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TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 44



Santa Monica Daily Press

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MORE TO THE STORY
SEE PAGE 6

THE WE MADE IT ISSUE

It's a fight over fitness in the city's parks

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

CITYWIDE Physical fitness is a way of life on the beautiful beachfront oasis of Santa Monica. From sunrise to sunset, there's huffing and puffing in the city's parks as trainers put their students through the paces of every form of exercise imaginable.

All along the 420 acres of greenery paralleling the Pacific Ocean are groups of a dozen or more people furiously pumping iron, doing sit-ups, stepping on and off little benches and stretching on mats. Some flex their muscles with weight machines tied by big rubber bands to pretty much anything that's anchored to the ground.

"It's starting to look like a 24-Hour Fitness gym out there," complained Johnny Gray, an assistant track coach at UCLA and former Olympic runner who says he's often forced to navigate around weight machines, barbells and other exercise impediments as he runs.

In recent years, fitness classes have become as ubiquitous in Santa Monica's signature Palisades Park as dog walkers and senior citizens playing shuffleboard.

Karen Ginsberg, the city's director of community and cultural services, said other park users are complaining about fitness enthusiasts not only blocking pedestrian walkways but also making too much noise, killing the park's grass with their weights and damaging its trees and benches with all the exercise gadgets they connect to them.

"Some people have also expressed concerns about people operating a business on city land and putting the city at risk of liability because they aren't carrying insurance," she said.

So now the City Council is considering requiring that fitness trainers who conduct workouts in Santa Monica's parks and on its beaches pay an annual $100 fee and turn over 15 percent of their gross revenues to the city.

The council was to take up the issue of regulating fitness trainers this month, but that's now been pushed back to at least March. Meantime, Ginsberg said city offi-

SEE FITNESS PAGE 9



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

COLORFUL UPDATE: **A mural covers a wall situated in the parking lot of Ameci Pizza on Lincoln Boulevard.**

Artists bring new life to Lincoln

Local wants to transform boulevard into 'mural row'

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

LINCOLN BLVD Lincoln Boulevard south of Interstate 10 makes an impression on those that traverse it, just not a positive one.

"It's a street you don't want to get stuck on in traffic," said Amelia Drake, an artist with a 40-hour-a-week day job that forces her to get stuck there, often.

"I tolerate it because it's the industrial part of the Westside," said Rita Lichtwardt, another artist who spends her professional life doing mockups on Photoshop. Her boyfriend is less charitable, calling the street "gross" and "an eyesore."

Evan Meyer thinks Lincoln just needs a little love, and is working with Drake, Lichtwardt and a small but growing army of other volunteers to see that it gets it.

Meyer is the man behind Beautify Lincoln, a project to take over privately-owned walls on Lincoln between Ocean Park and Pico boulevards and create colorful murals to bring life and beauty to the street.

Meyer and his volunteers approach businesses along the stretch of road and make them a rather unique offer — to take aging, sometimes ugly, walls and transform them into works of art, all for free.

The "free" part really trips up a lot of people who can't wrap their heads around why someone would choose to spend their time and money on a project that ostensibly doesn't benefit them.

Meyer's motivations are simple.

"I'm doing it because it creates something awesome," Meyer said.

Meyer, who's also a member of the Ocean Park Association board, has lived in Santa Monica near Lincoln Boulevard for almost a decade and watched the street languish as the industrial corridor of a city that no longer sees itself as a place of industry.

He wants to turn the area into a mural row by saturating the walls with art, which he thinks will improve the reputation of the street and entice people to live, work and play in the area, ultimately transforming it into a beautiful, walkable place.

Waiting for the change to happen

SEE LINCOLN PAGE 8

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City of Santa Monica Holiday Trash Schedule

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Tuesday, January 1st - No Collection

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Tuesday's routes will be on Wednesday.
Wednesday's routes will be on Thursday.
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013

Happy 2013!

Skating into the new year
ICE at Santa Monica
1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Ice skating by the beach? The annual ICE at Santa Monica rink returns to give locals a taste of winter. For more information, visit www.downtownsm.com/ice.

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013

Popeye pops up
Downtown Farmers' Market
Third Street and Arizona Avenue, 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Popeye and his family will join three participating Eat Well Week restaurants — Locanda del Lago, The Lobster and Ocean & Vine — to create "Popeye Pop-Ups," featuring healthy spinach-inspired dishes and recipes. To celebrate California Restaurant Month, good taste will meet healthy food this January during Santa Monica's inaugural Eat Well Week. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Family flick
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m.
Enjoy a little quality family time at the library during this winter break with the film "Chimpanzee!" Cost: free. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Who has game?
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 3 p.m.
Learn about the finer points of chess and other strategy games. The program is for youth, their families and caregivers. No registration required. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013

Break for art
Paint:LAB
2912 Main St., 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Spend your holiday break learning to paint. The Kids Winter Break Art Camp includes all materials and instruction as part of the price. Cost: $55-$100. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

Stay current
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Jack Nordaus moderates a discussion on current events, both at home and abroad. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Bang the drum
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m.
Break out the drums, it's time to jam with Rhythm Child. Ages 4 and up. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Nope, no Tony
Mi's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade, call for times
Tony Danza Won't Be Here is a night of stand up comedy featuring Morgan Jay, Ali Wong, David Cope, Quincy Jones, Andy Haynes and hosted by Tyler Steffori.
For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

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



Fearful of ban, frenzied buyers swarm gun stores

JOSEPH PISANI
AP Business News Writer

NEW YORK The phones at Red's Trading Post wouldn't stop ringing. Would-be customers from as far away as New York wanted to know if the Twin Falls, Idaho gun shop had firearms in stock. Others clamored to find out if their orders had been shipped.

Overwhelmed, gun store manager Ryan Horsley had to do what no employee would ever think of doing just days before Christmas: He disconnected the phone lines for three whole days.

"We had to shut everything off," says Horsley, whose family has owned Red's Trading Post, the state's oldest gun shop, since 1936. "We were swamped in the store and online."

The phones at gun shops across the country are ringing off the hook. Demand for firearms, ammunition and bulletproof gear has surged since the Dec. 14 massacre in Newtown, Conn., that took the lives of 20 schoolchildren and six teachers and administrators. The shooting sparked calls for tighter gun control measures, especially for military-style assault weapons like the ones used in Newtown and in the Aurora, Colo., movie theater shooting earlier this year. The prospect of a possible weapons ban has sent gun enthusiasts into a panic and sparked a frenzy of buying at stores and gun dealers nationwide.

Assault rifles are sold out across the country. Rounds of .223 bullets, like those used in the AR-15 type Bushmaster rifle used in Newtown, are scarce. Stores are struggling to restock their shelves. Gun and ammunition makers are telling retailers they will have to wait months to get more.

Store owners who have been in the business for years say they have never seen demand like this before.

When asked how much sales have increased in the past few weeks, Horsley just laughed.

"We haven't even had a chance to look at it," he says. Horsley spends his days calling manufacturers around the country trying to buy more items for the store. Mainly, they tell him he has to wait.

Franklin Armory, a firearm maker in Morgan Hill, Calif., is telling dealers that it will take six months to fulfill their orders. The company plans to hire more workers and buy more machines to catch up, says Franklin Armory's President Jay Jacobson.

The shortage is leaving many would-be gun owners empty handed.

SEE **GUNS** PAGE 7



Photo courtesy Google Images

SAFER: **The state's homeowners will receive more protections from foreclosure thanks to one of a new slate of laws taking effect.**

Mortgages, guns among new-law topics

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Homeowners will have increased protections from foreclosure under some of the hundreds of state laws taking effect with the new year.

California also is studying whether to create the nation's first state-administered retirement savings program for some 6 million private-sector workers, although it will take additional legislation before the program can be fully implemented.

Other laws address emotional issues such as guns and hunting. Second Amendment advocates can no longer carry rifles and shotguns in public to protest gun control laws, and hunters are banned from using hounds to track bobcats and bears.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed nearly 900 bills into law in 2012, most of which take effect Jan. 1. The legislation covers a wide range of topics, from pension changes for public employees to new funding mechanisms for a state park system that has been tainted by financial scandals.

A legislative package pushed by Attorney General Kamala Harris made California the first state to write into law much of the national mortgage settlement that states negotiated with the nation's top five banks.

