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DECEMBER 22-23, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 36

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

CASA'S NEW COCKTAILS
SEE PAGE 9

THE WHERE DID EVERYONE GO? ISSUE

Muffler reduces airplane noise at SMO, tests show

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily press staff writer

SMO Preliminary results of a test measuring the sound reduction capacity of a muffler on a small airplane are in, and it looks like residents near Santa Monica Airport may have gotten an early Christmas present.

The muffler, manufactured by the German company Gomolzig, took the maximum volume of the Cessna 172 airplane down from 74.7 decibels to 71.4 decibels, according to early results from SMO staff.

That was actually a smaller reduction than measured by community members stationed in the Sunset Park neighborhood, who were using professional sound equipment to measure the noise as a resident would actually experience it from their homes.

"Subjectively, I noticed a significant reduction in the noise impact with the muffler installed," said John Fairweather, founder of Community Against Santa Monica Airport Traffic, or CASMAT. "It was noticeably quieter."

SEE MUFFLER PAGE 12



ASSIST

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Los Angeles D-Fenders basketball players Kevin Kruger, Anthony Stover and Renardo Sidney (right to left) help wrap gifts for kids at the Santa Monica-based nonprofit Connections for Children on Friday. Connections helps over 6,000 families each year find quality child care regardless of income.

Cops on the hunt for armed robbers

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Santa Monica police officers were on the hunt Friday for three masked robbers who made off with an undisclosed amount of cash from a local Jack in the Box after forcing two employees and a customer into a walk-in freezer.

The armed robbery at 802 Santa Monica Blvd. was reported about 3:55 a.m. Tuesday, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesman for the SMPD. When officers arrived they made contact with witnesses who told them that three men wearing ski masks came into the fast-food restaurant, one with a knife in hand, and ordered an employee and a customer into the freezer.

After grabbing the cash, a second employee was forced into the freezer and the suspects fled in a late model, gold-colored Chevy Suburban.

All three suspects were described as males, possibly Hispanic, standing around 5 feet, 7 inches to 5 feet, 10 inches tall with dark colored jackets, blue jeans and gloves.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is urged to contact detectives at (310) 458-8960 or the SMPD (24 hours) at (310) 458-8495.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can call WeTip at (800) 78-CRIME (27463), or submit the tip online at www.wetip.com. Tipsters will remain completely anonymous and can be eligible for a reward, up to $1,000. People can also contact Crime Stoppers by either calling (800) 222-TIPS, texting or by visiting their website at www.lacrimestoppers.org. Callers may remain anonymous and can qualify for a $1,000 reward.

kevinh@smdp.com

Click, print, shoot: Downloadable guns possible

BY JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Downloading a gun design to your computer, building it with a three-dimensional printer that uses plastics and other materials, and firing it minutes later. No background checks, no questions asked.

Sound far-fetched? It's not. And that is disquieting for gun control advocates.

Rep. Steven Israel, D-NY, said the prospect of such guns becoming reality is reason enough for the renewal of the Undetectable Firearms Act, which makes it illegal to build guns that can't be detected by

SEE GUNS PAGE 10

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Support Groups

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- Transitions Support Group . . .Thursdays, 1–2:30 pm
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- Loss Support Group . . . . . Tuesdays, 1-2:30 pm
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- Women's Support Group . . . . . Mondays, 2–3:30 pm
  A safe place for women to share the pain and pleasure of life.
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  – or – Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 pm
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012

Glide on 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.

Here comes Santa Claus
Malibu Country Mart
3835 Cross Creek Rd., Malibu,
11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Santa and his reindeer will make a visit to the mart just in time for Christmas. He'll arrive at 11 a.m. with photos from 12 p.m. — 3 p.m. There will be strolling carolers to finish off the day from 1 p.m. — 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.malibucountrymart.com.

Lots of blocks
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Kids ages 4 and up are invited to build something amazing with Lego blocks during this regular event. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012

The good stuff
Santa Monica Airport
3100-3000 Airport Ave.
8 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Any collectors on your holiday gift list? Stop by to browse the antiques, collectibles and crafts at this market just days before Christmas. For more information, call (323) 933-2511.

Holiday treats
Main Street Farmers' Market
Main Street at Ocean Park Boulevard, 9:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
This is a perfect chance to finish your shopping for holiday feasts. There's plenty of produce and even cut flowers, breads, cheeses and live music. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Be their guest
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Explore the fully-restored guest house with a Santa Monica Conservancy docent. Tours are free and last approximately 30 minutes. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Siddown already
Ruskin Group Theatre, 3000 Airport Ave., 2 p.m.
Critically acclaimed during its original NYC run, 20 years ago, "SIDDOWN!!! Conversations with the Mob" takes viewers into the world of mob related activities through three one-acts; shedding light on the brutality, the absurd and the hysterical. For more information, call (310) 397-3244.

Shark smart
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
3:30 p.m.
Every Sunday you can watch and listen to an informative presentation about these often misunderstood animals while horn and swell sharks cruise around the tank, noses out of the water, mouths open, anticipating the meal to come. Expect a splash of seawater if you're close enough to the exhibit. For more information, call (800) HEAL-BAY.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL

New parking app launched

Driving around the block looking for a parking space could soon be a thing of the past in Santa Monica thanks to the release of a new parking app for the iPhone.

Santa Monica Parking, powered by ParkMe, provides real-time parking information for the city's 28 lots, 12 structures and 5,967 on-street metered parking spaces, city officials said.



THERE'S A SPOT

iPhone users can download the app for free via the Apple Store by using the search string "Santa Monica Parking." An Android version will be available in the coming months.

Users can customize their parking options based on price, total time required for parking, and distance. These options can be changed at any time. City Hall has provided parking availability for lots and structures for several years. However, the added ability to show real-time availability of on-street metered spaces is an added bonus for those looking for parking, city officials said.

The technology works by leveraging existing infrastructure already in use by City Hall's recently deployed smart parking meters.

"We have a lot of parking available in Santa Monica and this app makes it easier than ever to find parking," said Don Patterson, assistant finance director. "During the holiday season we know that time gets tight for people and parking can get tight in Santa Monica as well. Our hope is that people will use the app to find parking in a tech-friendly and time-efficient way so that they have more time to do their shopping and celebrate the holidays."

Chief Information Officer Jory Wolf explains, "Santa Monica Parking is the latest city service geared towards mobile users. We're always interested in finding new ways to use technology to provide the public with the information and services they need."

City officials remind users to drive safely and not use the app while operating a motor vehicle.

– KEVIN HERRERA



GOING STRONG

Photo by Paul Alvarez Jr. *news@smdp.com*

Crossroads' Jason Ball goes up for a shot while New Roads' Mike Meller tries to draw the foul on Thursday. Crossroads won the intra-city matchup 56-43. It was Crossroads' first game without longtime coach Kevin Jackson, who resigned Thursday for personal reasons.

Signs suggesting better economy if 'cliff' is averted

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Fresh signs of a strengthening U.S. economy on Friday suggested that if Congress and the White House can avert the "fiscal cliff," the economic recovery might finally accelerate in 2013.

Consumers spent and earned more in November. And for a second straight month, U.S. companies increased their orders for a category of manufactured goods that reflects investment plans.

In light of the latest figures, some analysts said the economy could end up growing faster in the current October-December quarter — and next year — than they previously thought.

"I see momentum building," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. "If Washington makes the moves it needs to make, then the economy should pick up speed next year."

That's a big "if." House Republicans called off a vote on tax rates and left budget talks in disarray 10 days before the package of tax increases and spending cuts known as the fiscal cliff would take effect.

Still, helping lift the optimism of some analysts was a government report that consumer spending, which fuels about 70 percent of the economy, rose 0.4 percent in November compared with October. Spending had dipped 0.1 percent in October. But that decline was linked in part to disruptions from Superstorm Sandy.

Incomes rose 0.6 percent in November, the biggest gain in 11 months. It reflected a rebound in wages and salaries, which had been depressed in October. Damage from Sandy in the Northeast prevented some people from working at the end of October and reduced wages at an annual rate of $18 billion.

A separate report Friday showed that a category of durable-goods orders that tracks business investment surged 2.7 percent. That gain followed an upwardly revised 3.2 percent jump in October, the biggest in 10 months.

The back-to-back increases followed a period of weakness in so-called core capital goods that had raised concerns about business investment, a driving force in the economy.

The economy grew in the July-September

SEE **ECONOMY** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ideas on gun control

Editor:

Hand guns are very poor defensive weapons and are dangerous to those nearby.

