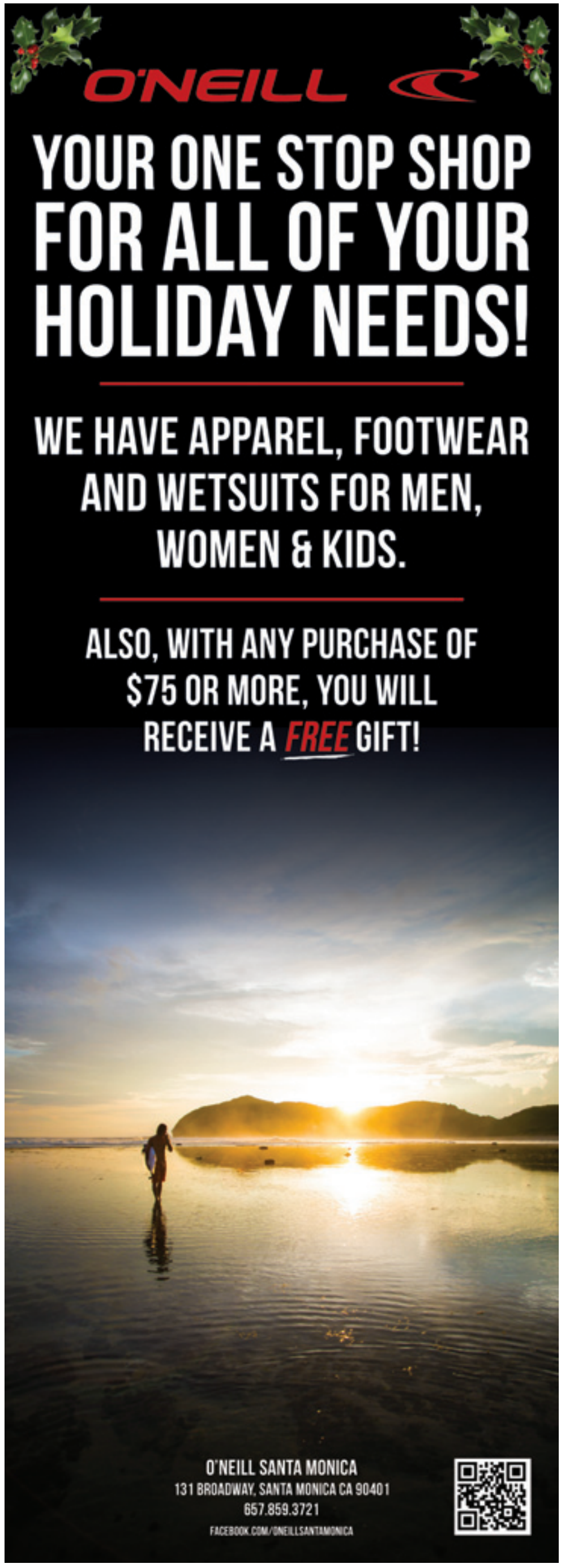
### TALK ABOUT WATCHING YOUR MOUTH

Michael Douglas caused a stir — and in some circles, perhaps a panic — when, in an interview, he was quoted suggesting that he got his throat cancer from oral sex (though he later backtracked). We're hoping it's just a coincidence that he and Catherine Zeta-Jones announced a trial separation a few months later.

### BEST PERFORMANCE ON FILM

That goes to Reese Witherspoon. Unfortunately for her, it was on a police video cam, not a movie screen. Witherspoon made headlines when she was arrested for drunkenly interfering in an officer's attempt to arrest her husband on a DUI charge. In the video, Witherspoon immediately went into character development, telling the officer she was pregnant (an admitted lie). She also trotted out that well-worn line of fading stars: "Do you know my name?" Given the box-office performance of her last few films, she should have expected that he wouldn't.



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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, LAcarGUY, SIMA, and Swain Barber Foundation

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for at least 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

| LOCATION | DRY | WET |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks. | | |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth. | A+ | A |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth. | A | A |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private). | A+ | A+ |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth. | C | C |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach. | A+ | F |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth. | B | A |
| Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Pwerco State Beach at creek mouth. | B | A+ |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Pwerco 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 DWW 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

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.

