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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 11

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

HIPSTER HANUKKAH?
SEE PAGE 3

THE BLACK FRIDAY ISSUE

Wedding trade expects boost from gay-marriage laws

CLARKE CANFIELD
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine In the two weeks since Maine voters approved a law allowing same-sex marriage, Clay Hill Farm has been getting phone calls and emails from gay couples inquiring about open dates and wedding packages at the restaurant and wildlife sanctuary, a popular wedding spot in York.

The law won't go into effect for more than six weeks, but already couples from in and out of state have called, said Jennifer Lewis-McShera, who heads the wedding department there.

Clay Hill Farm puts on dozens of wedding ceremonies a year, as well as receptions

SEE MARRIAGE PAGE 11

Study: Mammograms lead to unneeded cancer treatment

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Mammograms have done surprisingly little to catch deadly breast cancers before they spread, a big U.S. study finds. At the same time, more than a million women have been treated for cancers that never would have threatened their lives, researchers estimate.

Up to one-third of breast cancers, or 50,000 to 70,000 cases a year, don't need treatment, the study suggests.

It's the most detailed look yet at overtreatment of breast cancer, and it adds fresh evidence that screening is not as helpful as many women believe. Mammograms are still worthwhile, because they do catch some deadly cancers and save lives, doctors stress. And some of them disagree with conclusions the new study reached.

But it spotlights a reality that is tough for many Americans to accept: Some abnormal-

SEE TREATMENT PAGE 12



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: **Shoppers flocked to the Third Street Promenade for Black Friday deals last year.**

Santa Monica takes unique view of shopping weekend

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Across the country, people are gearing up for the holiday weekend.

The stretch pants with elastic waists are prepped and ready for action. Comfortable shoes stand ready by the closet. Alarms are set.

It is almost Black Friday. And Small Business Saturday. Don't forget Cyber Monday. Some stores even begin their sales on Thanksgiving, for those awake enough to make it to their cars after pie and a digestif.

Sunday, as far as we know, is still a day of rest.

Typically considered America's busiest shopping time of the year, national brands, big box stores and online retailers look poised to cash in on the 147 million shoppers that the National Retail Federation anticipates will hit the stores in the coming days.

"Doorbusters" can begin as early as midnight on Friday. The news media lies in wait, ready to report on people trampled by their competitors on the way into stores or pepper spray attacks like one seen over an XBox 360 last year.

Not in Santa Monica.

Shoppers stood in relatively short lines to get into big-name stores on the Third Street Promenade last year, but this journalist's early-morning jaunt turned up none of the competitive spirit reported in the malls a few miles away, just sore feet and a smattering of early risers trying to cash in.

Although chains opened their doors at 6 a.m., several hours earlier than the regular season, not even the bathrooms to the local mall were unlocked, making commodes a hotter commodity than Coach.

This year, a handful of retailers will be open as early as 5 a.m., according to a release from Santa Monica Place.

Black Friday really isn't Santa Monica's thing, said Jennifer Taylor, chairperson of City Hall's Buy Local campaign.

"I think it's the next day that's a bigger benefit to us," Taylor said.

Small Business Saturday, the second in the triad, is a recent phenomenon.

Similar to Valentine's Day, which many deride as a self-serving creation of the greeting card industry, Small Business Saturday was the brainchild of credit card company American Express.

"We talked to a lot of small business owners. The biggest need coming out of the recession was more customers. We wanted to try to find a way to help," said Scott Krugman, a spokesperson for American Express.

The post-Thanksgiving Saturday became immortalized as a shopping day in November 2010, and it has grown.

According to the National Federation

SEE SHOPPING PAGE 10

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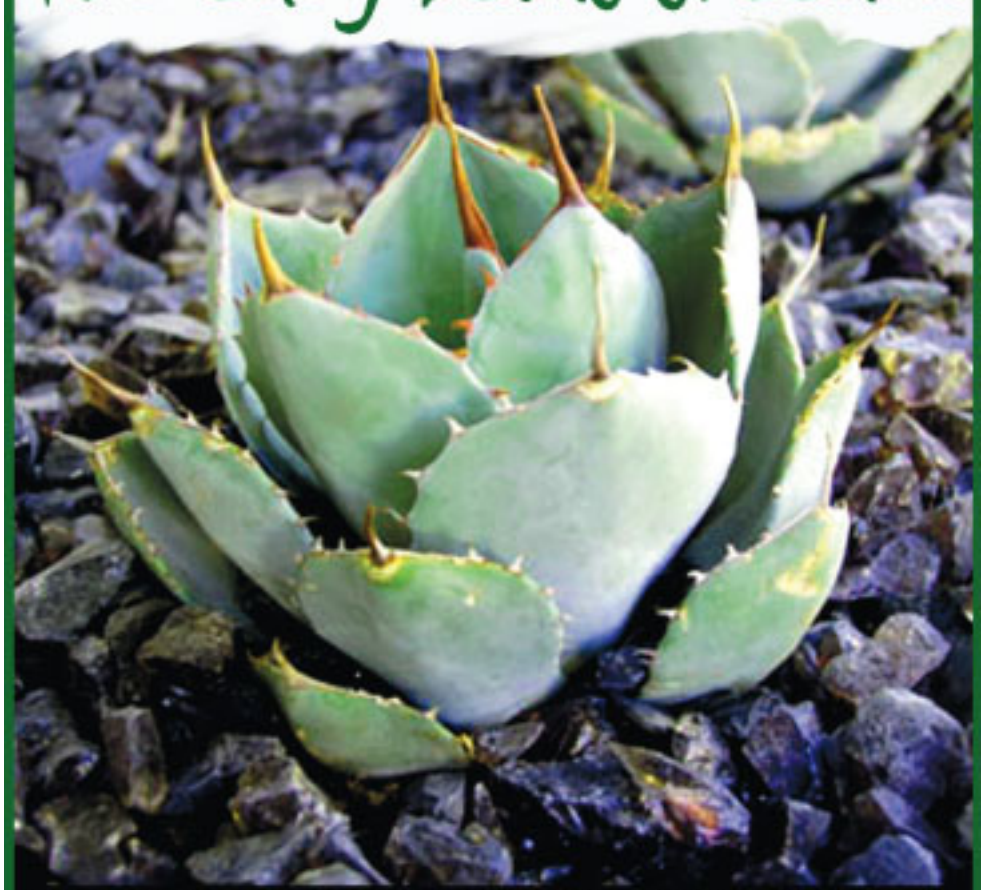
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Nov. 23, 2012

Get crafty
Third Street Promenade
12 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Downtown Santa Monica invites the little ones to get creative and decorate ornaments for the holidays. Third Street Promenade between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue. For more information, visit www.downtownsm.com.

To be or …
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., times vary
"Hamlet" is never more fabulous than when acted by one of the best Shakespeare companies in the world. For the fourth time, the bard hits The Broad with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. This fresh, fast, and youthful staging is brimming with existential angst, Oedipal impulses and paranormal activity. Even if you've seen "Hamlet" a hundred times before, missing this one would be the greatest tragedy of all. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Born to knit
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Spend a little quality time with fellow knitters. There's even tea. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Stop playing
Mi Westside Comedy Theater
1323A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Get ready to laugh it up. Sho Tyme Watkins and DNLdidit Productions presents "Don't PLA wit ME Bi@#h." The night is a showcase for up-and-coming comedians from around L.A. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012

Wobble it up
Reed Park
1133 Seventh St.,
8 a.m. — 11 a.m.
How about a run — or walk — to work off some of those holiday calories? The Gobble Wobble returns with a 5K turkey trot and a 1K walk/run. Bring a can of food for the Westside Food Bank. For more information, call (310) 821-7898.

So fly
Museum of Flying
3100 Airport Ave., 11:30 a.m.
The Museum of Flying is set to dedicate a mural called "Fly Douglas," which depicts a formation of the famous DC series of aircraft that originated at the Santa Monica Airport beginning with the DC-1 in the early 1930s and spanning nearly 40 years to the DC-10. The DC-1 through DC-7 aircraft were built at the Santa Monica Airport, which was the original home of the Douglas Aircraft Company. For more information, call (310) 398-2500.

Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012

Digging through the crates
Santa Monica Airport
3100 Airport Ave., 8 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Looking for something vintage? This antiques and collectibles market has a little of everything. For more information, visit smgov.net.

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

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



Third person dies from mushroom poisoning

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOOMIS, Calif. A third person has died from eating poisonous mushrooms at a California senior care facility, authorities said Wednesday.

The person, whose name was not released, died on Saturday, state Department of Social Services spokesman Oscar Ramirez told The Associated Press.

Ramirez said the senior home, Gold Age Villa in Loomis, called Monday to report the third death. State officials are continuing to investigate the incident.

Three other people were sickened when they ate soup made from the poisonous mushrooms on Nov. 8.

The other people who died have been identified as Barbara Lopes, 86, and Teresa Olesniewicz, 73.

The caretaker who prepared the soup, who was among those sickened, apparently picked the mushrooms from the backyard of the six-bed care facility and did not know they were poisonous.

Investigators were quickly able to pinpoint the soup as the source of the problem because the only person living at the home who did not eat dinner that night did not fall ill, authorities have said.

In Northern California, it's the season for wild chanterelle mushrooms — a highly sought variety — and for the amanita species of mushrooms that include what are known as "death cap" and "death angel" varieties.

Young poisonous North American amanitas often look like an edible version of a wild mushroom popular in Asia.

The California Department of Public Health periodically issues warnings about consumption of wild mushrooms, especially after someone eats a poisonous variety and falls ill. The state recorded 1,700 cases of mushroom-related illnesses from 2009 to 2010, including two deaths.

But state food regulations do not prohibit the use of foraged ingredients in food prepared at care facilities, though they do prevent the use of home-canned foods and unpasteurized milk.

How do hipsters celebrate Hanukkah? Ironically

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK These are a few of Chicky Winkleman's favorite Hanukkah things: ironic, ugly sweaters adorned with Stars of David, his roommate's Christmas tree and making latkes, alone in the afternoon.