I am a combat veteran. I spent six weeks in Army gunnery school learning to shoot every weapon, from .45 automatics and shotguns up to .50 caliber machine guns. I am a dead shot with a rifle.

I know it is difficult to hit a moving target with a hand gun, especially if you are not a trained shooter who regularly attends target practice. That is why police win all gun battles with armed criminals. The cops go to target practice, whereas criminals rarely do, if ever.

Furthermore, if you miss your target with a hand gun you could hit and kill or injure someone walking or driving by or in a nearby home.

Shotguns are much better and safer for defending your home. With a shotgun you can hardly miss and pellets have a short range.

If you wound an armed adversary with a hand gun they are still dangerous and could kill or injure you. Shots from a 12-gauge shotgun will disable them.

Women, if a man tries to pull you into his car, fight, struggle and scream. Try to pull away and run, even if he has a gun. The chances he will shoot are about 50-50 because he knows gun shots will attract nearby police. Even if he shoots, the chances are about one in 10 he will hit you. And even if it hits you, the chances that it will kill you are about one in five. Therefore, the chances you will be shot to death are probably two in 100. However, if he gets you in his car he will almost surely take you to a remote location and rape and kill you.

Hunting with a gun is not a sport because it is an unequal contest. Hunting bears, lions and coyotes with a knife would be a sport. Certainly hunters should not be allowed to use automatic weapons.

We should outlaw hand guns, automatic weapons and gun clips.

National Rifle Association members should be offered free sexual dysfunction treatments if they agree to give up their guns.

Edwin Stegman
Santa Monica

Call everyone out

Editor:

Responding to "Putting money where their mouth is," Letters to the Editor, Dec. 17, Jennifer and Theodore, I know this lady or the owner. She would not intentionally make the pain the nation is feeling any worse than it already is. Maybe the shock that we all feel might be the reason for the display still being there. Or maybe there are other reasons. I don't know.

But I do know this; if you want to be consistent here you need to be even more critical of the movie industry. Wasn't it so thoughtful that Tom Cruise postponed the release of a new movie because of the Newtown, Conn. tragedy? And the list goes on, as you both know.

Dennis Malm
Santa Monica



Your column here



Jerry Slavonia — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

A new era in higher education

FOR MANY OF US, THE NEW YEAR BRINGS a desire to look forward with a clear vision and a positive outlook, which is exactly what our higher education system needs. The U.S. will continue to experience dramatic shifts in the way education is accessed in the coming year. With a national unemployment rate of 7.7 percent, budget pressures on higher education funding from the government and student loan debt at an all-time high, our country is ready for a post-secondary education revolution.

As states continue to slash college budgets causing tuition fees to rise, students face more competitive college admissions and a higher tab to attend four-year institutions. This is a problem for our nation, let alone our economy, which is why we're going to see accelerated changes in how students access information to learn new skills, training programs and higher education in 2013.

The U.S. Department of Education estimates the average debt for a college student is $23,186. While most students who graduate earn $20,000 more in salary per year than students without a degree, the college dropout rate ranges from 35-78 percent depending on the type of four-year institution a student attends, according to a 2011 report from the National Center for Education Statistics.

Next year, students will tap into education technology and seek online support more so than ever before; they will begin to bridge the skills gap between their education and available jobs through community colleges and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs); and schools will begin to mine their students' academic data to help decrease dropout rates at their institutions.

This rise in education technology will be more prominent given the need to fill the estimated 3 million vacant jobs available today that require educated employees. Ed tech is now a multi-billion dollar industry serving students of any age, whether they are using tablets in the classroom, searching for education options online or taking MOOCs with companies like Coursera or Udacity for free.

While the future and benefits of MOOCs are unknown, their growth is undeniable; 2013 will be a defining year for their role in higher education. In addition, new apps, websites and MOONs (Massive Open Online Networks) will greatly impact how students learn and how teachers connect with them by using academic social networking services like GoingOn.com and Epernicus.com.

For those who aren't interested in online education, community colleges are rapidly becoming the popular choice for high school graduates and adult students, alike. "Community colleges and/or vocational schools are better than elite universities," said Dr. Adrian McIntyre, a cultural anthropologist at the University of California, Berkeley in an interview with CampusExplorer.com.

With many course offerings, a less intimidating academic environment for students who are unsure of what they want to pursue professionally and a lower cost for tuition, community colleges allow students to ease into their academic journey and find a career path that suits them, instead of paying the high cost of a traditional college. Plus, 25 percent of college students are now over 30 years old. These adult learners need flexibility for jobs and families, which community colleges can provide.

However, this is not to say four-year colleges will be obsolete, in fact, community colleges will simply help accommodate and direct students to institutions that fit their education and career goals. For some, a two-year program will lead to advanced degrees at traditional colleges. For others, vocational training programs will be a better choice.

At Campus Explorer.com, we believe college is going to be more rewarding if you know what you want out of it. And, according to a Pew Research Center study in 2011, 86 percent of college graduates said, "College has been a good investment for them personally." However, American students transfer schools at a rate of 60 percent, which can be costly and delay graduation.

As students become more proactive about what they want to learn through technology and more affordable higher education options, colleges are also looking to leverage data about their students to help them stay on track.

At schools like Arizona State University and University of Florida, eAdvising programs monitor a student's academic progress in order to graduate on time (and save money on unnecessary tuition costs). While some find these programs to be controversial because they limit the variety of courses a student can take, others believe they will help the schools guide students toward a degree more efficiently and reduce transfers and dropouts.

So why do students drop out? The 2011 "Pathways to Prosperity" study by the Harvard Graduate School of Education shows that students drop out because they are not being prepared for the rigors of academic work; inability to cope with the competing demands of study, family and jobs; and cost. Schools like A.S.U. hope that eAdvising will assist with the balance of academic rigor and mediate cost.

From the prevalence of online technologies and other digital resources, to the appeal of community colleges, 2013 will be an exciting year full of fresh changes for students and academic faculty. Education is an industry that is ripe for change right now. In 2013 we will begin to see how higher education moves to satisfy the changing needs our nation. Disruption is inevitable.

JERRY SLAVONIA is founder and CEO of Campus Explorer, which provides online tools for those interested in continuing their education. Learn more at www.campusexplorer.com/

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The Q Line

Right choice for mayor

Councilmember Pam O'Connor was selected to serve a fourth term as mayor by her peers on the City Council last week. Longtime member Kevin McKeown was again passed over for the post despite being a favorite among the electorate.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Should the council have given McKeown a chance to be the mayor or was the right decision made?

Here are your responses:

"THE COUNCIL ABSOLUTELY MADE THE wrong decision. They should have chosen Kevin McKeown to be the mayor. Even Susan Lucci got the best actress award after playing Erica Kane for so many years and being passed over. It's high time that Kevin McKeown was made mayor."

"IF KEVIN WANTS TO BE MAYOR HE should go where his obnoxious pontificating would be acceptable. His grandstanding style would mean we have a more laughable City Council than we do now. Pam is civilized and the better choice for our mayor."

"I THINK IT IS ABOUT TIME WE, THE people, elected our own mayor, as is done in most other cities, not only in California, but in the United States. I formerly lived in a city where the council member who got the most votes became mayor. And there were never any complaints or missteps, as we always have here. Also, if we learned that any members were owned, as so many of ours are, ... they would never be re-elected. Wake up Santa Monica ... before the next election."

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Kevin has been the only SMRR member who has any mind of his own and has voted against some of the overdevelopment and just another crooked scam by Pam. The reason he is not mayor is because he isn't sleazy enough for the other crooked commies from SMRR."

"THANK GOODNESS MCKEOWN WASN'T made mayor. He is a friend of renters' rights and no one else. O'Connor has overstayed her welcome too, so not a good choice. I'm sorry [Gleam] Davis, who is one of the few competent council members, wasn't given a chance. We have a very complex city that deals with budgets worth hundreds of millions of dollars. We need some smart people making decisions and not those who live in denial that we are in the center of the second largest U.S. city."

"A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO I MET OUR mayor on the street. She's an engaging sort. She's good, I suppose. But I think it's time to let somebody else in. But on the other hand, I guess she's OK."

