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NOVEMBER 10-11, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 307

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WEED VACATIONS?
SEE PAGE 3

THE SO WINDY ISSUE

Officials vow to cite leaf blower violators

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Staff is done playing nice with violators of a two-year old leaf blower ban, promising to hand out citations on sight rather than offering warnings to those who continue to blow.

The Office of Sustainability and the Environment announced the plans this week, citing a large number of complaints received in September.

Citations are an infraction, and can involve a fine of up to $250. Under the ordinance, violators can also be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable by a $1,000 fine or a jail sentence.

Roughly a dozen people have received citations over the last two years, said Neal Shapiro, Watershed Management Program Coordinator with the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

That's despite almost 2,500 violation reports received in the first year alone.

In the past, people caught using leaf blowers got at least two warning letters

SEE VIOLATORS PAGE 8

Bloom holds thin lead over Butler for Assembly



BLOOM



BUTLER

By DAILY PRESS STAFF

NORWALK Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom is holding onto his slim lead over Assemblywoman Betsy Butler in their contest for the 50th Assembly District, according to new results released Friday.

Bloom and Butler are separated by only 103 votes after another 98,896 ballots were processed by roughly 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon, according to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office.

Bloom has 71,192 votes so far, totaling 50.04 percent of the vote. Butler trails by only .8 percent.

The campaign remains cautiously optimistic, said Brian Adams, Bloom's manager.

"We've never been behind," he said.

There are still another 693,762 ballots to

SEE ASSEMBLY PAGE 12



STAYING IN LINE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A line of skaters perform during the grand opening of ICE at Santa Monica, the city's popular skating rink, on Thursday.

Mobster's lawyer says he's ready for trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON A lawyer for former Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger says his defense team will do everything in its power to be ready for his new murder trial date.

Defense attorney J.W. Carney Jr. has repeatedly sought to delay Bulger's trial. He says the defense needs time to review thousands of documents. He had asked for an eight-month delay.

A judge on Friday rejected that but put the trial off from March until June.

Bulger is known as the former leader of the Winter Hill Gang and is charged with participating in 19 murders. He fled Boston in 1994 and remained a fugitive on the FBI's Most Wanted list until last year,

SEE BULGER PAGE 9

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012

Walk for a cure
Crescent Bay Park
Bicknell and Ocean avenues, 9 a.m.
The Alliance for Lupus Research is hosting Walk with Us to raise funds for the cure. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, visit www.lupusresearch.org.

Looking for crafts?
Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club
1210 Fourth St., 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
The holidays wouldn't be the same without arts and crafts sales. Kick off the season and do good at the same time. The Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale features holiday gifts from talented local artists with proceeds supporting Upward Bound House, providing housing for homeless families. For more information, visit www.smbwc.org.

Skating in the sunshine
ICE at Santa Monica
1324 Fifth St., 2 p.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.

Going bananas
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Main St., 8 p.m.
Meet Josephine Baker in the flesh, as award-winning actress/playwright Sloan Robinson brings this fascinating woman to brilliant life in "Bananas: A Day in the Life of Josephine Baker." Cost: $20. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 1.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012

The barber is back
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 4 p.m.
Pacific Opera Project presents one of the most popular musicals of all time, "Sweeney Todd." This will be Pacific Opera Project's third production at the Miles Memorial Playhouse. For more information, call (323) 739-6122.

Sweet sounds
Santa Monica High School, Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Santa Monica Symphony Association's new concert season starts with its first performance of "Egmont Overture" by Beethoven, "Variations on a Theme" by Haydn, and "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov. Guido Lamell is the new conductor and music director. Cost: Free. For more information, call (310) 278-5657.

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



CORRECTION

The Nov. 9 article "City Hall drops Chez Jay appeal" should have stated that work on the trash enclosure began before the restaurant and parcel were landmarked on Oct. 8.



WINNING WAYS

Photo courtesy Liane Sato

Samohi girls' volleyball celebrates winning a second round playoff game over El Rancho on Thursday. Samohi advances to face Viewpoint in the third round of the CIF-Southern Section Division 3AA playoffs on Saturday at home. The game begins at 7 p.m.

Pot votes raise specter of weed tourism

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER Hit the slopes — and then a bong?

Marijuana legalization votes this week in Colorado and Washington state don't just set up an epic state-federal showdown on drug law for residents. The measures also open the door for marijuana tourism.

Both marijuana measures make marijuana possession in small amounts OK for all adults over 21 — not just state residents but visitors, too. Tourists may not be able to pack their bowls along with their bags, but as long as out-of-state tourists purchase and use the drug while in Colorado or Washington, they wouldn't violate the marijuana measures.

Of course, that's assuming the recreational marijuana measures take effect at all. That was very much in doubt Friday as the states awaited word on possible lawsuits from the U.S. Department of Justice asserting federal supremacy over drug law.

So the future of marijuana tourism in Colorado and Washington is hazy. But that hasn't stopped rampant speculation, especially in Colorado, where tourism is the No. 2 industry thanks to the Rocky Mountains and a vibrant ski industry.

The day after Colorado approved recreational marijuana by a wide margin, the headline in the Aspen Times asked, "Aspendam?" referring to Amsterdam's marijuana cafes.

Colorado's tourism director, Al White, tried to downplay the prospect of a new marijuana tourism boom.

"It won't be as big a deal as either side hopes or fears," White said.

Maybe not. But many are asking about marijuana tourism.

Ski resorts are "certainly watching it closely," said Jennifer Rudolph of Colorado Ski Country USA, a trade association that represents 21 Colorado resorts.

Any plans for an adults-only après lounge where skiers could get more than an Irish coffee to numb their aches?

"There's a lot that remains to be seen," Rudolph said with a chuckle. "I guess you could say we're waiting for the smoke to clear."

The Colorado counties where big ski resorts are located seem to have made up their minds. The marijuana measure passed by overwhelming margins, with more support than in less visited areas.

SEE **POT** PAGE 10

SoCal water board adopts runoff pollution rules

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A Southern California water agency has adopted sweeping rules to prevent polluted runoff from reaching the ocean off of Los Angeles County, but the effort might cost communities billions of dollars in the years ahead.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on Thursday approved regulations limiting 33 pollutants, ranging from bacteria to lead, that can flow into the ocean in stormwater or other runoff.

The requirements for pollution permits apply to most cities, unincorporated county areas and the county flood control district. The rules will cover an area of about 3,000 square miles containing 500 miles of open drainage channels and 3,500 miles of underground drains, the Los Angeles Times said.

Environmentalists said the new provisions actually weaken enforcement of anti-pollution efforts, specifically arguing that cities that adopt runoff pollution plans might be considered in compliance even if they exceed the pollution limits.

"It is going to be the public that suffers, the water quality that suffers," warned Noah Garrison, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Water board staff members dispute that contention.

Runoff, the leading cause of water pollution in Southern California, can contain pollutants ranging from sewage to industrial chemicals and lawn fertilizers. Beaches often close after heavy storms because of contamination from runoff flowing to the sea in sewers and storm channels.

Efforts to prevent runoff pollution could be diverse, ranging from improving street-sweeping to creating stormwater catch basins and channeling road runoff into planted areas to filter it.

Meeting the water standards could cost Los Angeles $5 billion to $8 billion over the next two decades, said Shahram Kharaghani, manager of the city's watershed protection division.

However, the efforts could create jobs and beef up groundwater supplies.

"This is no longer put the water in the pipe and get it out to the ocean," Kharaghani said.

Los Angeles already has approved a law requiring large new construction projects to retain some runoff through parking lot and landscape designs.

SEE **WATER** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't landmark the bridge

Editor:

We have all walked, cycled or driven over the bridge that leads to the Santa Monica Pier and one can't help but notice how unsafe it is for all modes of transportation, especially pedestrians and cyclists. The city of Santa Monica has been able to obtain funding from the federal government to replace the bridge with a more pedestrian/cyclist friendly bridge that will be Americans with Disabilities Act compliant, which it currently is not.

The Landmarks Commission, in its ultimate wisdom, is attempting to landmark the bridge, which could ultimately stop its replacement. The landmark status of the bridge is not backed by the commission's own consultant report and the bridge does not meet current standards for accessibility, per ADA.

