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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2013
Volume 13 Issue 35

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

PLAN YOUR WEEK
SEE PAGE 2

THE FULL OF GRACE ISSUE

Shopping carts as fine art

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

EDGEMAR CENTER Just like a living tree, the Edgemar shopping cart tree is growing and spawning seedlings.

At 35 feet, this year's tree is the tallest ever, said the creator, Santa Monica artist Anthony Schmitt.

He's branched out to City of Hope Hospital in Duarte, Calif. putting up a 30-foot tree for their 100th anniversary. Another one went up in the Bay Area. Even Edgemar has a second smaller tree out on the street to draw people in.

Sixteen years after he built the first shopping cart tree, he still finds joy in setting it up for the season. Now he's got a team and a system. Over the years his helpers have gained what he calls their "shopping cart legs," likening the experience to working on a ship. The carts jingle festively as they build the massive tower, climbing toward the peak with their harnesses.

The tree, which is wrapped up like a present inside the Frank Gehry-designed building (Schmitt has heard that the famous architect likes it), is decorated differently on each side. This is meant to reflect people's differing perceptions of the holidays, Schmitt said.

Steve Lee, who is visiting Santa Monica from Ohio, stopped to snap a few pictures of the smaller tree with his smartphone.

"It's very shiny. The first thing I thought was, is this a commentary on consumer culture? I think it is," he said.

Still, the prospect of an even bigger tree drew him past the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf and into the courtyard.

"Now I'm wondering how they hold it all together," he said.

Schmitt's not a math guy but he likes answering the questions of the numerically obsessed. How many carts? 84. How many lights? 1,500. How many zip-ties hold the thing together? About 4,000.

He changes the aesthetics and style every year to give the sense that the iconic tree is growing. One year he decked the tree with blue Japanese LED lights that he bought in a little shop in Akihabra, a Tokyo neighborhood specializing in electronics.

SEE TREE PAGE 6



Paul Alvarez Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

CREATOR: Anthony Schmitt erects a shopping cart tree every year at the Edgemar Center.

Why cross U.S. on foot? Each trek uniquely personal

ALLEN G. BREED
AP National Writer

For a week following Jadin's death, Joe Bell lay in bed, beating himself up, wondering what he could — should — have done differently to help his son.

In the face of relentless bullying at high school, the openly gay 15-year-old had confessed to his parents six months earlier that he'd been having suicidal thoughts. Bell and his wife got their son into counseling, and Jadin appeared to be doing well.

Then he hanged himself.

Racked with guilt, Bell chided himself over scolding Jadin for smoking a few days before the hanging. The Oregon man worried that he couldn't survive this grief.

Bell knew he had to do something. Then it came to him: He'd walk across the country, sharing Jadin's story.

At any given time, as many as 20 people are attempting to cross the United States on foot, Nate Damm figures. The website he started following his own transcontinental trek has become a must-read for walkers, full of advice, tracking information and a running debate on the "why" of such journeys.

That last part can get complicated.

Many walk for a cause. Some do it, well, just because.

Two years after his own walk, Damm still can't put into words just why he did it. His Delaware-to-California hike over eight months in 2011 grew from "an idea that I had that just kind of wouldn't leave me alone," says the 25-year-old Maine native, who's currently tracking about a half dozen walkers. "And I thought about it for a couple of years and I would go, 'Oh, it'll pass. It's a phase.'"

SEE WALK PAGE 3

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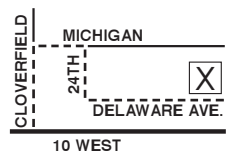
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2013

Merry Christmas!

Hit the ice
Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Hit the rink at ICE at Santa Monica, a popular holiday attraction. For more information, call (310) 461-8333.

Thursday, Dec. 26, 2013

Happy Kwanzaa!

Take a tour
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 11 a.m.
Explore the rich Beach House site history with a Santa Monica Conservancy docent. Tours are free, and last roughly 30 minutes. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

He is real
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 3 p.m.
Creating Arts Co. presents a holiday classic that is sure to put a smile on even the Scrooges of the season. Based on actual events, "Yes, Virginia" follows 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon on a journey to discover if Santa Claus is real. She decides to write a letter to the editor of the Chicago Sun to find out the truth. For more information, call (310) 804-0223.

Stories at the pier
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 3:30 p.m.
Visit the Santa Monica Pier every Saturday for a whale of a tale. The aquarium will host story time in the Dorothy Green Room. Children (and adults) love to hear a good story, and the aquarium has a nearly endless supply of books celebrating life of the sea. For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

Friday, Dec. 27, 2013

Musical guy
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m.
Creating Arts Co. presents "The Music Man." Smooth talking salesman "Professor" Harold Hill has everyone fooled — and the citizens of River City, Iowa are his latest prey. When local librarian Marian Paroo tries to expose him as a fake, Hill sets out to win her heart and save his hide. For more information, call (310) 804-0223.

Time to knit
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Knitting, conversation, and tea at the library. Everyone welcome. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013

Art for kids
Paint:Lab
1453 14th St., Call for times
Kids 5-12 are invited to a special winter art camp. Cost: ranges from $55-$100. All art materials included in the price. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2013

Walk with the plovers
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 8:30 a.m.
Looking for a new holiday tradition? Join the Santa Monica and L.A. Audubon societies and connect with your inner naturalist! Explore the habitat and life cycles of the federally threatened snowy plover, a small white bird that makes Santa Monica and surrounding beach cities its home this time of year. Binoculars will be provided, or bring your own. Comfortable clothing and sun protection are recommended. For more information, visit beachhouse.smgov.net.

