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Volume 12 Issue 45



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

STOP THE VIOLENCE
SEE PAGE 5

THE BACK TO BUSINESS ISSUE

Nonprofit tech innovators inspire new philanthropy

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Scott Harrison knows his charity has funded nearly 7,000 clean water projects in some of the poorest areas of the world in the past six years. How many of those wells are still flowing with drinking water months or years later, though? That's a tough question to answer.

His organization called Charity: Water has funded projects in 20 different countries. It's committed to spend 100 percent of each donation in the field to help reach some of the 800 million people who don't have clean water and resort to drinking from swamps, unhealthy ponds or polluted rivers. Organizers send donors photos and GPS coordinates for each water project they pay for.

Still, Harrison, a former New York promoter for nightclubs and fashion events, didn't want to guess at how many water projects were actually working. He wanted to give donors more assurance, knowing as many as a third of hand pumps built by various governments or groups stop functioning later. His solution: why not create sensors to monitor the water flow at each well? But raising millions for a new innovation could prove impossible.

Few funders want to pay for a nonprofit's technical infrastructure or take the risk of funding a dreamy idea. They'd rather pay for real work on the ground.

Last month, Google stepped in with major funding to create and install sensors on 4,000 wells across Africa by 2015 that will send back real-time data on the water flow at each site. The $5 million grant could be a game changer for Charity: Water to ensure its projects are sustainable, to raise money for maintenance and to empower developing countries to maintain their infrastructure with new data.

SEE TECH PAGE 11



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

COOL GEAR: **Dr. Wally Ghurabi shows off the ouchless ER at the UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center.**

Taking the 'ouch' out of the hospital

UCLA-SM Medical Center wants emergency room to be more kid friendly

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY No one likes going to the emergency room, and that sentiment is felt even more profoundly by small children for whom the fear of pain is not tempered with the experience brought by age.

Doctors at the UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center are working to transform their emergency department into a child-friendly environment with new tools and technologies that take some of the pain out and respond directly to the unique needs of children.

The creation is rather hopefully called the "ouchless ER," and it aims to change not only medical practices, but the environment in which they are performed to make the full package more "kid friendly."

That means a new paintjob and more easily-sanitized toys on the one hand and on the other a $25,000 ultrasound that helps find a child's veins the first time — children have more body fat and it's hard to find the vein.

The department has also introduced mucosal atomizers, a device that loads painkillers through the nasal passages rather than a more painful needle.

"We're trying really hard to introduce ways to use anything but a needle," said Dr. Lisa Dabby, the doctor heading up the conversion to the "ouchless ER."

The switch is personal for Dabby, a mother of two who has had to take her own children to the doctor's office and knows the special kind of fear that parents can have when it's their kid on the examining table.

"I've been on the other side … . I

SEE ER PAGE 10


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013

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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
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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



State court says no to gang participation charge

TERRY COLLINS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO The California Supreme Court has ruled that a suspect can't be convicted of felony gang participation if he committed the crime by himself.

Thursday's ruling in San Francisco affirmed a 3rd District Court of Appeal decision two years ago that reversed a Yuba County man's conviction on a special enhancement of committing a crime for the benefit of a street gang. The case was brought forth to the state high court after the Attorney General's office petitioned the appellate court's judgment for review.

In 2008, Joe Rodriguez Jr., 32, of Woodland, Calif. was convicted of the charge, along with felony attempted robbery after he had beaten a man and tried to take his money in Marysville, the previous year.

In its 4-3 ruling, the state Supreme Court agreed with the lower court that Rodriguez — a known member of the Nortenos street gang — acted alone in committing the May 2007 robbery attempt and that his act did not fall within the specific language of state's gang enhancement statute.

Rodriguez's lawyer, Diane Nichols said Friday that the state Supreme Court made the right decision with its interpretation of the law.

"(Rodriguez) was acting completely on his own and he wasn't doing it for the benefit of the gang," Nichols said. "In this case, he did this by himself, totally alone. He wasn't shouting gang slogans or wearing gang paraphernalia and no other gang members were around."

The ruling takes roughly 16 months off Rodriguez's current 8-year prison sentence, Nichols said.

The attorney general's office declined to comment on Thursday's ruling, spokesman Nick Pacilio said Friday.



Photo courtesy Google Images

GROWING TREND: **Mexican tomato imports have risen significantly, up 43.7 percent from 2008 through 2011 and another 5.6 percent in the first three quarters of 2012 compared with 2011, USDA figures show. This has Florida growers nervous that they are being priced out of the market.**

Mexican tomatoes, strawberries are worrying Florida growers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINTER GARDEN, Fla. Florida's tomato and strawberry growers say they're fighting to keep up with a rising tide of cheaper produce imports from Mexico.

Mexican strawberry imports jumped 142 percent from 2008 to 2011, according to the most recent statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the first three quarters of this year, they soared 50 percent compared to the same period in 2011.

Mexican imports will likely rise less steeply in the fourth quarter because farmers in both countries faced many of the same unfavorable growing conditions, said Ted Campbell, executive director of the Florida Strawberry Growers Association in Dover, the industry's trade group.

But that doesn't mean the Mexican market threat has subsided, Campbell tells The Ledger (http://bit.ly/S0j8NJ).

"They're not going away. They're going to continue to grow," Campbell said. "You can't ignore what's going on."

Mexican tomato imports also have risen significantly, up 43.7 percent from 2008 through 2011 and another 5.6 percent in the first three quarters of 2012 compared with 2011, USDA figures show.

Those numbers reflect Mexican imports of round tomatoes grown in open fields and in "hothouses," or covered areas such as a greenhouse. Those varieties most directly compete with Florida round tomatoes, the dominant variety grown here.

Mexican hothouse tomatoes, which account for about 75 percent of total imports, pose the bigger threat, federal data shows. They've risen 74 percent from 2008 through 2011.

"In the last five to six years, Mexico has converted from a field culture to a hothouse culture," said John VanSickle, an agricultural economist at the University of Florida in Gainesville who specializes in international trade issues, including tomatoes and strawberries.

That trend will continue, he said. Among

SEE **GROWERS** PAGE 12

City of Santa Monica Holiday Trash Schedule

Tuesday, December 25th - No Collection
Tuesday, January 1st - No Collection

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Wednesday's routes will be on Thursday.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The evil in men's hearts

Editor:

Columnist Jack Neworth blames the "self-righteous" National Rifle Association's defense of gun ownership for this nation's spate of gun massacres ("Sticking to their guns," Laughing Matters, Dec. 27).

In 1994, the Brady Bill outlawed assault weapons. In 1995, Oklahoma City exploded. In 1999, there was Columbine.

In 2002, the D.C. sniper killed 10 people in a city with a highly restrictive gun ban, and one of the highest murder rates. When the Supreme Court struck down the ban, the murder rate went down. This year, Chicago has the strictest gun laws ... and 500 murders.

In 2007, the Virginia Tech attacker had worried university employees, but legal constraints prevented any preventative measures. In 2009, the same political correctness prevented military officials from committing the disturbed psychologist Nidal Hasan.