Additionally, the city staff report does not recommend landmarking the bridge.

I encourage you to attend the Landmarks Commission meeting on Dec. 10 and voice your opinion to not landmark the pier bridge, so that a new, pedestrian/cyclist friendly, ADA compliant bridge can be built.

Michael Dubin
Santa Monica

What's the deal now?

Editor:

Now the City Council will be asked to rule on a Christian nativity display in Palisades Park, staffed by volunteers in two-hour rotations, and you even get hot chocolate along with your prayers!

They just don't give up, do they!

Wonder if the Jews, the Muslims, the Buddhists, the atheists, the snake-worshippers, and the rest will also demand two-hour time slots to put on "their" respective performances. The southern end of Palisades Park could get pretty crowded, what with the outgoing and incoming belief systems (religions) jostling for position.

I can't be the only long-time Santa Monican who wishes these Christian "activists" (to use a polite term) would keep their beliefs to their houses of worship and stop trying to invade the public space. Be glad you live in the U.S. where you are free to practice your religion!

Sara Meric
Santa Monica

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Your column here

Ian D. Bishop — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Preparing for the 'fiscal cliff'

A PHRASE THAT HAS FOUND ITS WAY into our daily lexicon this year is "fiscal cliff." It refers to a combination of federal government spending cuts and expiring tax cuts that many fear could be a serious drag on the U.S. economy beginning at the start of 2013. These scheduled spending cuts and tax increases have many economists concerned that if nothing is done legislatively to change current plans and avoid the cliff, a recession could result due to consumers having less to spend just as government reduces its own spending.

CHANGES ON THE DOCKET

The estimated impact on the economy comes from a combination of expiring tax cuts, new taxes and automatic spending cuts. The most direct effect on individuals has to do with tax changes. They include:

• The expiration of the "Bush era" tax cuts of 2001 and 2003. Most notably, this would raise income tax rates for most people to levels that were in place prior to 2001. It would also change other tax provisions, including an increase in taxes on dividends and capital gains, a decrease in the child tax credit, and a reinstatement of phasing out some itemized deductions and personal exemptions for higher income individuals.

• The end of the "payroll tax holiday" that reduced an individuals' Social Security taxes by two percent.

• Less benefit from the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which provided up to $2,500 per student in credits (a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes) to offset qualified higher education expenses. In 2013, income limits to qualify for the credit — which will revert back to its prior name, the Hope Scholarship Credit — are lowered and the maximum credit is reduced to a projected $1,950.

• The loss of the "patch" that allowed many middle income Americans to avoid exposure to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT).

• A drastic reduction in the exclusion amount for the estate tax from $5.12 million per person to $1 million, and an upturn in the highest maximum estate tax rate, from 35 percent to 55 percent.

• The implementation of a higher income threshold to qualify to deduct out-of-pocket medical costs as an itemized deduction. Currently, expenses valued at more than 7.5 percent of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) can be deducted. The threshold rises to 10 percent in 2013 for most taxpayers. For those at least age 65, the higher threshold phases in through 2016.

• The addition of new taxes that will apply to individuals earning higher incomes as part of the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The effect these changes would have on individuals over the next year could be dramatic, anywhere from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars or more in increased taxes for 2013 depending on individual circumstances.

The other aspect of the fiscal cliff is scheduled federal government spending cuts that are due to take hold in 2013 – another potential blow to the economy. These include: • $110 billion in spending cuts agreed to in the Budget Control Act of 2011 • $26 billion from the expiration of emergency unemployment benefits

• $11 billion in reduced Medicare reimbursements for physicians

• $105 billion in other scheduled changes to revenue or spending.

WHAT SHOULD YOU PLAN FOR?

Nobody can be certain what policymakers in Washington may choose to do — or not do — to limit the potential economic shock created by the confluence of events that have led to the fiscal cliff. They could vote to alter the planned changes to tax laws and government outlays in order to temper the impact. However, any action in that regard may not occur before late this year or into 2013.

In the meantime, be prepared for what may come. It appears likely that the amount of taxes you pay in 2013 will be higher than what you paid in 2012. Whether it will be as severe as what exists under the currently scheduled changes remains to be seen. Despite this, changes to the national economy or your personal financial circumstances will not occur overnight.

The tax changes would take place all at once, but from a personal perspective, they would have a gradual effect. It could be dramatic over a year's time, but it will be applied in smaller increments such as through wage withholding. Even the government's spending cuts will be implemented gradually over the year. The situation will create challenges and should not be taken lightly. But it also offers the opportunity to carefully review your finances, everything from day-to-day spending to investment strategies and tax planning, to determine the best way to limit the impact on your own bottom line and move forward with your best financial strategies.

IAN D. Bishop, MSF, ChFC, CMFC is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Upland, CA. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 24 years. To contact him, call (909) 608-0588.

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The Q Line

Back to business

Once the dust clears and the election's winners are announced, there's business to attend to in Santa Monica.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City Council and why?

Here are your responses:

"FACING THE CITY COUNCIL IS not the sensible way to phrase this question because they do nothing realistic or helpful in stemming the tide or combating one of our biggest problems, mainly the growing vagrant population, which includes the bums, drug addicts, alcoholics and those who have jumped on the freebie wagon here in Santa Monica, and more piling in here by the day. Did I forget to mention the growing horde of mental cases that should be in confined care facilities, and maybe, of course, all the ex-cons they are throwing out on our streets, even before they finish serving their sentences? Santa Monica citizens are easy prey for these brain-dead, sociopathic weirdoes. It's open season boys and girls."

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"JUST ABOUT EVERY ISSUE in this town can be traced back to overdevelopment, and that has been very much influenced by rent control. Whether you agree or benefit from rent control, it is the most polarizing problem in this town. It allows an unscrupulous City Council to divide us with class envy, renter greed and fear against landlord hatred for a New York City socialist theory. This free-lunch voter attitude invites City Hall to spend the extra money in your pocket. Like a snowball rolling down hill, the resistance against spending taxpayer money is for the morally feeble council members difficult to resist. That is why they give a free pass for all developers to suck away the essence of this once lovely beach town. Beware the karma of incorrect leadership."

"THINK GLOBALLY AND ACT LOCALLY by saving 'Chain Reaction,' a most important public art peace-sculpture in Santa Monica."

"ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT issues is saving and restoring Paul Conrad's 'Chain Reaction' sculpture in our Civic Center. It is a most important art, landmarking and peace-related community endeavor."

"THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE facing the City Council is making sure Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights keeps its promise to develop hundreds of units of multifamily low-income rental housing between Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards so minorities can attend the Montana Avenue schools and eliminate the 'achievement gap' issue."

"THE MOST IMPORTANT issue or I would say, problem, facing the City Council is employee benefits. Working in the private sector we do not get 21 days vacation and 12 paid sick days a year. Now add all the holidays they have off; city employees have it made. Let's not forget that their pay is equal to or better than the private sector. Oh, by the way, I read sometime back that some city employees get 150 percent of their pay when they retire, which is for life. All I'm going to get is SSI at 65 and I will still have to work, as for city employees, they can retire at 55."

"IT WAS ONCE SAID THAT THE BEST government is one that governs least. The commies from Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights who have ruled over us for 33 years have ruined our once quiet town with overdevelopment, traffic, taxes and rules and laws. They have screwed over apartment owners every year and have created social engineering by using our taxes for low-income housing for people that didn't even live in our town. They keep making more and more needless laws like no bags, hedges or smoking. They bus in gangbanger students from other areas so they don't have to fire their union buddies. They have created a traffic nightmare by selling out to developers and tourism while at the same time reducing driving lanes and adding speed bumps all around town. They push bikes and have made it a mess to drive and park. I know politicians like to make more laws and taxes to feed their egos and please their cronies, but they can just do as little as possible and that would be just fine for most of us."

"CLOSE. The. Airport."

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Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This lobster is on a roll

LAST WEEK FELLOW DAILY PRESS FOOD writer and jet-setting dynamo Merv Hecht wrote a very enticing article about a giant food court in the heart of London. As magical as it may seem to jaunt off to jolly old England to lose yourself in the splendors of such an amazing food court, most of us do not have the wherewithal to do just that.