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**



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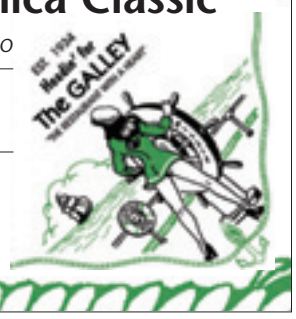
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WALK
FROM PAGE 1

But it didn't pass — for him, or for others.

Even for those who articulate a cause — something they're raising awareness of, or money for — there's often more behind these grueling undertakings.

Jonathon Stalls walked under the auspices of Kiva, a group that helps connect small investors with entrepreneurs in developing countries. In the end, though, he says he was simply answering a "personal call to engage in quieter, slower, and more intentional experiences with less."

"It's our most inherent form of transportation. It's our most basic form. It's our first form," says the 31-year-old Denver man, who walked sea-to-sea in 2010.

For Matt Green, it was as if he were being urged on by some instinctual, irrepressible need from a collective past to challenge himself.

"It's almost like in the American DNA," says the 33-year-old New Yorker, who quit an engineering job at the height of the "Great Recession" and walked to the Oregon coast in 2010. "We have this kind of romance of the pioneers heading west."

Along his route, Green confronted the same persistent question — people asking for some easily identified reason. He couldn't really give one.

Near the end of his journey, though, someone visiting his website posted a quotation from philosopher and civil rights leader Howard Thurman: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

Those words have become his motto.

Ultimately, the reasons for walking are deeply personal. As Joe Bell put it to one newspaper reporter he met along his route, "It was either lie in bed like I was and die, or fight back."

And so he set out, traveling the land, talking about Jadin, and hoping it might save lives — maybe even his own.

Walkers often set out on what they think is a solitary journey, and yet few really do it completely alone.

When Mike Ross told his grandmother that he and high school buddy George Crawford were hiking to California, she had just one question: What cause are you walking for?

Truth is, the 19-year-old Manchester, Conn., men were just out for one last big adventure before heading to Marine boot camp.

"I just wanted to get out of there," Ross said while waiting out a recent snowstorm in a donated Colorado motel room. "I figured it would be a great way to get in shape, a great way to see our country."

But over time, Ross and Crawford decided their trek did need some higher purpose. Both men's families had been touched by cancer. They decided to walk for the Livestrong Foundation, with a goal of raising $20,000 toward finding a cure.

Some cross-country trekkers carry everything on their backs; most push carts. Steve Wescott has a goat with canvas saddlebags.

"He wasn't supposed to be a gimmick," the Seattle man said as he struggled to keep LeeRoy Brown from straying onto busy U.S. 40 outside Kansas City, Kan., on a recent blustery afternoon. "He was just going to help carry the load, and now he is the reason why people talk to me."

With their matching chin whiskers, Wescott and LeeRoy make quite the pair. Wearing a reflective vest over his red fleece jacket, Wescott flashes the "Peace" sign at passing vehicles as LeeRoy trots along beside him, a red bandanna tied around his neck.

The 34-year-old rock guitarist had already been thinking of walking the country when his bandmates voted him out of the group. He and LeeRoy have been walking since May 2, 2012, to raise money for an orphanage in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Their goal is New York City's Times Square.

He knows there are easier ways to raise money. But this way, he gets "to see the kindness of America."

"I want 5,000 people to give $5," he said. "I want to get to New York and say, 'Look what WE built.'"

Ostensibly, Malene Comes' "Conversation with America" walk is about raising awareness of obesity — a condition with which she's struggled her entire adult life. But it's much more than that.

Unemployed and awaiting the formal dissolution of her 13-year marriage, Comes had "lost every sense of myself and the world I was in as anything other than a hostile place and a scary place."

After two suicide attempts in three months, the 41-year-old Eldridge, Calif., woman sold her belongings, put her three cherished cats in foster care and lit out, pushing a modified baby stroller.

On a recent evening, the headlight of a passing freight train was all that illuminated the pitch blackness as Comes put the finishing touches on her simple campsite and prepared to text a nightly "safety check" to a friend in New York.

She had just emerged from a desolate 200-mile stretch of the Mojave Desert. No "couch-surfing" opportunities here, and so she opted for a sleeping bag and blanket of stars.

Comes has shed more than 20 of the 289 pounds she was carrying on her 5-foot-2 frame when she left a Santa Monica beach on Aug. 29. In some ways, though, she already feels so much lighter.

"Yeah, this is scary," she said as the train cars rumbled past. "But maybe less scary than killing myself."

Joe Bell came to a similar conclusion.

On Jan. 19, a passer-by found Jadin hanging from a piece of elementary school playground equipment in La Grande, Ore. The high school cheerleader and budding artist died on Feb. 3 without ever regaining consciousness.

When he emerged from the fog of his own despair, Bell was seized by a desperate need to help others see what he could not.

He took a leave from his job of 17 years at a Boise Cascade plywood mill and began mapping out his route to New York City — a place Jadin had visited on an eighth-grade

SEE **TREK** PAGE 7



SWEET VERSION

Photo courtesy Michael 'Snacks' Ryan

Santa Monica Daily Press columnist Michael 'Snacks' Ryan of Tour de Feast fame snapped this shot of his mother Cheryl Ryan's gingerbread model of the Santa Monica Pier. She even included the Hot Dog on a Stick shack. We wonder how it tastes.