In 2012, the Aurora movie theater assailant had no prior record of criminality or insanity, and Connecticut's public school "gun free zones" neutralized the state's "concealed carry" provisions.

Seeing the gun fully-loaded against us instead of for our protection, Neworth decries 62 mass murders in 30 years. In reality, gun ownership prevented more crimes from happening. Not a gun culture, but a culture which has lost its bearings (pun intended) is the problem. Getting rid of the guns cannot get rid of the evil in men's hearts, or the madness of the mentally ill who perpetrate these atrocities.

"The best defense against a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," LaPierre declared. Neither pandering nor pedantic, LaPierre responded with necessity to the evil in this troubled world.

Arthur Christopher Schaper
Torrance, Calif.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

You liked me, you really liked me

WHEN THIS COLUMN, MEREDITH PRO TEM, was first published seven-and-a-half years ago, it was named such because there was a chance it was just going to run pro tem — for a short time. Not that my editors ever indicated their belief that I wouldn't last. On the contrary, they had the paper's on-site legal department draw up a contract, which I was asked to sign in blood, because when recognizing a once-in-a-lifetime talent such as myself, locking me down was their top priority.

Even still, I was concerned my prose might never find the right audience, and so humbly arguing that I was only meant to be printed temporarily seemed a prudent way to protect my fragile ego.

As it turns out, my hesitant sense of worth was no match for my ardent followers, who might have made my ego explode into smithereens from all of the accolades they've heaped on me over these past years. Thankfully my interminable modesty has tenderly protected my ego from imminent destruction.

And yet, seven-and-a-half years later, Meredith Pro Tem has proved to be short-lived nonetheless, as this is my last-ever column for the Santa Monica Daily Press.

It's hard to imagine there won't be riots in the streets, hunger strikes, petitions and marches on Washington protesting the fact that my name will no longer appear in print in this newspaper, as my readers have always clamored for me, for more of me, for all of me.

Take, for instance, the loyal reader who once marveled at the simple yet eloquent way in which I paint a portrait of words, week in and week out: "'Beginning, middle and end' called. They said your columns don't have them."

A similar outpouring of compliments, praise and honors have been nonstop over the years:

"What a miserable article from an obviously miserable person. … Not only is your article a disgusting display of self serving bias, but it's not even well written, creative or entertaining. … Next time please keep it to yourself, the rest of us have our own problems."

"[Meredith's] poor attempt at humor is only exceeded by her ignorance."

"Why is this in the newspaper? Why is this person given space to spew this crap? Is this newspaper that hard up for copy? … Enough already. … Can we start running something from someone who has anything relevant to say?"

"I am flummoxed and disturbed by Ms. Carroll's sniping, which is devoid of respect and decorum. I cannot imagine what caused her to feel spiteful enough to express such sentiments to anyone. ... It would have made my stomach queasy to construct such a missive."

"Can someone say V - A - P - I - D?"

"[Meredith] is tactless and tediously petulant."

"Wow, something is not right in your head. … Shame on you."

There have been times when I've been ready to throw in the towel because the sheer exhaustion of pouring so much of me into print each week renders me all but useless. However, it is the enthusiastic and sincerely lovely reader reaction such as, "I'm seldom moved to respond to an article. But this one was so unappealing, I had to write," and, "I wonder if you realize the kind of personality you project. What comes through is narrow, narcissistic, negative," which has carried me through.

Among the saddest to see me leave this column are undoubtedly my own parents, who have a tendency to gush about my every printed word.

"Very cute. I guess. I did not really know what you are talking about," my mom e-mailed me after a recent column.

"Eh," my dad says after reading me every week. "It was OK."

Which rings similar to the comment of another reader: "I think this is about the dumbest article I've ever read."

Ultimately, it's because of the encouragement from my loyal followers — "Why don't you just shut up, mind your own business and stop telling us how to live our lives," one devotee effused — that I finally feel comfortable leaving while I'm so far on top that those behind me need a GPS and binoculars to catch sight of my dust.

While of course I have some fleeting concerns that I will be forgotten as soon as tomorrow's newspaper is printed, it's remarks such as, "You suck, Meredith!", and, "You're either stupid or intentionally vile," which reassure me that my apprehensions are just that — fleeting. After all, talent like mine is hard to disremember, as my admirer who pronounced, "You have set a new benchmark in empty-noggin twithood [sic]. Congratulations, I guess," would surely agree.

And with that, I bid my fans a fond and deeply appreciative farewell and thank you. Although, really, it seems more fitting to say: You're quite welcome.

Read **MEREDITH'S** new column on the Op-Ed page of The Denver Post every Friday and follow along on her other writing adventures at MeredithCarroll.com.



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Obama wants gun violence measures passed in 2013

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Recalling the shooting of 20 first graders as the worst day of his presidency, President Barack Obama on Sunday pledged to put his "full weight" behind a legislative package this year aimed at containing gun violence.

In an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," Obama voiced skepticism about proposals to place armed guards at schools in the aftermath of the Dec. 14 deadly assault at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

In his boldest terms yet, he vowed to rally the American people around an agenda to limit gun violence and said he still supports increased background checks and bans on assault weapons and high capacity bullet magazines.

"It is not enough for us to say, 'This is too hard so we're not going to try,'" Obama said. "So what I intend to do is I will call all the stakeholders together. I will meet with Republicans. I will meet with Democrats. I will talk to anybody.

"I think there are a vast majority of responsible gun owners out there who recognize that we can't have a situation in which somebody with severe psychological problems is able to get the kind of high capacity weapons that this individual in Newtown obtained and gun down our kids. And, yes, it's going to be hard."

Obama's comments come as the schoolroom shooting has elevated the issue of gun violence to the forefront of public attention.

Six adults also died at the school. Authorities say the shooter killed himself and his mother at their home.

The slayings have prompted renewed calls for greater gun controls. The National Rifle Association has resisted those efforts vociferously, arguing instead that schools should have armed guards for protection.

"I am skeptical that the only answer is putting more guns in schools," Obama said. "And I think the vast majority of the American people are skeptical that that somehow is going to solve our problem."

Obama said he intended to press the issue with the public.

"Will there be resistance? Absolutely there will be resistance," he said.

"The question then becomes whether we are actually shook up enough by what happened here that it does not just become another one of these routine episodes where it gets a lot of attention for a couple of weeks and then it drifts away. It certainly won't feel like that to me. This is something that - you know, that was the worst day of my presidency. And it's not something that I want to see repeated."

Besides getting gun violence legislation passed, Obama also listed immigration as a top priority for 2013 as well as deficit reduction. A big deficit reduction deal with Republicans proved elusive this month and Obama is now hoping Senate Democratic and Republican leaders salvage a scaled back plan that avoids across the board tax increases for virtually all Americans.

He issued a defense of former Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, who has been mentioned as one of the leading candidates for new secretary of defense.

Hagel, who opposed President George W. Bush's decision to go to war with Iraq, has been criticized in conservative circles for not being a strong enough ally of Israel. Many liberals and gay activists also have banded against him for comments he made in 1998 about an openly gay nominee for an ambassadorship

Obama, who briefly served with Hagel in the Senate, stressed that he had yet to make a decision on a secretary of defense but said called Hagel a "patriot."