Locally the more practical alternative lies within the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place mall. But for the pop-up food court experience that personifies a taste of L.A., look no further than the Tuesday night food trucks behind the Victorian on Main Street.

Living and eating in a post Kogi truck era means the standard food truck has evolved from a convenient burger and burrito lunch option for construction workers, to gourmet offerings for the masses. This contemporary convoy cooks up everything from Indian, to sushi, to every kind of fusion one can imagine. One noteworthy truck, Cousin's Fresh Maine Lobster, not only shells out some fantastic lobster, but has a compelling story as well.

Less than a month ago an episode of ABC's hit show "Shark Tank" featured cousins Jim Tselikis and Sabin Lomac. The gist of the program is entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to a group of investors and after their concept is put through the ringer a decision is ultimately made whether or not to invest in the potential project.

Barbara Corcoran, one of the shows "sharks," liked the cousins, their business model, and of course their product, and decided to invest in their dream. Currently Cousin's Lobster has one truck in operation and with the help of reality TV, a second one is one the way.

The components of their early success primarily lands in having a good product at a competitive price. Shipping is a killer though. Cousin's was able to align themselves with people to source fresh Maine lobster, cook, seal, and ship the crustaceans cross country and ready for consumption here on the West Coast. When you compare Cousin's lobster roll ($12.50) to a local mainstay like BP Oysterette ($22), the contrast in price is profound.

There still is no comparison to sitting down for a nice meal at some of the city's premier seafood spots like Blue Plate or Santa Monica Seafood. Plus there are challenges to convince people to pay $12-$18 for something coming off a food truck. But the cousins routinely find themselves selling out of their lobster nightly.

The lobster roll, the truck's signature dish, is as good in quality as any premier place in town. They have just cut out all the other overhead that restaurants have to pay. Their lobster roll differs from the rest in a couple of ways. The actual filling is all lobster splashed with a little lemon, butter, and sprinkled with a little old bay like seasoning on top. A popular way to prepare the lobster roll filling is to meld the ingredients together like chicken salad. When done wrong the mixing becomes too mayonnaisey. Instead, they spread a light amount of mayonnaise on the bun. The bun is the second key component. Many places around town use brioche or a plain white hot dog bun as the vessel for the lobster. Cousin's use something called the split-top-style bun. It's kind of like a cross between a hot dog bun and toast. Either which way apparently it's how they do it in Maine. The bottom line is the lobster roll is top of the line for a fraction of the price one may be accustomed to. Aside from the famous roll, Cousin's also has lobster tails, lobster tacos and New England clam chowder. For any lobster enthusiast, I recommend tracking the whereabouts of Cousin's Lobster Truck on Twitter, because food truck or not it's very good seafood at equally good of a price.

From a brick and mortar restaurant in Pasadena, to an online lobster delivery service, to two food trucks, these two owe their success to that big bug that feeds on the bottom of the sea. Some things translate coast to coast, and lobster is certainly one of them.

The debate is open whether food trucks hurt or help local businesses. After all they do seem to just roll into town and draw customers away from the brick and mortars. On the other hand, when they are grouped together, as they are every Tuesday evening on Main Street, they do generate a crowd, and foot traffic equals good bushiness for the store fronts. Santa Monica has done an admirable job to keep the trucks in a contained environment, giving the local restaurants a fighting chance. It seems balanced for now, and hopefully it works out for everyone, because for eating enthusiasts, the more food the merrier.

Here's their Twitter and website: @CMLobster; www.cousinsmainelobster.com.

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at tourdefeast.net or follow him on Twitter @TourDeFeastSM.

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Pour on the holiday spirit with liquor largesse

MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press

It's no secret that liquor is a simple solution to holiday gift-giving. You don't see a lot of people lining up Dec. 26 to return bottles of 12-year-old Scotch. And what better way to embrace the spirit of giving than by giving a spirit?

But let's face it, sticking a ribbon on a generic bottle of booze can come across as a bit uninspired. Here, then, are a few suggestions to avoid a case of the blahs by choosing spirits that are good in the glass, but also do double duty in the kitchen, adding zest to seasonal dishes.

APPLETON ESTATE RESERVE JAMAICA RUM

A blend of 20 different rums that's aged in oak barrels, Appleton Estate Reserve can be sipped on the rocks or in classic cocktails like the mai tai. Stove-side it's good stirred into chocolate fondue with the spiced vanilla, nuts and candied orange flavors of the rum melting into the rich chocolate. An Appleton recipe calls for heating 2 tablespoons butter, 2 tablespoons plain or vanilla yogurt and a half cup of heavy whipping cream until hot but not boiling, then stir in 1 1/2 tablespoons of rum and pouring the whole thing over 7 ounces of chopped semisweet chocolate. Into a heated fondue pot it goes, and let the dipping commence.

WILD TURKEY 81 BOURBON

There are two ways to serve turkey — too dry or too raw. Wild Turkey bourbon, on the other hand, is ready at the twist of a cap, absolutely no basting required. Aged six-to-eight years, the drink can be served straight or as a mixer in cocktails like the newly fashionable Old Fashioned.

On the culinary side, try boosting the brown-sugar-plus-butter treatment for baked acorn squash halves by spooning a tablespoon of bourbon into the cavities, along with a dusting of cinnamon. It also is delicious stirred into buttered and mashed sweet potatoes. A little brown sugar in there is nice, too.

ORO AZUL TEQUILA REPOSADO

Double distilled and made from 100 percent blue agave, this tequila comes in a pyramid-shaped blue bottle. "Reposado" means "rested," and indicates the spirit has been aged in oak barrels for at least two months, but less than a year. (Oro Azul reposado is rested for six months.) A Christmas margarita might hit the spot. Or why not stir a few tablespoons into your special secret homemade queso dip? (Is that a Velveeta box and a can of Rotel tomatoes in the kitchen? We'll never tell.)

SQUARE ONE ORGANIC VODKA

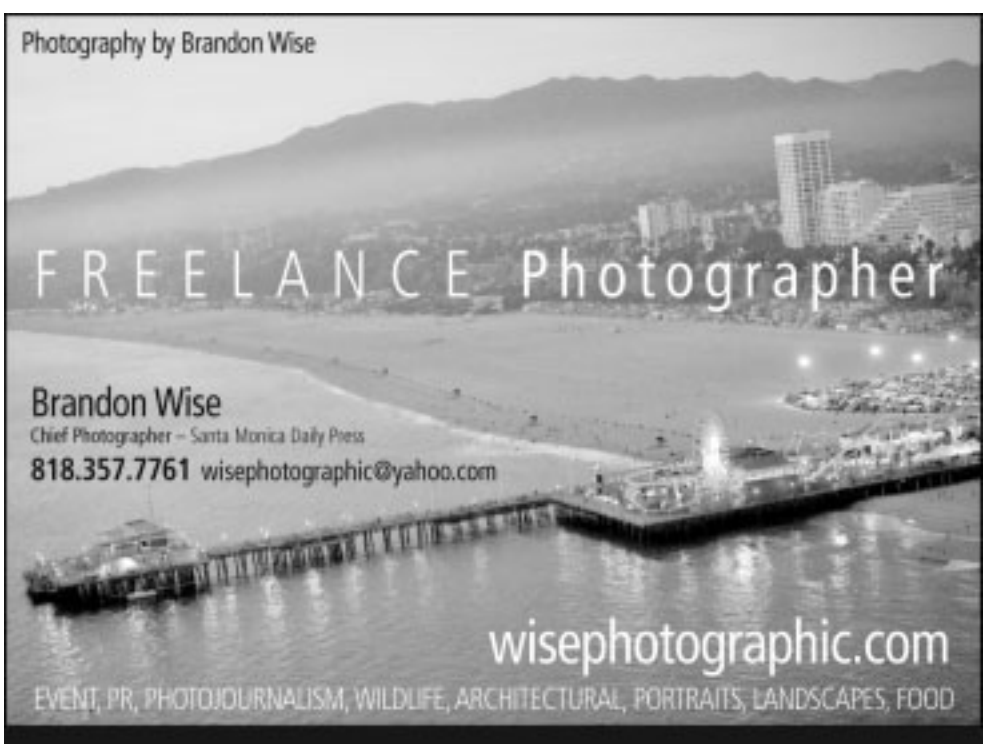
The company has a luscious recipe for pear noel, (a play on "Pere Noel," the French Santa Claus) on its website that involves pureed pears, vodka, tawny port, sweet red vermouth, brown sugar, honey and whipped cream. Yum. You also can check the old adage that the (80) proof is in the pudding by subbing vodka for the traditional brandy when setting your Christmas pudding alight. British celebrity chef Nigella Lawson recommends warmed vodka for a purer and longer flame. (And if you're looking for a recipe, her nonconformist Christmas pudding in her book, "Feast," may just change your mind about the much-maligned seasonal staple.)

