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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 39



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

HIGH OR DRY FOR NEW YEAR'S?
SEE PAGE 3

THE GET ANYTHING GOOD? ISSUE



Photo courtesy Google Images

COSTS BEING DEFLATED: **A new state law will make it less expensive to get insurance for hot air balloon businesses.**

Californians face new laws in 2013

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE With Christmas behind us, Californians are looking forward to the pop of champagne corks — or sparkling cider bottles — and the clean slate provided by unmarked 2013 calendars.

Of course with the New Year resolutions and the intentions of saint-like behavior come a whole new raft of rules to break.

Hundreds of new laws will take effect on Jan. 1, the product of a legislature busy at the fine detail of lawmaking if not the big picture concepts of budget, education and infrastructure reform that Californians so crave.

As a result of 2012 diligence at the capital, hot air balloons will fly higher because they are no longer weighed down by the threat of massive insurance costs and barrel-aged beer won't feel left out of the list of holiday libations as the definition of "beer" has been expanded to include that which emerges from wine and whiskey containers.

Santa Monica, with its dearth of hot air balloons and commercial brewers, will not much feel the impact of either of those new rules, but there are a number to keep on the radar both to applaud the efforts of local lawmakers and ensure they don't run afoul of the 5-0.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The California Highway Patrol released a laundry list of new regulations that address everything from carrying paperless proof of insurance on smartphones to rules surrounding self-driving cars.

Legislators fixed the rules on red light cameras after conflicting court decisions made it an open question of whether or not someone could be held accountable for traffic tickets assigned as a result of the digital narcs.

The new law restricts red light cameras by requiring that their placement be based solely on safety considerations and specifically prohibits the use of the devices to raise revenue, but also allows the evidence taken to be used in court.

That won't be an issue in Santa Monica, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, a spokesperson for the Santa Monica Police Department, for one simple reason — there are no red light cameras here.

That will change when the Exposition Light Rail line meanders its way down Colorado Avenue in 2015, but the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will be in charge of those, Lewis said.

Another new piece of legislation should make drivers with small children feel more secure in their progeny's safety.

SEE LAWS PAGE 9

AP poll: Mass shootings voted top 2012 news story

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK The horrific massacre of 26 children and staff at a Connecticut elementary school, along with other mass shootings, was the top news story of 2012, narrowly edging out the U.S. election, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The results followed a rare decision by the AP to re-conduct the voting. The initial round of balloting had ended Dec. 13, a day before the shootings in Newtown, with the election ranked No. 1, followed by Superstorm Sandy. The original entry for mass shootings, focused on the rampage at an Aurora, Colo., movie theater, placed sixth in that voting.

In the new poll, updated to account for Newtown, the mass shootings received 68 first-place votes out of 173 ballots cast for the top 10 stories, compared to 65 first-place votes for the election — one of the closest results since the AP launched the poll in 1936. On a scale of points ranging from 10 for first place to one for 10th place, the shootings tallied 1448 points, compared to 1417 for the election. The second balloting ran Dec. 17-19.

Superstorm Sandy was third, far ahead of the next group of stories.

"After we completed our poll the news agenda was reshaped, tragically, by the Newtown shootings," said Michael Oreskes, AP's senior managing editor for U.S. news. "To chronicle that we conducted the poll again before releasing both results."

The U.S.-focused slant of the top stories this year contrasted with last year's voting, when the killing of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan was No. 1, followed by Japan's earthquake/tsunami disaster, and the Arab Spring uprisings that rocked North Africa and the Middle East.

Here are 2012's top 10 stories, in order:

1. MASS SHOOTINGS: Armed with a high-powered rifle, 20-year-old Adam Lanza forced his way into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., and shot dead 20 children — all ages 6 and 7 — and six staff members in the second-worst school

SEE 2012 PAGE 8

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012

Time to re-stock
Downtown Farmers' Market
Arizona Avenue and Second Street, 8:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Time to catch up on that post-holiday shopping at this weekly market. There's fresh produce, cut flowers, bread, cheese and prepared foods. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Get crafty
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 3 p.m. — 3:45 p.m.
Join library staff through Dec. 28 to make a daily craft. Wednesday's project is a beaded pin. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012

Story time
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11:15 a.m.
Stories for kids 3-5 every Thursday morning. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Stay current
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Jack Nordaus moderates a discussion on current events, both at home and abroad. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Telling tales
Vidiots Annex
302 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Tale Spin is a monthly gathering of people telling true stories. Seating is limited to 35, so arrive early. For more information, call (310) 392-8508.

Friday, Dec. 28, 2012

Break for art
Paint:LAB
2912 Main St., 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Spend your holiday break learning to paint. The Kids Winter Break Art Camp includes all materials and instruction as part of the price. Cost: $55-$100. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

By the fire
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
For the fourth year in a row the Miles presents the "Fireside at the Miles" series. Enjoy seven weekends and 16 separate events featuring contemporary music, storytelling, opera, jazz, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a capella singing and more. Performances take place beside the huge vintage fireplace with a cheery eco-log fire. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

On a mission
M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 10 p.m.
The Mission IMPROVable Show is one of the fastest improv show you've ever seen. See the show that's delighted audiences across the country for the last 10 years. Cost: $10. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

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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



FDA: Fast-growing fish would not harm nature

MARY CLARE JALONICK & MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Federal health regulators say a genetically modified salmon that grows twice as fast as normal is unlikely to harm the environment, clearing the way for the first approval of a scientifically engineered animal for human consumption.

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday released its environmental assessment of the AquaAdvantage salmon, a faster-growing fish which has been subject to a contentious, yearslong debate at the agency. The document concludes that the fish "will not have any significant impacts on the quality of the human environment of the United States." Regulators also said that the fish is unlikely to harm populations of natural salmon, a key concern for environmental activists.

The FDA will take comments from the public on its report for 60 days before making it final.

The FDA said more than two years ago that the fish appears to be safe to eat, but the agency had taken no public action since then. Executives for the company behind the fish, Maynard, Mass.-based Aquabounty, speculated that the government was delaying action on their application due to push-back from groups who oppose genetically modified food animals.

Experts view the release of the environmental report as the final step before approval.

"We are encouraged that the environmental assessment is being released and hope the government continues the science-based regulatory process," AquaBounty said in a statement.

If FDA regulators clear the salmon, as expected, it would be the first genetically altered animal approved for food anywhere in the world.

Critics call the modified salmon a "frankenfish." They worry that it could cause human allergies and the eventual decimation of the natural salmon population if it escapes and breeds in the wild. Others believe breeding engineered animals is an ethical issue.

AquaBounty has maintained that the fish is safe and that there are several safeguards against environmental problems. The fish would be bred female and sterile, though a

SEE **FISH** PAGE 11



Photo courtesy Google Images

BIG CHOICE: **New Year's Eve revelers will again be faced with the question of whether to drink while partying or not.**

High or dry for New Year's Eve?

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK Jennifer Perry isn't much of a drinker. Never has been, yet she's ready every New Year's Eve for the inevitable attention when she's out trying to have a good time.

"I don't care if everyone at the table orders a drink but me. That's fine," said Perry, 46, a singer in Atlanta. "What I do resent is being pressured, and then being asked is it a 'religious thing' or if I have a 'problem.'"