The vegetarian living in Burlington, Vt., knows of what he speaks when it comes to marking the eight-day holiday, hipster style. He's co-founder with older brother Duckie of hipsterjew.com, which ran a make-your-own menorah contest last year and enjoys about 50,000 page views a month, presumably among like-minded young Jews.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

NICE VIEW: **A menorah sits atop the maintenance building on the Santa Monica Pier last year.**

The problem with hipster Hanukkah, said Winkleman, whose given name is Charles, is once you identify out loud as a hipster, you've likely lost the descriptor for life. But the preschool teacher who dabbles in standup comedy sees a variety of differences between regular Hanukkah and a hipster's touch.

On food: "There are latkes but it's usually never with people. I'm usually alone making latkes one day. It's a little depressing, but it has to be to get the true hipster Jew Hanukkah experience. It's gotta be a little bit lonely."

On the emerging tradition of ugly Hanukkah sweaters (see Geltfiend.com): "The sweaters are a way for us to get involved with the whole Christmas celebration but still separate ourselves from it." They come with Stars of David and menorahs inside brown circles that look like chocolate gelt.

On an idea his brother (real name Ari) is working on: "You know those big saint candles? He's working on a Jewish version with Woody Allen and, I don't know, maybe Barbra Streisand."

Fedoras for yarmulkes, fair trade olive oil or candles via the wax of locally sourced bees — there are lots of ways to pull off a hipster's Hanukkah, even if you're not an active member of the tribe's subset. Or a tribesman of any kind.

Sage Saturn, 22, puts the "ish" in Jewish. He's fresh out of college, not a Jew but hangs out with many and works as a graphic designer for Moderntribe.com, a site loaded with ways to dive into hipster Hanukkah.

"I think more people like me are into exploring what they don't know," said Saturn, who dumped his hard-to-spell real names for two way-cool made-up ones.

Among his favorite Hanukkah things: A menorah made of recycled bicycle chain.

Saturn's boss, Moderntribe co-founder Jennie Rivlin Roberts, sees a whole lot of hipster in what she sells. There's an insulated wine bottle holder made to look like a paper bag and a two-for-one deal on those boxes of word fridge magnets — one with

SEE **HIPSTERS** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Plenty of places

Editor:

I am someone that considers myself a very strong Christian. But in the same breath I believe in separation of church and state ("Judge denies injunction to display nativity scenes," Nov. 19).

In a recent poll I read the people that say they are not connected with any church outnumber people that do. There are many places that Christians can set up displays: churches, church-owned property, church members' homes and private property. There are lots of places to display your sentiments.

Why in the world do Christian symbols have to go into parks, schools, court houses, etc.? I just have to believe my so-called fellow Christians just want to fight with someone about something. Maybe there is something much less than "Christian love" that motivates so-called Christians. In my church they teach that when I do something, I should ask myself "Would Jesus do that?" The only time I recall Jesus taking any action similar was throwing the money changers out of the temple. Well that was church property, not public property. Churches have had so much protection from the government that they feel entitled, that they have super rights over the rest of the citizens.

Now that there seems to be more secular people than church members, maybe it is time to not be so quick to pick a fight. Laws and rules can be changed by the majority. There could very well be a backlash that would be hard to defend against.

Denis Logan
Palm Coast, Fla.

Good column

Editor:

Jack Neworth's column of today is a keeper ("Sore winners or sour grapes?" Nov. 15). He has hit so many nails on the head, it will serve as a reference for the craziness of the election year of 2012. Also, he might have added the stealth of the 2004 "re-election" of George Bush, amply documented in Harper's Magazine in 2005 and in the current issue, and summarized in chapter 31 of Gore Vidal's book, "Point to Point Navigation."

Thank you, Jack Neworth, for a great column, insightful as to facts, and entertaining, to boot.

Lee Ray
Santa Monica

Preaching tolerance

Editor:

How about a little tolerance in Santa Monica for diverse religions, atheist religions, etc.? I have to tolerate gays on TV, Bruce marrying Steve, Adam and Steve, not Adam and Eve, etc. Santa Monica High School teaches how evil America is, that Bush is evil, conservatives are evil, etc. How about tolerance?

Craig Wilson
Westchester, Calif.



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Why I'm thankful for Rush Limbaugh

I CAN ALWAYS TELL IT'S THE DAY after Thanksgiving by how tight my pants are. (And I wear sweat pants!) Those 5 pounds I've been trying to lose for six months is now 10. Yikes.

Thanksgiving is the start of a holiday season that involves large quantities of food. (And increasing amounts of alcohol until New Year's Eve when, at least this side of a 12-step meeting, being plastered is an accepted manner in which to greet the New Year.) But for humongous amounts of food, Thanksgiving is like starting the NFL season with the Super Bowl.

At Thanksgiving making a pig of oneself is practically patriotic. At no other holiday would I eat an entire pie. (I haven't but I thought about it.) July 4 is a few hot dogs, a few beers and shoot off fireworks. But at Thanksgiving second helpings of delicious food and even thirds are a time-tested tradition.

Oddly enough some of the food, i.e. cranberry sauce, I have at no other time during the year. Stuffing, while very tasty, is also not something I generally eat during the other 364 days.

If yesterday was Thanksgiving that means today is Black Friday. It has an ominous sound … Black Friday! During the Jim Crow south Black Friday might have meant something else, but, on a lighter note, for decades it has referred to huge sales and huge crowds at department stores that open early as 4 a.m. on Friday.

But lately the hours of Black Friday keep getting even earlier until now many retailers, over the objection of organized labor (all the good that does), open up Thanksgiving evening!

Imagine wolfing turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans and apple pie and hours later getting dressed for work. (I'd have to wear a dashiki.) Just the notion of working on such a full stomach gives me indigestion. At department stores everywhere I can imagine bloated employees stifling belch after belch while ringing up sales. (Two words to the clerks: breath mints.)

Some say the name Black Friday was picked because it's the first day retailers turn a profit on the year, or are "in the black." (Profits are recorded in black ink, ergo Black Friday.)

Another view is the name came from a horrific event in 2008. It seems a crowd of approximately 2,000 deal-hungry shoppers in Valley Stream, N.Y., waited hours outside in the cold for the 5 a.m. opening of the local Wal-Mart. The frigid crowd grew restless and when the doors finally opened the multitudes unintentionally trampled a 34-year old employee to death. (What a heartwarming holiday tale.)

According to newspaper accounts, the shoppers refused to halt their stampede even when employees attempted to intervene. (I suppose the disaster gave a lethal meaning to the term "bargain hunter.")

But back to Thanksgiving, I'm hoping the Romneys had a wonderful holiday. (I can picture the scene, Ann busily supervising the caterers while Mitt busily compiles a list of who's to blame for losing the election, with his own name being conspicuously absent.) Of course I'm assuming the Romney car elevator was working. Nothing is more of a holiday buzz kill than a car elevator on the fritz.

I'm also assuming the Limbaughs had a high time at Thanksgiving. (That's not a reference to Oxycontin.) I'm just saying that when you earn $50,000,000 a year you can afford the best butterball. (I'm referring to the turkey not Rush's physique.)

Frankly, since the recent election I've developed a new fondness for Rush. But I confess that was not the case during the 2006 election campaign when Rush mocked Michael J. Fox's Parkinson's disease. Fox was supporting candidates favoring stem cell research, but Rush felt he was "faking" his symptoms for sympathy and derisively imitated Fox's involuntary body jerking.

The country didn't find Rush's wild gesticulating very amusing. In fact, in Missouri Limbaugh's antics were cited as the reason Claire McCaskill won the Senate seat. Her narrow victory gave the Democrats a crucial Senate majority and many on the right angrily blamed Limbaugh.

On the next day's broadcast, Rush threw a giant hissy fit. "I'm through carrying water for the Republican Party!" he pouted bitterly. But, since Rush's listeners are primarily Republicans, and since they basically pay his $50,000,000 salary, his self-imposed exile lasted about 24 hours. But I've changed. Now I not only don't despise Rush anymore, I worry where we'd have been without him.

Another repulsive Rush rant came in February, 2012, when third-year Georgetown law student Sandra Fluke advocated before Congress that women's birth control ought to be included in health insurance plans. (Viagra has been in most plans for years.) Rush being Rush, he called Ms. Fluke "a slut." But it turns out that when you're trying to win over a whole class of voters, like 51 percent of all voters, apparently it's a bad idea to insult them first. Who knew?

Rush's vitriol only highlighted the right wing's "war on women" (i.e. "legitimate rape" and rape "is something God intended") and the combination was the key to Obama's decisive victory.

So this Thanksgiving I've taken a whole new view of Limbaugh, Hannity, Beck, O'Reilly, Coulter, Palin, Santorum, and any others from the reactionary right. Let me be the first to wish you all a joyous holiday season. And please, whatever you do between now and November, 2016… never change.

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Your column here

Dr. E. Kirsten Peters
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Progress in breast cancer research

I HAVE AN ELDERLY AUNT WHO WAS diagnosed with breast cancer many years ago. She was treated and remained cancer-free for years. But I also had a next-door neighbor who got the same diagnosis. She was treated, but succumbed to the disease not too long after.

My experience is not unique. Those of us who have been around the block a few times know people who have survived breast cancer and people who have died from it. Why the differences in results from person to person?

Part of the reason is that breast cancer is really several different diseases. There are four major types of the disease, with variations in those four categories. The four major types have the challenging names of basal-like, luminal A, luminal B and HER2-enriched.

Recently researchers announced a step forward in studying the different types of breast cancer, a step toward coming up with better treatments down the road.

Matthew Meyerson is one of the authors on a recent and major paper published in the journal Nature. He is a researcher with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Meyerson talked to National Public Radio about a project he and many other researchers completed studying 825 breast cancer patients.

"We basically studied the genomes of breast cancers from each of these women in comparison to the genomes of the rest of their bodies," Meyerson said to NPR.

As more knowledge about cancers accumulates, treatments can evolve in a positive direction. For example, certain genetic mutations may be behind basal-like breast cancer and ovarian cancer, especially in certain women. For them, it may be that future treatments could use ovarian cancer drugs for breast cancer treatment.