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Curious City

Charles Andrews

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A few bad apples spoil the bunch

FOR A YEAR AND A HALF, "CURIOUS CITY" ran in the weekend edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press. I had a few reasons for wanting to switch to Wednesday.

The unintended bonus? Today I get to wish all my friends, misguided faithful readers, and all the citizens of Santa Monica a very merry Christmas and happy holidays!

(And next Wednesday, I can wish you all a happy New Year. God knows we could use one. Hope springs eternal.)

My Christmas wish? I already got it, last week, in spades. But if I had another one? Yes, you know: dear Santa, dear baby Jesus, dear City Council, please put the brakes on runaway development here and preserve the good things that make this the city we love (including "Chain Reaction").

HAIL MARY, HAIL OF BULLETS

Reader warning: the following is not all Christmas season touchy-feely.

I've reached my breaking point. I feel profoundly sad, and helpless, over this.

Three weeks ago I wrote about police overreach and outright brutality and cited an incident in Kern County last May where the father of four young children, lying intoxicated on the sidewalk across the street from the medical center (where he may have been trying to go, and where he should have been taken), was set upon by nine sheriffs and CHP (and a K-9) and beaten to death. The officers then illegally confiscated the phone cameras of folks across the street who recorded the brutality. The department defended all the actions as being proper procedure, and brazenly intimated that their investigation (with no one suspended) would take a long time.

It was unfortunately not an isolated, extreme incident. I'm reading some similar report every few days. I wrote that, of all the similar incidents I'd read about, that one "really broke my heart."

Then I opened up my L.A. Times last Saturday and saw a photo that wrenched my heart and very nearly brought me to tears.

It was of Bill Beaird, his face contorted in unbearable pain and grief.

Dec. 13 Beaird got a phone call from his son Brian, 51. He was being chased by the police, as a suspected drunk or reckless driver. The elder Beaird said he urged his son to pull over.

He described his youngest son as a disabled veteran, who was discharged from the National Guard in 1988 after botched surgery on a brain tumor. He could be paranoid, the father said, particularly about police. Which probably explains why he didn't pull over.

Bad move on Brian's part, of course, and he finally broadsided another car (seriously injuring one person). His mangled Corvette spun to a rest on the street corner. He tried to pull away (continued bad judgment) but then abandoned the vehicle and got out and walked around to the passenger side, surrounded by about 20 LAPD officers.

Television footage (of course it was on TV, it was a car chase) shows him briefly putting his arms in the air, with his back to the officers. One of them fired a bean bag round at him. But three of those officers opened fire and shot 22 rounds at the unarmed man with his hands raised in surrender. He was seen on TV clutching his stomach and collapsing to the ground, fatally wounded.

Those three officers of the law were placed on extended leave by LAPD Chief Charlie Beck, who said he was "very concerned" about the incident. Better than Kern County.

The Beaird family is suing the city, and the photo of the elder Beaird was taken at the news conference last Saturday to announce that, as he recalled what happened that evening.

Bill Beaird turned on his TV Dec. 13, and saw his son gunned down in front of his eyes. It's said that there's no greater pain than that of a parent who has lost a child. But I think Bill Beaird's nightmare hits near the pinnacle, becoming horror. It showed in his face.

If there were 20 officers, 17 of them acted with proper restraint, according to their training. That is part of the tragedy and shame of all these incidents, that police in general get a bad reputation, when of course most of them perform with dignity and grace in the face of citizens behaving very badly, and real bad guys who would just as soon shoot them as look at them. That's their everyday reality, and I have nothing but the highest respect for the job they do.

I saw another photo a few days ago, I think in downtown L.A., of a policeman giving some food and clothing to a man he had to escort out of a public building. And there was the viral photo of a New York cop a year ago who bought some new winter boots for a homeless man.

Those cops, the overwhelming majority, must be incredibly angry when some of their fellow officers smear their good name. I'm also angry, and I'm afraid.

Brian Beaird was a 51-year-old white guy driving a Corvette. He done bad [sic], but he was surrendering, was unarmed, and at that point not a threat to anyone. Not exactly the kind of racial/economic/age profile one usually associates with these incidents.

In the end, Beaird did the right thing. But he was still gunned down. Like him, I'm over 50, white and a homeowner, and I drive a Prius. Will I have mortal fear if I'm ever again stopped by police? You bet.

It doesn't have to be this way. I'm sick to death of egomaniacal thugs in uniform who think their badge makes them judge, jury and executioner.

I have no solutions for remedy. But I feel the problem is rooted in a police culture in the U.S. that hires badly, trains and monitors insufficiently, and protects its own.

Sorry to be writing such a downer on Christmas Day. But maybe it's the best day to consider how we can improve our society.

May I have another Christmas wish?

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 27 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com.

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After the Bell

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Predicting stock market success in the new year

I HOPE THAT I DO AS WELL IN 2014 AS I did in 2013. This was a remarkable year for me. I started the year with a small profit from most positions, and a big loss in Apple option trading (but a profit on the underlying stock). In 2013, I more than recouped my 2012 losses on Apple option positions, and I'm heading into 2014 with the likelihood of another few thousand dollars of options profit if the stock stays above 530 until the January expiration date. I've taken my profits on the stock.

Now I'm selling call spreads to pick up additional premium income. I never understand why more people don't do that. You can get a full explanation of how it's done in my book, "How to Make Money with Stock Options," available on Amazon or the updated version on my website DoubleYourYield.com.

But you should watch out for unhedged strategies promoted by option traders on the web. I follow a few of these sites, track their strategies, and very often they lose money. I watched one option guru lose money both on an unhedged Nike strategy in October and on a risky Apple strategy in November.