"He is somebody who has done extraordinary work both in the United States Senate," he said. "Somebody who served this country with valor in Vietnam. And is somebody who's currently serving on my intelligence advisory board and doing an outstanding job."

He noted that Hagel had apologized for his 14-year-old remark. "And I think it's a testimony to what has been a positive change over the last decade in terms of people's attitudes about gays and lesbians serving our country," Obama said.

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.

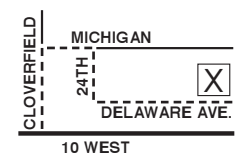
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What course should the City Council, the school board and other powers that be take in the new year? Where do you want to see Santa Monica end up at the end of 2013?

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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In gun debate, two sides speak completely different languages

JESSE WASHINGTON
AP National Writer

WEXFORD, Pa. Inside the Big Buck Sport Shop, where mounted moose and deer heads loom over rifles, handguns, targets and ammunition, the customers have no doubt: More gun laws will not save lives.

Fifteen miles south, in the city of Pittsburgh, many confronted by a steady stream of gun violence are just as certain: To reduce the carnage, stricter gun control is needed.

This divide has existed for decades, separating America into hostile camps of conservative vs. liberal, rural vs. urban. As the nation responds to the massacre of 20 children and six adults in Newtown, Conn., the gulf has rarely felt wider than now.

After the gunman invaded an elementary school with a Bushmaster AR-15 semiautomatic rifle and magazines of 30 bullets each, there was a brief moment of unity amid the nation's grief. Across partisan divides, politicians said something must be done about weapons based upon military designs. Many wondered if even the National Rifle Association would adjust its staunch opposition to gun control.

Then both sides regrouped. With President Barack Obama pushing for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and memory lingering of Obama's divisive 2008 comment that some Americans "cling to guns and religion," positions hardened.

Listening to the public discourse, and to citizens in places like Pittsburgh and the Big Buck Sport Shop, people seem to be speaking different languages entirely. Communication has broken down amid a flurry of accusations, denials, political maneuvering and catch phrases.

"You have to place some people in the category of 'you cannot communicate with them,'" Big Buck salesman Dave Riddle said Friday, standing between a rack of rifles and a glass case full of used handguns. "Their minds are set; they cannot change."

A short drive away, at the New Pittsburgh Courier newspaper, editor and publisher Rod Doss pondered how to tell gun enthusiasts about his belief that assault weapons should be banned.

"I don't know that they would hear me," Doss finally said. "Their culture is totally different. They've grown up around guns. It's part of their life and their lifestyle. It's second nature. Hunting, shooting, it's the love of guns."

Doss does not own a firearm: "I don't feel a need for any. I personally don't live in fear." His newspaper, which covers the African-American community, publishes detailed information on every Pittsburgh homicide because most are black-on-black crimes.

"I'm awestruck with their fascination with guns," Doss said of his suburban and rural neighbors. "When you look at it from that perspective, it's hard to relate to anything."

Locally, nationally, even globally, this is the issue that places people at odds — a fact seen by the passionate, often angry conversations that are ringing out across the world in the days since the Newtown shootings. Harry Wilson, author of "Guns, Gun Control and Elections: The Politics and Policy of Firearms," sees common misperceptions on both sides.

Wilson, a Roanoke College political science professor, would like gun control advocates to know: "Gun owners are not idiots. Gun owners are not in favor of gun violence. Gun owners are in many ways like them, and would genuinely like to see gun violence reduced. Obviously they have a different solution. But they're people too, just with different perspectives."

"And what I would want gun owners to know is, the large majority of people in favor of gun control don't really want to take all of your guns."

Guns were inseparable from America even before their enshrinement in the Second Amendment. With guns we secured the nation's independence, seized vast territory from indigenous peoples wielding arrows and tomahawks, and forged an ethos of personal freedom. Today, according to most estimates, there are about 250 million guns in our nation of 310 million people.

America has a higher rate of gun deaths than most similarly developed nations: 3.2 firearm homicides per 100,000 people in 2009, according to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. That compared with a rate of 0.5 per 100,000 in Canada; 0.2 in Spain; 0.2 in Germany; and 0.1 in the United Kingdom and Australia. No data was available for Russia.

To many gun enthusiasts, though, these numbers have nothing to do with guns themselves.

With so many guns in circulation, they say, people intent on killing will always find a way to do it. Nor do they fault high-capacity magazines, because it can take only seconds to reload a standard 10-bullet version.

Some even say the solution to gun violence is more guns — to deter, and to fight back against the bad guys.

"The easy, lazy conclusion is that (gun violence) has to do with firearms," said Sam Liberto, a business consultant shopping in Big Buck with his two young sons. "We should look at the root cause: parenting or lack thereof, mental illness, video games. The underlying forces are probably far more important."

Liberto does think gun laws could be tightened, to track and collect more sale information. He's against an assault weapons ban but expects one to happen soon, as a first step to outlawing even more guns.

So after Newtown, Liberto hustled to buy the same type of semiautomatic rifle used by the school gunman. On his iPhone was a photo of his weapon's handiwork: an Osama bin Laden target that featured a face full of bullet holes.

"It's a target item," Liberto said of his purchase. "Unlike a hunting rifle or a sport shotgun it has less kick, a lighter weight. It's designed to be carried. It's just nice, a nice gun to shoot."

Liberto and Riddle, the Big Buck salesman, are officers of the Millvale Sportsmen's Club, where target shooters and hunters enjoy their pursuits. Riddle knows many people who enter competitions with the type of AR-15 used in Newtown.

The gray-bearded Riddle has been around firearms since he was born in rural Pennsylvania. To him, guns are no more dangerous than an axe or a bat.

What would he tell people who want more gun control?

"Let's go out and shoot a little bit," Riddle offers. "I'd take 'em out, introduce them to firearms, show them the safety aspects of it. I'd just go out and start shooting, have some fun. Shoot some paper targets, some cans. Shooting guns is a lot of fun, it really is."0

Liberal arts colleges forced to evolve with market

JUSTIN POPE
AP Education Writer

ADRIAN, Mich. They're the places you think of when you think of "college" — leafy campuses, small classes, small towns. Liberal arts colleges are where students ponder life's big questions, and learn to think en route to successful careers and richer lives, if not always to the best-paying first jobs.

But today's increasingly career-focused students mostly aren't buying the idea that a liberal arts education is good value, and many small liberal arts colleges are struggling. The survivors are shedding their liberal arts identity, if not the label. A study published earlier this year found that of 212 such institutions identified in 1990, only 130 still meet the criteria of a "true liberal arts college." Most that fell off the list remained in business, but had shifted toward a pre-professional curriculum.

These distinctively American institutions — educating at most 2 percent of college students but punching far above their weight in accomplished graduates — can't turn back the clock.

But schools like Adrian College, 75 miles southwest of Detroit and back from a recent near-death experience, offer something of a playbook.