Sometimes, she relies on: "Oh, thank you, but I'm still on methadone." While not true, a quick apology usually ensues and the pesky prober moves along.

Whether in recovery or not interested for other reasons, the holidays often mean an excess of booze and drugs. Occasional drinkers fail to moderate and addiction programs around the country note upticks in patient loads soon after the new year, high season for relapsers and those seeking treatment for the first time.

"Alcohol is often center stage at holiday parties," said Amara Durham, a spokeswoman for Caron Texas, a treatment facility in Princeton, Texas. "Many people think they need alcohol to enjoy social occasions such as holiday celebrations."

Chapman Sledge, chief medical officer at Cumberland Heights, a center in the Nashville, Tenn., area, said loved ones hosting holiday dinners and parties should be sensitive to the difficulties of recovering guests.

"Stray comments like, 'Just a sip of wine at dinner won't hurt,' or 'It's a party, have a little fun,' even if they're unintentional, can slow or destroy an addict's recovery," he said.

Gina Bestenlehner, who is 12 years sober and program director for the Pur Detox center in Dana Point, Calif., suggests bringing along a sobriety buddy to help stay focused. She also recommends volunteering as a designated driver, which "gives a person new purpose and a reason to be there sober. It also saves lives."

Like other support groups around the country, the North Central Vermont Recovery Center in Morrisville hosts a sober New Year's Eve.

"Along with Thanksgiving and Christmas, New Year's Eve is one of those holidays that we try to create community events for because of their association with drinking and the stress of being in recovery and alone on them," said Nasreen Stump, a fundraiser for the center. "In three years our attendance at these events has almost quadrupled."

In Jersey Shore, Pa., Mary Baier is a non-drinker who will likely stay home with her husband this year for New Year's Eve. In the past, they've left parties right after midnight. "It's kind of hard to have a good time once people get drunk," she said.

SEE **NYE** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Budget talks hijacked

Editor:

The other problem facing Americans, besides guns, is the year-end fiscal crisis being perpetuated by Tea Party Republican politicians who have said they gleefully look forward to the prospect of the U.S. economy tumbling over the cliff.

Tea Party reactionaries have hijacked, taken control of and are dictating policy for the Republican Party, making compromise all but impossible.

The truth – "you can't negotiate with terrorists" – holds true here. Tea Party political pawns are economic terrorists who have chosen to leap off the cliff of insanity into the swamp of absurdity.

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica

More on TORCA

Editor:

Yes, the third rail of politics ("Bring back TORCA" Letters to the Editor, Dec. 19).

The Santa Monica Landmarks Commission has explored the possibility of some sort of TORCA-esque program for historic rental buildings. It would serve two purposes. It would preserve some of the historic fabric of the city. At the same time it might protect tenants in older historic buildings facing potential demolition by allowing the purchase of their units.

The San Vicente Boulevard and Ocean Avenue (301 Ocean) property is a great example. The Landmarks Commission landmarked the building, but that was overturned by the City Council by a close vote. Perhaps if such a policy had been in place, those tenants could have had the ability to make purchases under this limited TORCA (Tenant Ownership Rights Charter Amendment) policy. And perhaps the economic incentive to demolish it, prompting the appeal, might have been less. Probably wishful thinking in this case, but the point is clear.

The commission pushed hard to have the list of potentially historic property (the Historic Resources Inventory) expanded and updated. It serves as a basis to identify which historic buildings meet at least a threshold of historic character. It is not all inclusive, however.

As the Land Use and Circulation Element is implemented there will be changes to the various ordinances. The Landmarks Commission has also proposed additional incentives to be included in the revised landmarks ordinance. One major incentive, the Mills Act, enabling property tax reduction on historic buildings, has come under discussion because of issues related to the landmarked Kathryn Grayson mansion, AKA "The House of Rock." The council continued the decision on that Mils Act contract but asked the Landmarks Commission to look at ways to improve the city's Mills Act policy. It seems to me that there is opportunity to save more historic buildings and affordable housing by combining all these things.

Integrating this into public policy is the job of the council, not the Landmarks Commission. We can only propose issues related to historic preservation.

But yes, TORCA is the third rail of Santa Monica politics. Our proposal hit the advocates for affordable housing, even those who are otherwise historic preservation advocates both outside and on the council, with a big thud.

Roger Genser
Landmarks Commissioner

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Your column here

Sheldon Richman Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The fight over right-to-work

THE "RIGHT-TO-WORK" ISSUE is back. When a state passes a right-to-work law, as Michigan did this month, employers in that state can no longer agree to require workers to pay union fees as a condition of employment. Supporters of right-to-work see it as a way to protect workers from being forced to support unions against their will.

Many opponents of right-to-work counter that the laws let workers free-ride off dues-paying colleagues and reap the benefits of union services. Thus, those opponents claim the laws are intended to weakens unions.

Right-to-work can't be understood without first understanding the wider federal labor-law regime. In 1935 the National Labor Relations Act (or Wagner Act) became law under the New Deal. Among other things, it decreed that when a majority of workers in a company vote for a union, their employer must bargain with it "in good faith" and that all workers must support it financially, even those choosing not to join. This law violates free-market principles, including freedom of association, which includes the freedom to abstain from association.

More than a decade later Wagner was amended by the Taft-Hartley Act to ameliorate what many saw as union excesses. Provision 14(b) permits states to pass right-to-work laws, which ban agreements that make paying union fees a condition of employment.

Thus, right-to-work is a creature of the Wagner Act. After World War II, a repeal or a major modification of Wagner might have been possible, but too-clever politicians instead chose to give states the option to enact right-to-work laws. Some Wagner opponents thought this was a serious mistake, because it took pressure off the intrusive national labor-relations regime.

But maybe it wasn't a mistake; maybe it was a calculated move to salvage Wagner, albeit with modification. That's a reasonable inference, but to see it, a deeper analysis of Wagner is necessary. That law is typically considered a pro-labor, anti-business law. But it's not so simple. For one thing, radical labor activists, such as the Wobblies (the Industrial Workers of the World) opposed the act. On the other hand, important parts of the big-business elite had long lobbied for a labor law similar (but not identical) to Wagner through the American Association for Labor Legislation. The Wobblies might have had Adam Smith's dictum in mind: "Whenever the legislature attempts to regulate the differences between masters and their workmen, its counselors are always the masters."

Why would big business want a labor-relations law that interfered with the free market? Big business was no friend of the free market, and some of the business elite was willing to make concessions to labor for "industrial peace." By that, they had in mind an end to unannounced walkouts (wildcat strikes), work showdowns, secondary strikes along the supply chain, and sympathy boycotts. These and similar tactics were favored by the Wobblies. The Wagner-Taft-Hartley regime outlawed those actions and imposed federal rules governing union certification through supervised elections, cooling-off periods before strikes, and federal mediation. Labor leaders, despite their hostile rhetoric toward employers, became the enforcers of union contracts — to the outrage of labor radicals.

RIGHT-TO-WORK ENLARGES GOVERNMENT'S ROLE AND AFFIRMS THE MISTAKEN PHILOSOPHY THAT IT HAS A PLACE IN LABOR RELATIONS.