Part of the settlement expands authorities' ability to investigate mortgage fraud. Large lenders also must provide a single point of contact for homeowners who want to negotiate loan modifications and are prohibited from foreclosing while they evaluate homeowners' requests for alternatives. Homeowners also can sue lenders to stop foreclosures or seek monetary damages if the lender violates state law.

"California's new law will help more homeowners avoid foreclosure and keep their homes," Consumers Union financial services manager Norma Garcia said in a statement. "Homeowners in all 50 states deserve these same strong protections and more."

Meanwhile, lower-income, private-sector workers whose employers do not offer retirement plans may be able to take advantage of the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program.

SB1234 and SB923 would require employers to withhold 3 percent of their workers' pay unless the employee opts out of the savings program. But the program cannot start enrolling workers until it receives final authorization from the Legislature.

Pensions for public employees will be reduced under a separate bill, a change that is expected to save taxpayers billions of dollars over the coming decades. AB340 increases retirement ages for new public employees, caps annual pension payouts, prohibits several practices used to inflate

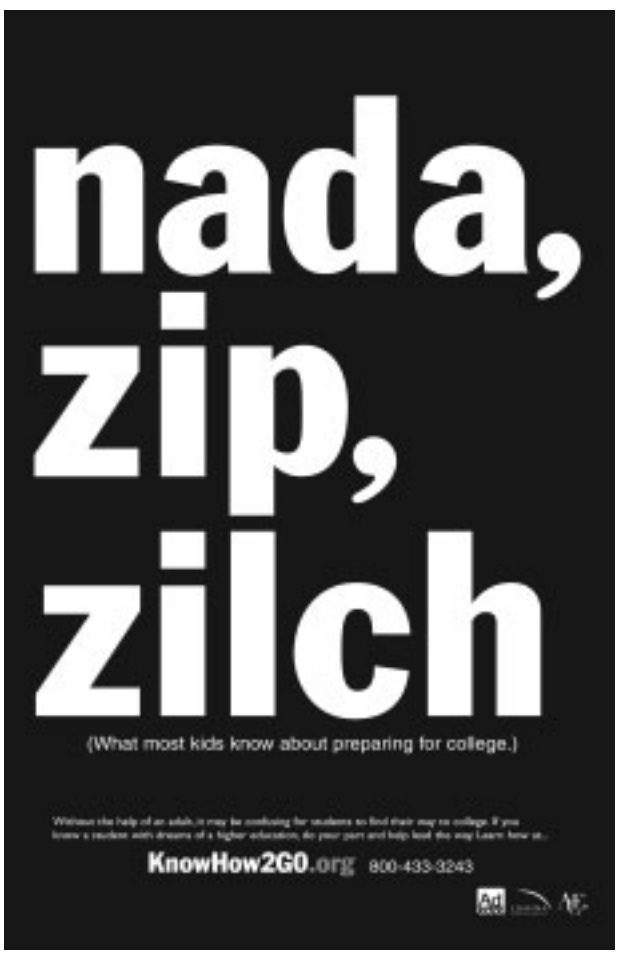
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After the Bell

Merv Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Timing isn't everything

A FEW TIMES IN THE PAST

I've been asked to consult with organizations that train people in stock market strategies. Some are general in nature, and some specialize in certain areas such as option trading or day trading.

I've been amazed at how successful they are, in spite of the high fees they charge. I've seen fees anywhere from $3,000 to $25,000.

Some give seminars in hotels, some have their own classrooms, and some just work over the Internet. But they all have a few things in common. One is that each has a very active marketing arm. If you ever express any interest you are bombarded with literature and telephone calls. Generally, each one claims to have a "secret method" (I call it a secret sauce) that they will share with you after you sign up.

After I was bombarded with calls and e-mails by one of these companies, claiming to be the largest in the world, and after receiving a certificate for a free seminar on stock market strategies worth $1,000, I decided to go and see if I could deduce the secret sauce they are selling.

But, in fact, the stock seminar turned out to be just a four-hour sales meeting (I stayed for two hours and left at the lunch break). There were two "instructors" who alternated in speaking. Both were very fit physically and spoke in loud voices with pressured speech. Both spent a lot of time extolling their personal achievements, both physical achievements as well as success in the stock market.

One acknowledged that the S&P Index had gone up 12 percent this year, but pointed out that it was only a 6 percent average over two years. This was peanuts compared to what you could do if you followed their system.

Out of the two hours I was there, about 20 minutes was actually spent talking about the stock market (as opposed to themselves and what you could do once you were trained by them). A chart was put up showing a stock that went up, and then down. The point was that when the stock was down, most people get discouraged about the decline and don't buy that stock. But, the instructor pointed out, that is the time to buy.

Perhaps it was not a nice thing to do, but I asked if that was a chart of Bear Sterns stock. As you will recall, it too was way up, and then went down. But then it went into bankruptcy. Down was not a good time to buy. The instructor did not seem to hear my question.

Then the instructor gave another significant analogy: if you were going to buy a new television set, would you rather buy one at the regular price of $3,000, or would you rather buy one at the sale price of $1,000. This made no sense to me at all, in the context of the stock market. In the television case, we know the fair market value, and it's static. Clearly the $1,000 deal is better. But in the stock market there is no fixed market value for a stock, and the market value changes all the time. You can't know if the $1,000 price is a good deal or not. And when a stock is selling at $1,000, it's not selling elsewhere at $3,000.

Finally the instructor explained their company theory. There are professional traders out there who really set the prices of stock. Then there are amateurs like us that don't influence the price of stock because we don't buy that much. The professionals have computer trading systems that do everything automatically. They make most of the money, and 97 percent of the amateurs lose money, which the professionals get. Since the market prices are based solely on supply and demand, if you can know what the professionals are doing, you can predict what direction a stock is going to go.

For example, if the professionals are offering to buy a stock, the price will go up. If they are putting in sell orders, the price will go down. It was implied that the company has a way to tell which way the professionals are trading, and therefore can predict which way the stock price is going to go.

Then it was back to talking about the benefits of taking their courses, which only cost $13,600 — unless you want to continue with the special courses such as option trading, which is extra.

During the break, just before I left, I asked the main instructor if he would allow me to look at his personal portfolio so that I could see just how successful a professional like him does in the market.

Of course the answer was "No, we don't permit that." "Why not?" I asked. And the answer was just a vague, "We just don't." So I left and went next door for a Japanese lunch.

So, to put it simply, this worldwide stock market trading company is selling a timing system. They are trying to develop and market a method of timing the market to know when it will go up and when it will go down. That is very much like the alchemists of the old days, who were trying to figure out how to convert lead to gold. There were lots of theories, but none ever worked. And so it is with timing systems. The truth is that there are so many variables setting stock prices that even the computers can't figure in all of them. It's a bit like the weather, you can forecast it, and often you will be right, but sometimes you will be wrong. And sometimes you will be wrong more often than right.

There are people that consistently make money in the market. They research companies and buy stock in those that meet certain criteria. The better investors hedge with options and stop losses, keep up on current information, and take advantage of the decline in the price of short positions over time.

There was one point mentioned in the sales presentation that I agree with. The stock market has changed over the past few years. You can no longer justify the "buy and hold" strategy. Companies and their markets change much more quickly now, and there are many more alternative investment vehicles. In that respect, training would be helpful.

But not training based on a one-dimensional timing system.

For information about **MERV** Hecht and more details on the strategies and stocks he writes about in this column, visit his website at DoubleYourYield.com.

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Din of hammers, oil wells signal Bakersfield's continued boom

TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. For most of its existence, Bakersfield has inhabited that awkward in-between place. Not as sophisticated as Los Angeles, just over the Tehachapi Mountains to the south, not as wealthy as its longtime economic rival Fresno, equidistant to the north.

But as many communities continue to struggle economically, good things are happening in this place best known for endless oil fields and the "Bakersfield Sound" — a twangy style of steel guitar music made popular by hometown country crooners Buck Owens and Merle Haggard.

Bakersfield and surrounding Kern County find themselves in lofty positions on key national lists measuring economic vitality: No. 1 metro area for long-term private sector job growth, No. 1 county for construction gains and No. 1 large metro area for annual economic growth.

Cheap land, affordable housing, proximity to Los Angeles, a location that's within a three-hour drive of 90 percent of the state's population, and a planning department that doesn't throw up roadblocks are driving the region's economic revolution, business leaders say.

Caterpillar's new parts distribution center at the confluence of Interstate 5 and Highway 99, the state's two major north-south transportation arteries, went from handshake to grand opening last August in just eight months. It joined 35 other logistics centers near there such as Ikea, Frito Lay, Dollar General, Famous Footwear and Target, drawn to the county because it is a one-day turnaround for truckers delivering from San Francisco to San Diego.