First, get students in the door by offering what they do want, namely sports and extracurricular opportunities that might elude them at bigger schools. Offer vocational subjects like business, criminal justice and exercise science that students and parents think — rightly or wrongly — will lead to better jobs.

Then, once they're enrolled, look for other ways to sprinkle the liberal arts magic these colleges still believe in, even if it requires a growing stretch to call yourself a liberal arts college.

"We're liberal arts-aholics," says Adrian President Jeffrey Docking, who has added seven sports and two pre-professional degree programs since arriving in 2005 — and nearly doubled enrollment to about 1,750.

But he's also a realist.

"I say this with regret," said Docking, an ethicist by training. But "you really take your life into your own hands thinking that a pure liberal arts degree is going to be attractive enough to enough 18-year-olds that you fill your freshman classes."

In ancient Greece, liberal arts were the subjects that men free from work were at leisure to pursue. Today, the squishy definition still includes subjects that don't prepare for a particular job (but can be useful for many). English, history, philosophy, and other arts and sciences are the traditional mainstays. But these days, some prefer a more, well, liberal definition that's more about teaching style than subject matter.

"I refer to it as learning on a human scale," said William Spellman, a University of North Carolina-Asheville historian who directs a group of 27 public liberal arts colleges. "It's about small classes, access to faculty, the old tutorial model of being connected with somebody who's not interested only in their disciplinary area but culture broadly defined."

Does it work? It's true that research tying college majors to salaries can make the generic liberal arts degrees look unappealing. But technical training can become obsolete, and students are likely to change careers several times. These schools argue you're better off, both in life and work, simply learning to think.

Research does point to broader benefits of studying liberal arts in small settings, in areas like leadership, lifelong learning and civic engagement. Liberal arts colleges are proven launching pads to the top of business, government and academia (graduating 12 U.S. presidents, six chief justices and 12 of 53 Nobel laureates over a recent decade who attended American colleges, by one researcher's count). Foreign delegations often visit to observe, and big U.S. universities are trying to recreate mini-liberal arts colleges within their campuses.

But outside a secure tier of elites with 10-figure endowments — the Swarthmores, Amhersts, Wellesleys of the world — many schools are in trouble. The liberal arts still account for about one-third of bachelor's degrees, but the experience of getting one in these small settings is increasingly atypical. Definitions vary, but liberal arts colleges today probably account for between 100,000 and 300,000 of the country's roughly 17 million undergraduates. There are more students at the University of Phoenix, alone.

These schools "are all getting to around $40,000 a year, in some cases $50,000, and students and their families are just saying 'we can't do it,'" Docking said. Small classes make these schools among them most expensive places in higher education, though they often offer discounts to fill seats (Adrian's list price is $38,602, including room and board, but the average student pays $19,000).

Other pressures are geographic and generational. Many liberal arts colleges are clustered in the Northeast and Midwest, in towns like Adrian, founded by optimistic 18th- and 19th-century settlers who started colleges practically as soon as they arrived. But where the country is growing now is the South and West, where the private college tradition isn't as deep.

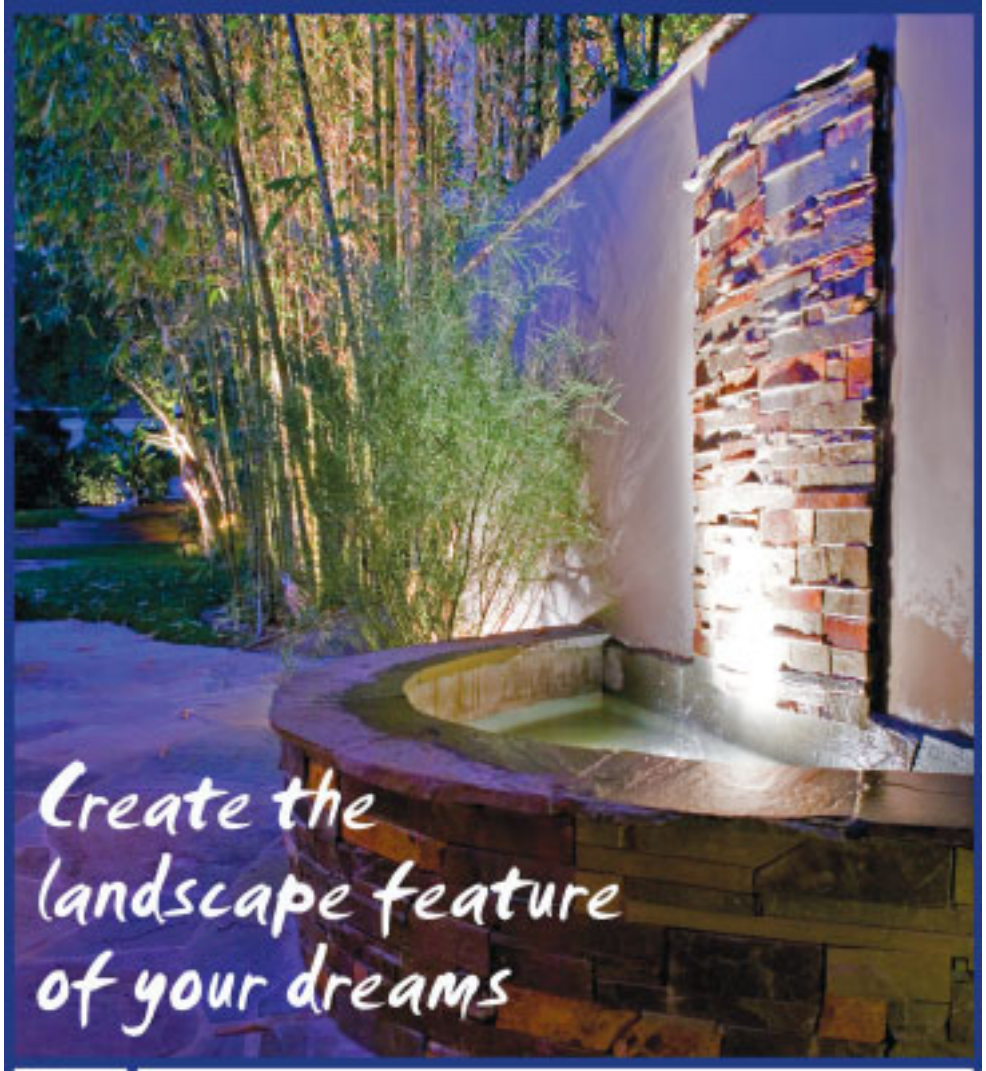
Meanwhile, students these days expect the climbing walls and high-end dorms that smaller, poorer schools can't afford. And a growing proportion of college students are the first generation in their family to attend. They've proved a tougher sell on the idea they can afford to spend four years of college "exploring." In UCLA's massive national survey of college freshman, "getting a better job" recently surpassed "learning about things that interest me" as the top reason for going to college. The percentage calling job preparation a very important reason rose to 86 percent, up from 70 percent in 2006, before the economy tanked.

Politicians have reinforced the message. Florida Republican Gov. Rick Scott recently proposed public colleges charge more for degrees in subjects like anthropology that he said were less economically valuable to the state than science and engineering (though in fact, those subjects usually cost much more to teach).