DOMAINE DE CANTON GINGER LIQUEUR

Taking a gingerly approach to the coming festivities? This French import may help. Add to Champagne or sparkling wine for a ginger royale, or make a French ginger snap (liqueur plus citrus vodka, triple sec and fresh lemon juice). For those days when you've had all the holiday you can handle, consider adding a dash to a soothing cup of hot tea.

LUXARDO ESPRESSO ITALIAN COFFEE LIQUEUR

Sometimes, you're just not in the mood for a long winter's nap. Infused with coffees from Central America and Kenya, this liqueur can be served on the rocks or with cream as an after-dinner drink. It plays well with others, featuring in cocktails like the black Russian and Irish coffee. You also can add it to tiramisu and other desserts, or simply warm and pour over ice cream.





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PAYING UP: **Santa Monica police cite gardeners for using a leaf blower.**

VIOLATORS

FROM PAGE 1

informing them of the law and providing them tips about other options they could use in place of leaf blowers.

The policy worked initially.

The number of violations went down in the months following the adoption of the ordinance, but the use of blowers began to pick up as more gardening took place in the summer months and crews were dispatched to battle fall leaves.

The Office of Sustainability and the Environment hasn't been tracking the number of violations since the end of the first year, but from the number of letters mailed out and complaints from neighbors, it didn't seem like the warnings continued to be effective, Shapiro said.

It became clear that property owners, property managers and gardeners themselves were using the warnings to predict enforcement staff's whereabouts and were actually changing their work patterns to avoid detection, Shapiro said.

"The patrol schedule depends on the violators," Shapiro said. "If they stick to their schedules, we catch them. If not, it's harder."

In May 2012, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment released a report documenting enforcement measures taken in the first year.

Although violations were spread out throughout the city, a large concentration appeared to be in the northeast end of Santa Monica.

People are definitely still using leaf blowers in that area, confirmed Cheryl Raiss, a resident of 21st Street.

Her gardener used to use a leaf blower, but received a warning letter. Now he uses a broom, which takes more time and costs Raiss more money in the process.

It's unfair, Raiss said, because other gardeners continue to use leaf blowers. It's also turned neighbors against neighbors, with people out with cameras trying to catch leaf blower operators in the act to prompt a warning letter or citation.

Hilary Rose, owner of Dirty Girl Organic Landcare, sees it all the time. Her company still uses electric leaf blowers where they're legal, but otherwise sticks to "old-fashioned" techniques like brooms and rakes.

"It is more work and it absolutely takes more time, especially for some of the larger properties," Rose said. "We're a green company, always have been. We're comfortable using more old-school rakes, push brooms, etc. It's more time-consuming, but we get it."

The new enforcement will allow officials to hand out citations as soon as they see someone using a leaf blower.

That was good news for Diane Wolfberg of the Zero Air Pollution Los Angeles group, or ZAP L.A.

ZAP L.A. has lobbied for bans on leaf blowers for years, both to combat the noise caused by the machines as well as the pollution.

According to a 2000 report by the Air Resources Board, gas-powered leaf blowers released significantly more carbon monoxide, particulate matter and hydrocarbons than small cars made that year.

They were on par, in many ways, with a car from 1975 or before in terms of emissions.

Even electric blowers like the ones Rose uses come with risks.

Tiny particles get tossed up by the blowers and can stay in the air for up to three days, which can be bad for people sensitive to the materials.

While people used to get upset about the noise, better understanding of the health impacts of the machines has caused those issues to come to the fore, Wolfberg said.

And it's not just a "crazy California" thing.

"I've gotten e-mails from Israel and Australia," Wolfberg said. "There's a concern worldwide about it."

Enforcement officials won't start handing out tickets overnight. First, they have to learn the proper procedures and how to handle challenges in the field.

Some "mow-and-blow" operators won't have businesses licenses in Santa Monica, which they are required to have, and may not be able to show identification, making it difficult to cite them.

Staff will be working with Code Enforcement officers, who are also empowered to hand out citations, to learn the tricks of the trade before going out on their own, Shapiro said.

ashley@smdp.com

WATER
FROM PAGE 3

The county flood control district plans a ballot measure next year that would seek voter approval for a fee to pay for runoff controls. The fee, estimated at $54 for an average home, would raise about $275 million a year, Kharaghani said.

BULGER
FROM PAGE 1

when he was captured in Santa Monica, Calif.

The 83-year-old Bulger has pleaded not guilty. He says was given immunity by a federal prosecutor for being an FBI informant.

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POT
FROM PAGE 3

The home county of Aspen approved the marijuana measure more than 3-to-1. More than two-thirds approved marijuana in the home county of Colorado's largest ski resort, Vail. The home county of Telluride ski resort gave marijuana legalization its most lopsided victory, nearly 8 in 10 favoring the measure.

"Some folks might come to Colorado to enjoy some marijuana as will be their right. So what?" said Betty Aldworth, advocacy director for the Colorado marijuana campaign.

Washington state already sees a version of marijuana tourism.

Every summer on the shores of the Puget Sound, Seattle is host to "Hempfest," which according to organizers attracted around 250,000 people over three days this year. For those three days, people are largely left alone to smoke publically at a local park, even as police stand by.

"People travel to Seattle from other states and countries to attend Seattle Hempfest every year to experience the limited freedom that happens at the event," said executive director Vivian McPeak. "It's reasonable to assume that people will travel to Washington assuming that the federal government doesn't interfere."

McPeak draw parallels to Amsterdam where an annual "Cannabis Cup" attracts tourists from all over the world and Vancouver, British Columbia, which has lax marijuana rules that have borne marijuana cafes drawing travelers.

Amsterdam's marijuana tourism is in a hazy spot these days, though. The incoming Dutch government suggested a national "weed pass" that would have been available only to residents and that would have effectively banned tourists from Amsterdam's marijuana cafes. The "weed pass" idea was scrapped, but under a provisional governing pact unveiled last week, Dutch cities can bar foreigners from weed shops if they choose.

In Denver, some feared that the Colorado marijuana vote could deter tourists, not to mention business visitors.

"Colorado's brand will be damaged, and we may attract fewer conventions and see a decline in leisure travel," Visit Denver CEO Richard Scharf said in a statement before the vote.

Colorado's governor opposed the measure but said after its passage that he didn't envision marijuana tourism materializing.

"I don't think that's going to happen," Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper said. "They're going to flock here to buy marijuana as if they're going to take it back? On an airplane? That seems unlikely to me."

Colorado's measure specifically bans public use of the drug. But guidelines for commercial sales are still to be worked out. The state's 536 medical marijuana dispensaries are banned from allowing on-site consumption, but lawmakers could set different rules for recreational marijuana shops.

Marijuana backers downplayed the impact on tourism. Aldworth pointed out that pot-smoking tourists wouldn't exactly be new. Colorado ski slopes already are dotted with "smoke shacks," old mining cabins that have been illicitly repurposed as places

SEE **TOURISM** PAGE 11





TOURISM
FROM PAGE 10

to smoke pot out of the cold. And the ski resort town of Breckenridge dropped criminal penalties for marijuana use two years ago.

"Some folks come to Colorado and enjoy some marijuana while they are here today," Aldworth said.

The sheriff of the county including Aspen was sanguine about the prospects of pot-smoking visitors.

"For me, it's going to be live and let live. If people want to come to Colorado because pot is legal — and that's the sole reason — it's up to them," Pitkin County Sheriff Joe DiSalvo told The Aspen Times. "I am not the lifestyle police."



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ASSEMBLY
FROM PAGE 1

be counted countywide, with the next update scheduled for Tuesday at 1 p.m.