"OF COURSE KEVIN MCKEOWN SHOULD be mayor, not because he has served on the City Council for 14 years, but because he is the only member of a corrupt city government who gives a damn about Santa Monica and those who live here. He has not made his position into a private business, which benefits only himself. All the others mouth platitudes about the city by the sea by trashing it as fast as they can, just for the fun of it, and of course, for all those bribes. Do we really want developers and tourist trappers bringing in more traffic, building tenements and using up precious resources? If not, vote the cabal out. There must be a few more competent, honest people like McKeown who would serve us so much better."

"I DEFINITELY THINK THAT KEVIN McKeown should have been given a chance to be mayor. In fact, I think that the whole council should be embarrassed for not having done so before this. Kevin McKeown is at every single event that is held in this city and he stays and he talks to people. He so obviously cares about our city and our citizens. He's had my vote for mayor all the way along the line. I'm just so disappointed in the other council members and terribly disappointed in Pam O'Connor for not passing the gavel over to Kevin. It should have been absolutely a no-brainer. It should have been by acclamation and not even voted on. For their petty little reasons they didn't do it. ... Kevin deserves a chance now."

"PAM THE SCAM IS JUST MORE SPAM from the commies from Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR). They're all marching like Nazis to their anti landlord, pro development and tourism dollars.

"THE SAME NIGHT HE WAS PASSED over for mayor again, Kevin McKeown saved a whole neighborhood of senior citizens at Village Trailer Park. We Santa Monicans know who's the real leader on the City Council. McKeown is the residents' mayor."

"YES, THE COUNCIL ABSOLUTELY SHOULD have been fair and selected Kevin McKeown for mayor. O'Connor now has been mayor four times in an 18-year period and her predecessor at least three times in 14 years. The imagery to the people is only one of apparent cronyism and that a mayor was selected to please the developers over the people. If it had been McKeown people would have felt more confidence that the process was fair and we all know that he deserved it. Not a good start! Seems like more of the same."

"THEY SHOULD PICK THE MAYOR BY using the Klingon method. One person proclaims themselves to be the mayor, and if someone objects a fight to the death occurs. Winner is the new mayor."

"IF, DURING HIS LONG TENANCY ON THE council, his colleagues have been unwilling to make McKeown figurehead mayor, we should defer to their judgment: They know him better than we do. Somebody's feelings are always getting hurt in politics; you don't let that guide decision-making."

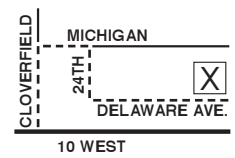


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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

California jobless rate dips below 10 percent

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. After a long twilight, business is booming again at Matt Construction as orders come in for hotels, office complexes and other high-end buildings.

The Los Angeles-area company increased hiring by about 20 percent this year, adding 30 employees as more and bigger construction jobs piled up.

Stories like that are a major reason that California's jobless rate dipped below 10 percent last month for the first time since the recession began. The 9.8 percent unemployment rate reported Friday by the Employment Development Department is down from 10.1 percent in October.

It marks the first time in nearly four years that the rate dropped into single digits. The last time was in January 2009, when the rate was 9.7 percent. The number of unemployed Californians dropped to 1.8 million, also the lowest since January 2009.

The improvement comes as something of a surprise, as leading economists had predicted that California's unemployment rate would remain in double digits through 2013, but Matt Construction Executive Vice President Al Matt said his Santa Fe Springs-based company has seen a stronger recovery from the height of the recession in 2009, when revenues dropped by half.

"Overall, our revenues are up in 2012 by a substantial amount, as much as 30 percent," he said "It looks like next year will be a similar sort of increase."

California has added more than 564,000 nonfarm payroll jobs since the recovery began in 2010. About 14.4 million Californians were working last month, though California still lagged behind the national unemployment rate of 7.7 percent.

"The job gains have been fairly widespread. We're finally seeing an increase in construction, particularly single-family housing. I think it's continued evidence that California's economy is growing and is recovering," said Jerry Nickelsburg, an economist who teaches at UCLA.

Experts say growth in single-family housing and construction are good indicators because they signal not only increased wealth, but relatively high-paying blue collar jobs and general optimism.

The danger of a downturn still lurks, however, most immediately in the form of the impending "fiscal cliff."

Business and government officials have warned that fallout from the fiscal cliff could halt California's recovery. Unless the federal government acts, Bush-era tax cuts and the end of a payroll tax holiday are set to expire, meaning smaller paychecks for workers just as the nation is struggling to recover from the Great Recession.

California's economy currently continues as one of the fastest-growing in the nation, and labor force numbers show that encouraged workers are coming back, Nickelsburg said.

High-paying technology jobs have helped lead the recovery, and the information sector had the biggest percentage gain in jobs over the last year, up nearly 6 percent.

Yet the recovery varies significantly across the state. Imperial County had a whopping 26.6 percent unemployment rate, while rates in many inland counties remained in the double digits.

The San Francisco Bay Area remained the state's growth leader, said Stephen Levy, a senior economist at the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. The rate was 5.8 percent in Marin County, while San Francisco and San Mateo counties hovered above 6 percent.

Growth in San Diego County also has been strong, Levy said. Los Angeles County and others nearby also have joined the recovery, while the Central Valley is slowly regrouping.

The capitol region, where government is a large employer, still is lagging, Levy said in an e-mail.

"There's no rebound at all," said Skip Brown, owner of road contractor Delta Construction Co. in Sacramento.

Government was the biggest loser in Friday's report, down 34,500 jobs in the last year, indicating an overall decline in government spending.

Budget cuts mean less money for government projects like road construction, Brown said. He hasn't taken a pay check from his own company in five years, and his salaried employees have eaten pay cuts up to 40 percent.

Meanwhile, stricter air pollution standards mean most of his heavy diesel equipment will be illegal to use in California in coming years. Brown said if he can't sell the 69-year-old firm started by his father, he'll close the doors once he can no longer operate his paving and grading equipment.

"They're going to save the world, and in the process they're putting hundreds of thousands of people out of work," he said of air regulators.

There will be more bad news unless Congress and the president take action before year's end to avert the fiscal cliff. Nearly 400,000 Californians face the loss of unemployment benefits next month if no deal is reached.

About $40 billion in extension benefits have been paid to the long-term unemployed in California over the last 4 1/2 years, officials said. The state sent letters last month notifying the unemployed Californians about the scheduled end of the federal extension program.







NRA calls for armed police officer in every school

BY NEDRA PICKLER & PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Guns and police officers in all American schools are what's needed to stop the next killer "waiting in the wings," the National Rifle Association declared Friday, taking a no-retreat stance in the face of growing calls for gun control after the Connecticut shootings that claimed the lives of 26 children and school staff.

"The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," said Wayne LaPierre, the group's chief executive officer.

Some members of Congress who had long scoffed at gun-control proposals have begun to suggest some concessions could be made, and a fierce debate over legislation seems likely next month. President Barack Obama has demanded "real action, right now."

The nation's largest gun-rights lobby broke its weeklong silence on the shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School with a defiant presentation. The event was billed as a news conference, but NRA leaders took no questions. Twice, they were interrupted by banner-waving protesters, who were removed by security.

Some had predicted that after the slaughter of a score of elementary-school children by a man using a semi-automatic rifle, the group might soften its stance, at least slightly. Instead, LaPierre delivered a 25-minute tirade against the notion that another gun law would stop killings in a culture where children are exposed daily to violence in video games, movies and music videos. He argued that guns are the solution, not the problem.

"Before Congress reconvenes, before we engage in any lengthy debate over legislation, regulation or anything else; as soon as our kids return to school after the holiday break, we need to have every single school in America immediately deploy a protection program proven to work," LaPierre said. "And by that I mean armed security."

He said Congress should immediately appropriate funds to post an armed police officer in every school. Meanwhile, he said the NRA would develop a school emergency response program that would include volunteers from the group's 4.3 million members to help guard children.

His armed-officers idea was immediately lambasted by gun control advocates, and not even the NRA's point man on the effort seemed willing to go so far. Former Republican Rep. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, whom LaPierre named national director of the program, said in an interview that decisions about armed guards in schools should be made by local districts.

"I think everyone recognizes that an armed presence in schools is sometimes appropriate," Hutchinson said. "That is one option. I would never want to have a mandatory requirement for every school district to have that."

He also noted that some states would have to change their laws to allow armed guards at schools.

Hutchinson said he'll offer a plan in January that will consider other measures such as biometric entry points, patrols and consideration of school layouts to protect security.

LaPierre argued that guards need to be in place quickly because "the next Adam Lanza," the suspected shooter in Newtown, Conn., is already planning an attack on another school.