In the language of these matters, patients and researchers alike hope for a "silver bullet" that could be used in treatment, a medication or therapy plan that would make all the difference in survival rates. But Meyerson cautions that recent research, while promising, is a long way from anything like a silver bullet.

"I think in the end, to treat cancer, we're going to be developing a lot of specific silver bullets, but we'll need to use them in combination," Meyerson said.

Unfortunately, it may be years before treatment is changed due to the research recently announced. That's often the way with science: good work on the research frontier may come years before practical applications are developed for real-world difference in things like medical treatment. That's the case in part because research must run down many avenues simultaneously, some of which will yield fruitful results and some of which simply won't.

RECENTLY RESEARCHERS ANNOUNCED A STEP FORWARD IN STUDYING THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BREAST CANCER, A STEP TOWARD COMING UP WITH BETTER TREATMENTS DOWN THE ROAD.

"(Doing) genomic screening, that's not the end goal," said Fran Visco of the National Breast Cancer Coalition. "That is simply a tool, a step on the way to figuring out how to save lives."

According to the American Cancer Society, about 40,000 women die each year from breast cancer. That makes the malignancy second only to lung cancer in terms of deadly effects. Let's hope the treatments for breast cancer improve at a record-breaking pace.

DR. E. KIRSTEN PETERS, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. Her most recent book is "The Whole Story of Climate," just published by Prometheus Books. This column is a service of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University.

The Q Line

Looking deep

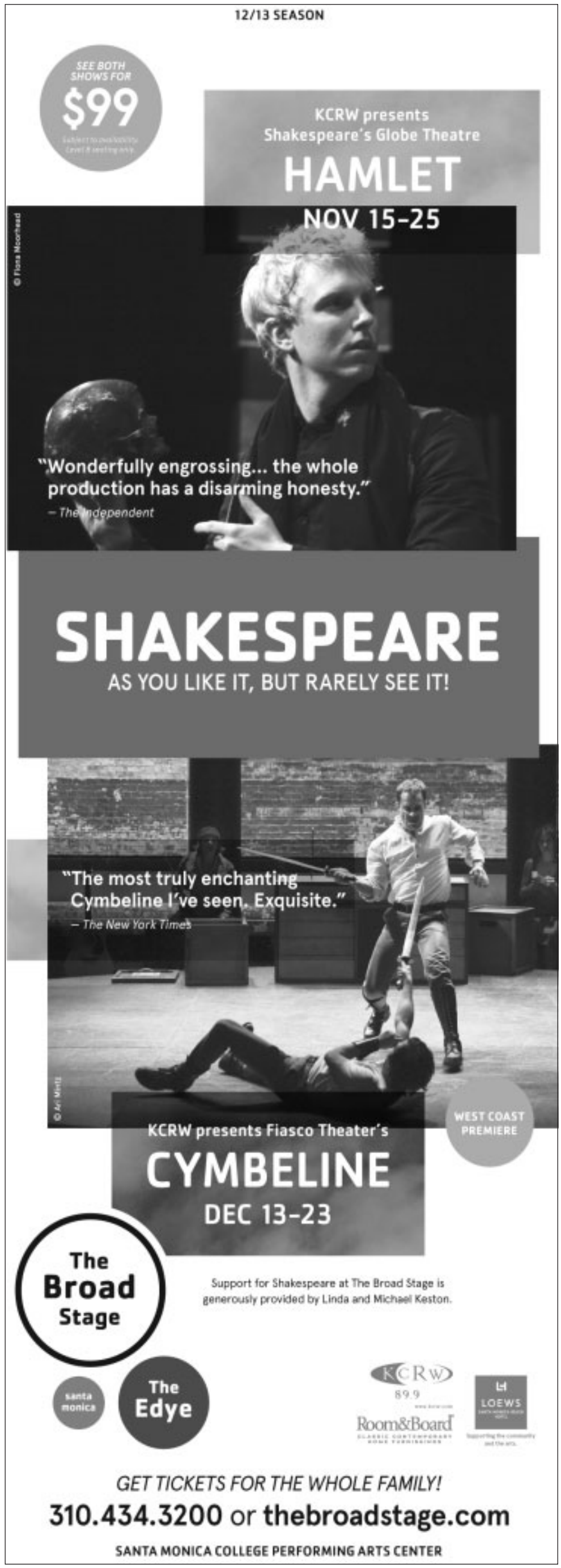
With Thanksgiving upon us, we were feeling a bit introspective.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What are you thankful for and why?

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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City of Santa Monica

Thanksgiving Day Trash Schedule

There is no collection on Thursday, November 22nd.

All trash, recycling & green scraps collection will be one day later than the regular schedule.

Thursday's routes will be collected on Friday.
Friday's routes will be collected on Saturday.

Happy Thanksgiving

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SpongeBob Christmas special goes stop-motion

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES How does "It's a SpongeBob Christmas!" squeeze even more fun out of our porous little hero and the Bikini Bottom gang? By turning the animated characters three-dimensional for their holiday special.

In a tribute to classic fare such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," the "SpongeBob SquarePants" crew has been re-imagined as puppets and put through their comedy paces for stop-motion photography.

The story line was dreamed up by Tom Kenny, the voice of SpongeBob: The denizens of Bikini Bottom are suddenly rude because of exposure to jerktonium, a plot by naughty Plankton to get on Santa's (voiced by guest star John Goodman) nice list.

Plankton "wants to put everyone on their worst behavior when they should be on their best behavior, and zany mayhem ensues," Kenny said.

"It's a SpongeBob Christmas!" debuts 9:30 p.m. EST Friday on CBS, followed by an encore on the show's home network, Nickelodeon, at 7:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 9.

The first-time foray into stop-motion is a welcome change for the 13-year-old "SpongeBob," Kenny said.

"It's fun that after all these years we can still do stuff that's a little different. It's like reinventing the wheel a little bit — if you can refer to a square character as a wheel," he added, unable to resist the quip.

The actor looks back fondly on childhood memories of "Rudolph" from the Rankin-Bass studio and other stop-action projects. Even the TV commercial that put Santa on an electric razor subbing for a sleigh gets a Kenny shoutout.

Asked if young viewers might be fazed by seeing the familiar characters in a new guise, Kenny mulled the question before rebutting it.

"The characters act the same, the recording process is exactly the same. Our job is exactly the same. ... There's still plenty of the animated mayhem and anarchy that happens in the 2-D version of the show."

Screen Novelties, the Los Angeles studio that produced the Christmas special, made a feast out of the job. In just one of their inventive approaches, filmmakers used fruit-flavored cereal to create a coral reef.

"I came to the studio and they had hundreds of boxes of cereal open and were hot-gluing it together," Kenny recalled.

The Patrick Star puppet was covered in wool-like material and SpongeBob "wasn't a sponge but some kind of weird material they found somewhere," he said, admiringly. "They're like 'MacGyver,' always repurposing something."

The TV special has a small element of recycling. Kenny calls it a testament to "a goofy little song" he and collaborator Andy Paley wrote three years ago, "Don't Be a Jerk, (It's Christmas)."

"Bring joy to the world, it's the thing to do. But the world does not revolve around you. Don't be a jerk, it's Christmas" is among its bouncy but cautionary verses.

The tune is among a dozen included on the digital release "It's a SpongeBob Christmas! Album," most written by Kenny and Paley (a songwriter-producer who's worked with artists including Brian Wilson and Blondie), and four of them part of the special.

Music fans might want to check out the album for its craftsmanship. The veterans who play on it include harpist Corky Hale and harmonica player Tommy Morgan, both of whom have backed a roster of big stars, including Billie Holliday and Frank Sinatra.

The recording sessions proved an early holiday gift for Kenny.

"We'd spend a half-hour working and then make the musicians tell stories about who they played with," he said.



‘Star Wars’ 7 may bring new hope, but also letdown

RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Darth Vader is dead. The evil Emperor exploded after being thrown down a shaft. And Luke Skywalker and his allies destroyed both Death Stars, restoring balance to the Force. For The Walt Disney Co., the prospective new owner of the “Star Wars” franchise, what’s left to tell?

A lot, apparently.

There are more than 110 novels and 80-plus comic books set after the events of “Return of the Jedi,” the sixth episode in the film series and the third to be made. All of these additions to the so-called “expanded universe” were sanctioned by Lucasfilm Ltd., founded by series creator George Lucas.

That has left a lot of room for speculation ever since Disney announced last month that it would buy Lucasfilm for $4.05 billion and resume making “Star Wars” movies, starting with Episode 7 in 2015.

For fans, some big questions remain.

Will Luke take on a Jedi apprentice? Will Han Solo and Princess Leia have kids? And who will be the movies’ villain? (A) A revived Emperor; (B) the hard-to-kill bounty hunter Boba Fett; (C) some new corrupt leader of the remnants of the Empire, or (D), all of the above?

Each of these scenarios have been explored in some fashion away from the big screen. Whether they will be incorporated into the next trilogy of films is anyone’s guess.

“Right now, everyone is literally just reading tea leaves,” said Bryan Young, a “Star Wars” watcher and editor of the blog, Big Shiny Robot.

The facts so far about the announced Episodes 7, 8 and 9 are scant: Lucas will be a creative consultant but won’t direct the films. Kathleen Kennedy will produce them as president of Lucasfilm. And Oscar-winning writer Michael Arndt, who wrote “Little Miss Sunshine” and “Toy Story 3,” will pen the screenplay for Episode 7.

One of the most telling clues as to the next trilogy’s direction, according to Young, is the fact that Lucas invited Luke actor Mark Hamill and Princess Leia actress Carrie Fisher to lunch some time ago to tell them that the sequels were going to be made, a reversal of his denials over the years.

Hamill talked about the lunch with Entertainment Weekly, saying he also spoke with Lucas about three weeks before the Disney announcement and just missed a call from him the day the deal was made public Oct. 30.