At the time Taft-Hartley was drafted, some advocates of the free market opposed it on principle, because forbidding a particular kind of agreement between an employer and a union violated free-market principles. They argued that the remedy for compulsory unionism was to repeal offending laws like Wagner rather than to pass a new law interfering with freedom of contract.

One free-market advocate, Percy L. Greaves Jr., pointed out that government intervention on behalf of labor was a response to earlier government privileges for business. "Most such intervention," Greaves said, "was planned to help organized 'labor' and the other large groups that had suffered when employers were in the saddle and obtaining favorable intervention for themselves." Greaves was echoing President Grover Cleveland, who in 1888 similarly attributed the rise of radicalism in America to government privileges for "combined wealth and capital." In light of that, he argued, the cure was to abolish corporate privileges and remove the excuse for countervailing privileges.

All government favors, which are rooted in force, should be ended, leaving labor and management to negotiate in peace in a competitive marketplace. Right-to-work enlarges government's role and affirms the mistaken philosophy that it has a place in labor relations.

SHELDON RICHMAN is vice president and editor at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) in Fairfax, Va.

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Sarah A. Spitz, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com
Justin Harris
justin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Nathalyd Meza

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913
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Help is available when elderly relative's health fails

JIM FITZGERALD
Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. Marnie Schwartz was in California, a lawyer raising two toddlers. She was in no position to move across the country to care for her mother, who was living alone in New York and whose health was beginning to decline.

Schwartz's dilemma was similar to that faced by more and more Americans as the population spreads out, people live longer and giving up a job is out of the question.

"I needed eyes and ears closer to my mother," said Schwartz, an only child living in Malibu. "I needed someone to handle the medical, the insurance, the financial, stay on top of the daily caregiving, so the emotional strain wouldn't be overwhelming."

Those needs have fostered a niche that a variety of enterprises have been filling in recent years. Companies and individuals calling themselves advocates, care managers and advisers are willing to stand in for the family and deal with the maze of responsibilities that comes with the care of an elderly loved one.

With the aging of the baby boom generation, the 78 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964, calls for such businesses are expected to increase over the next 20 years.

Their service doesn't come cheap and it's generally not covered by insurance. But some customers have found it's worth the peace of mind.

Schwartz found her "eyes and ears" when a childhood friend told her about A Dignified Life, a small company in White Plains, N.Y., that specializes in elder care.

"I don't know what I would have done without them," Schwartz said. "They knew where to go with all these questions I had that would have taken me 500 phone calls. They deciphered what the doctors were saying. They got a ramp built at the house. They dealt with the plumber. They remembered everything, and they did it in a really human, caring way.

"In about a year and a half, as my mother's situation got worse, they became part of our daily life," Schwartz said. And in October, as her mother's health failed, "they told me it was time to get on a plane." She was at her mother's deathbed, she said, because A Dignified Life knew when to call.

Barbara Newman Mannix, who runs the company, said "experience and empathy" are required to do the job well. She vets, hires and monitors in-home caregivers, attorneys, nursing homes and more, guides a family through the financial tangles and makes sure an elderly person's wishes are respected. She can help arrange the sale of a house and preplan a funeral.

For an initial, $625 four-hour consultation, her company will evaluate a family's needs and come up with an "action plan." The family can then hire the company to implement the plan on an hourly or retainer basis.

Mannix started the company after navigating the maze during her husband's fatal illness.

"You're suddenly in crisis and the normal reaction is, 'What do I do, where do I go, who do I call first?'" she said. "People are lost. But we tell them there is a way to cope, there is crisis management, there are people that will help you who do what they do all day every day."

She said many people just don't have the personality for dealing with doctors and caregivers and insurance companies.

"It's time, it's energy, it's stress, it's consternation among members of the family," she said. "There's emotional baggage, and if you have children yourself you're being pulled in both directions."

Judy Rappaport, who runs Preferred Lifestyle Services in Jupiter, Fla., said most elderly people resist moving to a son or daughter's home.

"Everybody wants to stay home," Rappaport said. "Now we do what we can to make it possible for people to stay in their homes."

Most of her company's staffers are nurses.

"When we're hired, we go in and count the pills, check the food in the refrigerator, we talk to the doctors," she said. "We get a complete picture and we write up a report in lay language. The family knows what we'll do and what it will cost right up front."

The services can get very specific.

"We had one lady who wanted to play bingo and we said, 'No problem, we can get you to bingo.' But she was a German lady and she wanted to play bingo in German," Rappaport said. "We found a place."

Jullie Gray, incoming president of the National Association of Geriatric Care Managers, said membership is now near 2,000, up from fewer than 1,600 a decade ago.

Rappaport said the average fee for her clients is between $1,500 and $2,500 a month, not including the in-home caretakers' pay.

David Cutner, an elder law attorney in Manhattan, said he worries about elderly people exhausting their assets, but added, "People who have a substantial net worth and are not thinking about government benefit programs might well want to hire this type of service."

The Q Line

Wishful thinking

With 2013 seemingly right around the corner, we were wondering what you wanted in the new year.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What is your resolution for the coming year and why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.


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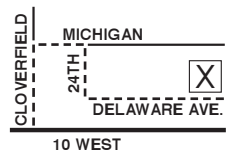


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Audits of businesses for illegal immigrants rising

MANUEL VALDES
Associated Press

SEATTLE U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement reached its highest number yet of companies audited for illegal immigrants on their payrolls this past fiscal year.

Audits of employer I-9 forms increased from 250 in fiscal year 2007 to more than 3,000 in 2012. From fiscal years 2009 to 2012, the total amount of fines grew to nearly $13 million from $1 million. The number of company managers arrested has increased to 238, according to data provided by ICE.

The investigations of companies have been one of the pillars of President Barack Obama's immigration policy.

When Obama recently spoke about addressing immigration reform in his second term, he said any measure should contain penalties for companies that purposely hire illegal immigrants. It's not a new stand, but one he will likely highlight as his administration launches efforts to revamp the nation's immigration system.

"Our goal is compliance and deterrence," said Brad Bench, special agent in charge at ICE's Seattle office. "The majority of the companies we do audits on end up with no fines at all, but again it's part of the deterrence method. If companies know we're out there, looking across the board, they're more likely to bring themselves into compliance."

While the administration has used those numbers to bolster their record on immigration enforcement, advocates say the audits have pushed workers further underground by causing mass layoffs and disrupted business practices.

When the ICE audit letter arrived at Belco Forest Products, management wasn't entirely surprised. Two nearby businesses in Shelton, a small timber town on a bay off Washington state's Puget Sound, had already been investigated.

But the 2010 inquiry became a months-long process that cost the timber company experienced workers and money. It was fined $17,700 for technicalities on their record keeping.

"What I don't like is the roll of the dice," said Belco's chief financial officer Tom Behrens. "Why do some companies get audited and some don't? Either everyone gets audited or nobody does. Level the playing field."

Belco was one of 339 companies fined in fiscal year 2011 and one of thousands audited that year.

Employers are required to have their workers fill out an I-9 form that declares them authorized to work in the country. Currently, an employer needs only to verify that identifying documents look real.

The audits, part of a $138 million worksite enforcement effort, rely on ICE officers scouring over payroll records to find names that don't match Social Security numbers and other identification databases.