"How many more copycats are waiting in the wings for their moment of fame from a national media machine that rewards them with wall-to-wall attention and a sense of identity that they crave, while provoking others to try to make their mark?" LaPierre asked. "A dozen more killers, a hundred more? How can we possibly even guess how many, given our nation's refusal to create an active national database of the mentally ill?"

While there is a federally maintained database of the mentally ill — people so declared by their states — a 1997 Supreme Court ruling that states can't be required to contribute information has left significant gaps. In any case, creation of a mandatory national database probably would have had little impact on the ability of suspected shooters in four mass shootings since 2011 to get and use powerful weapons. The other people accused either stole the weapons used in the attacks or had not been ruled by courts to be "mentally defective" before the shootings.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the NRA is blaming everyone but itself for a national gun crisis and is offering "a paranoid, dystopian vision of a more dangerous and violent America where everyone is armed and no place is safe."

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., called the NRA's response "both ludicrous and insulting" and pointed out that armed personnel at Columbine High School and Fort Hood could not stop mass shootings. The liberal group CREDO, which organized an anti-NRA protest on Capitol Hill, called LaPierre's speech "bizarre and quite frankly paranoid."

"This must be a wake-up call even to the NRA's own members that the NRA's Washington lobbyists need to stand down and let Congress pass sensible gun control laws now," CREDO political director Becky Bond said in a statement.

The NRA's proposal would be unworkable given the huge numbers of officers needed, said the president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Craig Steckler.

He pointed to budget cuts and hiring freezes and noted that in his hometown of Fremont, Calif., it would take half the city's police force to post one officer at each of the city's 43 schools.

The Department of Education has counted 98,817 public schools in the United States and an additional 33,366 private schools.

There already are an estimated 10,000 school resource officers, most of them armed and employed by local police departments, in the nation's schools, according to Mo Canady, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers.

Gun rights advocates on Capitol Hill had no immediate comment. They will have to walk a tough road between pressure from the powerful NRA, backed by an army of passionate supporters, and outrage over the Sandy Hook deaths that has already swayed some in Congress to adjust their public views.

A CNN/ORC poll taken this week found 52 percent of Americans favor major restrictions on guns or making all guns illegal. Forty-six percent of people questioned said government and society can take action to prevent future gun violence, up 13 percentage points from two years ago in the wake of the shooting in Tucson, Ariz., that killed six and wounded then Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.







Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Shaking things up at The Counter

PART OF THE FUN DURING THE HOLIDAY season is throwing the diet plans out the window and not holding back on all things delicious. After all, January is the time to start eating right and exercising too. And February is the month to gradually forget about all that stuff and revert back to your old ways.

Whatever your intentions may be, hamburger paradise The Counter has healthy or full-flavored options, as well as some seasonal treats to make you feel all Christmassy inside and out.

The Counter is synonymous with the custom built burger. At The Counter you can have it "your way" — even more than Burger King! With a clipboard and pencil you select from a multitude of toppings, buns, meats, cheeses and sauces to make your burger an original. Not exactly a novel idea now, but it was a new concept in 2003, responsible for expanding the franchise from Carlsbad, Calif. to Kuwait.

But the original, and therefor the best, is right here in Santa Monica east on Ocean Park Boulevard.

Along with the not-so-standard burgers, there are some sweet treats as well. With X-Mas around the corner, an eggnog shake seems to be quite an appropriate option. Unfortunately, The Counter's concoction comes sans the alcohol. However, there are some interesting shakes with booze to boot. The cherry chocolate pinot noir shake may be the only milkshake in the world with tannins on the glass. And the sweet peach shake with white wine and peach nectar offers a boozy treat and all the guilt too!

Those with more will power will be very satisfied with The Counter's healthy offerings. Vegan veggie patties, grilled chicken breast and gluten-free buns are all options on the checklist. There is even an option to scratch the bun all together and put your protein in a bowl on a bed of mixed greens and baby spinach.

The greatest thing about The Counter could also be the burger joint's biggest Achilles heal — the freedom to do to your burger whatever you want. All too often I've taken the clipboard and checked off a dozen or so toppings; a blueprint of doom that conjures a top-heavy burger with a bevy of clashing textures and flavors. Hard-boiled eggs, black bean salsa, Brie cheese, a fried egg, and tzatziki sauce, seamed like a good idea at the time, but lettuce, tomato, and mayo would have been the safe play.

Some people need order with their order like the institutionalized burger at The Father's Office. The Office Burger has no substitutions and no exceptions. Other people don't want to be tread on and therein lies the immense success of The Counter.

But with great freedom comes great responsibility. I acknowledge the almost endless options The Counter offers, but perhaps there should be some restrictions in place to prevent a burger abomination. And a pretzel bun too. The again, 'tis the season for excess.

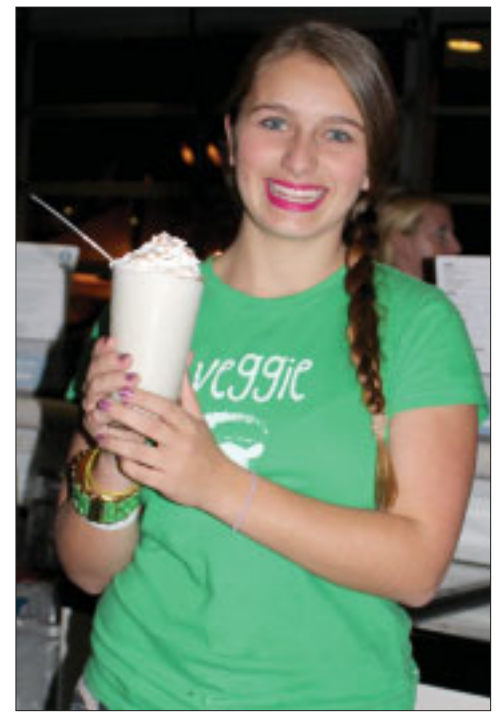


Photo by Michael Ryan

THICK! **Burger joint The Counter is shaking things up with their boozy milkshakes.**

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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Photo courtesy Catch Restaurant

FRESH EATS: **Chef Sven Mede's wagyu beef sliders are featured on a revamped lounge menu at Casa del Mar. Wash them down with a barrel-aged cocktail.**

Barrel up to the bar

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

I love dive bars; cheap drinks, surly bartenders and easy women.

But every so often I like to step my game up, put on the polished dress shoes and blazer and head out for some sophisticated fun. When I'm in the mood to bag a wealthy cougar with plenty of life experience, I tend to head over to one of Santa Monica's plush Ocean Avenue hotels.

There's an inherent excitement when hotel hopping because of the uncertainty. You never know what kind of stranger you'll strike up a conversation with over a smooth gin and tonic. They could be in town for business from Brazil, or on vacation and looking to make memories. It's almost like taking your own vacation, but without the baggage.

Casa del Mar, with its classic touches, plush leather sofas, soft lighting and live jazz, is one of my favorite haunts. Parking can be a pain, but isn't that what valet is for?

I stumbled in recently and was surprised to learn that there's a new chef, new lounge and restaurant menus and, most importantly for me, a refreshing libation concept that involves aging whole cocktails in American white oak barrels.

To set itself apart from the rest, Casa and its new director of food and beverage, Simon Sorpresi, have created a barrel-aged program in which individuals and companies can purchase their own barrel, have it engraved and filled with their favorite cocktail. The barrels start at $500, with prices varying depending on the booze inside.

"With every new cocktail that we create and age, we taste them periodically to observe the development," Sorpresi told me. "There is very little information and knowledge out there, so experimenting is very much a part of the course before we put [a] drink on the menu."

Aging whole cocktails is a relatively new fad in the ever-changing world of mixology. The trend started about three years ago and has been relatively slow to catch on, mainly because of the time it takes to create the perfect cocktail.

While $500 is too rich for my blood, I did try a few of the aged cocktails a la carte and highly recommend them, in particular the Model T, a combination of Herradura reposado tequila (basically a young anejo), Cointreau Noir (a combination of orange-flavored liqueur and Remy Martin cognac) and Alipus mezcal. The drink is aged for nearly six weeks, lending it a richer, smokier flavor. It's smooth and slightly tastes of citrus, making for a pleasing combination that went well with Chef Sven Mede's wagyu beef sliders served on a pepper glazed bun, and Farmers' Market-fresh beet salad with spicy arugula, creamy burrata and crunchy pistachio.

With an already impressive line-up of live bands and farm-fresh cocktails made by trained mixologists, the barrel-aged concept can only add to Casa's allure as one of the more refined places to imbibe.