The demand for industrial and office space has left Kern County with little inventory.

"Everything is moving," said David Wagner, contractor Wallace & Smith's superintendent on a 28,000-square-foot business complex that's now a skeleton of I-beams. "The developer already has tenants for this and it won't open until April."

The contractor just finished a 160,000-square-foot cold storage facility in Delano, a NASCAR-style racetrack and a regional blood bank. It has four apartment complexes under construction and will break ground in February on a minor league baseball stadium.

Electrician Bryce McCall wondered during the downturn whether he had chosen the right profession. Not anymore.

"My wife and I would discuss whether I would be better off going to the oil fields," he said as he drilled wiring conduits in a new garage at a new development. "Now the jobs are happening and we're starting to pick up."

There's such an active business climate that this fall the Kern County Economic Development Corporation and Bakersfield Californian newspaper bucked industry trends by launching a print paper, the Kern Business Journal, now on its second edition. A new east-west freeway through the middle of town is paved and close to opening.

Long reliant on agriculture and oil, there's diversity of industries emerging, with renewable energy and aerospace gaining a foothold.

At the Mojave Air and Space Port in southeast Kern County, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo preps for the day it will carry passengers into suborbital space, and Paul Allen's Stratolaunch Systems is building the world's largest aircraft — one that will carry rockets with commercial cargo and, eventually, passengers to the edge of space.

The wider, extended runway the company needs already was built. The space port complex has 400 acres pre-approved for construction.

Despite the progress, hurdles remain. Unemployment in the county is 12.4 percent, down from 16.2 percent in December 2010 but still above the statewide average of 9.8 percent. And Bakersfield still is a hard sell for some.

Two years ago, State Farm consolidated its insurance centers in Rohnert Park in the Bay Area and Fresno into its Bakersfield office. The company expected that 35 percent of the Rhonert Park workers would take the transfer. After taking bus tours of the city with its vibrant downtown and tree-lined neighborhoods, 70 percent of the workers took the transfer.

"People come here and they say, 'Oh my God, there are amenities and people can speak full sentences.' It's the perception versus the reality," said Richard Chapman, president of the Kern County Economic Development Corporation.

Chapman said the area's workforce, while reliable, needs to be better educated and trained. Many young people tend to go away to college and not come back. "We have 100 job openings for welders, but companies aren't going to train you," Chapman said.

Bakersfield has boomed before — it saw huge population and economic growth when the economy surged in the late 1990s and into the early years of the new century. But it fell hard when the bottom dropped out of the housing market. Now, it's housing that's helping to make the city attractive again.

The Q Line

Priorities for 2013

Everyone is talking about making resolutions for the new year. Plenty of people are going to focus on their finances or their bulging waistlines. Others will try and be more compassionate by volunteering. It's all about charting a new course in life. Which had us thinking about the future of Santa Monica.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What course should the City Council, the school board and other powers that be take in the new year? Where do you want to see Santa Monica end up at the end of 2013?

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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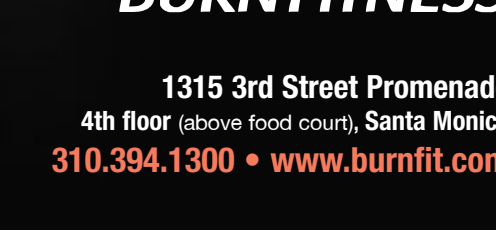
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FBI removes many redactions from Marilyn Monroe's file

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES FBI files on Marilyn Monroe that could not be located earlier this year have been found and re-issued, revealing the names of some of the movie star's communist-leaning friends who drew concern from government officials and her own entourage.

But the records, which previously had been heavily redacted, do not contain any new information about Monroe's death 50 years ago. Letters and news clippings included in the files show the bureau was aware of theories the actress had been killed, but they do not show that any effort was undertaken to investigate the claims. Los Angeles authorities concluded Monroe's death was a probable suicide.

Recently obtained by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act, the updated FBI files do show the extent the agency was monitoring Monroe for ties to communism in the years before her death in August 1962.

The records reveal that some in Monroe's inner circle were concerned about her association with Frederick Vanderbilt Field, who was disinherited from his wealthy family over his leftist views.

A trip to Mexico earlier that year to shop for furniture brought Monroe in contact with Field, who was living in the country with his wife in self-imposed exile. Informants reported to the FBI that a "mutual infatuation" had developed between Field and Monroe, which caused concern among some in her inner circle, including her therapist, the files state.

"This situation caused considerable dismay among Miss Monroe's entourage and also among the (American Communist Group in Mexico)," the file states. It includes references to an interior decorator who worked with Monroe's analyst reporting her connection to Field to the doctor.

Field's autobiography devotes an entire chapter to Monroe's Mexico trip, "An Indian Summer Interlude." He mentions that he and his wife accompanied Monroe on shopping trips and meals and he only mentions politics once in a passage on their dinnertime conversations.

"She talked mostly about herself and some of the people who had been or still were important to her," Field wrote in "From Right to Left." "She told us about her strong feelings for civil rights, for black equality, as well as her admiration for what was being done in China, her anger at red-baiting and McCarthyism and her hatred of (FBI director) J. Edgar Hoover."

Under Hoover's watch, the FBI kept tabs on the political and social lives of many celebrities, including Frank Sinatra, Charlie Chaplin and Monroe's ex-husband Arthur Miller. The bureau has also been involved in numerous investigations about crimes against celebrities, including threats against Elizabeth Taylor, an extortion case involving Clark Gable and more recently, trying to solve who killed rapper Notorious B.I.G.

The AP had sought the removal of redactions from Monroe's FBI files earlier this year as part of a series of stories on the 50th anniversary of Monroe's death. The FBI had reported that it had transferred the files to a National Archives facility in Maryland, but archivists said the documents had not been received. A few months after requesting details on the transfer, the FBI released an updated version of the files that eliminate dozens of redactions.

For years, the files have intrigued investigators, biographers and those who don't believe Monroe's death at her Los Angeles area home was a suicide.

A 1982 investigation by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office found no evidence of foul play after reviewing all available investigative records, but noted that the FBI files were "heavily censored."

That characterization intrigued the man who performed Monroe's autopsy, Dr. Thomas Noguchi. While the DA investigation concluded he conducted a thorough autopsy, Noguchi has conceded that no one will likely ever know all the details of Monroe's death. The FBI files and confidential interviews conducted with the actress' friends that have never been made public might help, he wrote in his 1983 memoir "Coroner."

"On the basis of my own involvement in the case, beginning with the autopsy, I would call Monroe's suicide 'very probable,'" Noguchi wrote. "But I also believe that until the complete FBI files are made public and the notes and interviews of the suicide panel released, controversy will continue to swirl around her death."

Monroe's file begins in 1955 and mostly focuses on her travels and associations, searching for signs of leftist views and possible ties to communism. One entry, which previously had been almost completely redacted, concerned intelligence that Monroe and other entertainers sought visas to visit Russia that year.

The file continues up until the months before her death, and also includes several news stories and references to Norman Mailer's biography of the actress, which focused on questions about whether Monroe was killed by the government.

For all the focus on Monroe's closeness to suspected communists, the bureau never found any proof she was a member of the party.

"Subject's views are very positively and concisely leftist; however, if she is being actively used by the Communist Party, it is not general knowledge among those working with the movement in Los Angeles," a July 1962 entry in Monroe's file states.



GUNS
FROM PAGE 3

William Kotis went to a gun show in Winston-Salem, N.C., last weekend hoping to buy a rifle for target shooting. Almost everything was sold out.

"Assault rifles were selling like crazy," says Kotis, who is president and CEO of Kotis Holdings, a real estate development company based in Greensboro. "People are stockpiling."

He left without buying anything.

Luke Orlando's parents were able to get him the 12-gauge shotgun he wanted for Christmas to bird hunt, but his uncle wasn't as lucky.

"At Christmas dinner, my uncle expressed outrage that after waiting six months to use his Christmas bonus to purchase an AR-15, they are sold out and back ordered over a year," says Orlando, 18, a student at the University of Texas.

No organization publically releases gun sales data. The only way to measure demand is by the number of background checks that are conducted when someone wants to buy a firearm. Those numbers are released by the Federal Reserve Bureau every month. Data for December is not out yet. But the Federal Bureau of Investigation says that it did 16.8 million firearm background checks as of the end of November, up more than 2 percent from a year ago.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation, which handles background checks for the state, can't keep up with the number of requests it is getting. The bureau has pulled staff from other units and increased its hours, says spokesperson Susan Medina.