The audits "don't make any sense before a legalization program," said Daniel Costa, an immigration policy analyst at the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank. "You're leaving the whole thing up to an employer's eyesight and subjective judgment, that's the failure of the law. There's no verification at all. Then you have is the government making a subjective judgment about subjective judgment."

An AP review of audits that resulted in fines in fiscal year 2011 shows that the federal government is fining industries across the country reliant on manual labor and that historically have hired immigrants. The data provides a glimpse into the results of a process affecting thousands of companies and thousands of workers nationwide.

Over the years, ICE has switched back-and-forth between making names of the companies fined public or not. Lately, ICE has emphasized its criminal investigations of managers, such as a Dunkin' Donuts manager in Maine sentenced to home arrest for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants or a manager of an Illinois hiring firm who got 18 months in prison.

Many employers also wonder how ICE picks the companies it probes.

"Geography is not a factor. The size of the company is not a factor. And the industry it's in is not a factor. We can audit any company anywhere of any size," Bench said. He added ICE auditors follow leads from the public, other employers, employees and do perform some random audits.

But ICE auditors hit ethnic stores, restaurants, bakeries, manufacturing companies, construction, food packaging, janitorial services, catering, dairies and farms. The aviation branch of corporate giant GE, franchises of sandwich shop Subway and a subsidiary of food product company Heinz were among some of the companies with national name recognition. GE was fined $2,000.

In fiscal year 2011, the most recent year reviewed by AP, the median fine was $11,000. The state with the most workplaces fined was Texas with 63, followed by New Jersey with 37.

The lowest fine was $90 to a Massachusetts fishing company. The highest fine was $394,944 to an employment agency in Minneapolis, according to the data released to AP through a public records request.

A Subway spokesman said the company advises franchise owners to follow the law. A Heinz spokesman declined comment.

Bench didn't have specifics on what percentage of fines come from companies having illegal immigrants on their payroll, as opposed to technical paperwork fines in recent years.

Julie Wood, a former deputy director at ICE who now runs a consulting firm, said she'd like to see the burden of proving the legality of a company's workforce go from the employer to the government. She'd like to see a type of program, such as E-Verify, be implemented with the I-9 employment form. E-Verify is a voluntary and free program for private employers that checks a workers eligibility.

"At the end of the day, the fine is the least of it," she said. "Usually the company will spend more on legal fees. But it is a huge headache for the company to lose workers."

Wood said she'd like to see the agency go after more criminal charges and focus on companies that treat workers inhumanely.

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Ranchers split over U.S. border security plan

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

NOGALES, Ariz. When Dan Bell drives through his 35,000-acre cattle ranch, he speaks of the hurdles that the Border Patrol faces in his rolling green hills of oak and mesquite trees — the hours it takes to drive to some places, the wilderness areas that are generally off-limits to motorized vehicles, the environmental reviews required to extend a dirt road.

John Ladd offers a different take from his 14,000-acre spread: the Border Patrol already has more than enough roads and its beefed-up presence has flooded his land and eroded the soil.

Their differences explain why ranchers are on opposite sides of the fence over a sweeping proposal to waive environmental reviews on federal lands within 100 miles of Mexico and Canada for the sake of border security. The Border Patrol would have a free hand to build roads, camera towers, helicopter pads and living quarters without any of the outside scrutiny that can modify or even derail plans to extend its footprint.

The U.S. House approved the bill authored by Utah Republican Rob Bishop in June. But prospects in the Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate are extremely slim and chances of President Barack Obama's signature even slimmer. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano testified in Congress this year that the bill was unnecessary and "bad policy."

Still, an idea that House Republicans kicked around for years has advanced farther in the legislative process than ever before and rekindled discussion over how to balance border security with wildlife protection.

The debate raises some of the same questions that will play out on a larger scale when Congress and the president tackle immigration reform: Is the U.S. border with Mexico secure, considered by some lawmakers to be a litmus test for granting legal residency and citizenship to millions? Has the U.S. reached a point of border security overkill?

Heightened enforcement — along with a fewer available jobs in the U.S. and an aging population in Mexico — has brought Border Patrol arrests to 40-year lows.

The U.S. has erected 650 miles of fences and other barriers on the Mexican border, almost all of it after a 2005 law gave the Homeland Security secretary power to waive environmental reviews. The administration of President George W. Bush exercised its waiver authority on hundreds of miles after years of court challenges and environmental reviews delayed construction on a 14-mile stretch in San Diego.

The Border Patrol, which has doubled to more than 21,000 agents since 2004, has also built 12 "forward operating bases" to increase its presence in remote areas. Instead of driving long distances from their stations every shift, agents stay at the camps for several days.

Lots more needs to be done, according to backers of Bishop's bill to rewrite rules on millions of acres of federal land managed by the Interior and Agriculture departments, including more than 800 miles bordering Mexico and 1,000 miles bordering Canada. The bill would waive reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and 14 other laws in dozens of wilderness areas, national forests and national parks.

"It's a paralyzing process now," Bell, 44, said as his GMC truck barreled down a dirt road on a 10-mile stretch of his ranch that borders Mexico. "They wanted to put this road in for a decade, probably even longer. They broke ground on it last year."

Bell, a burly, third-generation rancher who leases his land from the Agriculture Department, acknowledges there are noticeably fewer border crossers since the government built a fence on the eastern part of his ranch, near Nogales. In the ranch's west end, the Border Patrol opened one of its camps in 2005 — a collection of shipping containers that agents use as a base while alternating 12-hour shifts.

Yet migrants continue crossing in some rugged reaches that are well outside of cellphone range. Bell says waiving environmental reviews within 100 miles of the border may be unnecessary but that a 25-mile zone would help immensely.

"There are areas where the agents can't get to," he said. "By the time they get out of the station and get to these remote areas, then hike another two or three hours just to get close to the border, they have to come back because their day is pretty much eaten up. It's really difficult when there's no access out there."

Ladd, a fourth-generation rancher whose spread near Douglas is in a flatter, more easily traveled area of mesquite-draped hills, thinks the Border Patrol has gone far enough. The agency installed four 80-foot camera towers on his land about six years ago. In 2007, it completed a fence along the 10.5 miles of his ranch that borders Mexico.

Rainfall that runs downhill from Mexico is stopped by debris caught in the mesh fence and an adjoining raised road, Ladd says. The water is diverted to other areas, causing floods and soil erosion on his property.

Ladd, 57, thinks the bill would allow the Border Patrol to "run roughshod" over ranches and farms.

"Be careful what you wish for, they're going to tear it up," Ladd tells other ranchers. "Once they get in, it pretty well turns into a parking lot. It's really hard to get them out."

Ladd says the 37 miles of roads on his ranch are enough for the Border Patrol's needs. "Why do you need new ones?" he asks.

The Interior Department raised concerns in a survey of Arizona's Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge last year that found nearly 8,000 miles of off-road vehicle trails, blaming much of it on smuggling and Border Patrol activity. It urged the Border Patrol to rely on tools like radars and cameras, which are less threatening to wildlife.

Critics of the Border Patrol's growth have long called new fences, roads and other infrastructure a threat to Sonoran pronghorn, Mexican grey wolves, jaguars and other border wildlife.