My next mission is to try the revised menu at Casa's restaurant Catch, which is now seafood centric. More on that later. In the meantime, I think I need another drink — bartender!

kevinh@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Casa del Mar

OLD TIMERS: **New cocktails at Casa have been aged in white oak for over a month before serving.**







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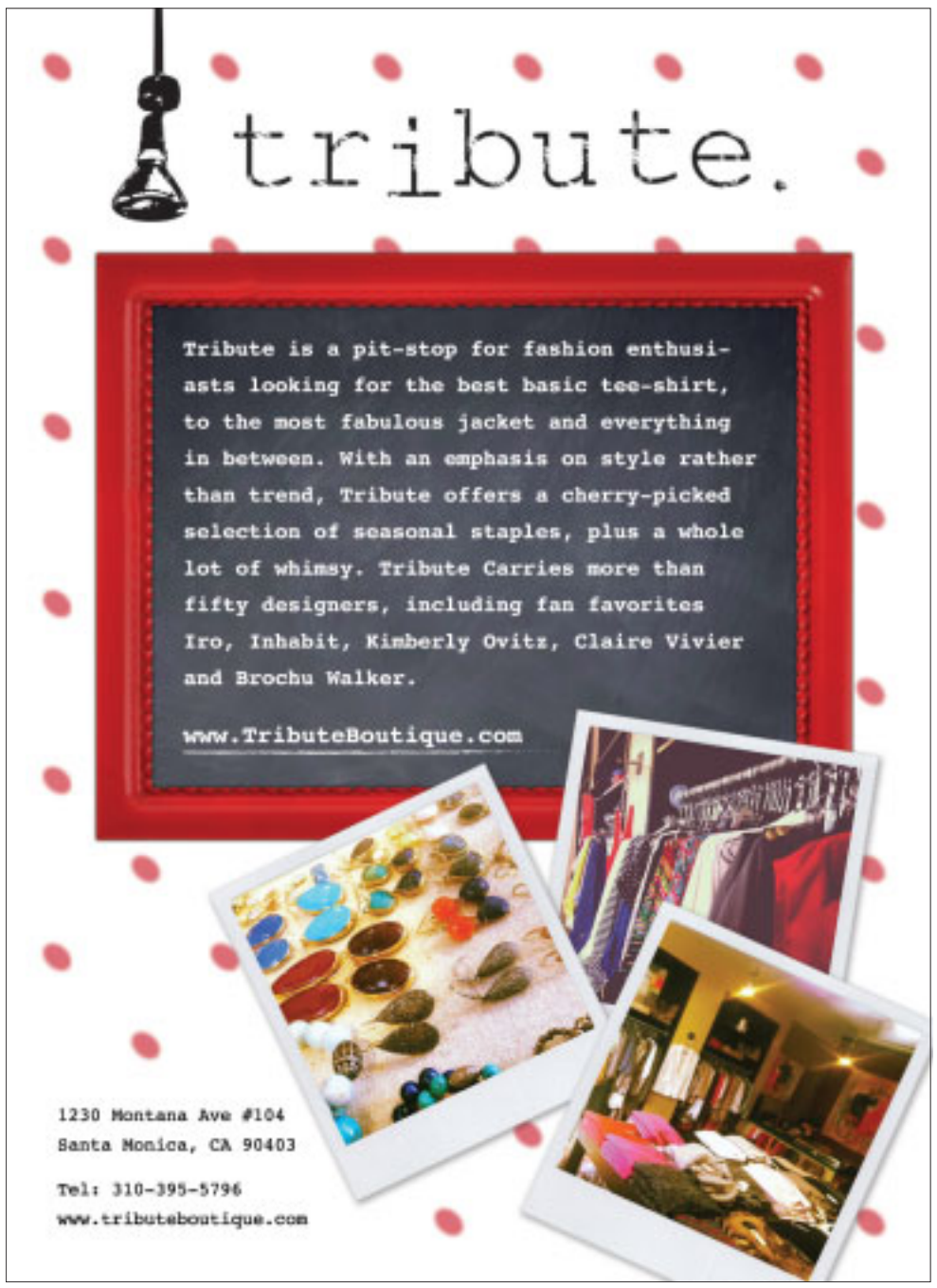
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GUNS

FROM PAGE 1

X-ray or metallic scanners. That law expires at the end of 2013.

At least one group, Defense Distributed, is claiming to have created downloadable weapon parts that can be built using the increasingly popular new-generation of printer that can create 3-D objects with moving parts.

University of Texas law student Cody Wilson, 24-year-old "Wiki Weapons" project leader for Defense Distributed, says the group last month test fired a semiautomatic AR-15 rifle — one of the weapon-types used in the Connecticut school massacre. Video posted by the group on YouTube indicates the gun was built with some key parts created on a 3-D printer and fired six times before it broke.

No independent observer verified the test. Federal firearms regulators said they are aware of the technology's gun-making potential but do not believe an entire weapon has yet been made.

Still, Israel said the Defense Distributed effort was chilling.

When the Undetectable Firearms Act was last renewed in 2003, "a gun made by a 3-D printer was like a Star Trek episode, but now we know it's real," he said.

Even with gun control pushed to the top of the national political conversation, Wilson is steadfast about reaching his goal of making a fully downloadable gun.

He keeps three AR-15 parts — one black, one white and another green — in his tidy student apartment in Austin, Texas. This weekend, he and his partners plan to print four new lower receivers — the segment of the gun that includes the trigger, magazine and grip.

Wilson was saddened by the Connecticut school attack but said Thursday that protecting the right to bear arms by giving everyone access to guns is more important in the long term than a single horrible crime.

"Clearly what happened in Connecticut was a tragedy," he told The Associated Press. "Still, by affording the Second Amendment protection, we understand events like these will happen."

He said he discussed with his partners whether they should suspend their effort, and they all decided it was too important to stop.

Wilson acknowledged there still are many technical hurdles to creating a complete gun from a 3-D printer and provided no estimate on when the goal might be reached.

Special Agent Helen Dunkel of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which helps enforce gun laws, said the agency is familiar with Wilson's project. She didn't offer an opinion but noted there is nothing illegal about making many types of guns at home. Exceptions would be high-powered weapons such as machine guns and those not detectable by airport scanners.

Advances in 3-D printing technology are fueling Wilson's goal. The printers were developed for the automobile, aerospace and other industries to create product prototypes from the same hard plastics used in toys such as Legos. Hobbyists mainly use the printers to design Christmas ornaments, toys and gadget accessories.

Prices of the machines have fallen as the consumer market grows, leading to a surge in interest from people in the so-called "maker" scene. Low-end 3-D printers can now be purchased online for as little as $1,500. More high-end printers needed to make gun parts cost at least $10,000.

Stratasys Ltd. makes 3-D printers, but gun-making was never something envisioned for the machines, said Shane Glenn, director of investor relations at the Eden Prairie, Minn.-based company.

"The gun issue is something that the 3-D printing industry will have to address going forward," Glenn said.

Right now, most people interested in 3-D printing rent time on one of the machines. There are a number of businesses and co-ops in major cities that allow access to the machines for a nominal fee.

At San Francisco's TechShop, which features a 3-D printer for its members, assembling firearms is strictly prohibited and staff is trained on the policy, company spokeswoman Carrie Motamedi said.

Wilson acknowledged his idea has met resistance from those active in 3-D printing.

"The early adopters of 3-D printing technology seem to be an educated, more liberal group who were against firearms to begin with," he said.

Some involved in the development of the technology are now worried the gun project might spur regulations that will hurt or curtail their projects, he added.

Early schematics created by Wilson's group were posted on Thingiverse, a Brooklyn, N.Y.-based website that serves as a hub for 3-D printing aficionados. After the school shooting, Thingiverse took down the links.

Spokeswoman Jenifer Howard said the focus of the website is "to empower the creative process and make things for good."

Thingiverse's terms of service state the site cannot be used to share content that contributes to the creation of weapons.

Wilson said his group has posted the links to the schematics on its own website.

Paul Saffo, a Silicon Valley technology forecaster who teaches at Stanford University's engineering school, said the Defense Distributed work carries on a tradition of tech geeks using innovation to make a political point, in this case on gun control and Second Amendment freedom.

"If you want to get people's attention in Washington, you say something. If you want to do it in Silicon Valley, you make something," Saffo said.

He said the technology exists now for a highly motivated group to make a plastic gun on a 3-D printer that could avoid airport scanners. But the equipment is still too expensive for most people.