So, with varying reluctance, colleges have adjusted. In his 2011 book "Liberal Arts at the Brink," former Beloit College president Victor Ferrall calculated that in 1986-87, just 30 of 225 liberal arts colleges awarded 30 percent or more of their degrees in vocational subjects. By 2007-2008, 118 did so. Even at a consortium called the Annapolis Group, comprised of the supposedly purest liberal arts colleges, the percentage of vocational degrees jumped from 6 percent to 17 percent.



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Ex-Soviet immigrants are changing Israel

DANIEL ESTRIN & ODED BALILTY
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel In parts of Israel, it's hard to find a single Hebrew sign in a sea of Cyrillic. Shopkeepers address customers in Russian, and groceries are amply stocked with non-kosher pork, red caviar and rows of vodka. Russian pop beats thump at bars, and in some homes, people will as likely be hunched over a chessboard as a computer keyboard.

The Soviet Union crumbled 20 years ago, and in the aftermath, more than 1 million of its citizens took advantage of Jewish roots to flee that vast territory for the sliver of land along the Mediterranean that is the Jewish state. By virtue of their sheer numbers in a country of 8 million people and their tenacity in clinging to elements of their old way of life, these immigrants have transformed Israel.

Israel has the world's third-largest Russian-speaking community outside the former Soviet Union, after the U.S. and Germany. Russian-speaking emigres may not conjure up the same recognition as the country's black-hatted Orthodox Jews or gun-toting soldiers, but they are just as ubiquitous — maintaining habits more suited to the "old country" than their adopted Mideast homeland, like wild mushroom foraging or winter dips in the Mediterranean, the closest substitute to frigid Siberian waters.

Today, Russian-speaking emigres and their children occupy virtually every corner of Israeli society, from academia and technology to the military and politics. A political party formed by Israel's recently resigned foreign minister to cater to Russian-speaking immigrants like him has grown from a marginal force in politics to one of its major powers.

The Russian-speaking community also wields an outsized influence in other aspects of Israeli life. Every fourth employee in Israel's flourishing high-tech industry is a Russian-speaking immigrant, as is every other engineer. The world's second-ranked chess master, Belarus-born Boris Gelfand, lives in Israel, and about a quarter of Israel's Olympic coaches grew up in the former Soviet Union.

Not all newcomers found work in their professions. Many artists became janitors or teachers. One Moldovan trapeze artist now operates a crane.

"I love the circus very, very much, but my work is like the circus," said Irena Zagoruyko, speaking by cellphone atop a 56-meter (185-foot) crane.

While the wave of immigration from the former Soviet Union is widely regarded as successful, there were also frictions.

SEE ISRAEL PAGE 9

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ISRAEL
FROM PAGE 8

Religion is a sensitive subject. Many immigrants have tenuous Jewish lineage or none at all.

There is also a certain disdain on both sides, with some immigrants saying they brought talent to a cultural backwater, and some Israelis saying the Russian-speaking immigrants brought prostitution, corruption and crime.

To some degree, many Russian speakers have insulated themselves from the broader Israeli society with Russian bookshops, Russian restaurants, Russian television and Russian newspapers.

And they never forget the beloved Chekhov and Dostoyevsky of their motherland.

"That's why Soviet immigrants never connected to Israeli society all the way," says Roman Bronfman, a former Israeli lawmaker born in today's Ukraine. "They felt they were connected to one of the most glorious cultures in the world."



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TOOLS OF THE TRADE: **A MAD Nasal mucosal atomization device used at the ouchless ER.**

ER
FROM PAGE 1

feel very strongly about taking good care of kids," Dabby said.

The changes represent a paradigm shift in how to treat not only children, but the concerned families that come into the sometimes scary emergency room environment with them, said Dr. Wally Ghurabi, the medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at the hospital.

"There's a hectic pace in the ER, but (pediatric patients) need more time," Ghurabi said. "You're treating them, but you're treating their family too."

It's a critical move for UCLA-Santa Monica, which is one of the few hospitals with an emergency department and intensive care unit specifically for children and sees the majority of young patients in the Westside.

Roughly 18 percent of the 40,000 patients that the emergency department treats each year are children, Ghurabi said.

Some of the technologies have been around for awhile, but needed to go through intensive trials to ensure they were appropriate for use with children, like the atomizers, which have been in the field for almost seven years.

Another critical addition to the ER was not a "what" but a "whom."

The hospital hired a child development expert named Katie Kolbeck specifically to interface with children and their families to make the stressful ER experience easier on all sides. She talks them through treatments and engages with them to make sure they're comfortable.

It's a big boon for the doctors who are used to running through the emergency room at a breakneck pace not having the time to sit down and make a connection with the patient.

"It's a huge help," Dabby said. "She's already established a rapport with them, talked them through what you're doing. She thinks about it from the child's point of view. Doctors are so busy focused on the medicine, they may not have the time."

It's been roughly two and a half years since the conversations first got going about converting the emergency room into a kid-friendly space, and some of the changes are still underway.

The ER has sectioned off a room that will be completely revamped with children in mind, from comforting paint jobs to a couch so that the child can lay down with their parents while they wait for a doctor to arrive rather than be isolated on the cold medical bed.

Training and access to child-specific treatment information are also components of the change.

The ER doctors run drills once a quarter to practice techniques to resuscitate badly injured or ill children, skills that are critical in the situation but are rarely needed.

Roughly 10 of the nurses have been trained to use the new vein-finding ultrasound, a number that will grow when a new class is held in March. Ultimately every member of the nursing staff will be trained to use the devices, Ghurabi said.

The hospital also invests in Pemsoft, a software reviewed by 23 experts in pediatric medicine that delivers instant treatment and diagnosis information to busy emergency room docs to ensure the best practices are used on children every time.

It's a good tool to have in a pinch because treating children is hard, not just in the practice of the medicine, but on the staff's emotions, Ghurabi said.

"Docs and nurses are emotional," Ghurabi said, and many people see their own children in the young person that they're treating.

That makes the success of the project personal, and the doctors involved want to cement UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center as a recognized place to take children for top-notch medical care.

"We're trying to be the best west of the 405," Dabby said.

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TECH
FROM PAGE 1

"You could imagine a water minister salivating over this technology, even a president of a country being able to hold his water ministers in different districts accountable, saying, 'Hey, look, I want a dashboard in my office where I can see how my small, rural water projects are performing,'" Harrison said.

The grant is part of the first class of Google's Global Impact Awards totaling $23 million to spur innovation among nonprofits. Experts say the new annual grants are a part of a growing trend in venture philanthropy from funders who see technology as an instrument for social change. Such donors say they can have a bigger impact funding nonprofits that find ways to multiply their efforts through technology.

The gifts also represent a shift in the tech company's approach to philanthropy.

Google's Director of Charitable Giving Jacquelline Fuller said the company analyzed its giving, including $115 million in grants last in 2011. It decided it could have a greater impact by funding nonprofit tech innovation, rather than specific issue areas or existing projects. Its grants will come with volunteer consulting on each project from Google engineers or specialists.