For 2014, all the expert opinions I've read anticipate another good year for high quality stocks, at least after the first quarter. Economists claim that the recession is over, and the upturn has finally hit Europe, which will also be good for our economy. My friend Dick Rosecrance of Harvard has written a book suggesting that the U.S. may eventually form closer trading ties to the EU market, and include Japan in the new alliance. If that happens he predicts a decline in the importance and economy of China. But this will not happen in 2014. Others as well are predicting an eventual decline in Chinese economic growth for various reasons.

Here are a few of my predictions for 2014:

1) Oil prices will come down a bit, maybe 10 percent, and then level off. The U.S. is producing more and more oil, and this will continue as oil share production increases. At the same time, natural gas and electric vehicles are increasing in numbers. There is a strong possibility of increased production from Iran and Libya as political tensions decrease. As countries like Mexico (ninth in worldwide production) seek outside help in production, U.S. companies such as Schlumberger (SLB) and Halliburton (HAL) will benefit. The PXJ index, already up quite a bit, may well continue its upward movement.

2) Natural gas use will increase, and the price will go up. This will strongly impact the pipeline price performance. Pipeline indexes such as SPX and AMZ will benefit from this.

3) Most of the economists I follow predict continuing low interest rates for the coming year, and a decline in unemployment. This should translate into at least a 6 percent increase in the S&P, which when coupled with a 2 percent dividend rate makes that a pretty good looking investment for the year.

4) Gold is so far down, including the gold mining company index GDX, that some are recommending it now. That might be right, but I've taken my losses on GDX and put those funds into the silver index instead. I think that silver is a better investment for 2014 than gold and that investment is more likely to recoup my gold losses from 2013. I base that solely on performance to date, which shows silver less susceptible to decline based on increasing economic performance.

5) As the economy continues to pick up, companies that did well in 2013 and have a backlog of cash are good candidates for increasing dividends and small gains in price. This group includes Boeing (BA), with its recent dividend increase and stock buy-back program, and Ford Motor (F), although I personally do not invest in auto stocks because of the competition in the field. Green energy companies have a bright future, and one could speculate on Abengoa (ABGB) a Spanish company that is making a name for itself in the field of desalination and related energy areas.

6) Food is here to stay, and from what I see people are trending toward more expensive and allegedly healthier products. Whole Foods Market (WFM) has experienced a nice dip lately, and I'm buying 100 shares at a time on dips. While many are skeptical because of increased competition, the company is putting in more and more stores even in small market areas and I believe it's a well run company with a good expansion program. I help run one of their subsidiaries and I'm impressed with their dedication. They grew about 13 percent in 2013, and while the 33 PE ratio is high, I see no reason not to expect similar growth in 2014.

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

The Q Line

For art's sake

City Hall has theoretically left millions of dollars on the table by subsidizing artists' studios at the Santa Monica Airport. A Daily Press report found that a lease negotiated by city officials included a base rent of 37 cents per month, per square foot. That lease now generates $9,885 a month.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you believe taxpayers should be subsidizing artists? What's the value in doing so?

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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TREE
FROM PAGE 1

"It was the most vivid blue tree ever," he said. "And it was really one of my favorites because when we did the tree-lighting, and we actually flipped the switch, the gasp was so loud. I was shocked at how they reacted."

Schmitt, who is also on the Main Street Business Improvement Association board, calls this year's rendition the loyalty tree.

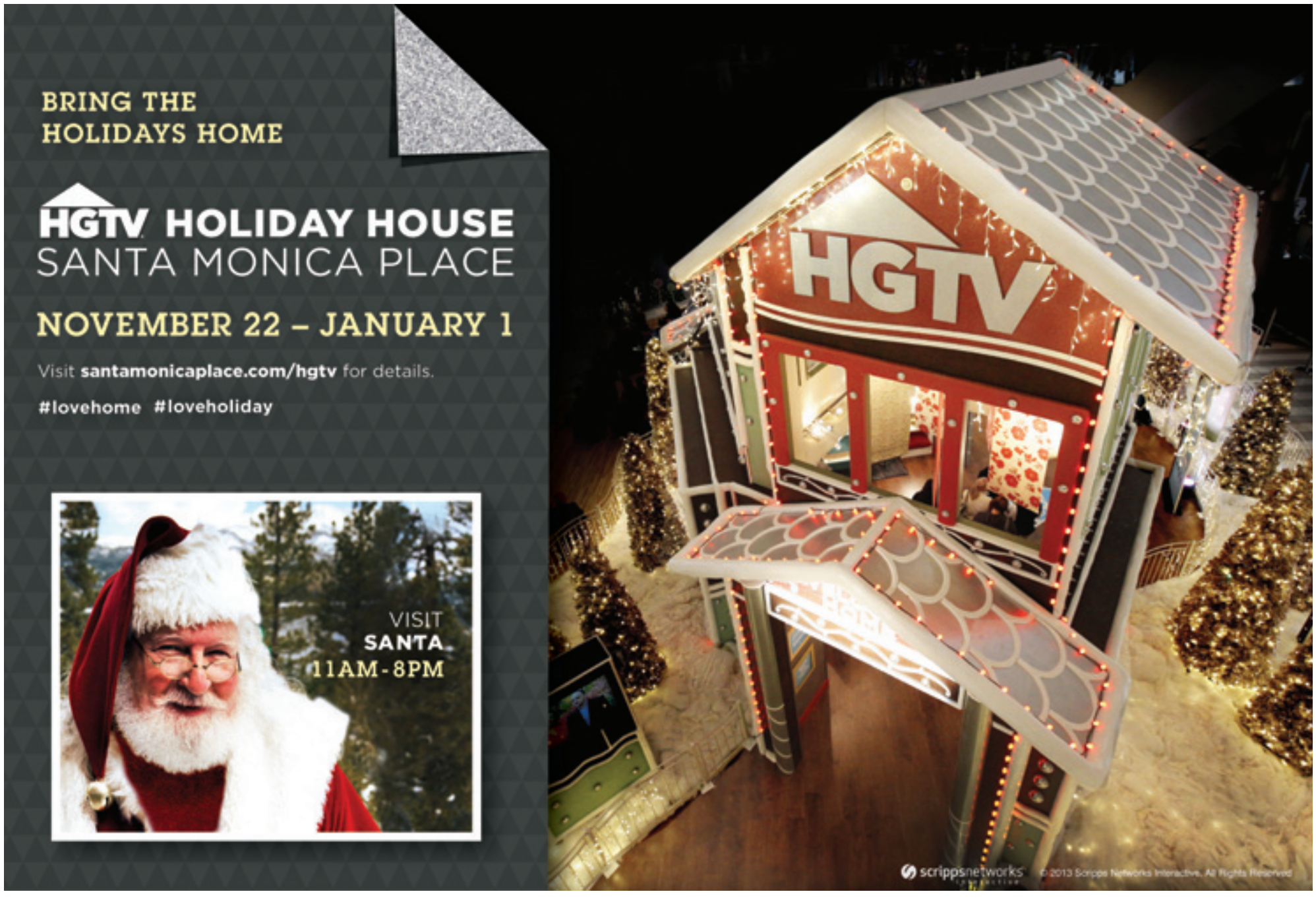
"Given that the businesses are keeping their doors open and trying to offer the best deals to people, it's really such a collaboration on the part of the landlord, the businesses, the street and to promote the street," he said.