NCAA FOOTBALL

# No. 21 Fresno State faces USC in Las Vegas Bowl

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

**LAS VEGAS** Although Fresno State fell one win short of a BCS berth, the Bulldogs still got a high-stakes trip to Vegas for the final game of quarterback Derek Carr's career.

The 21st-ranked Bulldogs (11-1) landed in the Las Vegas Bowl against Southern California (9-4) on Saturday, kicking off bowl season with a compelling California matchup in the shadow of the Strip.

USC is on its third head coach of a tumultuous season, but the talent-rich Trojans are still one of the nation's highest-profile programs.

With a victory over USC to clinch the first 12-win season in school history, the Bulldogs would stake a compelling claim as the best team ever to suit up in the Central Valley.

"The team is pretty fired up about being here," Fresno State receiver Davante Adams said. "They've got a great program, world-renowned, so it's going to be a lot of fun going against these guys."

Adams and Carr are excited about the challenge they'll face when the Bulldogs have the ball at Sam Boyd Stadium. While the nation's best passing offense decimated nearly every defense it faced, USC's undermanned defense still put together an impressive season against the Pac-12's high-scoring teams, ranking 14th in the nation in scoring defense.

"I don't like to give anybody too much credit until we go out and face them," said USC safety Dion Bailey, who might head to the NFL after the game. "They've got a talented offense, but I don't think there's any defense in the country that's like ours."

After every dip and peak in a season that puts the New York-New York casino's roller coaster to shame, the Trojans say they're only focused on completing a 10-win season. Offensive coordinator Clay Helton is running the team after Ed Orgeron resigned earlier this month, angry about losing the permanent job to Steve Sarkisian despite going 6-2 as Lane Kiffin's interim replacement.

The Trojans all seem to admire Helton, who joined the program along with Kiffin in early 2010, but several players made their Vegas motivations clear this week.

"Everybody in that locker room wants to win for Coach O," USC cornerback Josh Shaw said. "Even Coach Helton has talked about it. We still go through the same routines now that he isn't here, and we're going to do it again. The only thing different is Coach O won't be the one talking to us."

Five reasons to watch the most compelling matchup on the first day of bowl season:

**FRESNO SHOWCASE:** The Mountain West champions got to the brink of a BCS breakthrough, but a defensive meltdown in a 62-52 loss to San Jose State ruined it. Fresno State is eager to embrace this chance to show off in front of a national audience, but the Bulldogs also realize USC could cause similar problems for Fresno State coach Tim DeRuyter's defense with the combined talents of receivers Marqise Lee and Nelson Agholor, quarterback Cody Kessler and tailback Javorius Allen.

**THE FABULOUS BAKERSFIELD BOYS:** Kessler and Carr have more in common than their position. They're both from Bakersfield, Calif., and they've known each other for years. Carr is two years older than Kessler, who solidified his hold on the USC job with a midseason surge. Carr holds nearly every significant Fresno State record for his position at the school where Kiffin was a backup quarterback in the 1990s.

**SARK IN THE WINGS:** Sarkisian is in Vegas as an observer, waiting to take over the program after the game. Sarkisian, hired two days after the Trojans' regular season ended with a loss to UCLA, is allowing the remnants of Kiffin's coaching staff to run bowl preparations, but he'll be watching his returning players closely — and he might be scouting the Bulldogs, who will be his first opponent next season.

**LONG TIME COMING:** For all of its recent success under Pat Hill and DeRuyter, Fresno State hasn't won a bowl game since 2007, losing five of its last six bowl games overall. Carr is eager to go out with his first bowl victory, which would make him the first senior quarterback to win a bowl game at Fresno State since Jeff Tedford did it in 1982.

**LEE'S BIG FINISH?:** Almost everybody expects Lee to head to the NFL after his underwhelming junior season, but the 2012 Biletnikoff Award winner should be healthier than he's been in many weeks when he faces Fresno State's suspect pass defense. Lee needs 12 catches to pass Robert Woods as USC's career receptions leader, and Helton might be wise to give him the opportunity.