It's unclear how many of those will count for the 50th Assembly District, which includes 298,211 registered voters.

Bloom's campaign sent out an e-mail Friday afternoon asking donors to step up one more time to help pay for a team of specialists that includes attorneys, staff and experienced volunteers to supervise the counting and ensure that it is "fair and even-handed."

This is the home stretch of a campaign that has been waged for over a year through a brutal, four-candidate primary and into the general election.

For the first time, two Democratic candidates faced off against each other thanks to the new system that moves the top two vote-getters into the general election.

To make it more complicated, both are running in a brand-new district created by a citizen-led redistricting commission rather than politicians.

Money has poured into the campaign, with Bloom raising over $500,000 in 2012 alone and Butler raising $1.3 million in the same time frame.

Butler's campaign could not be reached by presstime.

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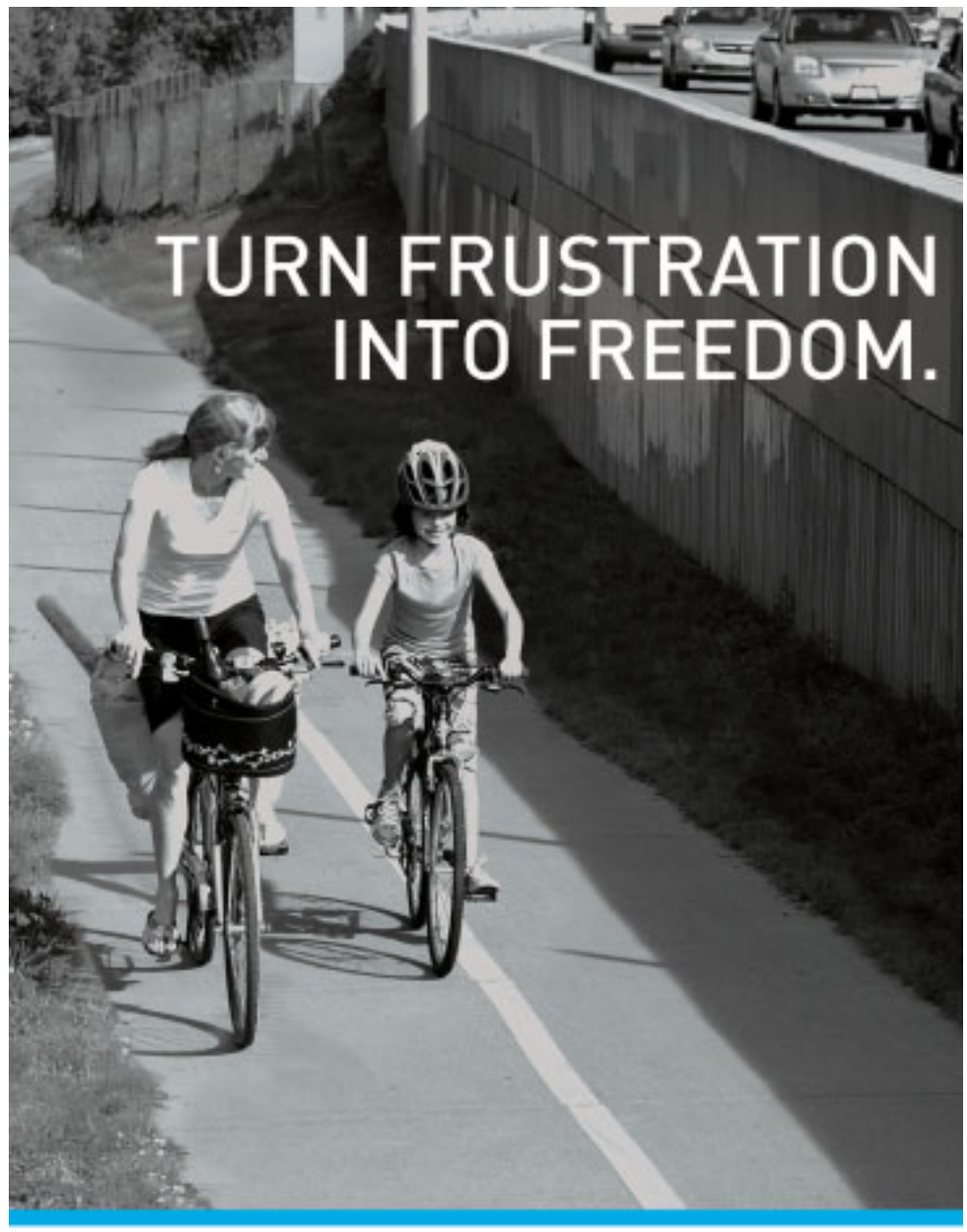
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Gas rationing, shortage fray nerves in New York City

JIM FITZGERALD & TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK A gasoline shortage caused by Superstorm Sandy forced 1970s-era rationing on New Yorkers Friday, adding a fuel-gauge obsession to their frayed nerves and dwindling patience.

"I take passenger, I look at gas. I take another passenger, I look at gas," said New York City taxi driver Shi Shir K. Roy. "Tension all the time."

Though rationing that allowed private motorists to fill up only every other day seemed to help with gas lines, it didn't answer motorists' questions about why they had been waiting for days in hourslong lines to fuel up. The confusion led some, like Angel Ventura, to panic.

Ventura, who drives a graffiti-covered delivery van for a camera rental company, said he has taken to hunting for gasoline every time his gauge drops below a quarter of a tank. "It makes me crazy, thinking I might hit empty and not be able to find it," he said as he waited for gas in Manhattan.

As drivers waited on police-monitored lines, thousands more residents in the region got their power back for the first time since Sandy came ashore 12 days ago. More than 420,000 customers were still without power in New Jersey and the New York City area. President Barack Obama, who visited the battered Jersey coast two days after the storm, said he would survey the damage in New York next week. The American Red Cross said Friday that widespread destruction from the storm will likely make this the largest U.S. relief effort since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, outpacing Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and California wildfires.

The gasoline rationing — first in the nation's largest city since the 1970s Arab oil embargo — forced motorists to line up depending on whether their license plate ends with odd or even numbers. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said one-third of the city's gas stations were open Friday, compared to 25 percent the day before, and cautioned, "there's no guarantee that odd-even is going to make a big difference."

Industry officials first blamed the shortage on gas stations that lost power, but now say the problem has shifted to supply terminals, which are either shut or operating at reduced capacity in New York and New Jersey. Drivers are also quicker to top off tanks because they're afraid gasoline won't be available, AAA spokesman Michael Green said.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, said the densely populated New York-New Jersey area has fewer stations per capita than any other major metropolitan area, making the shortage an even bigger problem. He said rationing earlier might have helped in New York City.

"It does curb some of the manic or panic behavior," Kloza said.

Gasoline moves millions of New Yorkers, just as the subway does. Hundreds of thousands of people drive to work, especially from the outer boroughs, and taxis and delivery vans are part of every gridlocked intersection.

Friday was an "odd" day in the rationing plan, although not everyone had gotten with the program.

"Even? Odd? Whatever it is, I didn't have the right one," said Joe Standart, a 62-year-old artist whose even-numbered car was ordered off a West Side gas station line by a police officer.

In the Gowanus section of Brooklyn, lines were still blocks long, but shorter than last week and moving more quickly.

Teniele Newbury, a mother of three, defended her need to use a car to go about her daily routine.

"People probably think we can take the subway," she said, "but I've got three kids I've got to drop off at three different schools. You try that on the subway with three little kids."

On Long Island, where odd-even rationing also began Friday, a spot check found shorter lines — 30 to 40 cars at most — and more stations with gas. In Brooklyn, car service owner Gary Lindenbaum said waits last week had been five or six hours.

"The rationing really helps us a lot," said Lindenbaum, owner of Court Express. "We need to work. We need the gas."

Lindenbaum drew the line at one hoarding technique: He posted a sign that said, "Drivers, do not carry full gas containers in your car."

Some cab drivers have been doing just that. One taxi reeked of gasoline from the extra cans sloshing around in the back seat with a passenger.

Desperate drivers weren't paying much attention to prices, but in New Jersey, seven gas stations were among the eight businesses sued by the state Friday on price-gouging claims.