A Government Accountability Office report in 2010 offered fodder for both sides of the debate. It found Border Patrol supervisors generally felt land laws didn't hinder them on the job but that the agency sometimes encountered roadblocks. An unnamed agency took four months to review a Border Patrol request to move a camera tower in Arizona, by which time traffic had moved to another area.

Rep. Raul Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat who has led opposition to the bill that has largely split along party lines, calls the effort a disguised step toward repealing environmental laws.





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2012
FROM PAGE 1

massacre in U.S. history. Sadly, it was only one of several mass shootings, including the killing of 12 people at a movie theater in Aurora, Colo. After the Newtown tragedy, President Barack Obama and many others, including some staunch gun-rights supporters, said it was time to find ways to rein in gun violence.

2. U.S. ELECTION: Mitt Romney outcampaigned an eclectic field of Republican rivals, and bested Obama in their opening head-to-head debate. But on Election Day, thanks in part to a vigorous get-out-the-vote operation, Obama won a second term with a large lead in electoral votes and a solid advantage in popular votes. The GOP hung on to its majority in the House, but lost two seats to remain a minority in the Senate despite early-campaign projections of gains there.

3. SUPERSTORM: As a prelude, the storm named Sandy killed more than 70 people in the Caribbean. Then its high winds and high waters slammed into more than 800 miles of the eastern U.S. seaboard, killing at least 125 more people, and causing damage calculated at well over $60 billion — the second-costliest storm in U.S. history after 2005's Hurricane Katrina. New York and New Jersey were the worst hit, with several hundred thousand homes and businesses damaged or destroyed.

4. OBAMACARE: By a 5-4 margin, the Supreme Court upheld the core elements of Obama's much-debated health care overhaul, which even he embraced as "Obamacare." To widespread surprise, the decisive vote came from John Roberts, the generally conservative-leaning chief justice appointed by Republican George W. Bush. Romney, as GOP presidential nominee, vowed to repeal the law if he won, but Obama's victory ensured the plan would proceed, with complex ramifications for insurers, employers, health-care providers and state governments.

5. LIBYA: Even amid yearlong turmoil in Libya, it was a jarring incident — a Sept. 11 assault in Benghazi, widely blamed on a group with suspected links to al-Qaida, that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stephens and three other Americans. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, later bowed out of consideration to be the next secretary of state because of her assertions in TV interviews that a spontaneous demonstration over an anti-Muslim video triggered the attack.

6. PENN STATE: It was a daunting year for Penn State and its storied football program. In January, longtime coach Joe Paterno died, his legacy tarnished by the sex-abuse scandal involving his former assistant, Jerry Sandusky. In June, after a wrenching trial, Sandusky was convicted of sexually abusing 10 boys, and was later sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison. In July, the NCAA imposed severe sanctions, including $60 million in fines, a four-year postseason ban on football and a reduction in football scholarships.

7. US ECONOMY: By many measures, the economy was on a welcome upswing. The unemployment rate dipped to a four-year-low of 7.7 percent, stock markets rose, builders broke ground on more homes, and November was the best sales month in nearly five years for U.S. automakers. But overshadowing the good news was deep

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LAWS
FROM PAGE 1

Hospitals, clinics and birthing centers will be required to provide and discuss contact information regarding child safety seat requirements, installation and inspection to parents and caregivers when children are released from the hospital.

According to the bill, 70 percent of children on the road are improperly restrained, and car crashes are the leading cause of death of children who are between 3 and 14 years old.

"(National Highway Transportation Safety Administration) estimates that proper usage of child safety seats could reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers," according to the bill.

In other ways, law is catching up to current practice a bit in 2013. Potentially-intoxicated drivers will no longer have the option to request a urine sample to prove their innocence or lack thereof, and instead will be restricted to a blood sample.

Acquiring the urine sample is much more difficult and time-consuming, and not always feasible depending on what kinds of drugs the driver has been taking, Lewis said.

For more information on new road laws, visit chp.ca.gov.

STAYING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Homeowner's Bill of Rights, signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown in July, will also come into effect on Jan. 1.

The package of legislation restricts dual-track foreclosure, a situation where a lender forecloses on a borrower despite ongoing loan modification negotiations meant to save the property. It also guarantees that struggling homeowners will have one person to call at their lender who has knowledge of their specific case, and imposes civil penalties on improperly-signed mortgage documents.

"The California Homeowner's Bill of Rights will give struggling homeowners a fighting shot to keep their home," said Attorney General Kamala Harris. "This legislation will make the mortgage and foreclosure process more fair and transparent, which will benefit homeowners, their community, and the housing market as a whole."

According to RealtyTrac.com, a website that tracks foreclosure information, there are 62 properties in Santa Monica that are in default, or pre-foreclosure.

LOCAL YOKELS

Santa Monica's existing and soon-to-be legislators also kept busy in 2012, championing bills that advance the city's progressive values.

Julia Brownley tackled numerous education-related measures in her last year in the California State Assembly, some of which mirrored previous work done as a member of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education.

Chief amongst those was a bill supporting school-based health center programs authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act — better known as "Obamacare" — and in some cases already in place in local schools.

According to the California State legislative website, State Sen. Fran Pavley had at least four bills that are awaiting referral to the State Senate and State Sen. Ted Lieu, who will represent Santa Monica in the new year, had a number of bills that made it past the governor, the most important of which was a measure that made therapies meant to "cure" gay teens illegal.

Lieu hopes that it will end "needless psychological abuse" and save lives.

"I was also pleased that the state law was able to highlight the absurdity of gay conversion therapy, and has led to the filing of malpractice lawsuits against conversion therapists," Lieu told the Daily Press last week.

ashley@smdp.com

STORIES
FROM PAGE 8

anxiety about the economic consequences if Obama and the Democrats failed to reach a tax-and-spending deal with the Republicans.

8. FISCAL CLIFF: Obama and Republican House Speaker John Boehner engaged in high-stakes negotiations over a deal to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff" that would trigger automatic tax hikes and spending cuts. The leaders narrowed some differences on Social Security and tax rates for the wealthy, but faced intense pressure from their bases to resist certain compromises.

9. GAY MARRIAGE: For supporters of same-sex marriage, it was a year of milestones. Obama, after a drawn-out process of "evolving," said in May he supported the right of gay couples to wed. On Election Day, Maine, Maryland and Washington became the first states to legalize gay marriage via popular vote. And on Dec. 7 the Supreme Court agreed to hear two cases that could further expand same-sex marriage rights.

10. SYRIA: What began in 2011 as an outbreak of peaceful protests escalated into full-scale civil war pitting the beleaguered regime of Bashar Assad against a disparate but increasingly potent rebel opposition. The overall death toll climbed past 40,000, as the rebels made inroads toward Assad's bastion of Damascus. The U.S. and many other nations were supporting the opposition, albeit wary of outcomes that might help Islamic extremists gain power in the region.

Falling just short of the Top 10 was the resignation of David Petraeus as CIA director because of an affair he conducted with his biographer, Paula Broadwell.

The choices of the news professionals voting in the AP poll mirrored the news stories most closely followed by the public during the year, according to the Pew Research Center's News Interest Index. The index ranked Obama's re-election as the most intently followed story, with the Newtown shooting second and Superstorm Sandy third.