"We're really looking for the transformational impact" from clever uses of technology, Fuller said. But that sometimes involves risk that new technologies and innovations may not work.

"Informed risk is something Google understands," she said. "There's actually very few dollars available that's truly risk capital, lenders willing to take informed risk to help back some of these new technologies and innovations that may not pan out."

The largest source of funding for U.S. nonprofits is government, mostly through contracts that come with strings attached. Individual donors contribute significant support to charities as well, and the nation's foundations give about 14 percent of overall philanthropy to nonprofits.

"There is sort of a new breed of philanthropists coming into the field," including many who made money in the tech sector at a young age, said Bradford Smith, president of the Foundation Center, an information clearinghouse on nonprofits. "There I think you're seeing a really interesting sort of confluence of almost kind of a venture, risk-taking approach and technology as an instrument for social change."

Google zeroed in on projects that could develop new technology to scale up smaller projects targeting the environment, poverty, education and gender issues.

It's giving $5 million to the World Wildlife Fund to develop high-tech sensors for wildlife tagging to detect and deter poaching of endangered species. Another $3 million is going to a project at the Smithsonian Institution to develop DNA barcoding as a tool to stop illegal trading of endangered plants or animals smuggled across borders. That project could give six developing countries DNA testing materials with fast results to use as evidence to prosecute smugglers.

To fuel future innovation, Google is giving Donorschoose.org $5 million to create 500 new Advanced Placement courses in math, science and technology for U.S. schools that are committed to enrolling girls and minority students.

The charity GiveDirectly will receive $2.4 million to expand its model of direct mobile cash transfers to poor families in Kenya as a new method for lifting people out of poverty.

A charity run by actress Geena Davis that studies gender portrayals in the media will use a $1.2 million Google grant to develop new automated software that analyzes how females are portrayed in children's media worldwide, speeding up a previously manual process.

"It was looking prohibitively expensive to do a global study," Davis said, adding that developing new technology seemed like a far-flung wish. "It seems so science future that we weren't really raising money to do it."

While the grant may be a relatively small investment for a major tech company, it represents one of the largest gifts ever for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

Innovation and technology among nonprofits have long been underfunded with traditional funders often feeling averse to risk and more often seeking to fund specific types of existing programs.

Momentum has been building for the past decade for funders pursuing venture philanthropy, said Matt Bannick, managing partner of the Omidyar Network founded by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar. Since 2004, the group has given out $310 million in grants to nonprofits, including the Sunlight Foundation and DonorsChoose.

Seeking out ideas to fund, rather than existing projects, turns traditional notions of philanthropy on its head, Bannick said.

"Rather than looking for organizations that could do this specific work that we're hoping to get accomplished, let's look for fabulous entrepreneurs ... that have a new and innovative idea that we can get behind," he said.

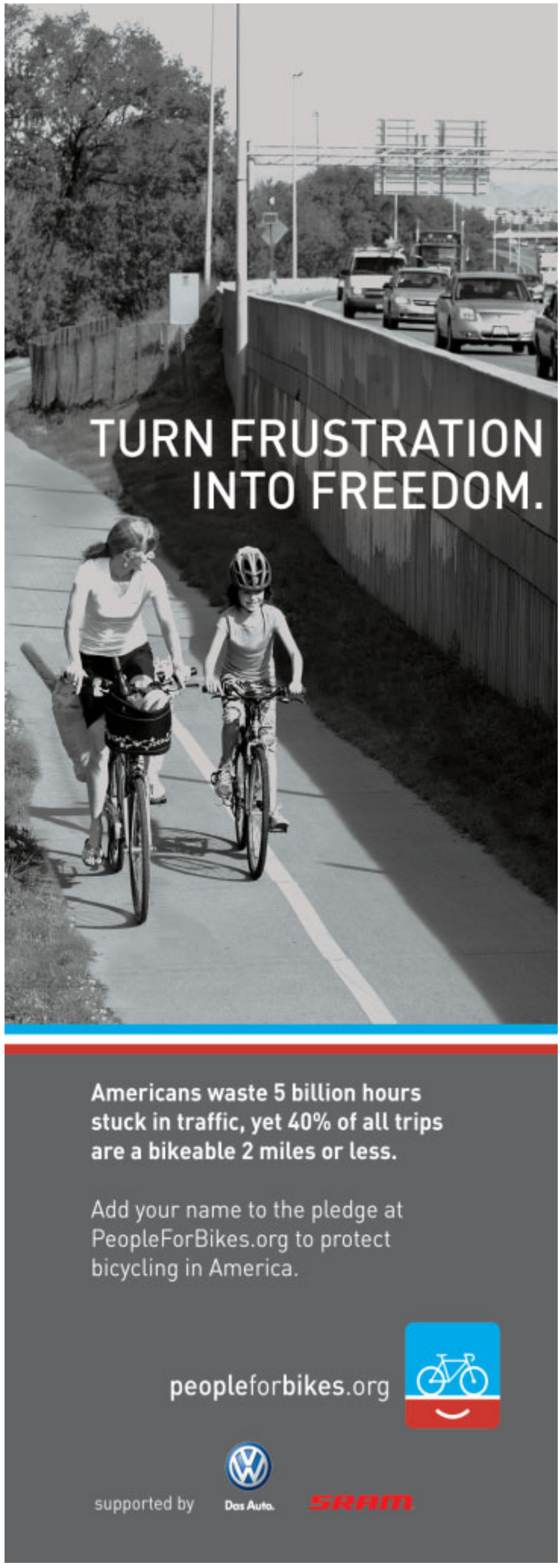
Silicon Valley philanthropists are fueling some growth in funding for nonprofit innovators, but some older foundations also have turned to funding innovation and nonprofit entrepreneurs.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in Miami, born from a newspaper chain, has turned its focus to media innovation. The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, founded in 1934 by a General Motors chief, focuses on science and technology to drive the nation's prosperity. Sloan was an early funder of the Smithsonian's DNA barcoding project.

Such funders are betting that early seed money can have a big impact with the right ideas and entrepreneurs.

"If there was more funding," Bannick said, "there would be a lot more great ideas that could emerge."





SURF REPORT



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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 Grousbeck 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+
Walnut 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 Los Tunos 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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
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 CSAW 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.

GROWERS

FROM PAGE 3

the factors fueling the transition are better prices and lower production costs, including pesticides, which appeals to U.S. consumers concerned about chemical residues on produce.

Even at the time of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, Mexican tomatoes had a roughly 40 percent share of the U.S. market, said Reggie Brown, chief executive of the Maitland-based Florida Tomato Exchange, the industry trade group. Now, its share has grown to about 50 percent currently, and it continues to climb.

Florida currently has a 40 percent annual share of the U.S. market for fresh, field-grown, round tomatoes, Brown said, and it supplies virtually all of the domestic market in that category between December and May.

Mexican competition has sent Florida's tomato acreage down by more than 26 percent in the past decade, from 43,500 acres in the 2001-02 season to 32,000 acres in 2010-11, according to the USDA. Brown estimated the current total at about 30,000 acres.