Meanwhile, many officials were pointing to power companies as the culprit in the region's slow recovery. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has called for investigation of the region's utilities, criticizing them as unprepared and badly managed. On Friday, two congressmen from Long Island urged the federal government — even the military — to come in and help the Long Island Power Authority restore electricity.

"When the lights went off in Baghdad and the lights went off in Kabul, it was the Army Corps of Engineers that went into Baghdad and Kabul to turn the lights back on," said Rep. Steve Israel. "We don't need to turn the lights back on in Kabul and Baghdad. We need to turn the lights back on in Plainview and Great Neck and the south shore."

Long Island's main utility, the Long Island Power Authority, has declined to respond to criticism, while New York utility Consolidated Edison Corp. has called the storm the worst in its history.

Obama said Friday that he will meet with affected residents and first responders in a tour of the hardest-hit areas of the city.

Some residents of Toms River, N.J., were given a precious hour Friday to see their storm-wrecked houses for the first time and grab warm-weather clothing, important pictures — whatever belongings they could. When Steve Dabern saw his flooded house, the floor was torn in pieces, the refrigerator was on its side and the kitchen furniture was in the living room.

"Sickness. I felt sick," he said.

Bloomberg said the gas shortages could last for a couple of weeks, worrying many New Yorkers who say gas is vital to their lives.

At St. Mary's Children's Hospital in Queens, workers who visit 4,000 sick children have been getting up as early as 2 a.m. to get on gas lines, said chief administrative officer Hope Mavaro Iliceto. Some have run out of fuel while waiting in line, she said.

At the Brooklyn gas station, Ruben Quinonez and Edgar Luna were in the delivery truck they drive for a bakery in Mahopac, north of the city. They normally work from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., making deliveries in Brooklyn and Manhattan, but every day since the storm they have added a long wait in a gas line.

"You can't take the risk," Quinonez said. "Bread has got to be fresh."





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America, Mexico close to Colorado River water use pact

KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS Government leaders in the United States and Mexico are close to signing a pact to add areas south of the border to Colorado River water sharing agreements involving seven Western U.S. states, officials said Friday.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials characterized the talks as delicate while final documents circulate among 15 water agencies and state officials in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

"The concern is that these are sensitive negotiations," said Kip White, a bureau spokesman in Washington, D.C. "It has taken a long time to get here. We're looking forward to a culmination of this later this month."

"It's not a completed agreement until the document is signed," added Rose Davis, a bureau spokeswoman in Boulder City.

The framework of the five-year agreement became public with agenda items for a meeting next Thursday in Las Vegas involving the Southern Nevada Water Authority and Colorado River Commission of Nevada. The Las Vegas Review-Journal first reported it on Friday.

The pact is an addendum to a 1944 U.S.-Mexico water treaty.

It developed from talks begun when the seven Colorado River states signed a landmark agreement in 2007 to share the pain of shortages and the wealth of surpluses from the Colorado River reservoirs of Lake Mead and Lake Powell. The water users called at the time for federal officials to get Mexico to participate.

The agreement would also link Mexican and U.S. water allocations from the Colorado River during surplus and drought. The documents never refer to shortage, but instead cite "low reservoir conditions."

"Provisions include Mexico agreeing to adjust its delivery schedule during low reservoir conditions, Mexico having access to additional water during high reservoir conditions, and a commitment to work together on a pilot program that includes water for the environment," according to a summary submitted to voting SNWA and Colorado River Commission members.

The agreement would let Mexico continue an emergency program begun two years ago to store water in Lake Mead, the reservoir behind Hoover Dam near Las Vegas.

After pipelines and canals were damaged by a magnitude 7.2 Easter Sunday 2010 earthquake, Mexico asked the U.S. at the time to let it store water temporarily while repairs were made to irrigation systems in a broad agricultural area south of Mexicali. The area is irrigated by water from the Morelos Dam on the Colorado River west of Yuma, Ariz.

The agreement also calls for a pilot program of water releases from the U.S. to replenish wetlands in the Colorado River delta of the Gulf of California, and it clears the way for the U.S. government and municipal water agencies to invest in infrastructure improvements in Mexico in return for a share of the water such projects would save.

Las Vegas gets 90 percent of its drinking water from drought-stricken Lake Mead, and officials have talked about paying to build a seawater desalination plant in Mexico to trade for additional water rights to Colorado River water.

The Review-Journal reported that the two largest municipal water agencies in Arizona and California have signed off on the agreement.

Jeff Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said his board approved the agreement Monday.

Officials with the Central Arizona Project didn't immediately respond to messages Friday from The Associated Press.

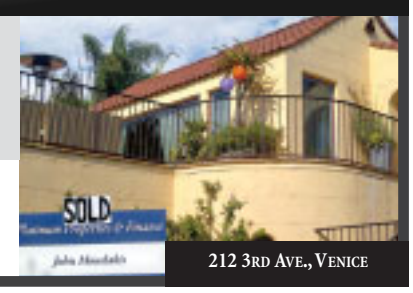
The agreement calls for the Southern California district to pay Mexico $5 million over three years in return for 47,500 acre-feet of water annually. The agencies in Arizona and Nevada would each pay $2.5 million over three years and receive 23,750 acre-feet per year.

An acre-foot of water is about enough to serve two Las Vegas-area households for a year, officials say.

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Fearing 'fiscal cliff,' investors finish brutal week for stocks

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Wall Street is peering over the "fiscal cliff" and feeling vertigo.

The stock market finished one of the worst weeks of the year Friday, pushing Washington to work out a deal to avoid the tax increases and government spending cuts set to take effect Jan. 1.

Remarks by re-elected President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner on the looming deadline didn't do much to cheer the market. Stocks finished barely higher for the day.

Chris Bertelsen, the chief investment officer at Global Financial Private Capital of Sarasota, Fla., said he expects Congress and Obama to reach a compromise to avoid the fiscal cliff.

"But it could well be the conventional U.S. political way of doing it — the last minute type of stuff — in which case the markets will be haunted by it until the point it happens," he said.

For the week, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 277 points, or 2.1 percent. The Dow has fallen 795 points since hitting its closing high for the year, 13,610 on Oct. 5.

The S&P fell 2.3 percent during the week, its worst weekly decline since June 1, when investor concern about the debt crisis in Europe was rising.

Stocks began their slide Wednesday in the biggest sell-off of the year after voters returned Obama, a Democratic Senate and a Republican House to power. Investors immediately turned to worrying about the cliff.

If the tax increases and spending cuts take full effect, the U.S. will likely fall back into recession, the Congressional Budget Office said Thursday.

Boehner said Friday that he remains unwilling to raise tax rates on upper-income earners. But he left open the possibility of balancing spending cuts with revenue increases that come from some revisions to the tax code.

Stocks managed a small rally. The Dow was up about 30 points when Boehner started talking and about 80 points shortly after.

Then Obama said he would not accept any approach to federal deficit reduction that doesn't ask the wealthy to pay more in taxes. A spokesman later said Obama would veto legislation extending tax cuts for families making $250,000 or more.

The Dow began sliding just before Obama spoke, at 1 p.m., and had lost its gain for the day by 1:30.

As they head into talks with Obama next week on the fiscal cliff, congressional leaders no doubt remember what can happen on Wall Street when investors are worried and watching Washington's every move.

In September 2008, at the depths of the financial crisis, the House defeated a $700 billion emergency rescue of the nation's financial system, sending the Dow plunging 777 points.

The Dow also slid for eight straight days in the summer of 2011 as politicians squabbled over a deal to raise the nation's federal borrowing limit before eventually reaching an accord Aug. 1.







SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 63.5°

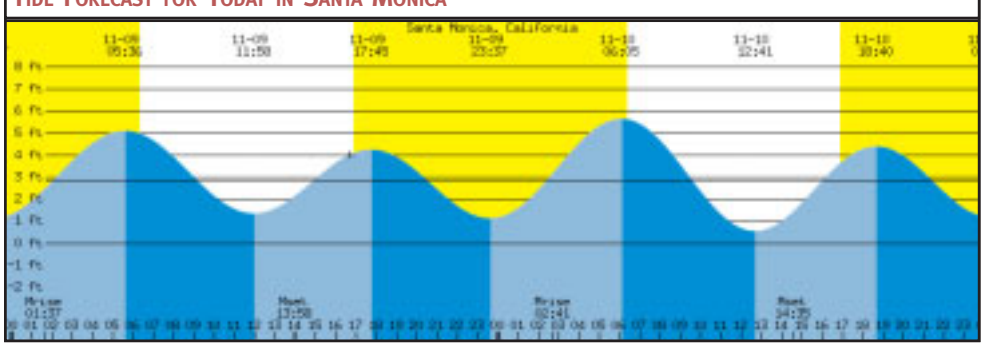
Swell Forecast

looks to be the next shot at NW in SoCal.

Long Range Synopsis

Super long range estimates point to head high+ waves at west facing breaks, but this is way too early to call this morning. .

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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 **November 7, 2012**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / 3
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrent Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SBBA

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 or the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alias creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	A	A
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tenas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower.	F	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CBW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

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.

NBA

Lakers fire coach Brown after 1-4 start to season

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Lakers fired coach Mike Brown on Friday after a 1-4 start to his second season in charge.

Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak announced the surprising move several hours before they hosted Golden State. Assistant coach Bernie Bickerstaff will coach the Lakers against the Warriors while the club's top brass searches for Brown's replacement after just 18 months in charge.

"The bottom line is that the team is not winning at the pace we expected this team to win, and we didn't see improvement," Kupchak said at the Lakers' training complex in El Segundo.

Los Angeles began the season with championship expectations after trading for center Dwight Howard and point guard Steve Nash, adding two superstars alongside Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol. But the Lakers went 0-8 during the preseason last month for the first time in franchise history before stumbling into the regular season with an 0-3 start, losing to Dallas, Portland and the Clippers.

After finally beating Detroit last Sunday for their first win, the Lakers looked listless again in a loss at Utah on Wednesday, dropping to last place in the Western Conference. Los Angeles' defense has been largely poor, and the players still haven't figured out the new offense installed by Brown during training camp.

Combined with their aging core of talent and a massive payroll, Kupchak and owners Jim and Jerry Buss decided they couldn't wait another game to start winning. Brown was dismissed in a morning meeting.

"We're not looking five or 10 years down the road," Kupchak said. "This team was built to contend this year. There's no guarantee that this team can win a championship, but we feel that it can be deeply in the hunt. We're also aware that our players ... are getting older, so our feeling is that we can contend at this level for another couple of years."

Brown was hired in May 2011 to replace 11-time NBA champion Phil Jackson, signing a four-year deal worth roughly $18 million in May 2011. Kupchak said the eight-figure payout they'll have to make on Brown's contract wasn't a factor in their decision.

"It's a pretty direct message to all of us," Gasol said while leaving the Lakers' shootaround Friday morning in El Segundo. "There's no messing around. It's time for all of us to step it up."

In a brief news conference, Kupchak did nothing to squelch speculation that Jackson could return for a third tenure with the Lakers. The 67-year-old Jackson walked away from the club in 2011 with few apparent hard feelings, and his health has markedly improved during his time away from the NBA.

Kupchak said he hasn't reached out to any candidates for the job, but thinks it's likely the Lakers will hire an experienced coach who isn't currently working. Kupchak said he hasn't talked to Jackson, but Jim Buss' sister, Lakers executive Jeanie Buss, is Jackson's longtime girlfriend.

"When there's a coach like Phil Jackson, one of the all-time greats, and he's not coaching, I think you would be negligent not to know that he's out there," Kupchak said.

While Lakers fans had reacted with their usual panic whenever the 16-time NBA champions lose a few games in a row, Kupchak and Buss publicly appeared to stand firmly behind Brown, the longtime Cleveland Cavaliers coach. Brown had pleaded for patience with his integration of several new players into his lineup while everybody learned the new offense.

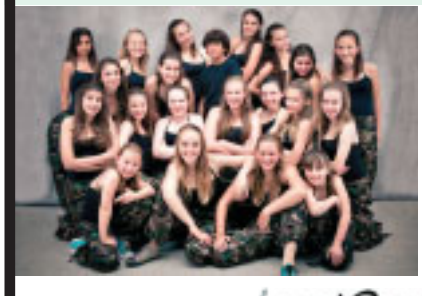
"I have great respect for the Buss family and the Lakers' storied tradition, and I thank them for the opportunity they afforded me," Brown said in a statement issued by the Lakers. "I have a deep appreciation for the coaches and players that I worked with this past year, and I wish the organization nothing but success as they move forward."

Brown's players all were fully behind him in public, with Bryant vocally suggesting critics of the Lakers' new offense should give them time to get it working. Bryant missed a significant portion of training camp while dealing with minor injuries, and Nash has a small fracture in his leg that has kept him out of the lineup since the Lakers' second game. Nash could be sidelined into December.

Yet the Lakers had given no indication they might pull one of the earliest coaching changes in NBA history until Kupchak gathered the players Friday morning to inform them of the decision.

"He told us the decision was made," Gasol said. "We didn't have a good start, and this is a team that was built to win. That's what we're all here to do."

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Saturday
Boogie Nights (MA) 2hr 35min
and
Punch-Drunk Love (R) 1hr 35min
7:30pm

Sunday
Magnolia (R) 2hr 48min
7:30pm

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

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
12:15pm, 3:20pm, 6:25pm, 9:30pm

Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:50am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Seven Psychopaths (R) 1hr 49min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Hotel Transylvania (PG) 1hr 31min
11:45am, 2:05pm

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

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:55am, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

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

Switch (PG-13) 1hr 40min
4:20pm

Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel (PG-13) 1hr 32min
5:30pm

Flat (Ha-dira) (NR) 1hr 37min
1:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Simon and the Oaks (Simon och ekarna) (NR) 2hrs 02min
4:10pm

Searching for Sugar Man (PG-13) 1hr 25min
3:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm
Other Son (Le fils de l'autre) (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Master (R) 2hrs 30min
1:50pm, 5:00pm, 8:10pm

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

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:15am, 1:00pm, 2:45pm, 4:30pm, 6:15pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 11:30pm

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 1hr 48min
10:45am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Man with the Iron Fists (R) 1hr 36min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Pitch Perfect (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:20pm, 8:15pm, 11:10pm

Cloud Atlas (R) 2hrs 44min
11:00am, 3:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:50pm

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

Put your feet up, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Dive into a few social days and make plans with others. You might become a background player, but only for a short period of time. That role is not for you, and you'll break out of it with only a little agitation. Tonight: Say "yes."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ Remain sensitive to your responsibilities. You have certain details and projects to complete before you can relax. The sooner you accomplish them, the happier you will be. Your insights and feelings merge, which exposes you to new revelations. Tonight: Put your feet up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You know when you no longer can work in the same way. Let go and enjoy yourself. A loved one absolutely would adore spending some more time with you. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Catch up on a family member's news. A loved one might be exhibiting distress through his or her unusually sour mood. Know your limits and realize what is possible. You cannot open someone up who has decided to be a clam, no matter what. Tonight: Choose a favorite pastime.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Make spontaneous plans. You will enjoy hearing someone else's good news. A surprise visit or an impromptu phone call heads in your direction. An invitation also could appear out of the blue. Tonight: Invite others to join you for dinner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ It seems as though you have the upcoming holiday season in mind, as you toy with your budget and consider different options for holiday gifts. Tonight: Join a loved one for dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You are on top of your game. How you see a situation and your ability to move in a new direction are marked by someone's unpredictability. Tonight: Walk away from a cold shoulder.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Much is happening around you, but others think you are not picking up on it. Truth be told, you are, and you know exactly what is going on. Until you are sure about how you want to handle this issue, do nothing. Indulge in a leisurely walk for now. Tonight: Observe and say little.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Make a point of doing something you really want to do. Your upbeat attitude goes far when dealing with a child or loved one who usually can be quite touchy. A disagreement about a money matter is OK; everyone can do what he or she wants. Tonight: Happy wherever you are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Consider doing something different, but know that others might invite you to join them in what has become a ritual among you. The unexpected plays into your plans, no matter which way you turn. Avoid being controlling or difficult. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Make an important call to someone at a distance. Unexpected developments could interfere with your plans as you head in a new direction. Go with the flow rather than try to control someone else. Tonight: Where there is music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Relate to a friend or loved one directly. You might want to rethink plans, especially if they involve one key person. Know which side your bread is buttered on. You pull the wild card financially. Tonight: Visit with a loved one.