Though Schmitt is an advocate for local businesses and —before moving to Santa Monica— did the window decorations for Barneys in New York City, there is tongue-and-cheekness to his Christmas tree made of shopping carts.

"I like that there's this sense of order to chaos because there's this geometry at the bottom and as they get higher they become chaotic," he said, laughing. "I think that's a great reflection of the holiday season."

dave@smdp.com





TREK
FROM PAGE 3

field trip, and where he had dreamed of someday living. Friends helped Bell launch a Facebook page.

On April 20, Bell said goodbye to his wife, Lola Lathrop, and their 13-year-old son, Joseph, and set out, pushing a loaded three-wheeled cart.

With two artificial knees, the 48-year-old's gait was brisk, but awkward. Barely a week out, angry red sores erupted on his feet; the skin beneath his toes cracked open and bled.

As he walked, Bell stopped at schools, libraries, community centers, bars — anyplace where he could share his son's story. On June 4, Bell posted a "letter" from Jadin.

"Today i'm celebrating my 16th birthday in Heaven," it said. "My presents are flowers, rainbows and angel food cake. ... Yes, birthdays in Heaven are wonderful and gay."

Bell's way was paved with a thousand kindnesses.

A sporting goods store owner reading of Bell's blisters helped doctor his feet and fitted him with proper shoes. When his cart was stolen, someone replaced it with a better one. He received gifts of safety glasses, granola bars, bottled water. He even picked up a whole new support system.

Amy Maple, founder of the nonprofit Excuse Me While I Change the World, had asked Bell to give a talk in Salt Lake City. Moved by his passion, she and Ann Clark, who'd met Bell along the road, helped him incorporate his own group, Joe's Walk For Change, and coordinated speaking engagements for him along his route.

Maple also arranged for Bell to get some training about how to help parents recognize warning signs in suicidal youths. Through it, he gradually let go of any lingering feelings of guilt over Jadin's death.

By late July, Bell had made it to Steamboat Springs, Colo., a ski resort town. He decided to stay a few days.

He needed the rest. And he wanted to give a fellow traveler who'd contacted him time to catch up.

For as long as he can remember, Australian Benjamin Lee has dreamed of visiting every country. With nearly 40 stamps in his passport by age 24, he was well on his way.

In late 2012, Lee graduated with a degree in environmental science from Melbourne's Deakin University. He knew he would soon "need to settle down and get a full-time job," but craved one more grand adventure.

"Something I can tell my grandchildren about."

He knew it had to be in America.

Planning a transcontinental route that he reckoned would take eight months and 10 million steps, Lee decided to walk on behalf of Oxfam America, part of a global charity.

Like others, he looked to Damm for advice — such as including bear spray in your pack and always walking "so you can face the vehicles that are coming at you."

Lee and a Canadian woman he'd met online began their trek in San Francisco on May 18.

But a month and a half into the trip, after crossing a stretch of Utah desert, his companion decided she'd had enough. Overcome by loneliness, Lee tapped out a text to his family: "I can't do this. I'm done." But he didn't send it.

As he trudged eastward, Lee kept hearing stories about another walker who'd just passed through. Google searches connected him with the man, Joe Bell, and they met in Steamboat Springs on July 31. Despite the age difference, they hit it off immediately and agreed to travel together as far as Boulder.

On Aug. 2, they hiked 22 miles to the top of Rabbit Ears Pass, straddling the Continental Divide at 9,426 feet above sea level. Bell took to calling his sprightly companion "Young Buck."