"Nobody right now needs to worry about the bright teenager making a gun on a printer in their bedroom," he said.

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ECONOMY
FROM PAGE 3

quarter at a solid 3.1 percent annual rate. But some analysts said they thought growth would slow significantly in the October-December period. They predicted that consumers and businesses would cut back on spending because of worries about the fiscal cliff.

But after Friday's reports, Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays Capital, said Barclays is raising its estimate of growth in the current quarter to a 2.4 percent annual rate, from a previous estimate of 2.2 percent.

Naroff said he thinks growth in the fourth quarter can reach a 2.6 percent annual rate. He said he expects growth to hit a rate of around 3.2 percent in the January-March quarter and 3.6 percent in the April-June quarter.

He said those estimates are based on his confidence that Washington policymakers will avert the sharp tax increases and spending cuts, which could trigger a recession if they remain in place for much of 2013.

Naroff said U.S. economic growth would benefit next year from a rebounding housing market, gradual hiring gains that will boost incomes and the likelihood that Europe's financial crisis will ease and dampen U.S. exports less than in 2012.

But he said his optimistic forecasts would be derailed if the economy goes off the fiscal cliff in January, which could send shockwaves through financial markets.

"If the fiscal cliff is breached, the biggest concern is confidence," Naroff said. "I remain hopeful that saner heads will prevail in Washington."

Economists said the budget impasse and the uncertainty it's created about tax rates are reducing consumer confidence. The University of Michigan said Friday that its index of consumer sentiment for December fell to 72.9, its lowest point since July. It was a sharp drop from the November reading of 82.7, a five-year high.

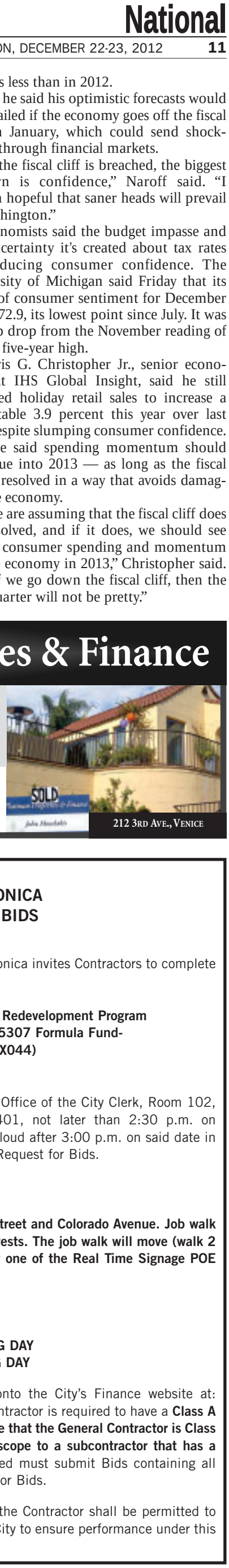
Chris G. Christopher Jr., senior economist at IHS Global Insight, said he still expected holiday retail sales to increase a respectable 3.9 percent this year over last year despite slumping consumer confidence. And he said spending momentum should continue into 2013 — as long as the fiscal cliff is resolved in a way that avoids damaging the economy.

"We are assuming that the fiscal cliff does get resolved, and if it does, we should see strong consumer spending and momentum for the economy in 2013," Christopher said. "But if we go down the fiscal cliff, then the first quarter will not be pretty."

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NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
December 21, 2012, at 1:00 p.m.
Meet at 612 Colorado Avenue on the corner of 6th Street and Colorado Avenue. Job walk attendees should bring hard hats, boots, and safety vests. The job walk will move (walk 2 blocks) to 4th Street and Colorado Avenue to review one of the Real Time Signage POE trenching locations.

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Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A or B** license at the time of bid submission. **In the case that the General Contractor is Class B license, the General shall contract all trenching scope to a subcontractor that has a Class A license.** Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - December 24
4:00 p.m. Children's Mass – Gymnasium
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., & 9:00 p.m. Mass – Church
Midnight Mass - Church and Gymnasium
Additional Parking is available on Christmas Eve from 3:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at 1211 7th St., south of Wilshire.

Christmas Day - December 25
7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m., & 1:15 p.m. – Church



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.8°**

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

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

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

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

Tides

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

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 19, 2012**

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

QUICK 5T ATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 2
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 11
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 19 / 10
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	C	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	C	B
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	C
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	C
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	C

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	F	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	F	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	D
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	B	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	D	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	F
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CSAW jetty).	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	F	F
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	F

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MUFFLER

FROM PAGE 1

More important in Fairweather's eyes was a different, more complicated, noise measurement that factors in not only the intensity of a sound, but how long a person is exposed to it.

The length of exposure is an important measure in the impact of a noise on the person experiencing it, something that becomes a major consideration with planes flying constantly in a box-like pattern around SMO, Fairweather said.

"With the muffler installed, I could see the plane doing the return leg, but was barely able to hear it above the ambient noise," Fairweather said.

In the past, Fairweather could hear the plane as it approached on a return leg of its trip — with the muffler that sound was drastically reduced.

The muffler cut the exposure time of a noise by approximately 40 percent, said Susan Cline, assistant director of Public Works, the city department responsible for monitoring the test.

In that case, the reduction in intensity was even greater than the measures of maximum volume, dropping from 82.4 decibels to 77.6 decibels.

Santa Monica is only one of two airports that takes that second, more accurate measurement, Fairweather said.

If a drop ranging from three to five decibels doesn't sound dramatic enough to earn such community praise, consider what a decibel actually measures.

A decibel is a logarithmic unit that, in this case, provides a relative measure of sound intensity.

The "logarithmic" piece is key — a 30-decibel noise isn't half as quiet as a 70-decibel noise, it's actually one-sixteenth as loud, and 70-decibel sound is twice as loud as a 60-decibel noise.

To give some context, a normal conversation can hit 60 decibels, while a vacuum cleaner can climb to 70, according to Purdue University.

The plane used in the test belongs to Joe Justice, owner of Justice Aviation, the largest of six flight schools based at SMO.

Residents upset about airplane noise and pollution have taken aim at the flight schools because counts released by CASMAT revealed that roughly 61 percent of flights that come out of SMO are flight-school related.

If more planes used the mufflers, that could significantly reduce the impact of flights on the community, a Band-Aid solution to address some of the residents' needs as City Hall approaches 2015, the year that it expects to gain more control over the fate of the aviation-related land at the airport.

There are drawbacks, of course.

The mufflers cost between $4,000 and $5,000 each for purchase and installation, a hefty price to pay for pilots and flight school owners who are not breaking established noise rules as it is.

Justice wonders if city officials can legally ask or even strongly suggest that pilots and airplane owners use the mufflers.

"Hopefully they're happy with the results," Justice said. "I don't know what they'll do with that other than recommend to people that they do that."

Neither do city officials, who haven't yet met to discuss the outcomes of the test, said Bob Trimborn, the manager at SMO.

For his part, Justice doesn't plan on removing the muffler on his plane, so that's at least one aircraft out there with the potential to not bother the neighbors.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Dec. 22
The Circus (NR) 1hr 11min
A Dog's Life (NR) 40min
2:00pm

Elf (PG) 1hr 37min
7:30pm
Discussion following the film with director Jon Favreau, moderated by Entertainment Weekly senior writer Geoff Boucher.