THE TRADITION CONTINUES
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Scenes will be
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JANUARY 2, 2014

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60-year tradition may be sent to:
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P.O. Box 0648
Santa Monica, CA 90406

www.santamonicanativityscenes.org

# MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Dec. 21
**Lawrence of Arabia (PG) 3hrs 36min**
7:30pm
Introduction by film historian Jeremy Arnold, author of "Lawrence of Arabia: The 50th Anniversary."

Sunday, Dec. 22
**Elf (PG) 1hr 37min**
7:30pm

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

**Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 20min**
1:45pm, 7:00pm

**Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min**
11:45am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

**Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13)**
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 11:00pm

**Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) 1hr 20min**
11:15am, 4:15pm, 9:45pm

**12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min**
10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

**Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min**
11:15am, 5:10pm, 10:40pm

**Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min**
10:00am, 1:20pm, 4:50pm, 8:20pm, 11:30pm

**Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min**
10:30am, 11:40am, 1:30pm, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:40pm, 10:30pm, 11:30pm

**Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min**
2:15pm, 8:00pm

**Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 2hrs 41min**
10:10am, 5:00pm

**Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 2hrs 00min**
9:45am, 1:00pm, 4:45pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

**American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min**
10:00am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:45pm, 11:15pm

**Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in HFR 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 41min**
2:45pm, 9:45pm

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

**Act of Killing (NR) 1hr 55min**
11:00am

**Inside Llewyn Davis (R) 1hr 45min**
11:00am, 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

**Great Beauty (La Grande Bellezza) (NR) 2hrs 30min**
11:00am

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

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

# AT HOME TONIGHT, SCORPIO

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Don't assume that someone is OK when you know that he or she has difficulties with the holidays. Make a call and make sure that this person has plans, or invite him or her to a lengthy brunch.Tonight: Wherever you are, there is a party.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You'll flourish at home, even if you're busy. Make cookies and finish up any gift wrapping that needs to be done. If you must go out, make it fast; otherwise, you could feel drained. Tonight: Go with the flow.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Return calls, catch up on emails and mail out a holiday card or two. Others will want to talk, and they want to talk to you. Listen, but also understand what they really want and what their words mean. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be off spending money somewhere. Hopefully you will complete your holiday shopping. Resist making a purchase just for you. Wait. An issue could revolve around you, a parent and/or your home. Tonight: Order in, or treat others out to dinner.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might attempt to deal with a situation involving your daily life. Let go of worry, as it is absolutely pointless. Know that something better lies ahead. You could feel quite drained just from the day. Tonight: Do only what you must. Note the change in energy.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Hit the pause button and give yourself a little time off. Events will march on relentlessly to Christmas. Take a break. Some of you might opt for a massage and/or a snooze. Do what works for you. Take down the stress level a notch. Tonight: Your sense of adventure emerges.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Wherever you go and wherever you turn, there will be crowds of people around you. You also might get flooded with emails. Take an hour or two just for you. Tonight: Drop in on a party or join some friends.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might feel different and a little out of sorts. Someone could misunderstand your words or your intentions. This confusion might lead to a rift. Clear up the issue before too much bad blood develops. Tonight: Hang out at home.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Take off if you can, even if only for the afternoon. Note the difference in your energy. Honor this change and stop pushing so hard. Other creative ideas will pop up if you must buy a gift or two. Think about experience-related presents. Tonight: Be around great music.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ The Sun enters your sign and signals your birthday month. Note that you soon will have more get-up-and-go. A boss or parent could become very indulgent. You might want to shy away from the intensity. Tonight: Light the tree and add some romance.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your focus seems to change as the first day of winter arrives. You will tend to become more internal. A person you care a lot about could be on your mind. A friend might not understand the change in your moods. Be understanding. Tonight: Not to be found.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Pressure finally eases off. You might want to kick back and enjoy the holiday celebrations. Drop in on a party or two. You could be surprised by some of the people you see. Don't forget about a loved one who tends to get depressed this time of year. Tonight: The party goes on.