Many firearm dealers and manufacturers say that Obama's comments since the Newtown school shooting are driving demand.

James Zimmerman of SelwayArmory.com, a website that sells guns, ammunition and knives, says that sales really took off on Dec. 19 after Obama held a White House press conference announcing that Vice President Joe Biden would lead a team tasked with coming up with "concrete proposals" to curb gun violence.

That day, one customer ordered 32,000 rounds of ammunition from SelwayArmory.com, worth close to $18,000. The order had to be shipped from the company's Lolo, Mont., office to Kentucky on a freight truck.

"I've done more sales in the week after the 19th than I have the whole year," says Zimmerman, who launched SelwayArmory.com in 2009.

At Lady Liberty Gunsmithing LLC in Atlantic City, N.J., a customer called last week asking if a pistol he wanted was available. When he was told there was only one left, he drove more than two hours from Newark, N.J., to buy it that same day.

"People want guns now even more than ever," says Guy Petinga II, whose father opened the store above his home in 1996.

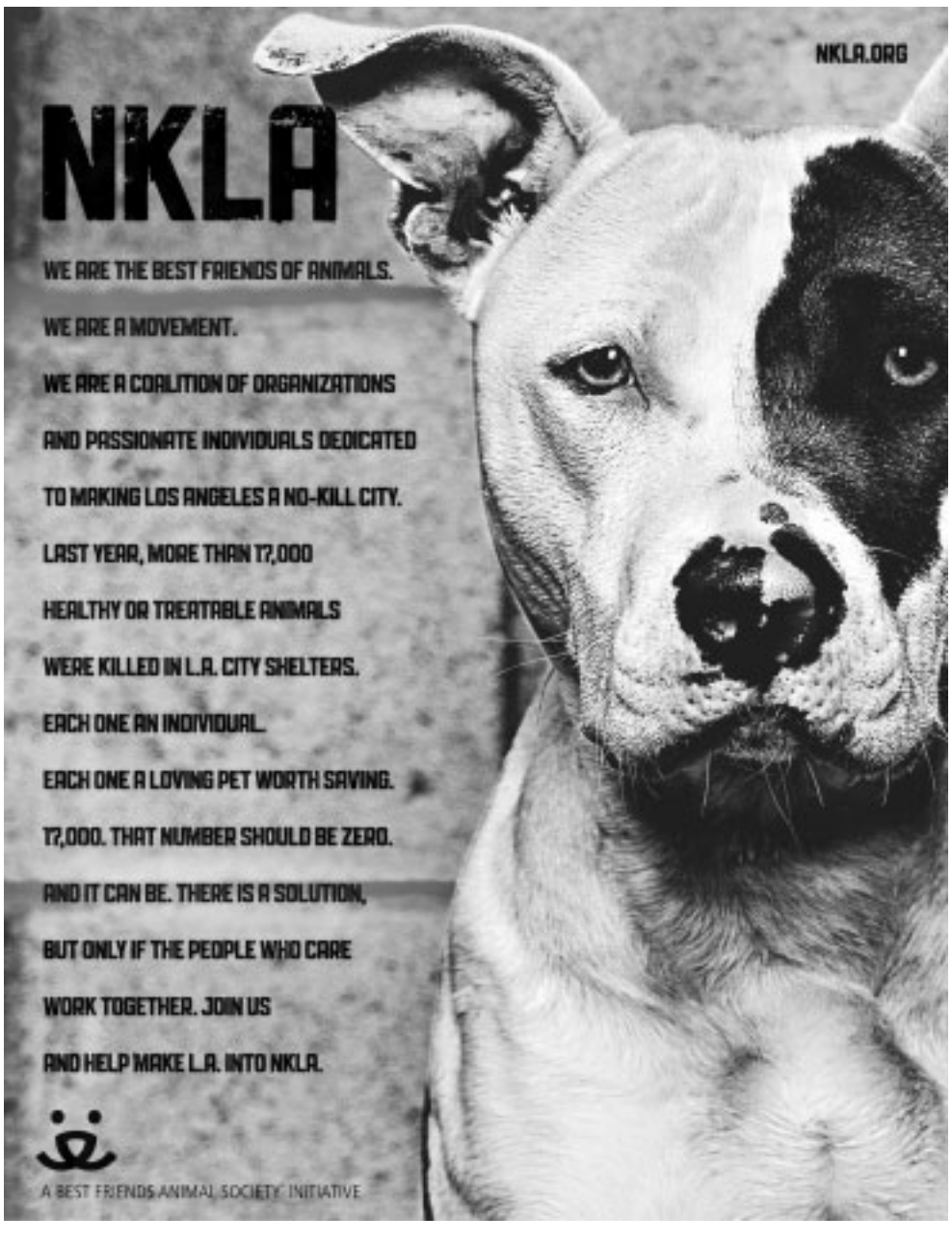
Others saw demand immediately after the shooting.

Bullet Blocker, which makes bulletproof vests, briefcases and insert panels, saw sales of its children's backpacks suddenly jump.

"That's how I found out about the tragedy. I saw the sales rise and then turned on CNN," says Elmar Uy, vice president of business operations at the Billerica, Mass., company.

Bullet Blocker has sold about 50 to 100 bulletproof backpacks a day since the shooting, up from about 10 to 15 in a regular week. The children's backpacks, which are designed to be used as shields, cost over $200 each.

"I've never seen numbers like this before," says Uy.



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LINCOLN

FROM PAGE 1

through official channels, however, was frustrating for the jack of all trades who deals with bureaucracy regularly in his day job at RideAmigos Corp., a software development company he started to provide travel solutions to cities to encourage people to use bicycles and public transportation.

Rather than mess with public process, Meyer decided to go straight to private businesses and ask if they would let him and some friends repaint one of their walls.

It's a triple-win: The business owner gets a freshly-painted wall, Lincoln Boulevard gets some much-needed attention and the artists get massive exposure for their work.

"It's the best gallery in the world," Meyer said.

Meyer skirts problems by sticking to a handful of simple rules. The murals cannot include anything controversial including religious symbols or edgy art. Completed projects like the wall of the Novel Café or Ameci Pizza mainly stick to nature themes and landscapes, genres that generally please the eye without offending the sensibilities.

To stay on the right side of the law, the murals also can't imply the nature of the business that owns them, meaning steaming cups of coffee or a big slice of pizza are to be avoided lest they fall under one of Santa Monica's many rules about signs.

Slowly but surely word about the project is beginning to spread down the street, and more businesses are asking to get involved.

Eli Carmeli of Ameci Pizza signed on when he saw Meyer and Lichtwardt working on the massive wall at the Novel Café, a project that they completed over the course of several weekends. He had a long stretch of wall in his parking lot that had seen better days, and he hoped the crew might be able to do something about it.

Meyer and Drake came in shortly thereafter with some sketches and created a vibrant landscape on the wall.

"You cannot compare. There was nothing on the wall. It was just a wall, a 30-year-old wall," Carmeli said. "We woke up one morning and see everything was different. We get a lot of compliments from customers."

For Drake, it was a chance to stretch her muscles in ways that she hasn't since she left school over a decade ago, both figuratively and literally. Her degree is in sculpture, although painting is a "go to" art form for her. She also has a shop on Etsy.com called Amelia Drake Fine Art and Magjik [sic] where she sells paintings and other works. Murals, however, are new and she appreciates the challenge.

"This is a completely different gear to switch into," Drake said. "I haven't had the facilities to be big since I was in school, which was 13 years ago. It's really refreshing to work big."

The project has already done more than put a fresh coat of paint on the wall — it has connected disparate groups of people that might never have met, creating a sense of community on the street that did not exist before.

Drake likens it to a "funny little reality television show" in which she and a cast of other characters interact every time she's out with a paintbrush.

"We're building more human interaction where Lincoln has been predominately cars and gray and cars and gray," she said.

It's also a treat for the artists to see their ideas blown up for all the world to see.

Lichtwardt drives the opposite way down Lincoln to go to her job at a toy company, but now she has a reason to go north on Lincoln.

"I don't get to pass it all the time, but when I do pass it to go uptown to the (Interstate) 10 it's fun. I honk at it," she said.

So far, Meyer is financing the murals himself with a bit of help from Naylor Paint, a locally-owned shop that sells him the materials at cost.