"It's almost entirely due to Mexican imports," said Tony DiMare, vice president of DiMare Fresh Inc., one of the top three U.S. tomato growers and shippers. DiMare works at the company's Apollo Beach packinghouse.

Mexican imports had their biggest effect on the U.S. tomato and strawberry markets during the 2011-12 season, when a flood of both commodities sent prices plummeting, Florida growers said.

"We had such depressed prices last year, we couldn't recover our picking, packing and transportation costs," DiMare said.

Wholesale strawberry prices a year ago fell to $7 per flat, the break-even point, by Christmas, Campbell and other growers said. Prices recovered briefly in January but sank again the following month.

Because of lower volumes, wholesale strawberry prices returned to normal levels this season, USDA figures show. Prices averaged about $26 per flat in early December, when Florida is the exclusive domestic strawberry producer. Those prices were about $17.50 on Thursday.

Florida strawberry growers generally harvest until March, when California production ramps up, sending wholesale price below the break-even point.

The state's tomato and strawberry growers can compete with Mexico, but both will have to transition to newer technologies, including following their Mexican competitors by turning to "covered agriculture," said VanSickle, who consults for Florida tomato growers. That would include growing in traditional greenhouses or other closed environments, such as large plastic tunnels put up over an entire crop row.

DiMare and Brown, however, said the Florida climate makes covered agricultural production unworkable and cost-prohibitive.

The price to build a one-acre greenhouse, including temperature controls, would run about $1 million, Brown said.

An acre of plastic tunnels over strawberries would cost $30,000, Campbell said, and all could be blown away with a single hurricane or tropical storm.

VanSickle acknowledged a transition would come with big up-front costs, but he maintained growers, particularly tomato growers, could recover by supplying a better product that would fetch a higher market price.

"In this era, consumers are willing to pay more for a better-tasting tomato," VanSickle said. "If they want to compete, they've got to change the way they're doing business."

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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

Stay within your budget, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You finally are able to recuperate. You might be anxious to get into a project, yet you enjoy the return to a normal pace. Don't forget to touch base with an important person with whom you have not been able to spend time this past holiday season. Tonight: Nice and easy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You go with the flow, and your good intentions come through. Don't indulge in an overserious conversation, especially if you are working through some issues. Sometimes people talk too much about a situation and ruin the naturalness of a bond. Tonight: Add some spice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You'll enjoy relaxing right now, but you also might experience an uneasiness, as boredom could appear on the horizon. You are not a sign that can stay in the same place mentally for any length of time. Tonight: Get enough sleep.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Return calls, and finalize details involving the end of the holidays. Once you clear up all of the issues at hand, you finally will be able to relax. A serious conversation with a child might be rather uncomfortable, but it is necessary. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Be sure to take stock of your financial standing in order to assess what you have to offer. Rethink how you handle your budget in the near future. Be direct when dealing with an associate or partner. Tonight: Stay within your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You have a few remaining calls and thank-you notes to complete. Your feelings toward a neighbor or sibling emerge. Could it be this person's energy that evokes a reaction? Only you can decide. Make sure you leave a lot of time for a child or loved one. Tonight: Make it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Your pace is about to radically change. You might want to take advantage of the slow period right now. A depression or a sense of being off can be combated by getting some exercise. Tonight: Postpone a decision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Try to relax with friends. Remember, it is not often that you have so many people around you. Fatigue could play into this situation. Schedule a few extra days off, if possible. Tonight: Only where the fun is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Others demand and expect a lot from you. Can you meet their expectations? You know what you will not do, but on the other hand, you might not want the alternative either. Use care when committing any funds at present. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Reach out to someone knowledgeable for an opinion. You could be investing too much in a situation that involves a friend. Try assuming a more laidback position. You might need some distance from the here-and-now. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Don't keep switching from one subject to another. Focus on one person and one topic at a time, even if your mind seems to be running away from you. An older friend or associate demands more of your time. Follow your instincts. Tonight: Talk and dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer to a partner, family member or dear friend. You have been very active, and now you need some time just for you. Say no to an invitation, unless you really want to be there. Honor your desires, and let someone else carry the responsibility. Tonight: You know what you want.

Happy birthday

This year you could experience unusual tension involving your work and its direction. The wise Goat would take a class or two in order to fine-tune his or her specialization even more. You'll want to become more of an expert in your field and increase your abilities. If you are single, you will be drawn to a foreigner or someone quite bohemian. What an interesting bond! If you are attached, the two of you might choose a new mutual hobby or pastime. You'll enjoy each other and make a point of spending more time together. VIRGO can get fussy with you when he or she is tired.