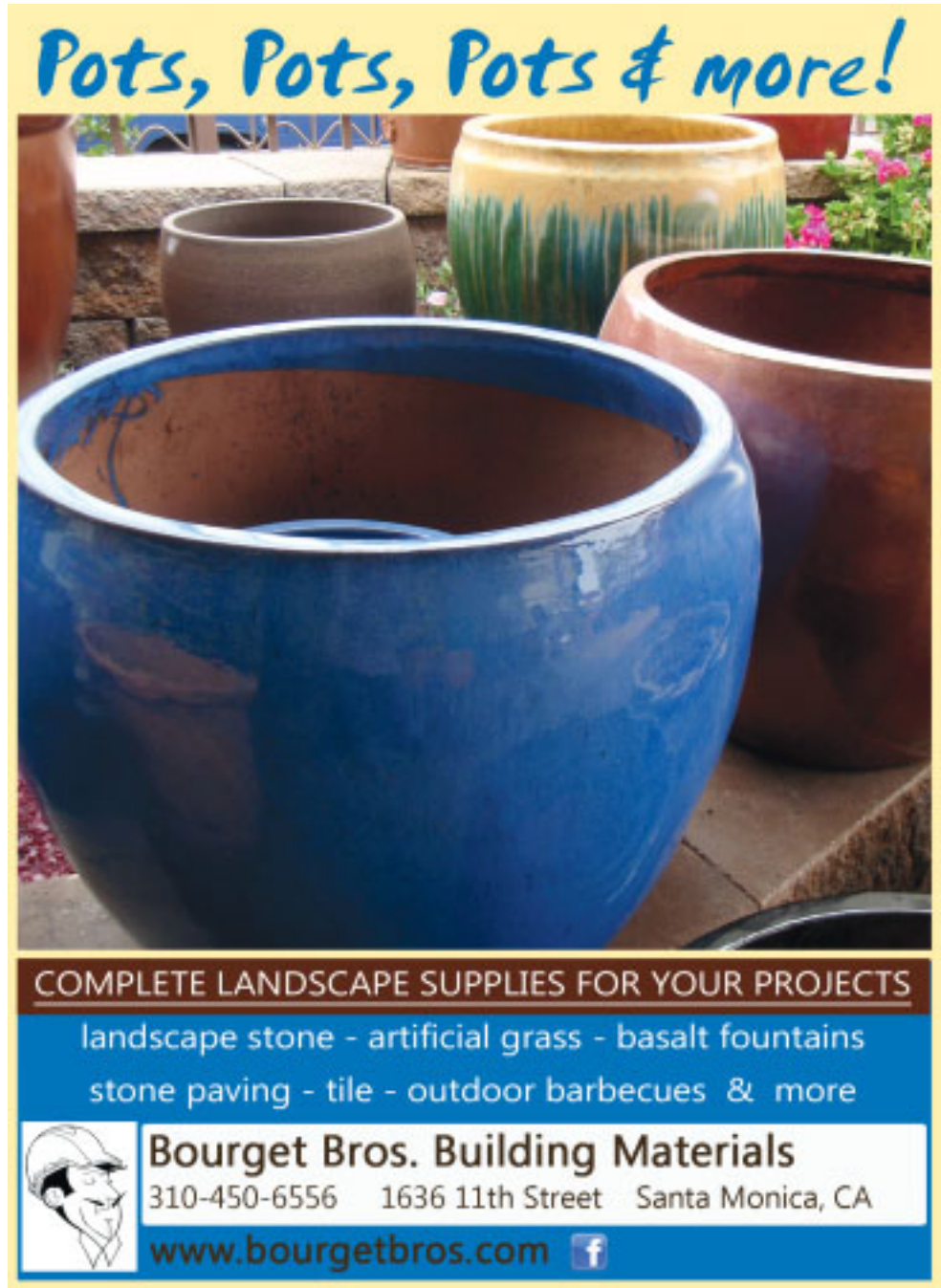
Several voters in the AP poll added a comment with their ballot, including Carol Hanner, managing editor of the Winston-Salem Journal in North Carolina.

"I believe climate change is being chronically underestimated by the media and by citizens," she wrote.

The AP, like many other news organizations, traditionally releases its year-end polls and rankings before the actual end of the year. In the case of 2004's top story poll, that meant the final list did not include the cataclysmic Indian Ocean tsunami that occurred on Dec. 26.

In 2009, AP's sports department amended its top-stories ballot part way through the voting to account for revelations about golfer Tiger Woods' marital infidelities. That ended out finishing fifth, far behind the top-ranked entry about Major League Baseball's steroid scandal.





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FISH
FROM PAGE 3

very small percentage might still be able to breed. The company said the potential for escape is low. The FDA backed these assertions in documents released in 2010.

Since its founding in 1991, Aquabounty has burned through more than $67 million developing the fast-growing fish. According to its midyear financial report, the company had less than $1.5 million in cash and stock left. It has no other products in development.

Genetically engineered — or GE — animals are not clones, which the FDA has already said are safe to eat. Clones are copies of an animal. In GE animals, the DNA has been altered to produce a desirable trait.

The AquaAdvantage salmon has an added growth hormone from the Pacific Chinook salmon that allows the fish to produce growth hormone all year long. The engineers were able to keep the hormone active by using another gene from an eel-like fish called an ocean pout that acts like an "on" switch for the hormone. Typical Atlantic salmon produce the growth hormone for only part of the year.

It is still unclear whether the public will have an appetite for the fish if it is approved. Genetic engineering is already widely used for crops, but the government until now has not considered allowing the consumption of modified animals. Although the potential benefits — and profits — are huge, many people have qualms about manipulating the genetic code of other living creatures.

If the salmon are eventually approved for sale, consumers may not even know they are eating them. According to federal guidelines, the fish would not be labeled as genetically modified if the agency decides it has the same material makeup as conventional salmon. AquaBounty says that genetically modified salmon have the same flavor, texture, color and odor as the conventional fish, and the FDA so far has not shown any signs of disagreeing.

Wenonah Hauter, director of the advocacy group Food and Water Watch, said forgoing labeling not only ignores consumers' rights to know what they are eating, but "is simply bad for business, as many will avoid purchasing any salmon for fear it is genetically engineered."

Hauter urged members of Congress to block the impending approval of the fish. Congressional opposition to the engineered fish has so far been led by members of the Alaska delegation, who see the modified salmon as a threat to the state's wild salmon industry.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said Friday she is working to convince fellow senators that approval for the fish should be stopped.

"This is especially troubling as the agency is ignoring the opposition by salmon and fishing groups, as well as more than 300 environmental, consumer and health organizations," she said of the preliminary approval.

NYE
FROM PAGE 3

Cathy Griffin, 54, of Los Angeles has been sober for five years. "I'm a free woman now and go about my business and personal life wherever there is alcohol and barely give it any thought," she said, "but in the early days of my recovery, it was hell!"

Instead of salivating while watching the wine meet the lips of the guy across the room, offer to help cut fruit and veggies or rinse some glasses, " anything to get your mind off the fact that you can't drink," she said.

"Look for people who are not drinking to start up a conversation. Believe it or not, there are more people who are not sloshed than you might think," Griffin added. "Make a game or a challenge out of finding the folks who are not drinking."