"Hurry up, old man," Lee would tease, though, in these high elevations, the Aussie was happy for an excuse to slacken the pace a bit.

"I really admire this young man," Bell wrote of Lee on his blog.



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **66.4°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

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 11, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 9

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA, and Swain Barber Foundation

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for at least 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.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	A
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	C	C
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	B	A
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	A	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	B	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

LEGEND

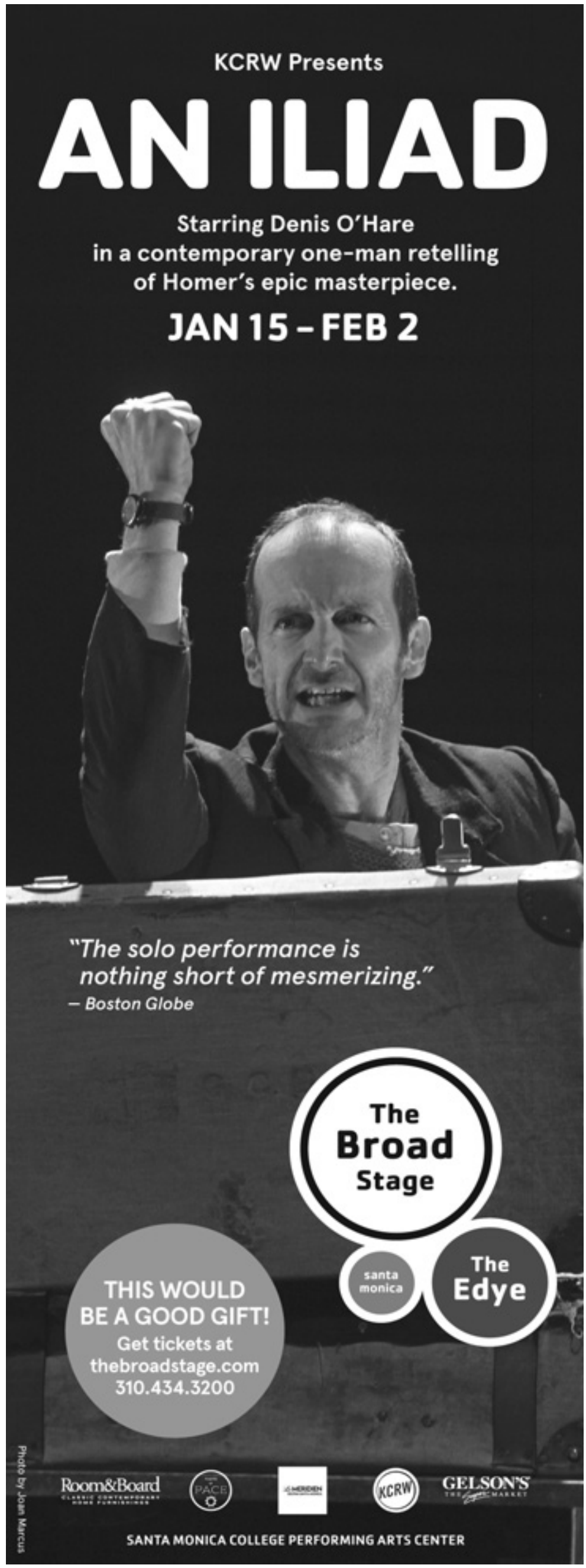
DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay'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.

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theatre for more information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-3924

Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 20min
1:45pm, 7:00pm

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm

Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13)
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm

Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) 1hr 20min
11:15am, 4:15pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
11:15am, 5:10pm, 10:40pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
12:15pm

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 1hr 59min
10:30am, 11:40am, 1:30pm, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm

Frozen 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
2:15pm, 8:00pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
10:10am, 4:50pm

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
10:00am, 1:30pm, 4:35pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
10:15am, 1:10pm, 4:30pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm

Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in HFR 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 41min
2:45pm, 9:45pm

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) 2hrs 34min
4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:45pm

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

Inside Llewyn Davis (R) 1hr 45min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Book Thief (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Nebraska (R) 1hr 50min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Philomena (R) 1hr 34min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

KICK UP YOUR FEET TONIGHT, CAPPY!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ On some level, you might feel as if you must go overboard with others; however, you might throw several people off, as they won't know how to deal with the new you. Be sure to use your high energy well. Tonight: Let someone dote on you for a change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Try to maintain a steady pace, as you know how much you need to do. An unexpected guest or development could present a quandary. You might not be sure which way to go. Observe, and you will figure it out. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Be more forthright with a child or loved one in the morning. You could be much more in tune with this person's energy than he or she is. The excitement of the moment could be somewhat overwhelming. Tonight: Love the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You will be where you are happiest -- at home, enjoying the moment. You might wonder about a situation involving a close friend or loved one. Be careful, as you tend to expend a lot of energy and could be accident-prone. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your words mean a lot to loved ones. In fact, they might even be more significant than your gifts. An unexpected call from someone at a distance could surprise you. Consider what you want to do, and follow through quickly. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Somehow, you will find a way to spend money at the last minute. Stop. Just enjoy the people around you at the moment. Even if you forgot a gift, you can plan to take this person shopping and let him or her decide on something. Tonight: Indulge in the good vibes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might feel as if you can take on anyone, but all you need to do is enjoy your day and the people around you. Your wish will be someone else's command. An unexpected event could throw you and others into a tizzy. Tonight: Choose your company well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ You know when to back off and when to move forward. A friend or loved one could surprise you with an insight about someone you have been missing. Try to take a nap at some point in the afternoon; otherwise, you could become cranky, like a little kid. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You understand what is going on in your immediate circle. A male friend or family member could become inordinately pushy or difficult. How you hold this person back could have implications in the moment. Tonight: Invite a friend over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ The excitement of the moment could dissolve the best of plans. Assume your natural role in bringing people and events together. You have the ability to make the worst project fun. Do just that! Tonight: Kick up your feet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your mind could be everywhere but where it needs to be. You might be missing someone or wishing you had made other plans. Return calls from family members and friends. Catch up on others' news. Tonight: Be grateful for those around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to spend the day with a loved one and do nothing else. If that is a possibility, do it. You often go overboard when trying to do the right thing, but sometimes it is more important to take care of yourself. Tonight: Enjoy a call from a special person.