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

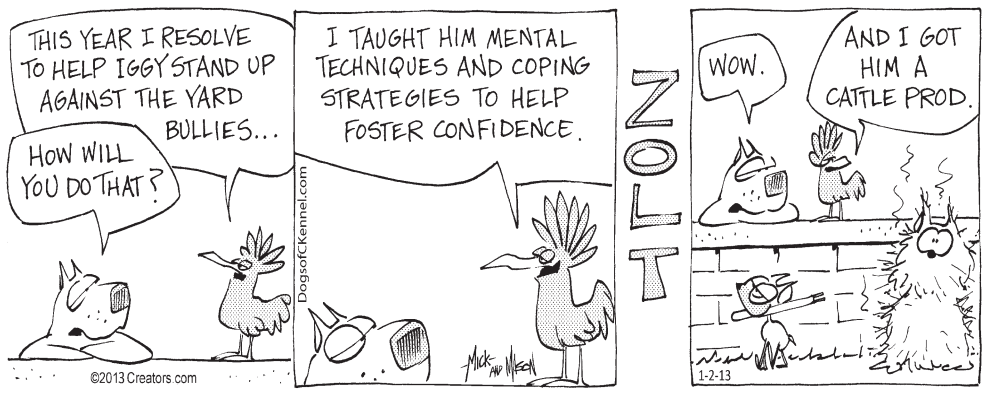
Speed Bump — By Dave Coverly



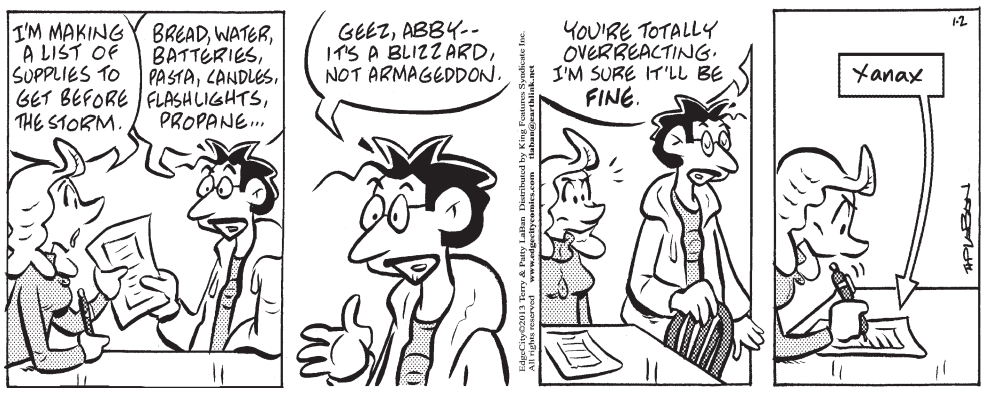
Strange Brew — By John Deering



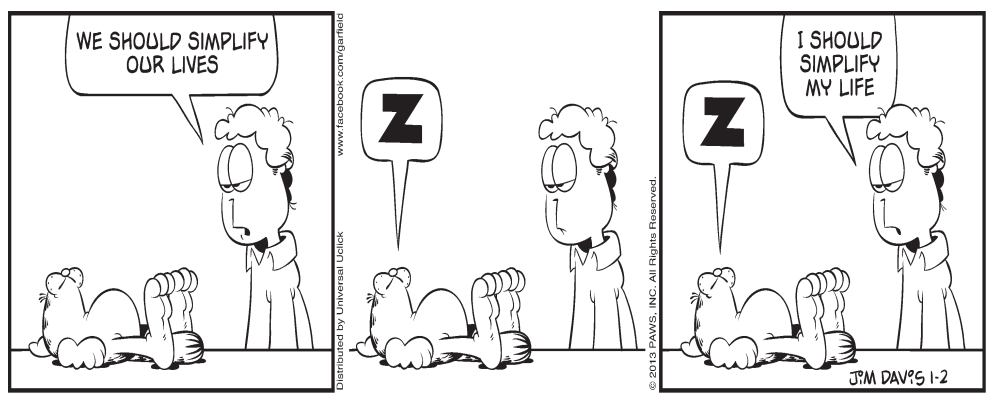
Dogs of C-Kennel — By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



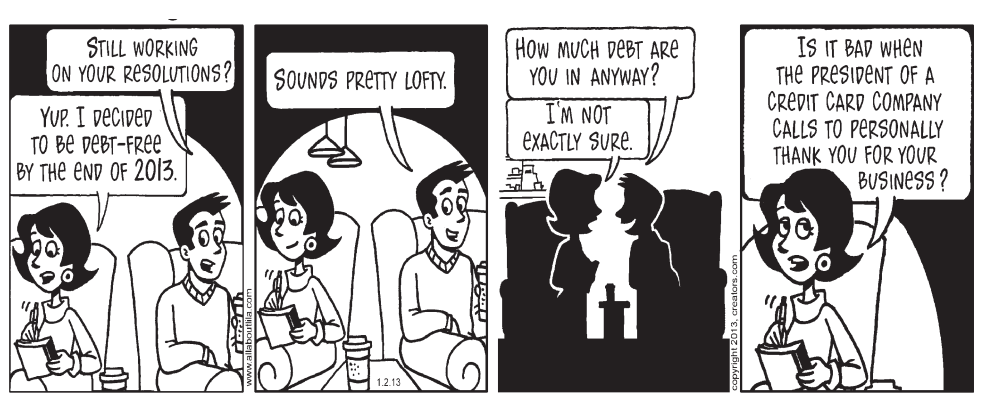
Edge City — By Terry & Patty LaBan



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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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

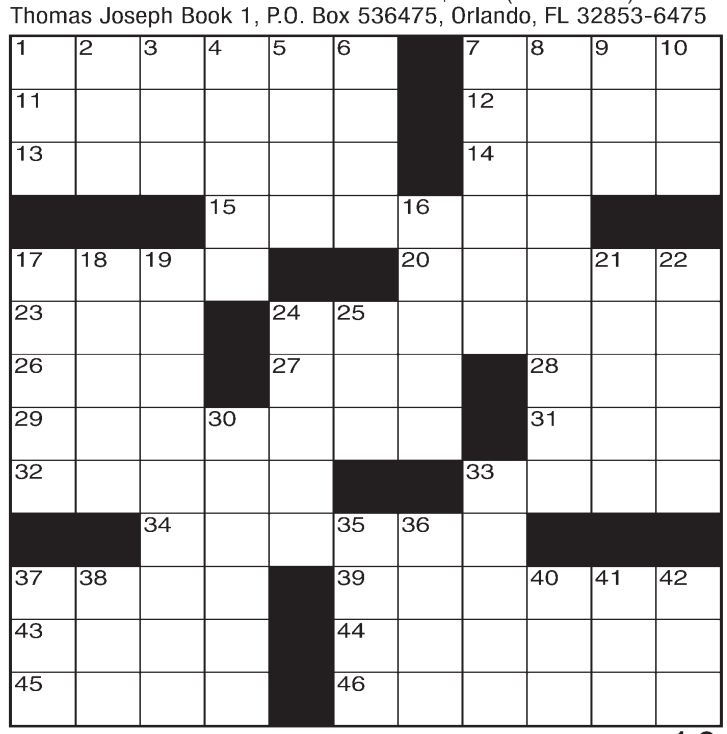
ACROSS
1 Halted
7 Avails oneself of
11 Refer
12 Deadly missile
13 Turns red, perhaps
14 "— Around"
15 Sioux people
17 Act the model
20 Toad features
23 Running bird
24 Camera accessory
26 Cloth scrap
27 Impress greatly
28 Luau instrument
29 Rough, as lips
31 Garden visitor
32 Fast runners
33 Look after
34 Fold
37 In a frenzy
39 Proof of purchase, at times
43 Script unit
44 Galahad's mother
45 Fired
46 Prepared for a blow

DOWN
1 Highway sight
2 Quarterback Manning
3 Swiss peak
4 Soft leather
5 Writer Buchanan
6 Cubicle fixture
7 Quarterback Johnny
8 Tea additive
9 — out (supplement)
10 Filming site
16 Held title to
17 Bar in a cage
18 Nebraska city
19 Scoop holder
21 Occupied
22 Velocity
24 Small error
25 Ram's mate
30 Made coffee
33 Dallas native
35 Help in crime
36 Foot part
37 Copying
38 Dance tape
40 Frank McCourt book
41 Count start
42 — XING (street sign)

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

Yesterday's answer

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1-2



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Notwithstanding its nuclear submarines, ballistic missiles and spy satellites, France maintains Europe's last "squadron" of military carrier pigeons. Legislator Jean-Pierre Decool lauds the pigeons and campaigns for their upgrade, warning that in the event of war or other catastrophe, the birds would be a valuable messaging network. (Pigeons have been used at times in the current Syrian civil war.) Until very recently, according to a November Wall Street Journal dispatch, pigeons wearing harnesses had been used by a hospital in Normandy to ferry blood samples to a testing lab (a 25-minute flight).

■ Jason Schall, 38, who has retired as a financial planner and now devotes his energy to fishing, had a spectacular week in September when he won a catch-and-release tournament in Charleston, S.C., came within 1 1/2 inches of a world record on another catch, and was notified of recently setting two Nevada state records for largest fish caught. Schall's coup de grace, he told the Charleston Post and Courier, came a few days later when he caught a redfish while sitting on his living room sofa in Daniel Island, S.C., watching a Clemson football game with a pal. He had run a line with bait through a crack in the door, through his yard into the lake behind his home.



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