That suggests that Luke and on-screen sister Leia, will be involved in some way in the sequel. After all, their characters are the last members of the Skywalker family, and the most potent wielders of the Force that appear to be left in the galaxy. “I think that’s the best clue we have,” Young said.

Responding to a query from The Associated Press, Hamill said he couldn’t comment further, but noted in an email, “I should have all the information I need very soon.”

Fisher, Lucasfilm and several people who work for the company declined comment.

The notion that Luke will make a comeback doesn’t veer far from what’s known about the movies themselves or from what has been said over the years.

In 2004, Hamill told Movieblog.com that Lucas’ ideas for the sequels go as far back as 1976 during the shooting of the original “Star Wars,” when the director said an older Hamill would have roles in them.

There is further backing for the idea that Luke will reappear from the films that have already been released, including “Return of the Jedi.”

And others around Lucas have spoken publicly about the idea that the family drama that began with Anakin Skywalker and continued with his son Luke would carry on for at least the next three films.

“It’s really nine parts of one film,” said Rick McCallum, producer of the prequel Episodes 1, 2 and 3, in 1999, according to “The Secret History of Star Wars” by author Michael Kaminski.

The cohesion that McCallum suggested belies the haphazard nature with which the movies have been put together. At different points in time, Lucas has said there was just one, three, six, nine or even 12 films envisioned in all.

Kaminski’s book recounts multiple script revisions to most of the films, including some discrepancies that were later papered over. For instance, at one point, Anakin Skywalker and Darth Vader were separate characters, not the one person we know through the movies to have turned evil.

Given the proliferation of storylines and characters in the “expanded universe,” Kaminski said there’s a good chance that some of those storylines will be cast aside, altered, or even contradicted outright.

“It will affect the ‘expanded universe’ one way or another,” Kaminski said. “It’s going to be hard to reconcile those different things.”

The idea that the new films will diverge from what’s out there is supported by Kennedy, who spoke in a video released by Lucasfilm shortly after the Disney deal was announced.

“This is not like a series of books like ‘Harry Potter’ where you’ve already got a template of what the stories might be,” she said. “These are original stories and original ideas that come from out of a world that essentially is in George’s head.”

Beyond some broad strokes that the movies hint at — such as Luke’s passing on the Jedi ways — it seems doubtful that such a creative mind as Lucas would surrender the movies’ outcome to tales that have already been written.

That means that fans of the books, comics and video games in the “Star Wars” universe could be either disappointed or delighted by the result.

But if there were no surprises, the adventure just wouldn’t be the same.

“Almost anything is possible,” said Jay Shepard, a content editor at fan site TheForce.net. “But I don’t believe it will be any type of plotline we’ve already seen.”

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Hand over the keys

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, AT 8:57 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1300 block of Ocean Avenue — Blue Plate Oysterette — regarding a report of an assault that just occurred. When officers arrived they made contact with a man who was being treated by paramedics. He told officers that he went to the restaurant for dinner and upon pulling up to the valet, he got into an argument with the valet over keeping his car keys since he had his dog with him. During the argument, a man walked up and told the driver to give his keys to the valet. The driver told the man to not get involved, at which time the suspect allegedly kicked the driver in the groin. He then struck the victim in the head. Another man joined in and allegedly began striking the victim in the face and head. They ran off after the victim fell to the ground. They were seen getting into a silver Chevy. A witness obtained the license plate number. Officers were able to identify the suspects. They were located on Nov. 13 in Los Angeles and taken into custody for assault with a deadly weapon. They were identified as father-and-son duo Glenn Taylor, 33, of Los Angeles, and Glenn Peyton Taylor, Sr., 63, of Owensboro, Ky. Bail was set at $50,000 each.

MONDAY, NOV. 12, AT 12:38 P.M.,
Officers responded to the Albertsons located at 2627 Lincoln Blvd. regarding a theft that just occurred. When officers arrived they spoke with a security guard who told them that he was working inside the store when an employee told him that a man known for stealing liquor was shopping there. The guard followed the man and watched as he and another man concealed bottles of liquor. Both walked out of the store without offering to pay, police said. When the security guard confronted them, one of them turned and confronted him verbally before walking away. The suspect who allegedly stole from the store before was apprehended and positively identified as Leroy Arrington, 52, a transient. Police said he was captured on video at least three times stealing booze. He was booked for burglary and a probation violation. No bail was set. Cops were unable to find the second suspect.

MONDAY, NOV. 12, AT 10:15 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1300 block of Euclid Street on the report of a man yelling profanities at his neighbors. When officers arrived they found the man inside his apartment. He was still yelling. Officers made contact with the man, who said he was angry because his neighbors were accusing him of abusing his kid. Officers conducted a protective sweep of the apartment because of the allegations of abuse. No child was found, but officers did see in plain view several glass pipes commonly used to smoke meth. The suspect told officers that he was on probation and admitted that he used the pipes to smoke bath salts. He told officers where they could find his stash. Officers found several glass containers holding a white powder. One had meth, police said. Officers placed the man under arrest for possession of drugs and paraphernalia and a probation violation. He was identified as Ernest Jim Choi, 36, of Santa Monica.

TUESDAY, NOV. 13, AT 2:34 P.M.,
Officers responded to Sears located on Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue regarding a shoplifter being chased by a security guard. Officers searched the area but could not locate the suspect. His vehicle was found in the Sears lot and officers began looking for clues. The security guard told cops that he saw the suspect walking through the store with a new pair of black sneakers without the box. The man walked out of the store and to a red van in the parking lot. The guard looked at security video that showed the suspect putting on the black shoes inside the store. The suspect then walked back into the Sears and took a white T-shirt from a display. He folded it up and then walked out again. When contacted by security, he dropped the shirt and took off running. The van was impounded. When the suspect showed up at police headquarters asking about his van, he was placed under arrest for burglary and a probation violation. He was identified as Robert Ferguson, 43, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $20,000.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, AT 1:21 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1500 block of Second Street regarding a report of a woman refusing to pay her cab fare. When officers arrived they spoke with the cab driver who said that the suspect called the cab company and he was assigned to pick her up, which he did on the 100 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. After making two short stops the woman requested to be driven to Malibu. When they got to Malibu she asked to be driven to Second Street and Colorado Avenue. When the driver reached the destination he asked for payment. The woman said she didn't have any money. She was placed under arrest for defrauding an innkeeper and a probation violation. She was identified as Marne Chaix, 69, of North Beach, Calif. Her bail was set at $10,000.

Editor-in-**CHIEF KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

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SHOPPING
FROM PAGE 1

for Independent Businesses, 44 percent of shoppers turned out in 2010 and 67 percent went shopping that Saturday in 2011.

It's a benefit to small businesses that don't have the marketing budget of big retailers because, if they accept American Express, they get a special spot on the company's shopsmall.com website, Krugman said.

"That's why we're so committed to Small Business Saturday," he said. "They don't have to create the promotional window. We've created it for them."

The company even provides a bit of cash incentive for customers. It's promised a $25 statement credit to those who spend more than $25 at an American Express-accepting small business, although those that want to cash in on the deal must register their cards in advance, and supplies are limited.

Although there are a number of Santa Monica businesses that show up on the American Express website, relatively few seem to be planning big for the weekend.

A query to the Main Street Business Improvement Association turned up a few names, some of whom seemed to be finding out about their supposed sales for the first time when they received the confirmation call.

Some stores on Montana Avenue with a handful of outlets like Francesca's Collections or Anat B. had sales planned, and others went along for the ride.

"Everyone else is," said a shop owner who wished to remain nameless.

As it turns out, Santa Monica merchants, much like the rest of the city, aim to put their own stamp on holiday consumerism.

Dec. 7 and 8 have turned into the city's own shopping weekend, with Montana Avenue's Holiday Walk on the Friday followed by the Pico Holiday Art Hop the day after.

That festive affair is a big time for the 10 Women Gallery on Montana Avenue, a co-op of 26 female artists that opened on the avenue in time for the 2011 event.

It's difficult for the co-op to run sales and promotions because each artist determines the price of their work, said Kathy Black, one of the members.

That makes the Holiday Walk an ideal time for the store as people crowd onto Montana Avenue for the atmosphere and community, not the perilously deep discounts.

They were shocked by the turnout in 2011, said Betsy Weston, another member of the co-op.

"We were overwhelmed by what went on. It's a great way to promote small business," she said.

When the party ends on Montana Avenue, it picks up again the next day across town.

The Pico Improvement Organization, a coalition of businesses aiming to promote the boulevard, is focused on its own "small business Saturday," said Robert Kronovet, a member of the board.

The organization has its eyes firmly set on its signature event, the fourth annual Pico Holiday Art Hop planned for Dec. 8.

Otherwise …

"Pico is open, the merchants are busy, there's a lot of dining going on right now and realtors are booming," Kronovet, ever the business cheerleader, chorused.

ashley@smdp.com







MARRIAGE
FROM PAGE 1

and rehearsal dinners, and provides catering services to wedding parties at other locations. Legalizing same-sex marriage can only help, Lewis-McShera said.

"It will increase business in this area because we'll attract more couples from Boston and the New York metropolitan area who now can have the wedding of their dreams in Maine," she said. "This puts Maine on the map."

Add the coast of Maine, the banks of the Chesapeake Bay and the shores of Lake Washington to gay wedding destinations. Next month and in January, laws go into effect in Maine, Maryland and Washington that allow same-sex marriage. They're the first states where voters approved such laws, rather than legislators or courts.

Nearly 18,000 same-sex couples in those states will exchange vows in the first three years after the new laws are in effect, estimated The Williams Institute, a national think tank at the UCLA School of Law, and the laws should generate at least $166 million in wedding spending in the three states over the next three years from in-state couples alone, boosting tax revenues and creating new jobs.

Wedding-related spending for in-state couples is projected be about $16 million in Maine, $63 million in Maryland and $89 million in Washington.

The numbers go up when figuring in out-of-staters who travel to those states to be wed. In Maine, for instance, the new law could boost the state economy by $25 million and create up to 250 new jobs in the coming three years, said Lee Badgett, research director at the Williams Institute and an economics professor at the University of Massachusetts.

