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TOP OF THE NEWS

# The Desert Sun

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2013

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**PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

## 'American Hustle' gets fest's group-effort nod

Multiple members of cast expected to show for Jan. 4 gala

By **Bruce Fessier**  
The Desert Sun

The cast of "American Hustle," directed by David O. Russell, will receive the Ensemble Performance Award at the 2014 Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards gala on Jan. 4 at the Palm Springs Convention Center. The festival runs Jan. 3-13 at venues throughout Palm Springs.

The film's cast includes Amy Adams, Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence and Jeremy Renner. Robert De Niro and singer Jack Jones of Rancho Mirage also appear in the film. Festival Chairman Harold Matzner said "at least three or four of the big names" from the cast are expected to attend the gala with Russell, who has been twice nominated for Best Director Oscars.

**MORE INSIDE**

Visit this story at [mydesert.com/filmfestival](http://mydesert.com/filmfestival) to view a trailer for "American Hustle."

He credited Russell for making "a viscerally powerful film." Matzner personally views all films considered for festival honors and he said, "

Please see **FEST, A7**



Amy Adams, from left, Bradley Cooper, Jeremy Renner, Christian Bale and Jennifer Lawrence in a scene from "American Hustle." SONY PICTURES

**VALLEY TOURISM**

## Different animals, same goal

Living Desert's new CEO brings background at aquariums to job

By **Blake Herzog**  
The Desert Sun

**PALM DESERT** — Much of his career has been spent steering aquariums, but Allen Monroe says he won't be a fish out of water when he takes over as president and CEO of The Living Desert next month.

"It won't be a stretch at the executive level, although at the technical level my expertise is on aquatic animals, from the days when I was taking care of penguins and sea lions such like that," he said.

"But at this level, it's all about education programs, and operation of facilities, and whether it's a zoo or aquarium, those are often very similar. You've got to make strong financial decisions as you're growing the organization as it needs to, and using a different set of animals to tell the story."

He's now the director of

Please see **ZOO, A7**



Allen Monroe, left, will take over as the new president/CEO of The Living Desert when Stacey Johnson, right, leaves for a position at the San Diego Zoo in January. MARILYN CHUNG/THE DESERT SUN



**MORE INSIDE**

Visit this story at [mydesert.com/news](http://mydesert.com/news) to view a video interview with new Living Desert CEO Allen Monroe.

Outgoing Living Desert CEO Stacey Johnson was named director of collections for San Diego Zoo Global in September.

OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN

**ECONOMY**

## Hiring boasts steady growth

Unemployment rate drops to 5-year low

By **Christopher S. Rugaber**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — A fourth straight month of solid hiring cut the U.S. unemployment rate in November to a five-year low of 7 percent. The surprisingly robust job gain suggested that the economy may have begun to accelerate.

It also fueled speculation that the Federal Reserve will scale back its economic stimulus when it meets later this month. Employers added 203,000 jobs last month after adding 200,000 in October, the Labor Department said Friday. November's job gain helped lower the unemployment rate from 7.3 percent in October.

The economy has now generated a four-month average of 204,000 jobs from August through November. That's up from 159,000 a month from April through

Please see **ECONOMY, A2**



Many economists expected the government shutdown to hobble growth, but the Labor Department said employers added 203,000 jobs last month. GETTY IMAGES



Leo Priest witnessed the Pearl Harbor strike. MICHAEL SNYDER/THE DESERT SUN

**PEARL HARBOR DAY**

## Horrific day's emotions fresh for vet

By **Denise Goolsby**  
The Desert Sun

**PALM SPRINGS** — Leo Priest cries when describing the sight of dead sailors floating in the water the morning Pearl Harbor was attacked.

"The flesh was just coming off of their burned bodies — it was horrible," Priest, 93, said between soft sobs about that day 72 years ago.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese Empire unleashed a furious air assault on the vulnerable Hawaiian harbor, home to the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Japan, hoping to eliminate the threat of U.S. interference in its southward expansion into China and beyond, tried to knock out a sizable portion of America's military might.

Eight battleships were moored at the harbor that day.

Japanese aircraft hit their mark that early Sunday morning — sinking three, causing one to capsize, and severely damaging the other four.

The attack claimed more than 2,400 lives —

Please see **PEARL, A2**

**GOOD MORNING**

Grab a jacket

**59° 42°**

- |           |                            |           |
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**INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER**



**CHILLY CELEBRATION**

A crowd, hot cocoa and cookies for an evening of carols, hot cocoa and cookies at the annual wreath lighting at Palm Desert City Hall. **B1**

**BRYANT'S BACK**

Kobe Bryant will make his long-awaited return Sunday when the Lakers host the Raptors. **C1**

**OASIS DISCOVERY**

Officials euthanize 134 roosters believed used in cockfights. **B1**

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