**Weekend Edition, December 21-22, 2013**

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

This year you become more easygoing than in the past, partially because of a relationship or a key friendship. Someone relates intensely and openly with you. You feel more secure as a result. If you are single, you could find this year to be very memorable. You could have a secret admirer, and you might want to start seeing this person on a romantic level. If you are attached, the two of you are likely to enjoy more couple time together. Curb a tendency to go boldly over the top with spending, eating out and other such activities. LEO always seems to have the right words.

**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



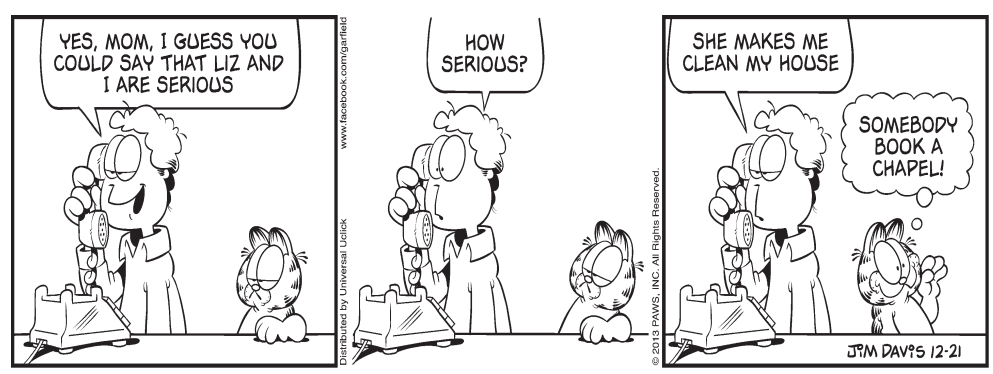

# Strange Brew
By John Deering



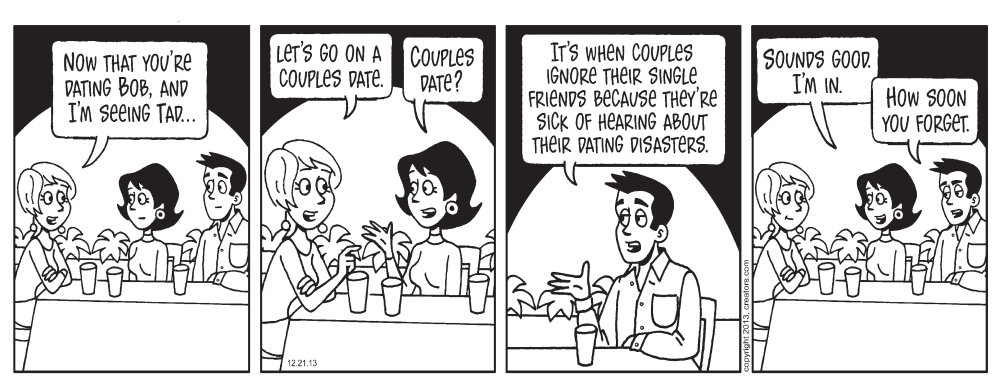

# Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni




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

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

Tis the Season to
BUY LOCAL




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/

EAT LOCAL. PLAY LOCAL. SHOP LOCAL.



## 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** Propeller type
**6** Plains grazer
**11** Port-au-Prince setting
**12** Draw out
**13** Take, as advice
**14** Emulate Astaire
**15** Side-tracks
**17** Failure
**18** Brit's brew
**19** Shrouds
**22** Ocean between Eur. and Amer.
**23** Blues singer Ma
**24** Farm sights
**25** "Settle down!"
**27** Female rabbit
**30** Chemical solvent
**31** Clean Water Act org.
**32** Seaman's answer
**33** Trio of myth
**35** Murdered
**38** Avignon's river
**39** Puzzle out
**40** Alpine trill
**41** Dawn
**42** Watchful ones