So many people have ties to Maine through vacations, summer camps while growing up or seasonal homes, said Portland wedding planner Diane York. A lot are attracted to Maine for weddings and receptions because of its beaches, old New England churches and lighthouses, such as Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth, which went into service in 1791 and has been called one of the most-photographed lighthouses in the country.

"Now Maine will be able to make its case: This is beautiful, you should come here to get married," Badgett said.

The average cost for a wedding nationally is about $27,000, and about $2,000 less in Maine, York said.

Other states that have legalized gay marriage have benefited economically as a result. Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and the District of Columbia.

Vermont and Massachusetts now include sections on their state tourism websites that include information about gay marriage. Even honeymoon capital Niagara Falls has gotten a lift from same-sex weddings and honeymoons.

In Maine, Pam Remy of South Portland and her partner of 13 years, Karen Weiss, have just begun to plan for a late summer or early fall wedding. They're looking into pastoral settings in southern Maine to host the wedding and are hoping to have up to 200 guests.

The to-do list is the same that same many couples face when planning a wedding: find a venue, print invitations, hire a photographer and arrange for food and entertainment. Remy, 44, says they have to find a place soon because venues are being booked quickly.

"I imagine this wedding will be the whole shebang," Remy said.

Cindy Sproul co-owns North Carolina-based Rainbow Wedding Network, which produces gay and lesbian wedding expos in Seattle and other cities. Just since the election, she's seen a 30 to 40 percent increase in companies wanting to advertise with the company in Washington state.

Thousands of in-state residents, as well as those from nearby states that haven't legalized gay marriage, are expected to exchange vows in Washington in the coming years.

"There are a lot of couples that will cross state lines to get married. Maybe they want to make a long weekend of it," Sproul said. "I imagine there will be couples from Oregon who will come up."

In Maine, a Portland man has launched what he's calling the first online wedding directory, www.gayweddingsinmaine.com, connecting same-sex couples with gay-friendly businesses. Sid Tripp, who owns a marketing company and is president of the DownEast Pride Alliance gay business networking group, said Maine's new law should benefit such companies as tuxedo rental shops, caterers, florists, photographers, jewelers, limousine services, musicians and DJs.

"Maine has positioned itself as a progressive, forward-looking state that is welcoming to everybody," Tripp said. "The gays will see this as a sign of solidarity with them, and they'll be coming here in droves wanting to get married."

HIPSTERS
FROM PAGE 3

Yiddish poetry and the other for bike lovers (hipsters love their fixies).

At 55, Shel Horowitz is more hippie than hipster. The expert on green and ethical marketing hipped up his Hanukkah more than a decade ago, when he moved with his wife and two small kids into a 1743 farmhouse in the western Massachusetts town of Hadley.

"We have beautiful starry skies," he said. "We light four menorahs, put them in different windows and walk around the outside of the house to look at them while singing 'Oh Chanukah.' It's just a special thing we do as a family."

His kids, now 19 and 24, still make their way home for the annual walk around the house. For Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, you can find the Horowitzes up a mountain and in a stream near their solarized colonial.

Rafi Samuels-Schwartz, managing editor of the 'zine Heeb, "the new Jew review," has a few thoughts on hipster Hanukkah:

• "Jewish hipsters make their latkes out of organic, locally sourced potatoes from their CSA of choice," he wryly observed. "They can go with standard recipes, or think globally with Mexican, Indian or Korean versions."

• "While averse to wearing yarmulkes themselves, hipsters make sure their pets are dressed appropriately. That said, those Hanukkah sweaters from Geltfiend are pretty great."

• "Forget 'A Christmas Story' or 'It's a Wonderful Life,'" urged Samuels-Schwartz. "Jewish hipsters watch Hanukkah horror movies," he said, with fans of the genre anxiously anticipating the slasher "Hanukkah."

"Until the day 'Hanukkah' is actually made, they usually stick with Jonathan Kesselman's 'The Hebrew Hammer,'" he said.

As for the actual Festival of Lights, said Samuels-Schwartz: "For a while, Jewish hipsters celebrated Festivus, but it's just become way too commercial. Now they just celebrate Christmas."

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TREATMENT
FROM PAGE 1

ities that doctors call "cancer" are not a health threat or truly malignant. There is no good way to tell which ones are, so many women wind up getting treatments like surgery and chemotherapy that they don't really need.

Men have heard a similar message about PSA tests to screen for slow-growing prostate cancer, but it's relatively new to the debate over breast cancer screening.

"We're coming to learn that some cancers — many cancers, depending on the organ — weren't destined to cause death," said Dr. Barnett Kramer, a National Cancer Institute screening expert. However, "once a woman is diagnosed, it's hard to say treatment is not necessary."

He had no role in the study, which was led by Dr. H. Gilbert Welch of Dartmouth Medical School and Dr. Archie Bleyer of St. Charles Health System and Oregon Health & Science University. Results are in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Breast cancer is the leading type of cancer and cause of cancer deaths in women worldwide. Nearly 1.4 million new cases are diagnosed each year. Other countries screen less aggressively than the U.S. does. In Britain, for example, mammograms are usually offered only every three years and a recent review there found similar signs of overtreatment.

The dogma has been that screening finds cancer early, when it's most curable. But screening is only worthwhile if it finds cancers destined to cause death, and if treating them early improves survival versus treating when or if they cause symptoms.

Mammograms also are an imperfect screening tool — they often give false alarms, spurring biopsies and other tests that ultimately show no cancer was present. The new study looks at a different risk: Overdiagnosis, or finding cancer that is present but does not need treatment.

Researchers used federal surveys on mammography and cancer registry statistics from 1976 through 2008 to track how many cancers were found early, while still confined to the breast, versus later, when they had spread to lymph nodes or more widely.

The scientists assumed that the actual amount of disease — how many true cases exist — did not change or grew only a little during those three decades. Yet they found a big difference in the number and stage of cases discovered over time, as mammograms came into wide use.

Mammograms more than doubled the number of early-stage cancers detected — from 112 to 234 cases per 100,000 women. But late-stage cancers dropped just 8 percent, from 102 to 94 cases per 100,000 women.

The imbalance suggests a lot of overdiagnosis from mammograms, which now account for 60 percent of cases that are found, Bleyer said. If screening were working, there should be one less patient diagnosed with late-stage cancer for every additional patient whose cancer was found at an earlier stage, he explained.

"Instead, we're diagnosing a lot of something else — not cancer" in that early stage, Bleyer said. "And the worst cancer is still going on, just like it always was."

Researchers also looked at death rates for breast cancer, which declined 28 percent during that time in women 40 and older — the group targeted for screening. Mortality dropped even more — 41 percent — in women under 40, who presumably were not getting mammograms.

"We are left to conclude, as others have, that the good news in breast cancer — decreasing mortality — must largely be the result of improved treatment, not screening," the authors write.

The study was paid for by the study authors' universities.

"This study is important because what it really highlights is that the biology of the cancer is what we need to understand" in order to know which ones to treat and how, said Dr. Julia A. Smith, director of breast cancer screening at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York. Doctors already are debating whether DCIS, a type of early tumor confined to a milk duct, should even be called cancer, she said.

Another expert, Dr. Linda Vahdat, director of the breast cancer research program at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, said the study's leaders made many assumptions to reach a conclusion about overdiagnosis that "may or may not be correct."

"I don't think it will change how we view screening mammography," she said.

A government-appointed task force that gives screening advice calls for mammograms every other year starting at age 50 and stopping at 75. The American Cancer Society recommends them every year starting at age 40.

Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, the cancer society's deputy chief medical officer, said the study should not be taken as "a referendum on mammography," and noted that other high-quality studies have affirmed its value. Still, he said overdiagnosis is a problem, and it's not possible to tell an individual woman whether her cancer needs treated.

"Our technology has brought us to the place where we can find a lot of cancer. Our science has to bring us to the point where we can define what treatment people really need," he said.

Community Workshop



DOWNTOWN Specific Plan

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Internment camp letters found in Denver building

COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press

DENVER Some letters arriving from Japanese-American internment camps during World War II were very specific, asking for a certain brand of bath powder, cold cream or cough drops — but only the red ones. Others were just desperate for anything from the outside world.

"Please don't send back my check. Send me anything," one letter said from a California camp on April 19, 1943.

The letters, discovered recently during renovations at a former Denver pharmacy owned by Japanese-Americans, provide a glimpse into life in some of the 10 camps where 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, from the West Coast were forced to live during the war.

They were written in English and in Japanese, expressing the kinds of mundane needs and wants of everyday life, such as medicine as well as condoms, cosmetics and candy.

About 250 letters and postcards, along with war-time advertisements and catalogs, came tumbling out of the wall at a historic brick building on the outskirts of downtown. The reason they were in the wall and how they got there are a mystery, particularly because other documents were out in the open.

The letters haven't been reviewed by experts, though the couple that found them has contacted the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles to gauge interest in the missives.

It wasn't unusual for internees to order items from mail order catalogs or from the many companies that placed ads in camp newspapers, selling everything from T-shirts to soy sauce, said Alisa Lynch, chief of interpretation at the Manzanar National Historic Site, which was the location of a camp south of Independence, Calif.

They earned up to $19 a month doing jobs at camps and some were able to bring money with them before they were interned, Lynch said.

The building where the documents were discovered had been vacant for seven years when Alissa and Mitch Williams bought it in 2010.

The T.K. Pharmacy was originally owned by Thomas Kobayashi, a native Coloradan of Japanese descent, but during the war it was run by his brother-in-law, Yutaka "Tak" Terasaki, who died in 2004, according to his younger brother, Sam Terasaki of Denver.

Sam Terasaki was in the service then and doesn't remember his brother talking about taking orders from internment camps. He said his brother may have gotten involved because of his longtime participation in the Japanese American Citizens' League, a national group dedicated to protecting Japanese-Americans' civil rights. He said his brother's wife worked as a secretary to Gov. Ralph Carr, who took the politically unpopular stand of welcoming Japanese-Americans to the state.