Larry Naylor, the owner, also donated paint to help out David Legaspi, a muralist who did work with local schools before his death this year. He believes in Meyer's cause and generally likes murals; democratized art that everyone is allowed to see.

Also, Lincoln just needs a makeover, he said.

"I think it's in the running for the world's ugliest street and he may be ruining its chance of winning," Naylor said.

Meyer hopes that his project will inspire others to take an active role in their community and bring a little more beauty to Santa Monica.

"I'm just stirring the pot," he said.

The team has already completed seven murals on Lincoln with more in the offing. For those who would like to learn more about the project, support it or simply lend a hand in painting one weekend, check out www.beautifylincoln.com.

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LAWS
FROM PAGE 3

pensions and requires public-sectors workers to pay more if they are not already contributing half their retirement costs.

The pension changes were sought by Brown as part of an overall plan to reduce government spending.

Budget cuts had threatened to close 70 of the nearly 280 state parks last July, prompting lawmakers to seek new funding sources. That was before it was discovered that parks officials had kept $54 million hidden in two special funds, money that is now helping keep the threatened parks open.

Still, Californians will be able to help state parks in the future by buying specialty license plates or checking a box on their income tax returns. AB1589 also requires the department to seek new ways to raise money, such as creating an annual parks pass or charging more to use parks during peak times.

Several other laws respond to recent news developments.

Coaches and administrators in K-12 schools as well as higher education employees who have regular contact with children will be required to report suspected child sexual abuse. AB1434 and AB1435 were prompted by the scandal involving former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, who was convicted of sexually abusing 10 boys. Authorities say some former co-workers knew of the abuse but failed to report it to law enforcement.

"Caylee's Law" is named after the 2-year-old daughter of Florida's Casey Anthony, who was acquitted of the girl's murder in 2011 despite waiting a month before telling authorities that her daughter was missing. AB1432 makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail if a parent or guardian fails to report the disappearance or death of a child under the age of 14 within 24 hours.

Attempts to pass similar laws in some other states failed because lawmakers were concerned the changes would be too broad.

AB45 is named after 19-year-old Brett Studebaker of San Mateo, who died in 2010 after drinking on a party bus and crashing his own vehicle while driving home an hour later. It holds party bus operators to the same standards as limousine drivers, making them legally responsible for drinking by underage passengers.

Another bill changes the makeup of the state Fish and Game Commission after the commission's former president, Dan Richards, posed for photos with a mountain lion he shot during a legal hunt in Idaho.

Killing mountain lions is illegal in California, but the photograph sparked a public debate and led to the commission's reorganization under AB2609. Another bill, AB2402, changes the name of the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of a larger effort to broaden the department's responsibilities and increase its funding.

Josh Brones, president of California Houndsmen for Conservation, said the bills reflect a changing culture. He sees the same message in SB1221, which outlaws the use of hounds to hunt bobcats and bears, and AB1527, which bans openly carrying rifles and shotguns in most California cities and towns.

"As the state becomes more urbanized, fewer people are participating in hunting and fishing and other forms of outdoor activity," he lamented. "With that decrease comes a decrease in the understanding of those activities, so they become easier to demonize by those that would like to see them come to an end."

FITNESS
FROM PAGE 1

cials are looking at what restrictions they might put on the use of weights, bands and other equipment.

Although classes offering everything from fitness training to yoga to meditation can be found at several city parks and all over Santa Monica's beaches, Palisades Park, with its stunning ocean views, is by far the most popular place.

As a result, city officials are considering limiting exercise class sizes there to no more than two students per trainer. Under the proposal being considered, other venues could still accommodate the larger groups as long as trainers pay the fees and provide proof of insurance.

The trainers respond that, like any responsible business operators, many already are insured and also know CPR. They also point out that they currently pay the city for business licenses and police-issued permits to hold their classes in the park. Although they don't have to pay rent to anyone, they believe that's enough overhead.

"I could easily go back indoors but that's what I wanted to get away from," said Ruben Lawrence, who has been offering boxing and fitness training classes at Palisades and other parks for six years. "I wanted to provide these programs to the masses at affordable rates to the community in a place people enjoy."

Since the city began discussing the additional regulations, Lawrence said, he's moved most of his classes to other parks in Santa Monica. If he has to pay the additional fees, however, he said he'll likely just relocate to a gym.

Raisa Lilling, who offers vigorous exercise classes to the mothers of newborns, said she and other trainers have been working to keep their students quiet and out of the way of dog walkers, camera-toting tourists and others.

"I can absolutely see where they're coming from, but a complete ban, I think, is a little extreme," said Lilling, adding that the sides can always find a middle ground.

Lilling offers Stroller Strides classes in which mothers push kids in strollers across the park. As part of their workout, they'll stop from time to time for vigorous bursts of cardio activity, including running up and down the park's steep stairways to the beach while Lilling watch the kids.

"It's not just a stroll in the park," laughed the trainer, who is certified in CPR, carries insurance and also teaches yoga classes.

Ginsberg, emphasizing that planners are still fine-tuning the proposed regulations, agreed there should be a middle ground.

"I think we have to strike a balance between wanting an active community, which I think we do want, with the need to have some sort of ability for all users to enjoy our parks, particularly Palisades Park," she said.

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After a century, U.S. Arabs look for pieces of past

JEFF KAROUB
Associated Press

DETROIT Tossing and shivering below deck, Hussien Karoub felt ill. In the cold, crowded conditions, sleep came seldom. When it did, it didn't last long: The cries of children and the moans of those even sicker than he was made certain of that.

It was approaching midnight somewhere in the North Atlantic, aboard a vessel carrying the 18-year-old Syrian and many fellow immigrants toward, they hoped, a better life. If nothing else, he knew it had to beat this arduous month-long odyssey in steerage, enduring conditions that were, in every sense, below those in first and second class.

It would be days before details trickled down about the doomed ship a couple hundred miles away. Above, in his vessel's radio room, came the first distress call from the foundering RMS Titanic: "Require immediate assistance. Come at once. We struck an iceberg. Sinking."

A couple weeks later, Hussien Karoub arrived in the United States even more anonymously than he otherwise might have. Public attention was elsewhere, focused on the Titanic and its tragic end.

That is the story of my grandfather's voyage to America. Or, more likely, it isn't. And that's part of the point.

I am a third-generation Arab-American, and I am on a journey to learn more about the journey of my "jiddo," the Arabic word for grandfather. I am sorting through family stories, passed down, that have a way of changing in the retelling. Folk tales are compelling, but I am trying to anchor my story to facts before the channels to history close entirely, in hopes they might offer insight about how I got here.

My quest mirrors those of so many Arab-Americans. They're looking back and trying to unearth their stories, separating myth from truth and — just as important — hoping to show their neighbors that, in the story of America, they are not a "them" but an "us."

Maybe the Titanic tale is true. It's remotely possible, since Hussien Karoub came to the United States in the same year, 1912. My family hasn't confirmed that through records, but by anecdotes like a radio interview from the early 1960s, when he said he came to Detroit in 1915 to make cars after spending three years making hats in Danbury, Conn.

For many Arabs, a version of the story is true. U.S.-bound Middle Easterners were on the Titanic and other ships traversing the Atlantic. In lower Manhattan, an already thriving Syrian community awaited and would be instrumental in identifying and memorializing the dead and helping survivors meet the new world.

"I always tell people who ask that Jiddo's ship crossed paths with the Titanic on the way over from Syria," my cousin Carl, the family's historian, tells me. "The wake from the Titanic nearly capsized his tiny ferry and he cursed the Titanic."

He has no proof, of course. In only a century, the truth blurs in a genealogical game of telephone. Yet why not hitch our tale to that of a great American epic? It's not that big of a stretch. Americans — most Americans, even — have done that since the very beginning.

But I want more than stories.

"Who's 'Aszim'?" the voice over the phone asks me. It's Diane Hassan, a researcher from the Danbury Museum & Historical Society. Hassan finds a record saying Aszim was born in Danbury in 1913, which brings us closer to confirming the timeframe of my grandfather's arrival in Danbury. This was my father's first cousin, known to my family by his American name, Jimmy. He was the son of Mohammed, my grandfather's brother.

I've sought Hassan's help because I've hit a brick wall. Ellis Island, the entry point for millions of immigrants, contains records of my grandfather coming in 1920 aboard the Kroonland with his wife, Miriam, and their young son Allie. That was Hussien Karoub's second U.S. arrival, but there is no record in Ellis Island's archive of his inaugural voyage as a single man some eight years earlier.