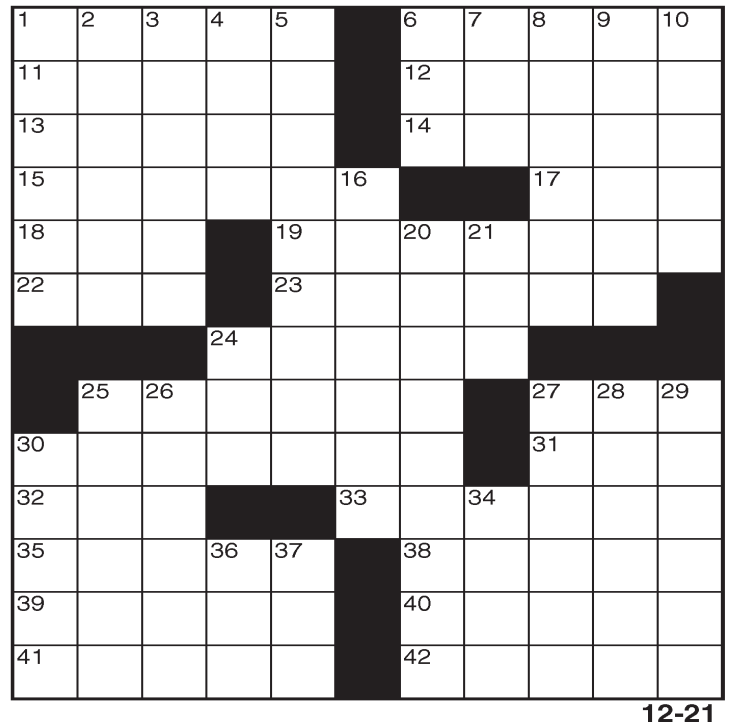
**DOWN**

**1** California mount
**2** Sign of prestige
**3** Ceremony
**4** School near Windsor
**5** Dark brew
**6** Garden section
**7** Lupino of films
**8** Gooey treat
**9** Take over
**10** Calls for
**16** Catching
**20** Cover crop
**21** Hosp. workers
**24** Dickens nickname
**25** Sri Lanka, formerly
**26** "Paper Moon" co-stars
**27** Crack, in a way
**28** Starting bid
**29** Studio stands
**30** Low singer
**34** Ship-to-ship call
**36** "— had it!"
**37** Court sight

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

**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



12-21




## NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In November, Sweden's National Housing Board, in charge of building codes, ordered the country's famous Ice Hotel in Jukkasjarvi (built anew annually out of fresh ice blocks) to install fire alarms. "We were a little surprised when we found out," said a spokeswoman (who acknowledged that the hotel's mattresses and pillows could catch fire).

■ Australian Marcus Einfeld (a prominent lawyer, federal judge, and Jewish community leader) was once so revered that one organization named him a "living treasure," but he fell into total disrepute in 2006 by deciding to fight a simple speeding ticket. By March 2009, Einfeld had been sentenced to two years in prison for perjury and obstructing justice for lying in four elaborate detailed schemes to "prove" that he was not driving that day. His original defense (that he had loaned the car to a friend who then passed away) was accepted by the judge, but dogged reporting by Sydney's Daily Telegraph revealed that Einfeld lied, and lied to cover up each successive lie. Encouraged, reporters went on to uncover Einfeld's bogus college degrees and awards and a double-billing fraud against the government. (The speeding ticket would have cost about $80.)

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1988** – A bomb explodes on board Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, killing 270.

**1992** – A Dutch DC-10, flight Martinair MP 495, crashes at Faro Airport, killing 56.

**1994** – Mexican volcano Popocatépetl, dormant for 47 years, erupts gases and ash.

**1995** – The city of Bethlehem passes from Israeli to Palestinian control.

**1999** – The Spanish Civil Guard intercepts a van loaded with 950 kg of explosives that ETA intended to use to blow up Torre Picasso in Madrid, Spain.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## Employment