Sunday, Dec. 23
It's A Wonderful Life (PG) 2hrs10min
7:30pm

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

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

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

Jack Reacher (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

Anna Karenina (R) 2hrs 10min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

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

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

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
12:15pm, 4:05pm, 8:00pm, 11:30pm

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

Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) 1hr 32min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:25pm

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

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:45am, 3:15pm, 6:45pm, 10:15pm

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

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

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
1:30pm, 4:50pm, 8:10pm

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

Sessions (R) 1hr 38min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

Just 45 Minutes from Broadway (R) 1hr 48min
11:00am

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

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

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
12:30pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:50pm

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

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

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

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

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) 1hr 31min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

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

Meet friends tonight, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Your wildest dreams could not predict the importance of being money savvy today. As you weigh the pros and cons of an indulgence, an unexpected expense heads in. Hopefully, the path not involving an either/or choice appears. Tonight: Getting into the spirit of the holiday.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others associate you with stability, so they would be surprised to see you today! After basking in dreams of mistletoe and gratefulness, you suddenly could turn volatile. Tonight: Are we overindulging again?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You wake up and think it is a perfect day, but by noon, that thought will be moot. Many of you might sense a disappointment heading your way. Be careful with this thought, as you could end up manifesting it. Distract yourself. Tonight: No overthinking things, please.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Only when you can distance yourself from a demanding friend will the good times begin. Whether it is baking cookies or out finishing last-minute details, you beam. You love any excuse to bring others together. Tonight: Let someone's hostility be his or her problem -- not yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You flourish in your private dream world, where you play out what could happen this Christmas. Necessity jolts you out of this reverie. Be grateful for these flights of fancy, as you once more return to reality. Tonight: Music, Christmas gifts and sweet-smelling candles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You seem practical and together. You know exactly what to do, and when you should do it. The one exception might be a child's tantrum or a loved one's Scrooge-like attitude. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your sensitivity emerges when dealing with a partner. While you might've thought you had everything handled, you'll discover otherwise. If a fight erupts, step back. You do not want this scenario to mark your holiday. Tonight: Finally, all is well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could get into being the one who is centered, as everyone around you is stressed. You Scorpios can be tough, but you also can be very caring. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You seem determined to handle everything perfectly in the next few days. On another level, you feel inspired by a family member. Together, you'll create a dreamy holiday for you and your immediate circle. Tonight: Play it low-key, if possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ The kid in you emerges, which delights many people. Think positively about all the potential proposals you could make. Your mind could still be on work. Let go, and reorient yourself. You know what someone needs. Tonight: Don't forget to pull the shades down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by others' requests, as they feel more like demands. Just when things get mellow, another task heads your way. Tap into your innate creativity, and you will lighten up the situation for you and for others. Tonight: Meet friends at a favorite spot.

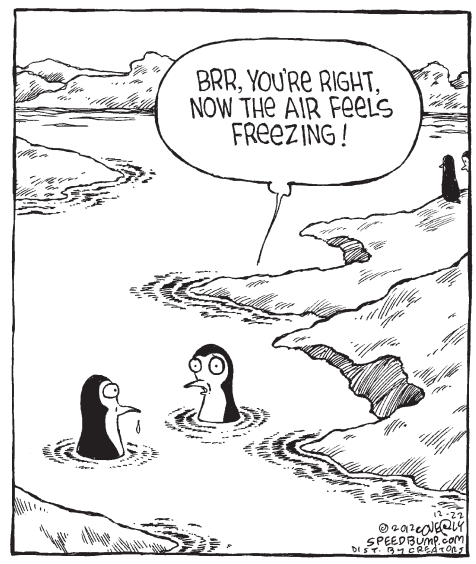
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Know the impact of your words. Someone's reaction to a comment, which wasn't meant as a criticism, could light up the sky. This person is volatile and looking for someone to take his or her mood out on. Tonight: Invite friends over.

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 will go to extremes. In the process of doing so, you couldn't care less. It is how you feel after the fact that will cause you to employ some self-discipline. You have a vision for what your life could be and what you want out of it. You ambitiously will start to create just that. If you are single, your desirability speaks for itself. Commit only when you are good and ready. If you are attached, the two of you blend together well. You can count on your sweetie. TAURUS can be seductive yet difficult.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



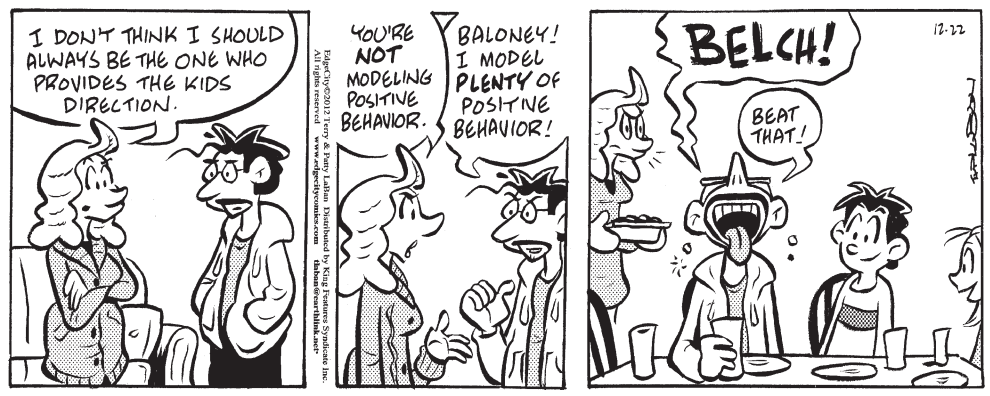
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



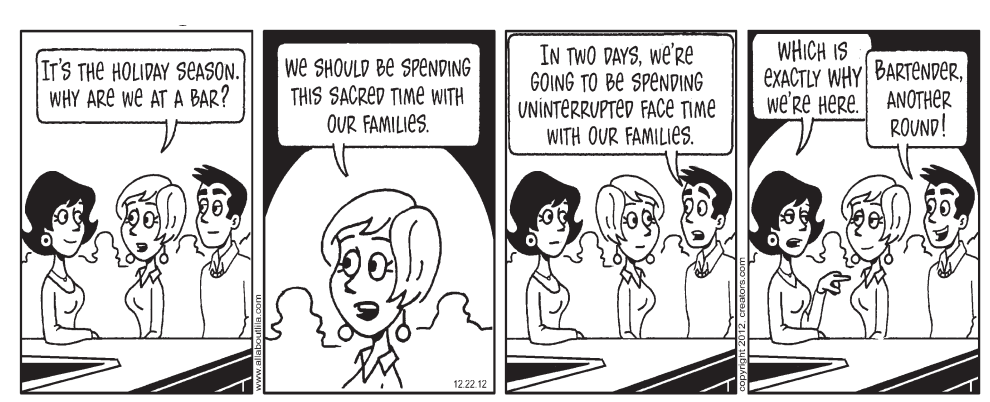
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★★

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

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

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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. Hint: you can park your car there.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Sales pitch
6 Express stop
11 Spotted steed
12 Make amends
13 Texas player
14 Soak
15 Emphasize
17 Small dog, for short
18 Extinct bird
19 Necessitates
22 Shrewd
23 Slogged away
24 Bart's mother
25 Miser's love
27 Force member
30 Parenthesis's kin
31 Alien carrier
32 Tipsy
33 Disney septet
35 Puzzled
38 Lower
39 Pillow covers
40 Hamper
41 Constitution
42 Undoes a dele

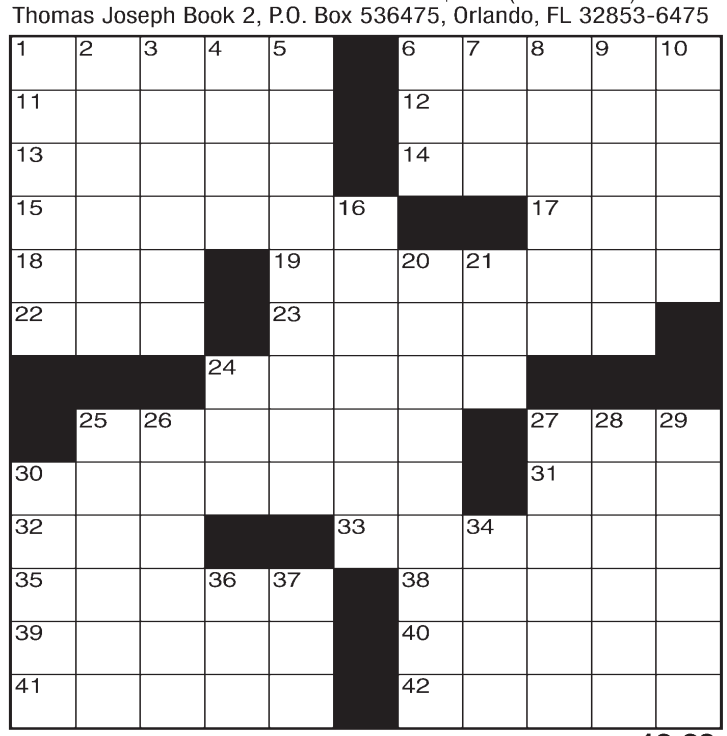
DOWN

1 Twinges
2 Duel weapon
3 Where papers accumulate on a desk
4 French 1 verb
5 Idle chatter
6 Bit of makeup
7 Greek vowel
8 Dish with a crust
9 In phone limbo
10 Abounds
16 Showed derision
20 Skinflints
21 Saloon order
24 Buddy
25 Twist in agony
26 Bothers
27 Run, as an exhibition
28 Printing method
29 Tough puzzles
30 Designer Bill
34 Aid illegally
36 Running bird
37 Pharaoh's symbol

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

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



12-22



AVVA

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Update: There was no one more different from us than Dennis Avner, last reported here in 2005. Having transformed his body through surgery, tattoos and implants, he had almost completely adopted the persona of a cat ("Stalking Cat," as he was known in the body-modification community). Mr. Avner had tiger-stripe tattoos covering most of his body, dental implants sharpened to points to resemble tiger teeth, and metal-stud implants around his mouth to hold his long, plastic whiskers. Ear and lip surgery had made his head more catlike, and special contact lenses made his eyes appear as ovals. Mr. Avner passed away in Las Vegas in November at the age of 54, reportedly of suicide.