Some writers noted seeing ads for the pharmacy. One letter from a man who said he arrived at the Poston, Ariz., camp "half dead" addressed his letter directly to "Tak" and asked for chocolate. "I had to wait twenty hours in the middle of the desert at (illegible) Junction, no place to go, just wait," he wrote.

The other camps the letters came from included Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Gila River in Arizona, and others in McGehee, Ark., Topaz, Utah and Granada in southern Colorado.

Japanese-Americans who lived in Colorado and elsewhere in the interior West weren't interned.

The relatively small but stable Japanese-American community that began taking hold in Colorado in the 1880s provided a support network for those forcibly moved from California to the state camp, state historian Bill Convery said.

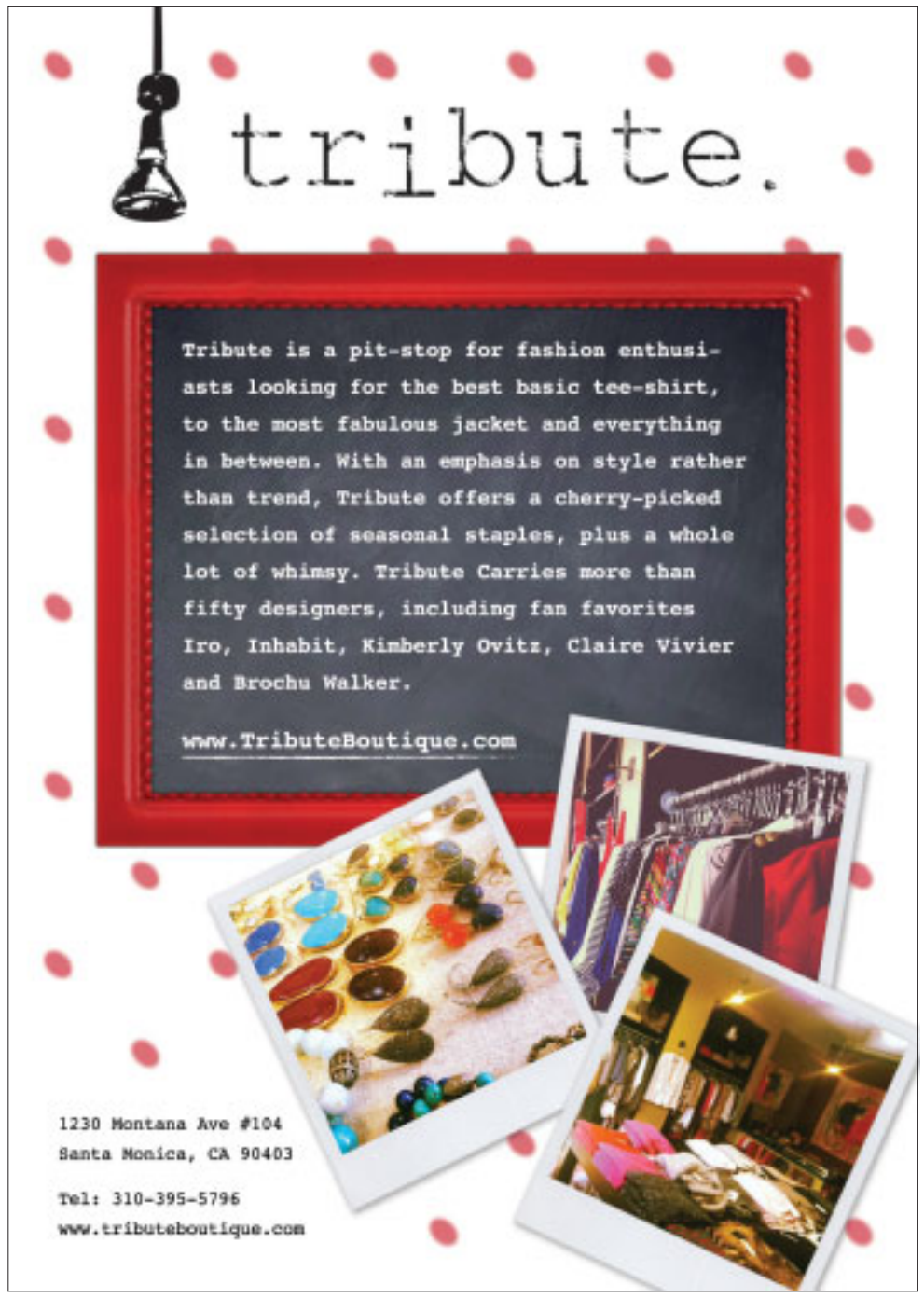
Internees at that camp were able to leave with permission and could visit Denver as well as a fish market near the camp opened by two men of Japanese ancestry. It was relocated to Denver after the war.

Convery said the pharmacy could have been one of the few Japanese-American owned pharmacies in the West, since business owners on the coast were interned. It could offer products favored by internees — who had one week to pack up two suitcases and sell any assets — and they might have felt more comfortable dealing with a Japanese-American-owned company, given tensions during the war.

Internees couldn't bring much to camp and they didn't know where they were headed or how long they'd be gone. "So as much as anything could soften the blow of that unimaginable situation, those businesses did what they could," Convery said.

Alissa Williams has been poring over the letters and wondering about the stories behind the polite orders, including one for diabetes medicine. Her grandmother, aunt and uncle suffer from the disease and she wondered what they would do without medicine. The mother of a 2-year-old, she also thought about how she would cope in such a camp.

"I can put myself in their place, they're having kids, they're sick and they can't get what they need," she said. "... But no one is complaining."





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NYC tourism gearing up for holidays post-Sandy

BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK The Big Apple's tourism sector is gearing up for the holidays and trying to get out the message that all but a handful of attractions and hotels are open following Superstorm Sandy.

The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the New York Aquarium at Coney Island remain closed, along with a couple of Lower Manhattan hotels: the Best Western Seaport Inn Downtown, the Holiday Inn Express New York City on Wall Street, and the World Center Hotel. But the 9/11 Memorial park downtown is back to normal, as is nearly all subway service. Gas rationing ends in the city Friday.

The tree at Rockefeller Center is scheduled to be lit Nov. 28 and performances of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular run as scheduled through Dec. 30.

"We had a tragic incident but we are back except for the recovery in parts of the city that are more residential," said George Fertitta, CEO of NYC & Company, the city's marketing and tourism organization.

Neighborhoods that still have a long way to go in terms of cleanup and recovery are mostly in outlying sections of the city, in Queens, Staten Island and Brooklyn. The cruise ship Queen Mary 2, which homeports at the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal, will be making its Nov. 27 port call in Manhattan while cleanup continues in Brooklyn.

Still, effects of the storm are still being felt in some sectors. Theater attendance was nearly 6 percent lower last week than the same week a year ago, according to the Broadway League, which said 236,771 people attended shows the week ending Nov. 18, compared to 250,983 a year earlier. Gross sales for the week were $20.8 million, also a slight drop from a year ago of $22.9 million.

The Museum of Modern Art reported 26 percent fewer visitors — a drop of about 20,000 people — between Oct. 29 and Nov. 11, compared to the same period last year. The American Museum of Natural History said a dropoff in attendance immediately following the hurricane has stabilized, and the museum is expecting big crowds the Friday after Thanksgiving, traditionally one of its busiest days each year.

Hotel occupancy for the week ending Nov. 10 was also down slightly in New York City by about 1 percent compared to the same week the previous year, with rates flat, according to the latest figures from STR, which collects hotel industry data.

Scott Berman, a leisure industry analyst for PricewaterhouseCoopers, says those figures reflect a "relatively robust" market even though demand for New York hotel rooms "changed dramatically" for two weeks.

"You had displaced residents, stranded tourists, and demand from the infrastructure industry — power crews, insurance agents — filling hotels in the New York market," he said.

Berman said the shutdown of New York's airports for several days also had ripple effects. "The rest of the country was paralyzed for a week," he said. "Every top 25 market tracked by STR had a significant revpar (revenue per available room) decline for the same day, same week."

But he added that history has shown that disasters can sometimes be a prelude to redevelopment and resurgent tourism, as was seen in New Orleans following Katrina.

"Longer term outlooks in a post-disaster environment, and this goes for the New Jersey coast, Atlantic City and the New York metro area, is that it gives some owners a chance to find what's broken and fix it," he said. "Generally the hotel industry comes through stronger,"

Fertitta says the city expects to break tourism records this year despite the drop related to the storm. "We expect to hit about 52 million visitors, up from 50.9 million in 2011," he said. "We expect half of that lost business to rebook before the end of the year."

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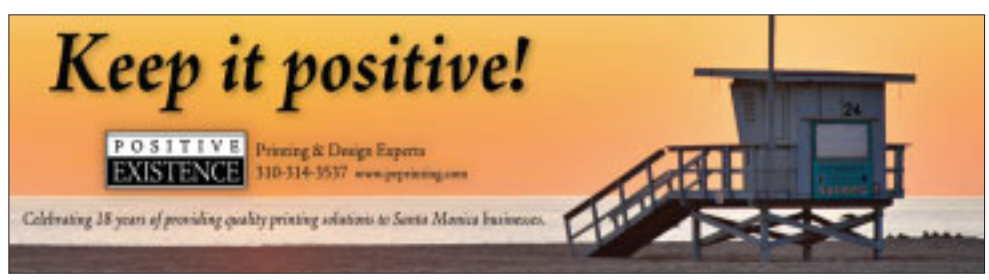
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Unions flexed muscles in state election campaigns

SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON From California to Maine, unions used their political muscle in the recent elections to help install Democratic governors, build labor-friendly majorities in state legislatures and defeat ballot initiatives against them.

The combination of union money and member mobilization helped Democrats take control of state legislatures in Maine and Minnesota.

In Michigan, voters repealed a law that allowed cities in financial distress to suspend collective bargaining contracts. But unions lost there on an effort to make collective bargaining rights a part of the state constitution.

In New Hampshire, unions helped Maggie Hassan win the governor's race. Unions spent millions backing Hassan with television ads and an extensive get-out-the-vote operation because she opposes a right-to-work bill to ban labor-management contracts that require affected workers to be union members or pay union fees.