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

This year you often will be dealing with an assertive authority figure. Your career and community involvement become high priorities. You will focus on your image and your long-term goals. If you are single, many people will be drawn to you. If you choose a person who wants to change you, the results might be less than desirable. Look for someone who accepts you for you. If you are attached, you often create a lot of excitement on the homefront. Don't be surprised if you move, remodel or make a change within your domestic life. LIBRA does not have the same drive as you to get to the bottom of a problem.

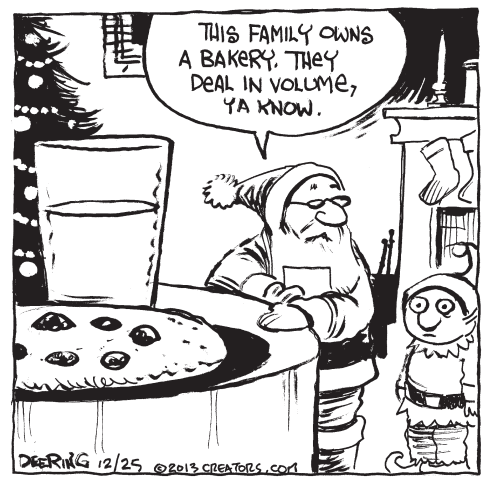
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
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Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



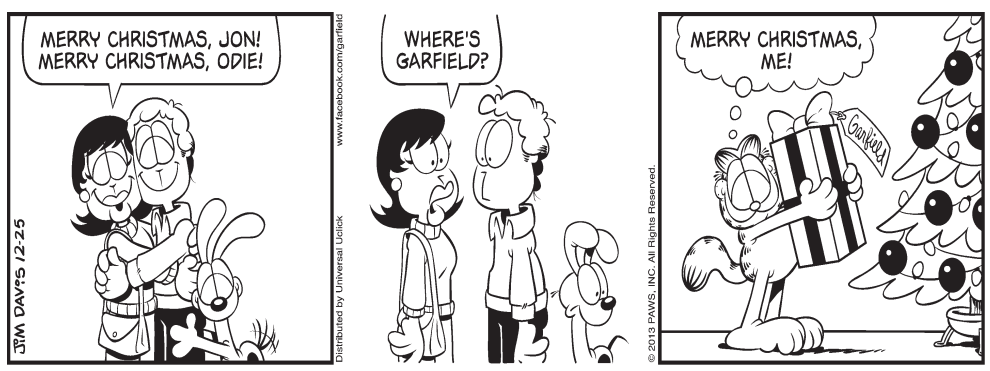
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

'Tis the Season to
BUY LOCAL



The Perfect Gift Guide 2013

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buylocalsantamonica.com/news-spotlights/

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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 Sources for maple syrup
5 Kite part
9 Lake swimmer
11 "Divine Poems" poet
12 Fashion's Lauren
13 Singer Baker
14 "What a good boy —"
15 Green plastic toys
17 Christmas travelers
19 Colony member
20 Tatter
21 PC key
22 Egyptian dam site
24 Capp and Pacino
26 Perfect
29 Had dinner
30 Winter creations
32 Laborers
34 Sense of self
35 "A New Deal for Christmas" musical
36 Key
38 Play part
39 Paris river
40 Grazing group
41 Gum masses

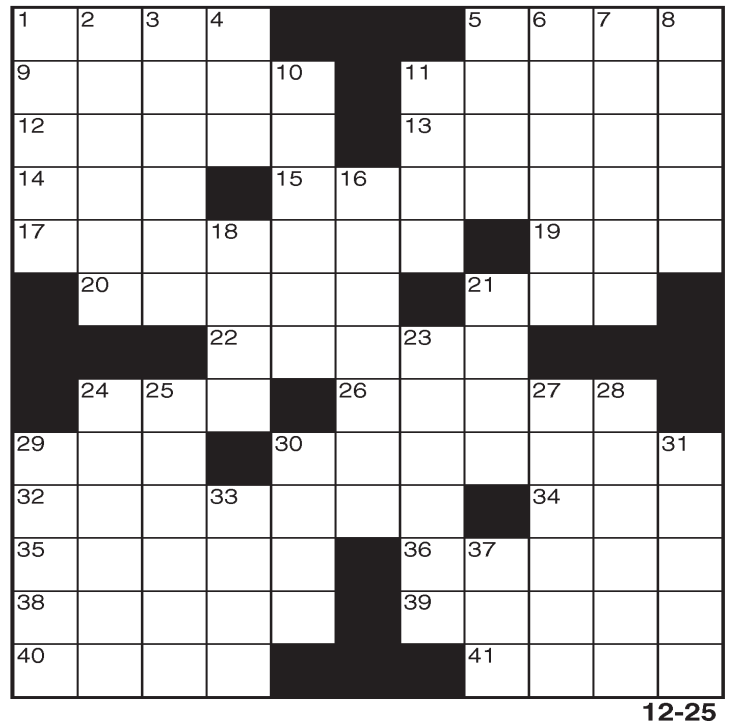
DOWN

1 Manger fill
2 Friend of Porthos
3 Shine
4 Dine late
5 Theater award
6 Zoo resident
7 Meaning
8 Inclined
10 London river
11 Consign to failure
16 Merlot, for one
18 Important times
21 Over again
23 Venus's love
24 Immediately
25 "Camelot" lyricist
27 Activist Bloomer
28 Folk tale
29 Overflowing
30 Hook's helper
31 Staff symbols
33 Compassionate
37 Put in stitches