■ (1) For two months, up to Nov. 20, the water company serving Johnville, Quebec, had left standing a utility pole even after the Quebec highway department had rebuilt Highway 251 to a location that left the pole squarely in the middle of the new two-lane street (which thus became a popular sight for fans of incompetence). Fortunately, during the two months, no accidents around the pole were reported. (2) A 35-year-old man was shot to death in Wilkinsburg, Pa., in September when he took a break from a game of dominoes on a second-floor balcony around 11 p.m. and urinated over the rail. Unfortunately, an unidentified man was walking below. He yelled, "Yo! Yo!" and fired several gunshots, killing the urinator.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1997 - Acteal massacre: Attendees at a prayer meeting of Roman Catholic activists for indigenous causes in the small village of Acteal in the Mexican state of Chiapas are massacred by paramilitary forces.

WORD UP!

algid
\ AL-jid \ , adjective;
1.
Cold; chilly.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Notices

SUMMONS FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE AND TEMPORARY INJUNCTION
Case# 12DR996
Division: 7
District Court, Douglas, Colorado, 4000 Justice Way #2009, Castle Rock, CO 80104
In Re: the Marriage of:
Petitioner: MARIA ESTHER FERGUSON
Respondent: ALLAN NOLAN FERGUSON
Attorney for Petitioner: SARAH ELIZABETH BANDY, Atty. Reg. No. 41711
Address: Flinders, Bandy Attorney's at Law, 6595 S. Dayton St. Suite 1000, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

To the Respondent named above, this Summons serves as a notice to aapear in this case.
If you were served in the State of Colorado, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 21 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.
If you were served outstid the State of Colorado or you were served by publication, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 35 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.
Your response must be accompanied with the $95 filing fee.
After 90 days from the date of service or publication, the Court may enter a Decree affecting your marital status, distribution of property and debts, issues involving children such a child support, allocation of parental responsibilities (decision-making and parenting time), maintenance, attorney fees, and costs to the extent the Court has jurisdiction.
If you fail to file a Response in this case, any or all of the matters above, or any related matters
which come before this Court, may be decided without further notice to you.
This is an action to obtain a Decree of: Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation as more fully described in the attached Petition, and if you have children, for orders regarding the children of the marriage.Notice: §14-10-107, C.R.S. provides that upon the filing of a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation by the Petitioner and Co-Petitioner, or upon personal service of the Petition and Summons on the Respondent, or upon waiver and acceptance of service by the Respondent, an automatic temporary injunction shall be in effect against both parties until the Final Decree is entered, or the Petition is dismissed, or until further Order of the Court. Either party may apply to the Court for further temporary orders, an expanded temporary

injunction, or modification or revocation under §14-10-108, C.R.S.

A request for genetic tests shall not prejudice the requesting party in matters concerning allocation of parental

responsibilities pursuant to §14-10-124(1.5), C.R.S. If genetic tests are not obtained prior to a legal establishment

of paternity and submitted into evidence prior to the entry of the final decree of dissolution or legal separation, the

genetic tests may not be allowed into evidence at a later date. Automatic Temporary Injunction - By Order of Colorado Law, You and Your Spouse are:
1. Restrained from transferring, encumbering, concealing or in any way disposing of, without the consent of the other party or an Order of the Court, any marital property, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life. Each party is required to notify the other party of any proposed extraordinary expenditures and to account to the Court for all extraordinary expenditures made after the injunction is in effect;2. Enjoined from molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party;3. Restrained from removing the minor children of the parties, if any, from the State without the consent of the other party or an Order of the Court; and4. Restrained without at least 14 days advance notification and the written consent of the other party or an Order of the Court, from canceling, modifying, terminating, or allowing to lapse for nonpayment of premiums, any policy of health insurance, homeowner's or renter's insurance, or automobile insurance that provides coverage to either of the parties or the minor children or any policy of life insurance that names either of the parties or the minor children as a beneficiary.
SIGNED: FRANK MOSCHETTI, DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012219131 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/02/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE BULLSEYE COMPANY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: SHARON BISCAYA 1900 BELMONT LANE REDONDO BEACH CA 90278. This Business is being conducted by: Husband and Wife. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:SHARON BISCAYA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/02/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/01/2012, 12/08/2012, 12/15/2012, 12/22/2012.

DBAS



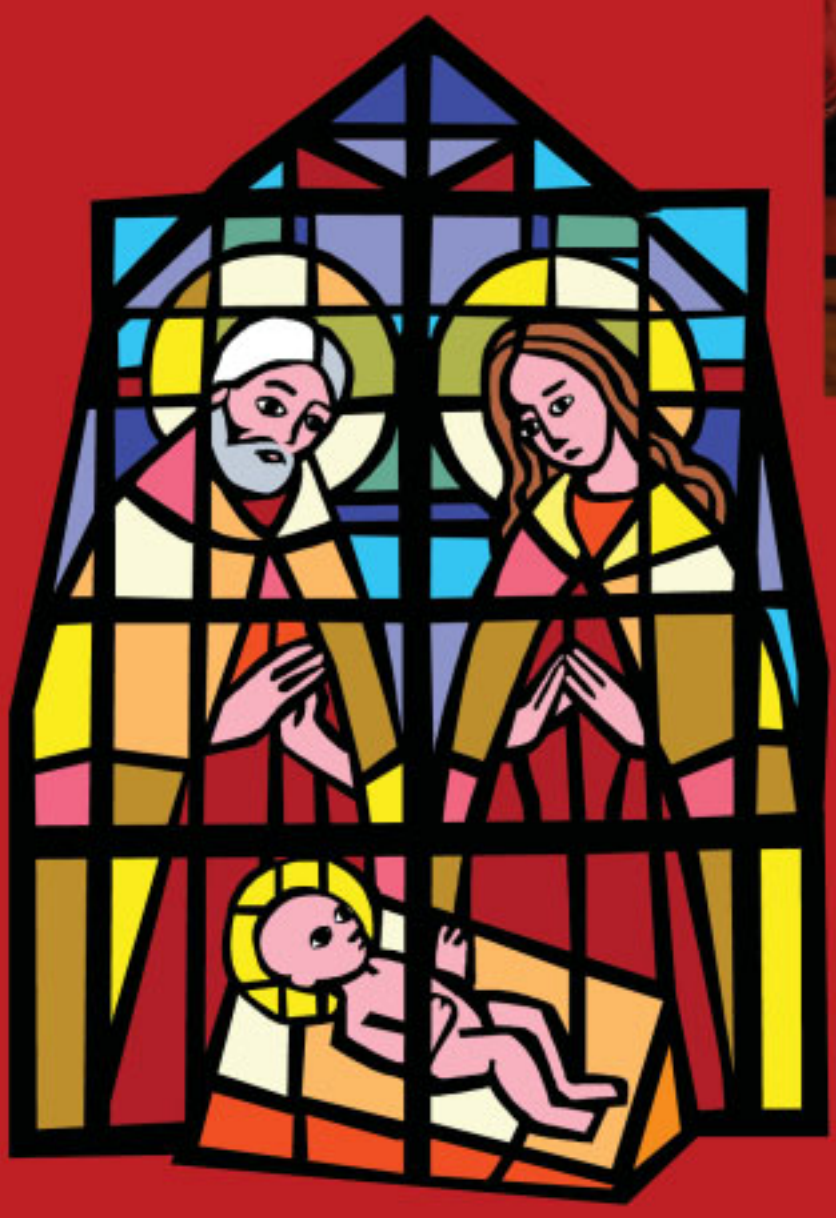
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $7.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 30¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.





May Your Days be

Merry and Bright..



Kate Bransfield

DRE # 01218699