In perhaps their most important victory, unions defeated a California ballot measure that would have prohibited them from collecting money for political purposes through payroll deductions.

"The unions must be fairly happy with themselves," said Gary Chaison, professor of industrial relations at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. "These are positive signs, particularly saving their political life in California."

While re-electing President Barack Obama was labor's highest Election Day priority, unions invested major resources in state races where they have been fighting efforts by governors and state lawmakers to restrict bargaining rights or dilute union power.

The victories could mark a turnaround of sorts for unions nearly two years after Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker announced plans to strip teachers, nurses and other public employees of most collective bargaining rights. Walker, a Republican, justified the move as necessary to trim the state's budget shortfall.

Since then, unions have been fighting dozens of measures around the country targeting labor rights. They failed earlier this year to recall Walker from office, but a judge has declared parts of the Wisconsin law unconstitutional.

It wasn't all good news for unions on election night. They lost a first-of-its-kind ballot effort in Michigan that would have enshrined collective bargaining rights in the state constitution.

Unions saw the measure as a way to prevent Republicans from passing a right-to-work law that would have ended unions' ability to collect fees from nonunion workers. Critics said it would cause the repeal of dozens of state laws and interfere with local officials trying to control their budgets. One union-backed group spent at least $6.5 million on TV ads supporting it.

Labor's victories came at a steep cost. Unions and other Democratic interests poured at least $75 million into the effort to defeat California's Proposition 32.

Unions are not so much thriving as surviving.

"Thanks to union dues, it's a self-replenishing stream," said Bill Whalen, a fellow at the conservative Hoover Institution. "They still have a sea of money to spend and they prove quite adept at winning political arguments."

After playing defense in more than a dozen states for the past two years, unions see no other choice. Public employee unions now make up a majority of the nation's 14.8 million union members, but they have taken a hit as state and local budgets shrink, forcing layoffs and cuts to salaries and pension benefits.

The 1.3-million-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the nation's largest public employee union, has lost about 10 percent of its active members since 2009. The National Education Association, which represents public school teachers, lost more than 100,000 members since 2010.

"I'm not going to be cocky about anything," AFL-CIO political director Mike Podhorzer said. "There are still plenty of Republicans in office and we don't expect them to change their spots overnight."

Next to winning Obama's re-election, defeating Proposition 32 in California was labor's top goal. Prohibiting unions from collecting money for political activities through paycheck deductions would have deprived them of tens of millions of dollars for donations to candidates and financing campaigns.

In New Hampshire, unions were worried that the state legislature had passed right-to-work measures in the previous two legislative sessions. But lawmakers could not override a veto by Democratic Gov. John Lynch. Hassan's victory gives unions similar protection.

In Minnesota, gaining Democratic control of the state legislature could help the Service Employees International Union change a state law to allow the union to organize more than 12,000 day care providers in the state.

Perhaps the largest issue looming for public employee unions in the next few years is the shortfall in government pension systems, which have sunk deeper into the red as the recession has taken its toll. Cities and states around the country — led by Republicans and Democrats alike — have been reducing promised benefits to public workers and retirees as they attempt to cover shortfalls. States need about $1.4 trillion to fulfill their pension obligations, according to the Pew Center on the States.

Over the summer, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board approved new accounting rules for pensions that will make some underfunded plans look worse when the rules begin to go into effect late next year. State and local governments will have to print their total unfunded liability on the front of financial statements.

"It's going to help identify those plans in serious trouble, which could help policy makers and the public be aware of the need for action," said David Draine, a researcher who tracks pension changes at the Pew Center.

That could increase pressure on elected officials to reduce benefits and make bargaining more difficult for unions.

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **59.7°**

FRIDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
WNW swell easing through the day; SSW swell holds steady; Light AM winds

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 4 ft
WNW and SSW swells fade; plus sets at top combo spots

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to chest high
Leftover WNW and SSW swell energy; light morning winds; potential small new WNW swell filling in late

Tides

Are very manageable to start the week, becoming more of an issue as the tide swings are more extreme towards the end of the 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 **November 19, 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 -- 3
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 29 / 24
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, Stoneblossom 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 in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Winter Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	B	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	A	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
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+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	B
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+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
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+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	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 CIWW jetty).	B	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

LEGEND
DRY – each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone.
WET – grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns – no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a 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's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Irish trying to turn USC rivalry their way

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

The Notre Dame-USC rivalry has been defined by dominance over the last four decades. Two of college football's most celebrated teams have alternated long runs of success in the series that have coincided with the ups and downs of the programs.

When the Fighting Irish and Trojans meet for the 84th time on Saturday in the Los Angeles Coliseum, Notre Dame will be playing for a spot in the national championship while USC will be trying to salvage a disappointing season.

The Irish appear primed to turn the rivalry back in their direction after a decade of USC ownership.

During Southern California's most recent dynasty, coach Pete Carroll's Trojans reeled off eight straight victories against the Irish from 2002-09, the longest winning streak by USC in the series.

In 2010, Brian Kelly's first season as Notre Dame coach, the Irish snapped that streak, 20-16, with the help of a memorable dropped pass that would have been a sure touchdown. USC came right back and won last season in South Bend, Ind., 31-17, to make it nine out of 10.

"Well, it's not a great rivalry right now," Kelly said this week. "We haven't won enough games. They've had the upper hand on this. We need to make this a rivalry."

From the mid-80s through the mid-90s, it was USC that was trying to make it a rivalry. As USC struggled to hold its place among the elite programs in college football, the Irish often contended for national titles under Lou Holtz and went 12-0-1 against the Trojans.

That number helps explain the relatively short tenures of coaches Ted Tollner (1983-86) and Larry Smith (1987-92) at USC.

Lane Kiffin is hoping his USC career is more like Carroll's than Smith's, but it has certainly been a tough season for the Trojans. They started the season, their first after a two-year, NCAA-imposed postseason ban, ranked No. 1, and with the presumptive Heisman Trophy front-runner in senior star quarterback Matt Barkley.

Maybe expectations were too high for a team that lacked depth and had some question marks on both lines. But few would have predicted that USC would head into its finale against Notre Dame 7-4 and unranked. Even more startling is that it's Notre Dame that will take the field Saturday as the unbeaten No. 1 team in the country, two victories from its first national championship since 1988.

The Fighting Irish started the season unranked. The last team to start out of the rankings and reach No. 1 was Missouri in 2007. The Tigers lost their final game before the bowls, falling to Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game, and lost a chance to play for the national title.

But maybe we shouldn't be so surprised about the Irish. Holtz, Dan Devine, Ara Parseghian and Frank Leahy all won national championships in their third season as Notre Dame coach, all beating USC along the way.

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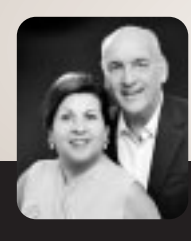


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Singing In The Rain (G) 1hr 43min
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AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

Life of Pi (PG) 2hrs 06min
10:15am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm, 7:45pm, 11:00pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
12:50pm, 8:20pm

Sessions (R) 1hr 38min
10:30am, 5:55pm

Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) 1hr 42min
3:30pm, 11:00pm

Wreck-It Ralph in 3D (PG) 1hr 48min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
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Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:15pm, 8:30pm, 11:20pm

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

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

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
12:15pm, 3:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
10:30am, 1:35pm, 4:45pm, 7:50pm, 10:50pm

Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG) 1hr 37min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
4:00pm

Searching For Sugar Man (PG13) 1hr 40min
1:40pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Holy Motors (NR) 2hrs 9min
1:20pm 4:10pm 7:00pm 9:50pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
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Red Dawn (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:25pm

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

Rise of the Guardians (PG) 1hr 37min
10:35am, 1:20pm, 4:05pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

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

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:45pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

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A Late Quartet (R) 1hr 59min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

A Royal Affair (R) 2hrs 32min
1:30pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

Cloud Atlas (R) 3hrs 7min

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

Be naughty and nice tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Someone might not have adjusted to your new spirited, spontaneous self. By doing the unexpected, you irritate this person and cause him or her to question the status quo. Stay level and refuse to respond to his or her reaction, and you both will be better off. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Stand back and rethink a personal situation. You could be trying to absorb sudden insights, which might be uncomfortable. By detaching some, you will get yet a different perspective. Realize the implications of trying to control a situation. Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ If you can, the wise move would be to steer clear and not get involved in controversy. Your depth and ability to move past an immediate problem will play an important role. Tonight: Find your friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Take a stand, whether you are comfortable doing so or not. Someone who has clout could be very challenging. You do not need to play into this person's power play. You simply must support yourself in what you want. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to others. You might be overwhelmed by someone's strong drive. This person could deliver surprising news of a different variety each time you meet up. Reorganize your day in the best way possible. Tonight: Reach out to someone at a distance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Deal with people in general on a one-on-one level. Brainstorm away. Use your creativity to the max, and know what you want. A child or new friend could capture your interest. Tonight: Meet up with a loved one for dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others, as everyone around you seems to have a very clear idea of what he or she wants. Loosen up and relax with a friend or two, and get into a game while others are out shopping. A family member could be testy. Tonight: Just go along with someone's plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Move forward with a project or choose to join a friend this Black Friday. You could get a lot done quickly and efficiently by working together. Call a partner if you are unsure about a purchase. Tonight: Could go into the wee hours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ As you set out to do some Christmas shopping, allow your creativity to emerge. You could be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. Nothing can ease the pressure like diving right in, but remember to maintain your budget. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ The unexpected occurs close to home. You might not be able or want to handle everything that comes down your path. After a while, you might decide to make a run for it, whether it's to join a friend or simply to get away from the uproar. Tonight: Make a to-do list.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You could be busy, as you start in on some holiday errands. You could be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. At the same time, you are working through some intense feelings from a different situation.Tonight: Hang with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Curb a need to be possessive by worrying less about others. You might suddenly encounter the perfect gift for a certain someone. Don't hesitate to get it. Tonight: Take the action back to your pad.