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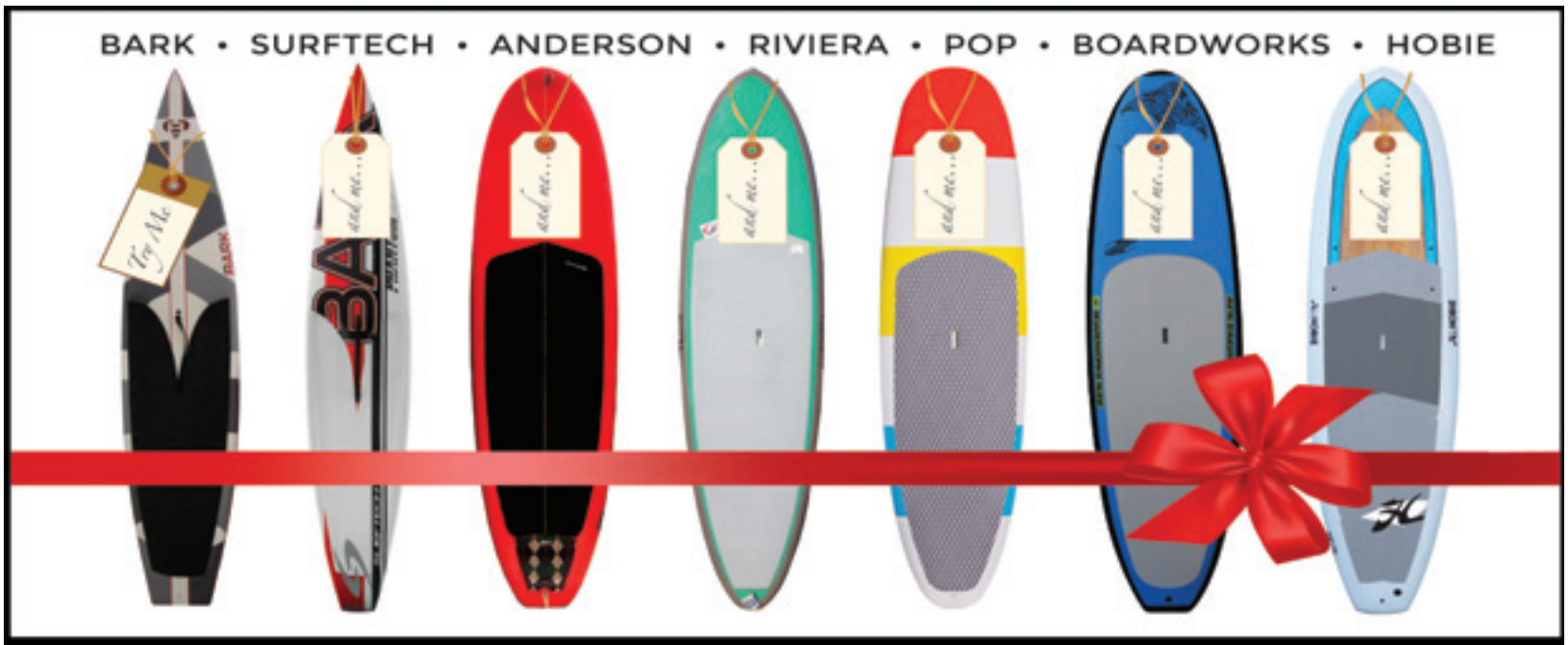
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Gift Certificates available in any denomination
Rental Cards available in One, Two, Five and Ten hour






You wouldn't make an investment like buying a car before taking a test drive, so why would you invest in a Stand UP Paddle-board without taking it for a test ride?

**PROSUPSHOP: THE STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING AUTHORITY**

Invites you to take your new board for a spin before pulling the proverbial trigger. If you're serious about owning a SUP Come demo the best boards in the industry. Our professional staff want to make sure you make the right choice to suit your individual needs.

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**NEW TO SUP?**

We're here for you! The PROSUPSHOP Core Crew are WPA and ASI Certified Instructors and have more real time SUP, surf, and open ocean experience than any other crew in the industry.

LESSSONS RENTALS BOARD SALES EXCURSIONS
PROSUPSHOP IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST END OF THE JAMAICA BAY INN PARKING LOT
4175 ADMIRALTY WAY, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292
sales: 310.314.3537 | lessons & rentals: 310.945.8350 | info@prosupshop.com | www.prosupshop.com

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## North of Montana!

632 16th Street
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Approx. 4,000 Square Feet





| Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale as of Late 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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