And perhaps most important of all, she said, "Prepare before the battle." Think about what you're going to drink before you get there. Stay away from caffeine-laden energy drinks and go straight to the bar and ask for a non-alcoholic beverage with a smile.

"I found for me, I didn't have to stay all night," Griffin said. "If I felt uncomfortable, even if it wasn't already midnight, I gave myself permission to leave or go outside and call a sober buddy, and most importantly, breathe — the moment will pass."

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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 6T STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 2
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 11
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 18 / 10
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	C	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Winter 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 (broach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	C
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	C

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

Argentina import controls put brake on bike sales

JESSICA WEISS
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina Summer has arrived in the Southern Hemisphere, and bicyclists all over the Argentine capital have hit the streets to enjoy the warm weather. That means this should be peak season for bicycle manufacturers and shops all over town, but the ride hasn't been so smooth this year.

Instead, economic dysfunction has curtailed any possible boom. Cardboard boxes full of partially assembled mountain bikes, missing a pedal, seat or handlebars and unable to be sold, gather dust in a corner of the Musetta bicycle factory in suburban Buenos Aires. Meanwhile, they're running out of stock at Nodari Bikes, a neighborhood cycling store.

Civic leaders have tried to make Buenos Aires a bicycle-friendly city, but that's been stymied by another government initiative — protectionist import bans designed to spur domestic production that have instead strangled supplies of everything from bananas to prescription drugs.

Enacted by the national government on Feb. 1, the new laws block or restrict the importing of some 600 goods while requiring foreign companies to partner with local manufacturers. That's helped Argentina's domestic manufacturing capacity rebound, while unemployment has dropped and the nation's balance of trade has improved. But many products are also hard to find, pushing up prices and further heating up inflation.

For cyclists, fewer bikes are available because the business mostly relies on foreign-made parts.

"We're selling the little that remains and sort of waiting to see what happens next," said bike shop owner Claudio Nodari. "It's too bad because biking was growing — this was a moment of opportunity."

A record 1.8 million bicycles were sold in Argentina in 2011, and the industry had predicted sales would surpass 2 million bikes in 2012, producing an estimated $510 million in revenue.

Now, the Argentine Bicycle Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimates some 1.6 million bikes will be sold in 2012. And that number would have been lower but for a Buenos Aires city program that offered loans of up to $600 per bike purchase, the group says. In its first week, the financing program drew 4,000 requests at the 21 bike shops taking part.

If anything, Argentines have learned how to be creative, as President Cristina Fernandez imposes tight currency controls and other economic measures designed to fight high inflation and stop the flight of dollars.

Musetta owner Adrian Giuliani has had to call off plans to expand into producing high-end specialty and mountain bikes. Instead, the factory is making parts such as seat posts specifically hit by the import restrictions and also turning out simpler bikes.

"Instead of expanding to new models, we are producing many children's and cruiser bikes that don't require many imported parts. And business is steady," Giuliani said.

At manufacturer Bicicletas Enrique in the northwest Argentine city of Corboda, president Enrique Espanon says business will end the year down 15 percent from 2011. The manufacturer depends on foreign parts for much of its production.

Business leaders say the controls have forced companies of all types to come up with creative strategies just to keep going. Italian car maker Porsche, for example, is exporting Argentine wine, while BMW is exporting rice to meet a required balance in selling foreign- and domestically-produced goods.

Argentina's bike sector, however, wasn't prepared to export or otherwise meet local demand, which meant the price of bikes and bike parts has shot up and stock is dwindling, says the bicycle chamber's president, Claudio Canaglia.

At Nodari, a Mongoose bicycle that retails for $150 in the United States now costs the equivalent of $700 in Argentina.

Virtually all high-end bikes use imported parts, made mostly in Asia. When Nodari's shop can't find such foreign parts, it goes to local manufacturers, despite the inconsistent quantity and quality of their products, the store's owner said.

"I've had some trouble getting parts for my bike," says cyclist Diana June Tansey. "It took three stores to find a tube, and then I paid $20 for it, when they normally cost $5 to $10."

Hybrid bikes ridden by many for recreation also require a portion of imported parts, though not as many. Canaglia says that out of the 42 parts that make up a hybrid bike, just one or two may be imported, such as a chain, sprocket or handlebars. But without those parts, the bike is useless and unsellable, he says.

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Call theater for information.

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

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

Rise of the Guardians (PG)
1hr 37min
11:00am, 1:25pm, 3:55pm

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

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:45am, 3:30pm, 7:15pm, 11:00pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

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

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

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D
(PG-13) 2hrs 46min
12:45pm, 4:35pm, 8:30pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
4:00pm, 9:40pm

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

Sessions (R) 1hr 38min
1:30pm, 7:10pm

West of Memphis (R) 2hrs 30min
1:10pm, 4:40pm, 8:10pm

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

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

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

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

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
6:30pm, 10:15pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:00am, 2:40pm, 6:15pm, 10:00pm

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

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

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

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

Don't fight tonight, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You still might be going to extremes and might find yourself floating on the wave of excitement left over from all the celebrating. Work with a loved one who feels stressed financially. Tonight: Avoid a fight at all costs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Curb a tendency to want everything to go your way. This need for control could distance others. Do you really want that to happen? Trying to dictate to others seems nearly impossible, yet some people might decide to go along with your wishes. Tonight: Make calls.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your smile attracts many people. A conversation could make someone feel misunderstood on some level. Allow heavy issues to float over you. You know that there is much more going on here than meets the eye. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Much is going on behind the scenes. You might not be ready to discuss these issues. A child or loved one might reflect your mood. Do not attribute this person's behavior to control games. Tonight: How about some extra sleep?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Do not hesitate to ask for what you want, even if you already feel indulged. Listen to your instincts with a family member. This person needs someone to pitch in. You can make quite a difference; you know what to do. Let go of a misunderstanding. Tonight: Where people are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Take charge of a situation. Others simply have a hard time moving in and handling difficult matters. Adjust your schedule. A loved one could be miffed that you are not spending more time with him or her. Explanations might not work, either. Tonight: Could be late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Return calls, and focus on plans for a potential trip. Go with your feelings, even if you believe yourself to be rather vulnerable. The reception you receive might be much different from what you expected, and in a sense, it will be calming. Tonight: Let your mind relax to a movie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Deal with a partner directly. Yes, there might be an inherent misunderstanding, but right now, it might be best to let it go; otherwise, it could become worse. Let your feelings be known in a nonconfrontational manner rather than hold them back. Tonight: Be half of a duo.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Defer to others, and you might be surprised at what happens as a result. You could be more negative than you realize, and it will affect your relationships. Tonight: Let bygones be bygones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might be thinking about tomorrow already. You have, on some level, made an important decision that you are anxious to act on. Time is your ally. You might want to see if you feel the same way in a couple of days. Tonight: Do for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan.20-Feb.18)
★★★★★ Your mischievous personality emerges once more. You might have had a difficult realization about someone in your life, but try to think positively. You could feel differently on a deeper level. Tonight: Lighten up!