Happy birthday

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

This year you often become angry and frustrated if you feel that others are not being as sensitive as you would like them to be. Recognize that you are more dynamic than in past years. People could be taken aback by this new strength and energy. If you are single, you have many admirers circling around you. You might discover that the person you choose to relate to is volatile. Give yourself time to decide who is right for you. If you are attached, try not to be controlling. You cannot change your significant other, no matter what you do. Accept that fact, and there will be more understanding between you. ARIES can make you smile at the drop of a hat.

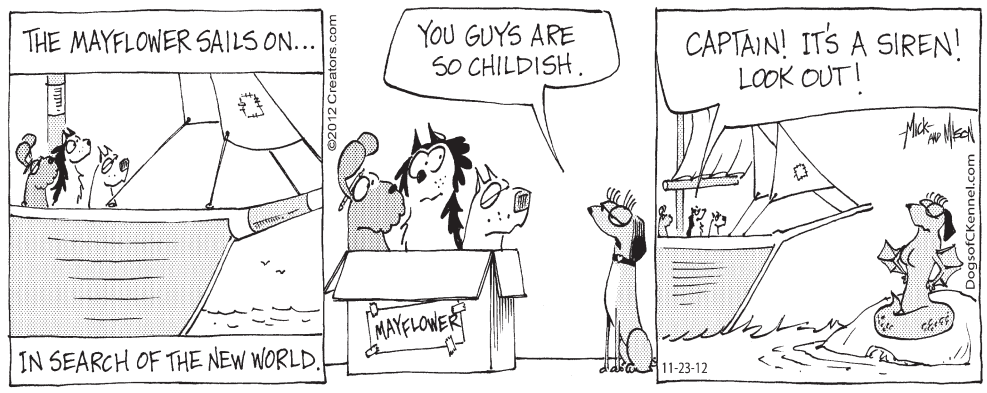
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



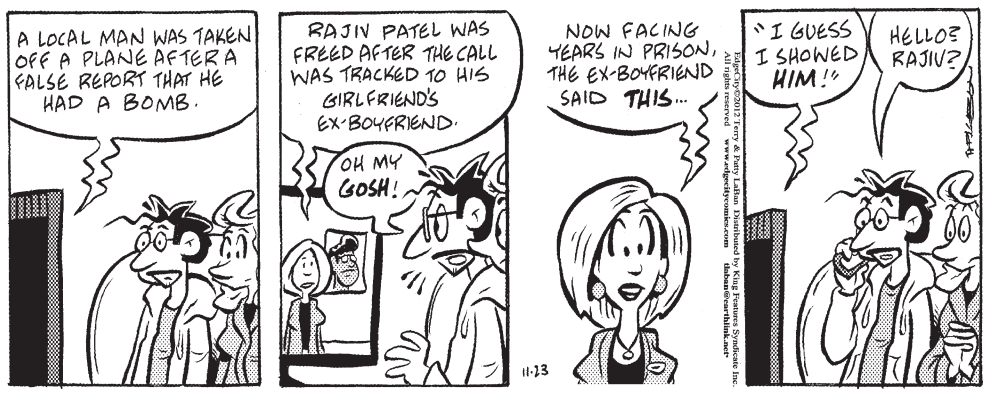
Strange Brew
By John Deering



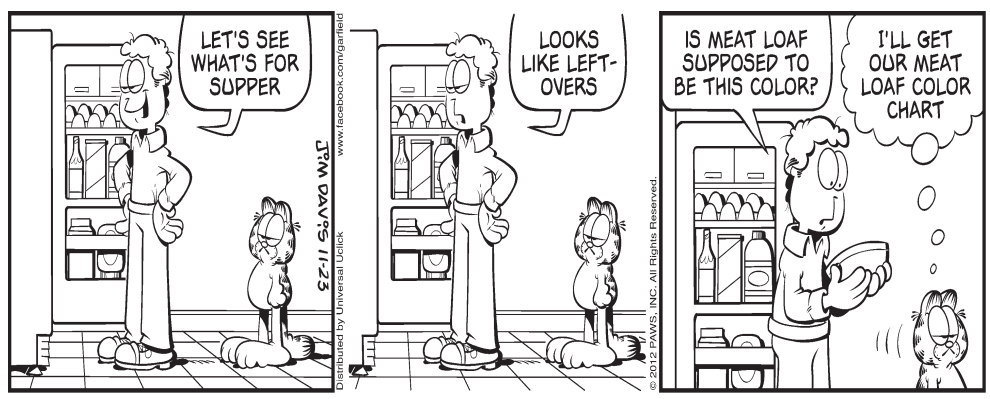
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



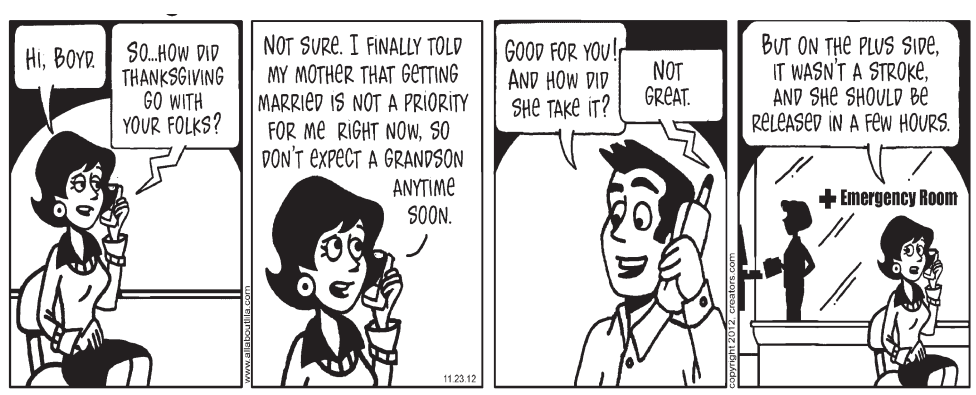
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 Briskness
6 School art staple
11 Plant pest
12 Lucy's pal
13 Paris divider
14 African lilies
15 Signing needs
17 Basilica part
18 Night tune
20 Tombstone lawman
22 "— live and breathe!"
23 Like Hercule Poirot
26 Singer Ronstadt
28 Slow tempo
29 With bated breath
31 Mercury or Mars
32 Road division
33 Money for the poor
34 Skated
36 Noted surrealist
38 Ranch rope
40 Out of bed
43 Computer key
44 Influence
45 Squander
46 Start

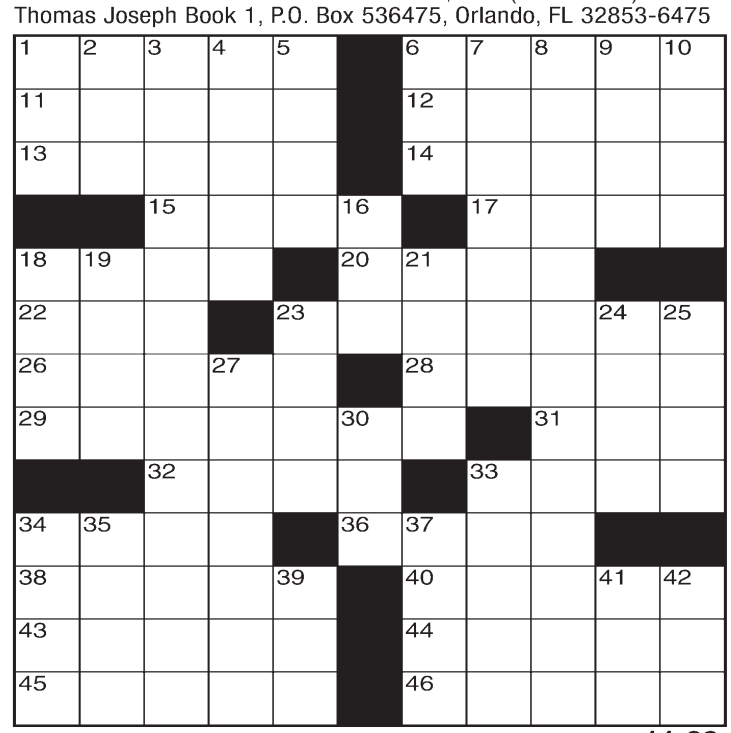
DOWN

1 Holds
2 Zoo favorite
3 Waybills
4 Fork features
5 Perfect place
6 Casserole bit
7 Not in custody
8 Supermarket aids
9 Casual tops
10 Different
16 Spot
18 Story
19 China setting
21 Friend
23 Loft setting
24 Proton's place
25 Auction bids
27 Determined
30 Was in front
33 Visitor from afar
34 Murdered
35 Turner of film
37 Jason's ship
39 Valuable rock
41 Hot time in Cannes
42 Undoing word

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



11-23



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Two FBI agents, providing a backstory to "underwear bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's Christmas-time 2009 attempt to bring down an airliner in Detroit, said they believe the man accustomed himself to the tricked-out scivvies beforehand by wearing them full-time for the three weeks leading up to his flight (except for bathing). The agents, speaking to Detroit's WXYZ-TV in September, suggested that the excessive wearing might have ruined the detonation mechanism.

■ Oops, My Bad: Hattiesburg, Miss., dentist Michael West has for years been a well-compensated, prosecution-friendly "expert" witness who claimed he could match bite marks on victims' bodies to bite patterns of whichever defendant the prosecutor wanted convicted. In "dozens" of cases, according to an Associated Press report, he helped persuade judges and jurors that his analysis was just as solid as fingerprint identification. (Other forensic experts regularly ridiculed West's "science.") In August, the Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, Miss., uncovered a 2011 deposition in which West finally admitted that his bite-mark analysis should not have been used in court cases. It is not yet known how many defendants' trials were tainted by West's testimony.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1955 – The Cocos Islands are transferred from the control of the United Kingdom to Australia.

1959 – General Charles de Gaulle, President of France, declares in a speech in Strasbourg his vision for a "Europe, "from the Atlantic to the Urals."

1963 – The BBC broadcasts the first ever episode of Doctor Who (starring William Hartnell) which is the world's longest running science fiction drama.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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