A short boat ride away, they're asking the same kinds of questions on a much larger scale. A group of New Yorkers have worked with curators from the Arab American National Museum in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn on a new traveling exhibit that documents what had been one of the earliest settlements of Arabs in America.

It's not lost on them that the Little Syria neighborhood in lower Manhattan would become the site of the World Trade Center — the towers whose destruction a decade ago put many of Middle Eastern descent under intense scrutiny and suspicion.

For so many decades, the self-appointed "us" of America had names for the not-quite-white, not-quite-black, not-quite-sure group of "them" arriving from the Middle East: "Orientals," "Ali Baba," and later, "towelheads."

The increasingly malignant stereotype of Arab and Muslims as terrorists appeared in the 1960s with the Arab-Israeli war but hit warp speed after 9/11. It came in actions — anti-Islamic hate crime cases reported to the FBI spiked after the terrorist attacks — but it came more commonly, casually and sometimes just as cruelly in words:

"Go home."

Go home. It's as perplexing as it is offensive, especially to those whose American story stretches back a century. Where exactly is home for someone who was born in the U.S.? Or came here seeking a better life — and succeeded? Or fled tyranny for opportunity? In times of crisis, the public forgets how long Arab and Muslims have been in the U.S. or what they've contributed.

So, in the face of foes and a forgetful public, it is left to Arabs themselves to remember and remind others of where they've been. That presents difficulties — not only with facts that were never committed to paper but also with facts that bump into something equally potent: family consensus.

I've known since I was little that my grandfather made up his birthdate. Why? Because the village where he was born didn't keep records. His gravestone lists his birth year as 1893; his petition to become a U.S. citizen, filed in 1919, says he was born on Dec. 20, 1892.

That led me to another surprise: learning he registered for the World War I draft in 1917, a full decade before being declared a

SEE **ARABS** PAGE 11

ARABS
FROM PAGE 10

citizen. The document shows his birthplace as the "Syrian Arab Republic" and his occupation as "grinding for Ford Motor Co." The registration also details back problems, which likely kept him from being drafted. His address is on the same street in the Detroit enclave where, just four years later, he would lead what was likely the first mosque in the United States.

In Danbury, a whole section of town is referred to as "Little Lebanon," where immigrants like my grandfather came to work in fur and hat factories. One Arab immigrant whose time there wasn't lost to history was William Buzaid, who opened a fur-cutting factory in 1910.

Hassan is working with the city's Lebanese American Club to learn more about the paths of its forebears. She welcomes my call for help in finding facts to fill my story, knowing it could in turn help Danbury and Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and many other places where Arab-Americans traveled through or put down roots during the Great Migration of 1880-1924. The peak for those coming from what then was known as "Greater Syria" was from 1910 to 1914.

Even after trying several variations of Karoub — Kharoub, Karoob, Karub, Karroubi — I came up empty. Maybe, Hassan suggests, he was among those who came through Baltimore or Boston. Maybe even Canada. Maybe he didn't enter at Ellis Island at all.

Maybe. A word I can't seem to escape.

Devon Akmon also wants to fill in some ancestral blanks. He lacks even more basic facts than I do. He knows this much: He's half-Lebanese, like me, and his family came from northern Lebanon. But who came to the U.S., and when?

"This is the hard part. This is what we don't know," said Akmon, now deputy director of the Arab American National Museum. "They first came to Kentucky. That's the story I want to figure out. ... It's family history. Knowing your family's story only back a generation — it seems so mysterious."

To know more, he said, enhances his "sense of self-worth."

How can details like these disappear so soon? A relative's reluctance to reminisce is a common obstacle for the family historian, and Akmon said his grandfather didn't talk a lot about his past.

It's a challenge in his day job as well. "Trying to do research on Arab-Americans in the early ... 20th century is very difficult," he says. "It's so underdocumented."

That's an underlying theme of the 1985 book, "Becoming American: The Early Arab Immigrant Experience," by Alixa Naff. It draws on dozens of interviews with pioneer immigrants and their descendants from more than 25 communities, including my uncle — a son of Hussien Karoub who followed him into ministry.

You come away with one overarching feeling: The ancestry quest of Arab-Americans is common to all immigrants, be they Irish, Italians, Germans, Jews or others. It is the story of most everyone in America.

Yet Syrians are one of the least studied of America's ethnic groups — partly because they were smaller in number and the formal Arabic language was not widely understood by Western students and scholars before World War II. But Naff says the blame also falls upon Arab immigrants, who "neglected to study themselves."

"The history of their American experience was, by comparison, too insignificant and too fleeting to warrant recording," she wrote.

So, what filled the cultural void? American myth and history. "Lacking ancestral legends and heroes that had an organic relevance to their lives, they adopted American legends as their own — presidents, cowboys, athletes and men like Charles Lindbergh," Naff wrote.

Maybe the Titanic — itself no slouch as an American history tale — looms so large in my grandfather's legend because the sea at that time of its fateful passage was filled with Middle Easterners seeking a new life, including on the "unsinkable" ship itself. There, 154 of the Titanic's passengers were Arabic; 29 survived.

Those who did included 24-year-old Catherine Joseph, who was sailing steerage with her children, 6-year-old Michael and 2-year-old Anna. The passenger record indicates her husband, Peter, sent them back to Lebanon a few months earlier to save money, but called them back to Detroit.

We know these facts about the Joseph family because of "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition," which spent several recent months at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, the capital of Arab-America. Visitors learned about passengers and their fates on special tickets handed out at the exhibition's entrance.

It didn't take years for the tales of those on the Titanic to be told. Arabic-language newspapers from New York's Little Syria played a particularly aggressive role in helping to identify victims and provide support to families and survivors — something it was uniquely equipped to do.

"The entire Syrian community of New York identified with the difficulties of those who had left their homeland seeking a better future in a new land," Leila Salloum Elias wrote in 2005 in an essay that laid the groundwork for a new book, "The Dream and the Nightmare: The Syrians Who Boarded the Titanic."

"They were reminded of their own journey across ocean and sea," she wrote. "The Syrian community considered the ship's Syrian passengers as part of it."

What kind of impression did that leave on my Jiddo? I wonder if he was there to see newspapers report, connect and advocate on behalf of those on the ship, and if those efforts helped him decide to launch his own newspaper a few years later in Detroit.

No doubt he was lured like many other immigrants by the promise of Ford's "five bucks a day" to make Model Ts. But he saw another, less material motive: Muslims making Michigan their home would need a spiritual leader. He could put his Islamic studies to work to help build an American community.

More help in my quest comes from the National Archives, the main repository for pieces of the American story. Naturalization records contain details about where and when an immigrant came to the United States — and my grandfather's record is among them, at the Archives' Chicago branch. It teases me even more.

He listed himself as a sewing machine operator. He had a scar on his left palm. His signature — in a sturdy, stylish penmanship for a man who wasn't raised reading or writing English — attests that he is neither

SEE **HISTORY** PAGE 12



SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.8°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
BIGGEST LATE; Smaller WNW swell leftovers through the morning; New WNW and SSW swells picking up with sets to chest/shoulder high for top exposures before dark

THURSDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **4-5 ft** shoulder to head high occ. 6 ft
New WNW swell builds further and tops out during the day; Plus sets at standouts; SSW builds further; Light AM winds

FRIDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-5 ft** waist to head high
WNW swell easing through the day; SSW swell holds; Light AM winds

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
WNW and SSW swells fade; plus sets at top combo spots

Tides

Are very manageable to start the week, becoming more of an issue as the tide swings are a bit more extreme towards the end of this week. Deep morning high tides of 5'+ just before sunrise will slow the more tide sensitive breaks down Thursday and into the weekend. Keep it in mind when planning a surf.

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 19, 2012**

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 -- 2
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 11
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 18 / 10
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman LAcarGUY SIMA and Groueback Family Foundation

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 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.	C	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Winter Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	C	B
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	C
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	C
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	C
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	F	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	F	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	D
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	B	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	D	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	F
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CBAW jetty).	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	F	F
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	F

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 non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

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.

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HISTORY

FROM PAGE 11

polygamist nor anarchist.

I press on. Genealogy specialist Constance Potter runs a general search on several conceivable spellings for Hussien Karoub. As far as the archive is concerned, no record exists of my grandfather's 1912 arrival.