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

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



12-25



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ It may be a cliche of domestic conflict, but physicists recently, earnestly, tackled the dynamics of toilet bowl "splash back." A stream delivered by a standing male, because it travels five times farther than a seated male's, produces a splash easily reaching seat and floor -- even without factoring in the "well-known" Plateau-Rayleigh instability -- the inevitable disintegration of a liquid stream "six or seven inches" after its formation. Short of recommending that men be seated, the researchers (speaking to a November conference) suggest "narrowing the angle" by "standing slightly to one side and aiming downwards at a low angle of impact." [BBC News, 11-6-2013]

■ The Human-Rodent Connection: University of British Columbia researchers, intent on judging whether blocking dopamine D4 receptors can reduce the urge to gamble in subjects other than humans, claimed in October to have devised a test that works on the dopamine receptors of rats -- especially those with a gambling problem. With a slot machine-like device dispensing sugar pellets, the researchers claimed they offered rats measured risks and even determined that rats are more likely to take risks immediately following a close loss (as are humans). [Science Daily, 10-29-2013]

TODAY IN HISTORY

1927 – The Vietnamese Nationalist Party is founded.

1932 – A magnitude 7.6 earthquake in Gansu, China kills 275 people.

1941 – Admiral Chester W. Nimitz arrives at Pearl Harbor to assume command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet

1941 – World War II: Battle of Hong Kong ends, beginning the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong.

1946 – The first in Europe artificial, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction is initiated within Soviet nuclear reactor F-1.

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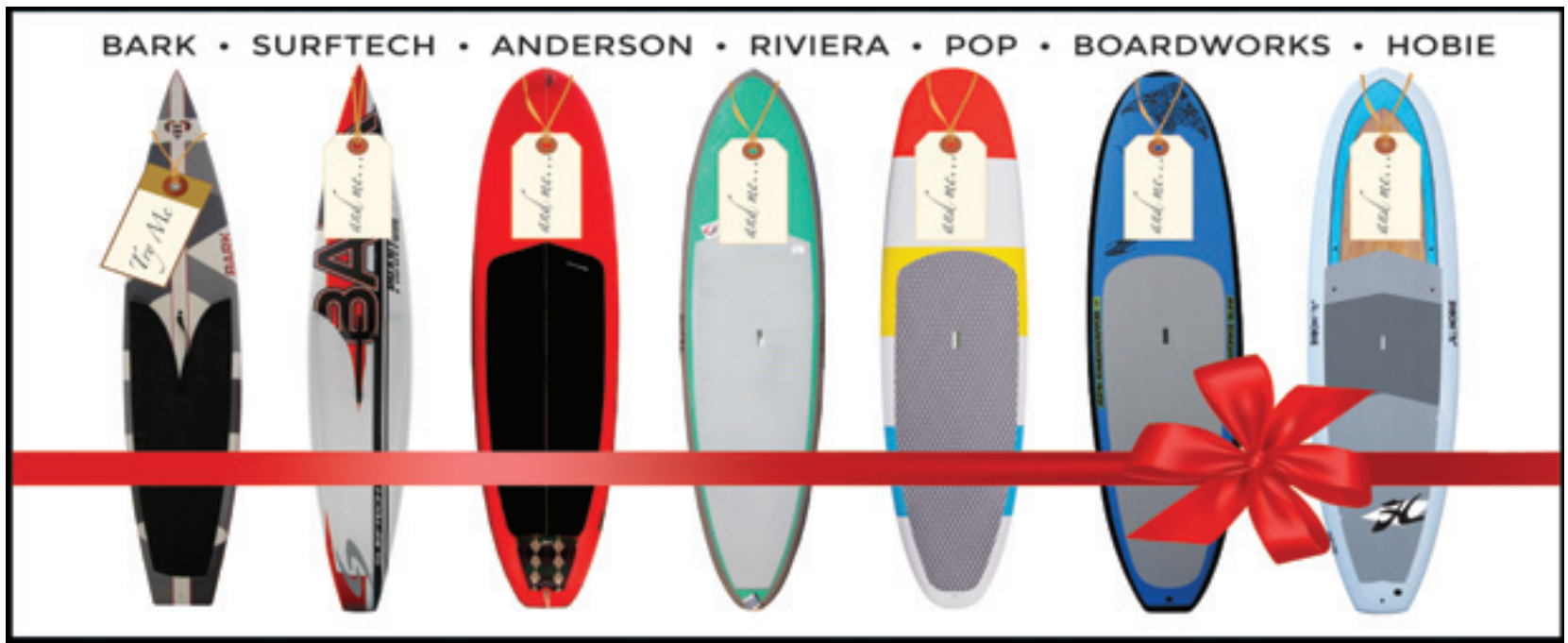
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Merry Christmas

Kate Bransfield

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