Happy birthday

This year you have a tendency to keep a lot to yourself. Others find it difficult to get you to open up. You are like a clam, unless you choose to share what's on your mind. If you are single, you might have difficulty meeting Mr. or Ms. Right. In fact, you could meet someone who is emotionally unavailable. Use care when deciding whom to date. If you are attached, try to share more with your sweetie, or else you could create considerable distance between you. LIBRA makes a great healer for you.

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



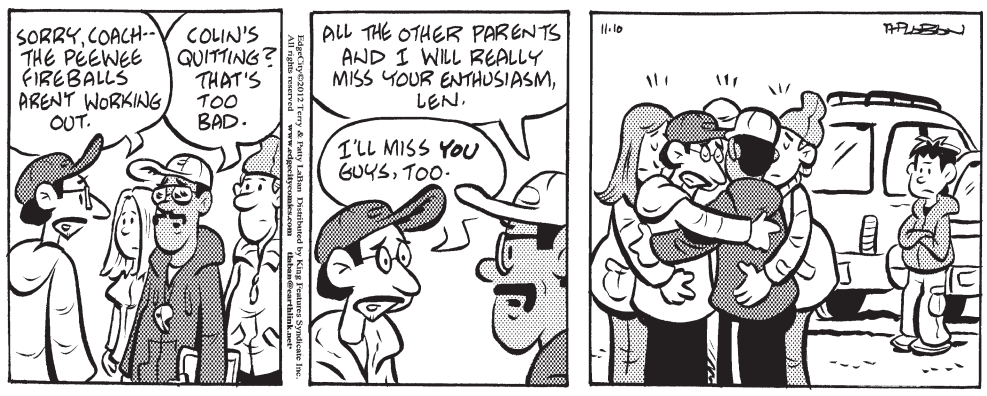
Strange Brew
By John Deering



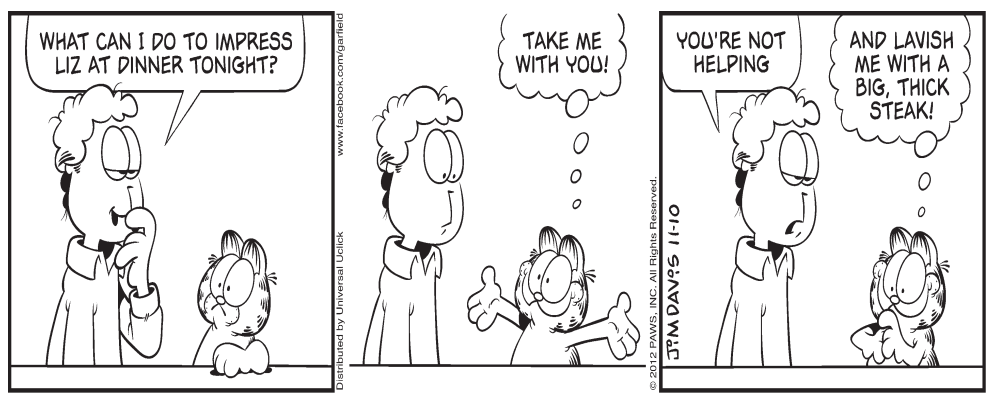
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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).

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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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 "Dog-gone!"
5 Yaks it up
9 Form-fitting
10 Lusitania sinker
12 Deplete
13 French academy
14 Sprees
16 Frilly wrap
17 Future flower
18 Skin art
20 "Carrie" star
22 Sharpen
23 Concert venue
25 Sign up
28 Brawls
32 Niger neighbor
34 Gaul invader
35 Clamor
36 Twist together
38 Musical set in Argentina
40 John — Garner
41 Hamper
42 Lazy sort
43 Paper buy
44 Piano parts

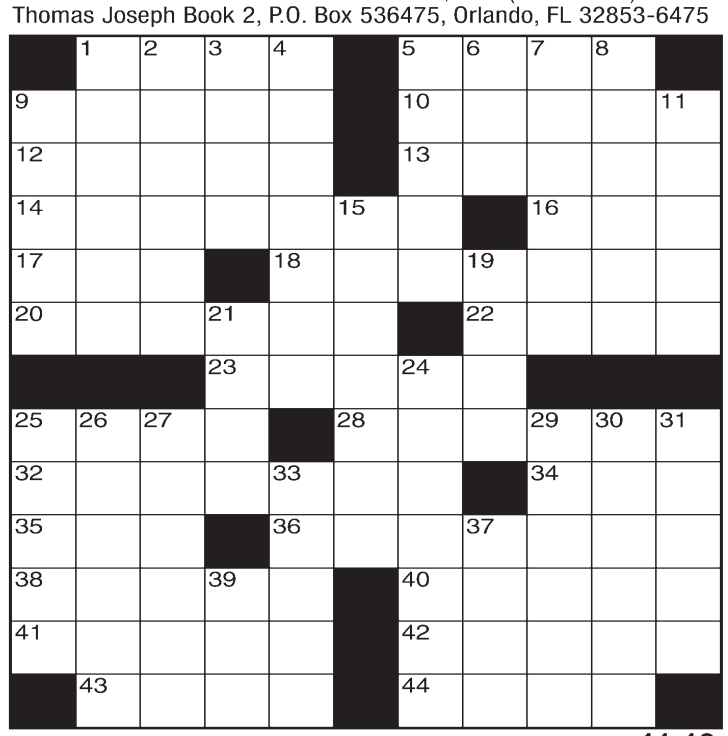
DOWN

1 Revolt
2 To-do list
3 Fall sound
4 Pearly Gates tender
5 Party attendee
6 "Revenge" network
7 Mistake
8 Tavern
9 Crockett's "Miami Vice" partner
11 Make fun of
15 Earns
19 Yonder item
21 Sugar source
24 Clutter hater
25 Blasé
26 Twist of fiction
27 Light
29 One way to be disguised
30 Pound parts
31 Derisive look
33 Supply with new weapons
37 Walk in water
39 Afternoon affair

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

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



11-10

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: Nov. 6
3 5 13 32 35
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: Nov. 7
13 25 29 40 46
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: Nov. 8
6 13 24 31 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: Nov. 8
MIDDAY: 2 7 5
EVENING: 8 5 9

SANTA ANITA
Draw Date: Nov. 8
1st: 09-WINNING SPIRIT
2nd: 08-GORGEOUS GEORGE
3rd: 03-HOT SHOT
RACE TIME: 1:42.27

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Recurring Theme: Eric Carrier, 24, was charged once again in September, in Hampton, N.H., with attempting to commit indecent exposure by his scheme of faking a brain injury so that he could hire an in-home nurse to change his diaper regularly. He was similarly charged in July 2011 in Hooksett, N.H., after soliciting five women on Craigslist, and convicted in July 2012. (Though not explicit in news reports, the nature of the charges suggests that Carrier can very well control his bowel movements.)

■ It has been four years since News of the Weird mentioned the growing controversy over one response to Peru's stray-cat problem, especially in the suburbs of Lima, and still, the outrage continues. Each September, the city of La Quebrada holds its Gastronomic Festival of the Cat, in which the country's chefs try to out-do each other with creative gourmet feline (e.g., cat stew, grilled cat with huacatay herbs), which some Peruvians, of course, believe to be aphrodisiacs. Said one Peruvian, such cultural events "are our roots and can't be forgotten." Even so, animal rights activists have stepped up their protests.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1954 - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicates the USMC War Memorial (Iwo Jima memorial) in Arlington National Cemetery.

1969 - National Educational Television (the predecessor to the Public Broadcasting Service) in the United States debuts the children's television program Sesame Street.

1970 - Vietnam War: Vietnamization – For the first time in five years, an entire week ends with no reports of American combat fatalities in Southeast Asia.

1970 - The Soviet Lunar probe Lunokhod 1 is launched.

WORD UP!

cahoots
\ kuh-HOOT \ , noun;
1.
In partnership; in league.

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