That's unsurprising. Many ports of entry were overflowing with huddled masses. Immigrants' names were taken verbally, so there's no guarantee that our best guesses on spelling match the elusive record. And until 1935, there was no National Archives.

"There were all these years when things could disappear," Potter says.

While she admires my pursuit and recognizes my disappointment, Potter consoles me with an existential parting shot about who we are as Americans.

"Everyone's ancestor was somewhere on July 4, 1776," she says. "Whether signing the Declaration of Independence or somewhere in Syria, they were there."

Every quest, particularly when it comes to your own history, eventually arrives at a crossroads with some version of the same question: What is the point?

Why struggle to pin down my grandfather's details, to separate truth from tall tales? Surely it's not to feel more American. The day my family moved from becoming to belonging has long since passed.

Does my faltering attempt to retrace his journey make any difference? After all, he made it. He became one of the United States' first imams, opened the nation's first freestanding mosque and started a newspaper, the American-Arab Message, for a community that would become one of the largest outside the Middle East.

Hussien Karoub had seven children, five of whom survived into adulthood. He died at 79 in 1973. I was only 4 then, but I remember a warm, gentle man. My strongest memory is looking up to see him smile at me as I tore through his house with joyful abandon. Yet his legacy lives on through his descendants, including doctors, musicians, teachers, business owners as well as a lawyer, lawmaker and a journalist. And veterans of foreign wars.

We are Muslim, Christian, and other — a fitting multireligious legacy for a man who was both praised and criticized for embracing other faiths and not seeing his own as monolithic.

A century on, we are Arab-Americans, though we have become less Arab and more American. Yet there's a pull to learn a little more about the front end of the hyphen. Maybe the urge is strongest when you feel fully connected, when reaching to the past runs no risk of giving up the present. But as the generations pass, the yesterdays become more remote. The trail fades.

It doesn't surprise Elias that my family's lore includes a Titanic tale. She once interviewed a man whose grandfather asserted that as many as 15 people from her Syrian village perished when the great ship went down. No record supports that fact, but Elias later learned where the story came from.

"If someone left a village, let's say in March 1912, to go to 'Amreeka' and they were never heard from again," Elias says, "it was just assumed they were on the Titanic."

Speaking to so many descendants of Titanic survivors and victims, Elias realized the value of trying to know her own story: "Do you know how many said, 'I wish I had asked more questions'?"

I can't ask Jiddo any more questions about his path to America. The Titanic tale? It probably wasn't true, but no matter. I can continue chipping away at the myths, the facts and the blanks, knowing that his trip was the catalyst for my family's larger one — our evolution from being a "them" to an "us."

In fact, as I look back at his journey through the prism of my place in this country, I spot something new, something I didn't quite expect: The immigrant Hussien Karoub, it seems, was about as "us" as you can be.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Duck Soup (NR) 1hr 8min
Monkey Business (NR) 1hr 17min
Introduction by Groucho Marx's grandson, Andy Marx.
5:00pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

Rise of the Guardians (PG) 1hr 37min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm

Jack Reacher (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
7:15pm, 10:30pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:45am, 3:30pm, 7:15pm, 11:00pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
11:00am, 2:55pm, 6:50pm, 10:15pm, 10:45pm

Jack Reacher (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
10:30am, 1:40pm, 4:45pm, 8:00pm, 11:15pm

Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) 1hr 32min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm

Parental Guidance (PG) 1hr 44min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm, 10:55pm

This Is 40 (R) 2hrs 13min
10:45am, 2:00pm, 5:15pm, 8:30pm, 11:30pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in HFR 3D
(PG-13) 2hrs 46min
10:45am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
4:00pm, 9:40pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Sessions (R) 1hr 38min
1:30pm, 7:10pm

West of Memphis (R) 2hrs 30min
1:10pm, 4:40pm, 8:10pm

Hitchcock (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Guilt Trip (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)
2hrs 46min
11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:15pm, 11:00pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:00am, 2:40pm, 6:15pm, 10:00pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Hyde Park on Hudson (R) 1hr 34min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG)
1hr 31min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Return an important call, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Pulling yourself together could be a major effort after last night's celebration; on the other hand, you might not care. Tonight: Someone might interfere with your rest and relaxation. Smile all you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ The time has come to relax. You made a major effort to contribute to everyone's happiness this Christmas. Now you could become nearly childlike in the freedom you experience. Tonight: Act as if there were no tomorrow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Others might forget about your multifaceted personality if you continue like this. You seem quiet and totally exhausted. You might not even want to hear the word "holiday" anymore. Tonight: You inadvertently might get into a willpower struggle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be talking up a storm, and you'll want to hear everyone's news. Keep in mind that many people are distracted right now. If you get no response, don't take it personally. Tonight: Do not lift a finger -- you have done enough.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You just might decide to kick back and enjoy the day. Do not feel a need to do anything. Some extra R and R is just what the doctor ordered, even if it's in a social setting. Resist the need to be the host or hostess. Let someone else play that role. Tonight: Make it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your energy and willingness to get out the door might be the envy of others today. Conversations flow. An older friend or loved one clearly approves and appreciates how you handle yourself. Do not worry so much, and be spontaneous. Tonight: The lead actor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Consider reframing a situation in your mind. You might have taken someone's words the wrong way or out of context. You could feel a bit overwhelmed by everything that is occurring or that has occurred. Tonight: Return an important call.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Visit with a parent or older relative in the morning. In the afternoon, spend time with friends and partake in what might be a traditional New Year's ritual. Get together with loved ones. Tonight: Laughter becomes contagious.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Try to understand where someone is coming from. If you can imagine what it's like to walk in this person's shoes, or even if you simply try to be more observant, you will have a better idea of what it is like to be him or her. Tonight: Take the lead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might be planning a trip that could keep you busy all day long. Sometimes it is nice to get out of your own head. You'll see life from a whole new perspective, if you can. Tonight: Make your escape.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Deal with others directly. Don't walk away from an intense conversation. It might be appropriate to rethink a situation and understand someone's perspective. Your creativity and intellect intertwine, which adds to your interpersonal skills. Tonight: Share with a favorite person.

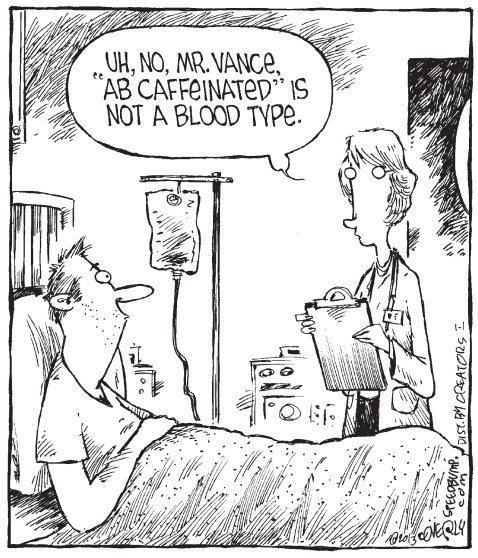
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Others come forward with lots of ideas and invitations. Trying to decide which way to go could be very difficult, at best. You might be better off making a decision on a first-come, first-served basis. Make sure you schedule some time at home. Tonight: Snuggle in.

Happy birthday

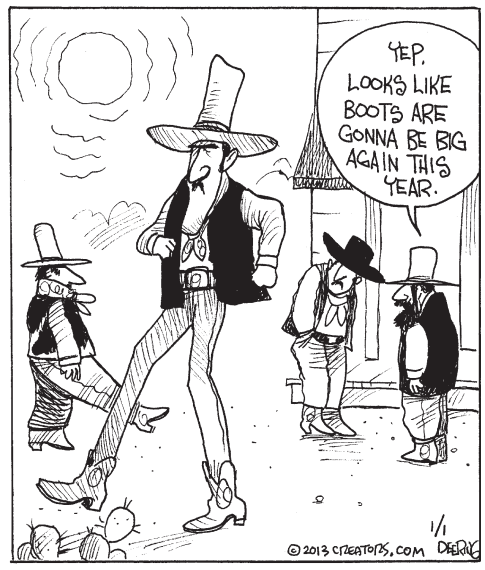
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you have a tendency to reminisce about days past. Often when you are like this, you come up with novel ideas. Plan on doing some traveling this year. You will not be at your best if you stay put. If you are single, you could meet someone quite exotic and different. Count on taking an adventure into a different lifestyle. If you are attached, the two of you finally might take that long-awaited and often-talked-about trip. VIRGO can always take care of the details.

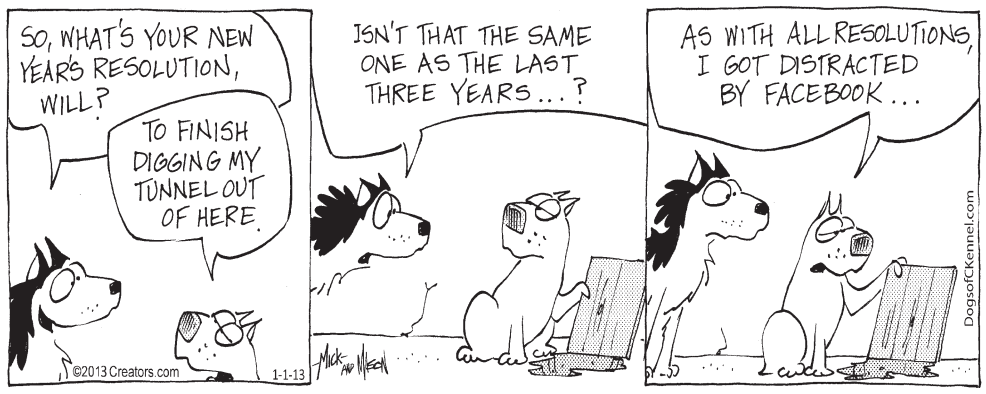
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



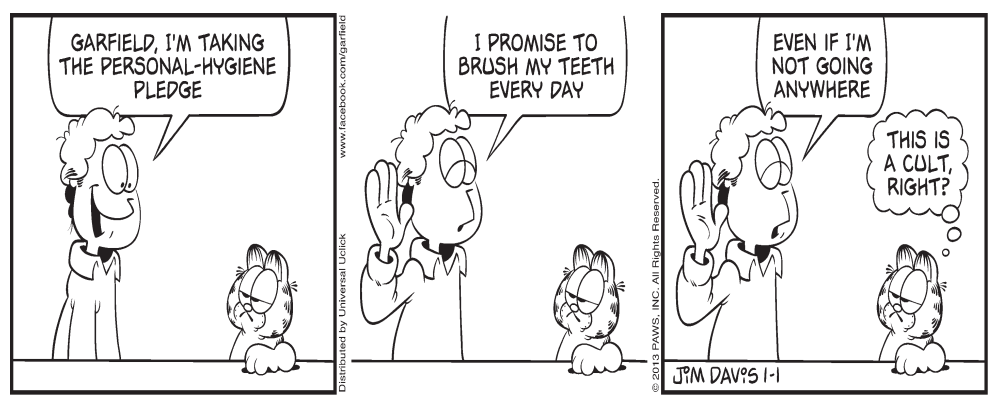
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



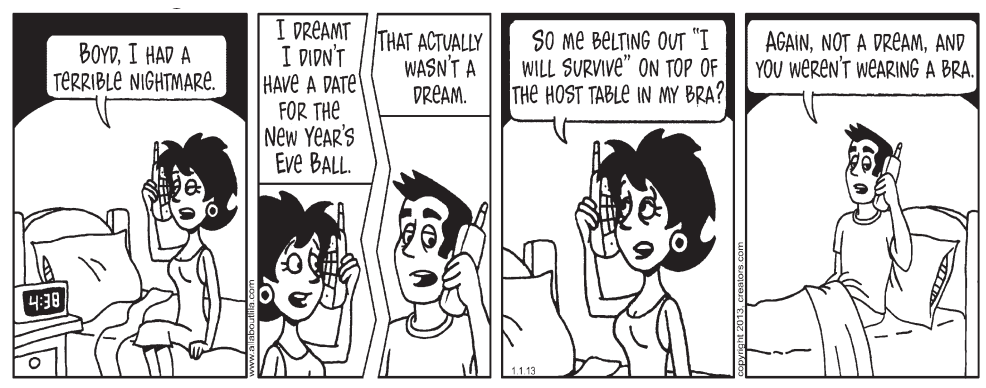
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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).

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Storybook elephant
6 Hang loosely
11 Furious
12 Competitor
13 Annual Memphis event
15 Put down
16 Corn unit
17 Top-secret govt. org.
18 Cuisine with cayenne
20 Oscar or Tony
23 Satyr's quarry
27 Part
28 Luke's sister
29 Paparazzi target
31 Annie of "Ghostbusters"
32 Visit briefly
34 Methane, for one
37 Quirk
38 Pollen collector
41 Annual Tampa event
44 Use the gym
45 Seeps
46 Convenient
47 Gallows loop

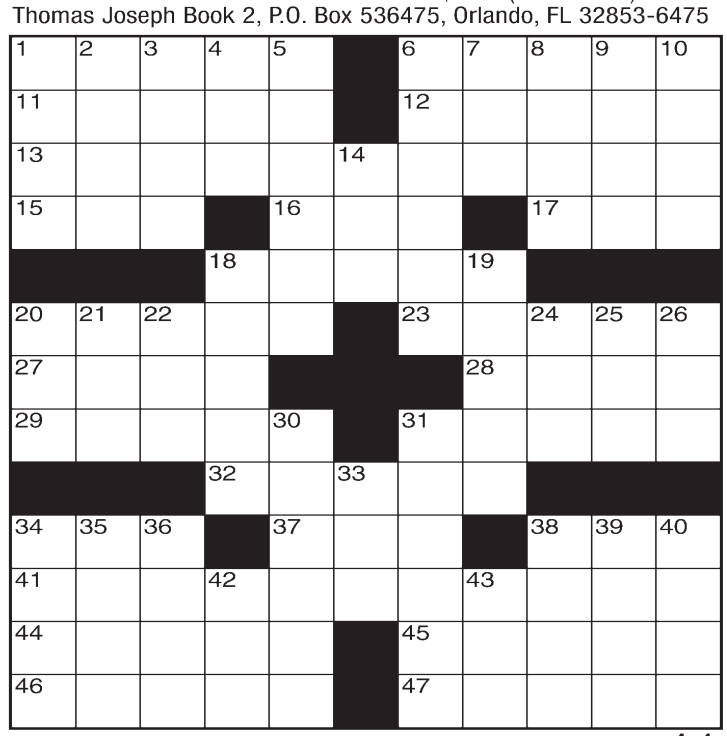
DOWN

1 Potential law
2 Diva's song
3 Cradle occupant
4 Had dinner
5 Enjoy a book twice
6 Rehearsal
7 Umbrella part
8 Stratford's river
9 Hound's hands
10 First name in scat
14 — Mahal
18 Unpleasant fellow
19 Backpack material
20 Pendulum path
21 Misery
22 Totality
24 Got together
25 Peach center
26 Owns
30 Floral study
31 Bully
33 Snapshot, for short
34 Rome raider
35 Mystique
36 Jazz's Getz
38 Buffoon
39 Some sheep
40 Different
42 Auction action
43 Scary cry

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

Yesterday's answer

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



1-1



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Update: Gary Medrow, 68, has periodically surfaced in News of the Weird since 1991 for his unique behavior of using a false identity to persuade Milwaukee-area strangers over the phone to lift other strangers off the ground -- behavior for which he has occasionally been jailed and ordered to psychiatric care. After a recent period of calm, Medrow slipped in November and was charged with impersonating a photojournalist to convince two Cedarburg (Wis.) High School students to hoist each other on their shoulders (and four similar incidents were under investigation). At an earlier hearing, Medrow said that his "addiction" helps him to relieve tension and anxiety.

■ Floyd Johnson pleaded guilty to attempted murder in an odd scene in a New York City courtroom in November. Johnson has only one leg, and had been charged with stabbing a fellow homeless shelter resident who has no legs. Johnson's public-defender lawyer (who caught the case at random) has only one leg, also. Johnson said he was taking the plea in part because of excruciating leg pain -- in the leg he doesn't have ("phantom leg" syndrome), and Johnson's lawyer said he suffers from the same thing. (The lawyer subsequently filed to withdraw the guilty plea because the pain had clouded his client's judgment.)



Santa Monica Daily Press

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225 Montana Ave. #202. $1795 per month. Walk to the beach! 1Bd + 1.5 Bth upper unit. Intercom entry, lobby, subterranean parking, laundry facilities, elevator, one parking space, no pets.

821 Pacific St, #5. Studio/Single with full kitchen and full bathroom. $1295 per month. High ceilings, hardwood floors, pet friendly, one parking space, laundry facilities.

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