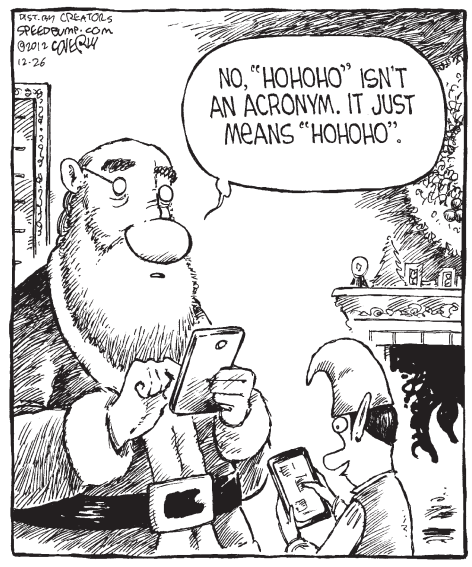
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to slow down after the recent hectic pace of the holidays. A friend could decide to breeze right in through your door. The end result will be a change of plans. Go for what you want. Be careful, as confusion marks a relationship. Tonight: Make it early.

Happy birthday

This year you often view effectiveness as a goal. Sometimes you could glide right over the deeper meaning of a situation. Emotions will dominate your day-to-day routine. More often than not, they will be positive feelings; however, sometimes they point you in the direction of overindulgence. Be open. If you are single, you could meet someone important through your work. It could take a while to recognize this person, though -- perhaps even until the second half of the year. If you are attached, the two of you make an excellent team when it comes to practical matters. Allow this excellence to float into your emotional bond. GEMINI often irks you, as he or she seems to miss profound issues.

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

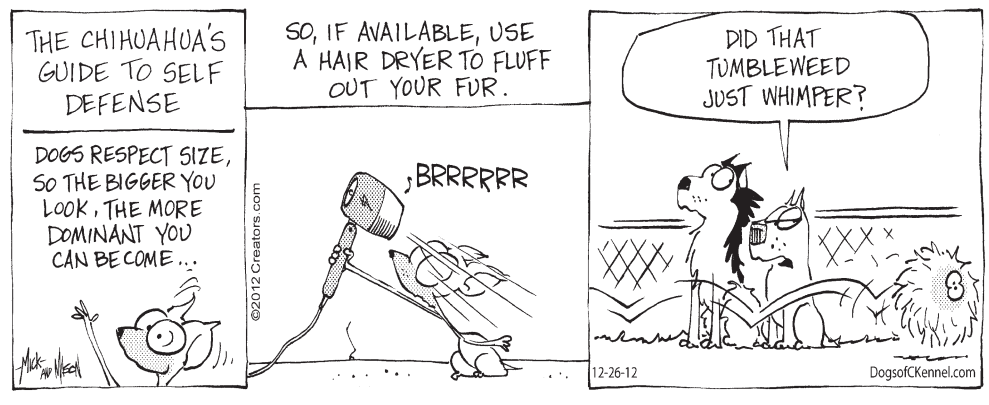
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



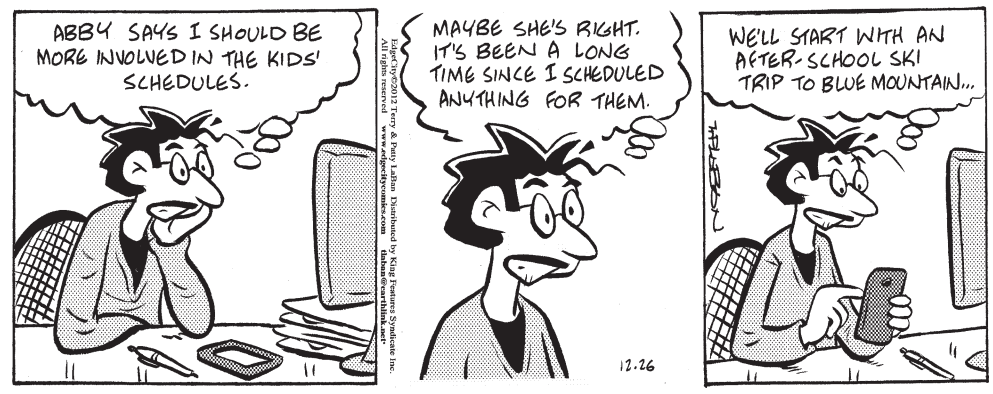
Strange Brew
By John Deering



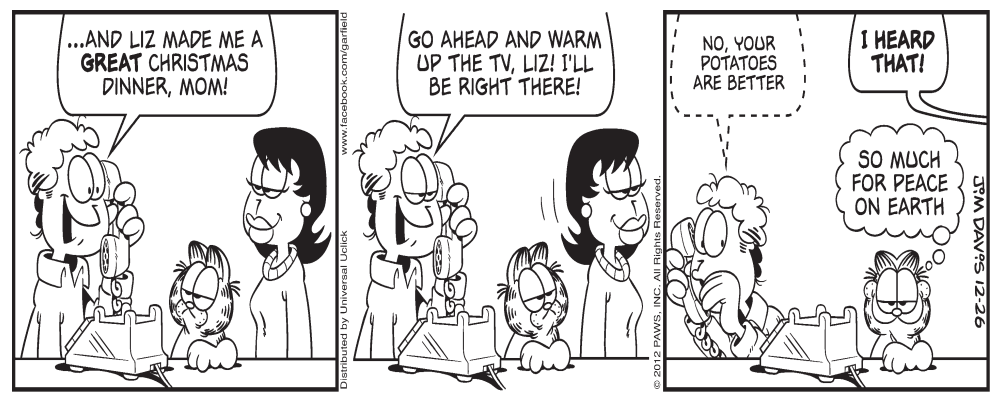
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



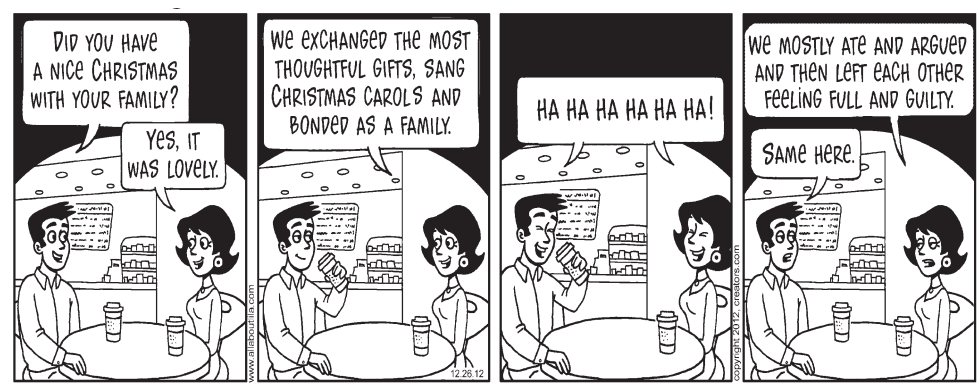
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Calls on
5 Clothing
9 Cost as much as
11 Nevada evergreen
12 Deep sorrow
13 Slow tempo
14 Nest item
15 Boxing great Joe
17 Boxing great Jack
19 Butter bit
20 Was bold
21 European lang.
22 Bewildered
24 Attempt
26 Components
29 Take in
30 Boxing great James
32 Boxing great Jersey Joe
34 Pickle purchase
35 Set off
36 Fancy marble
38 Jottings
39 Trait carriers
40 Hearty dish
41 Massive amounts

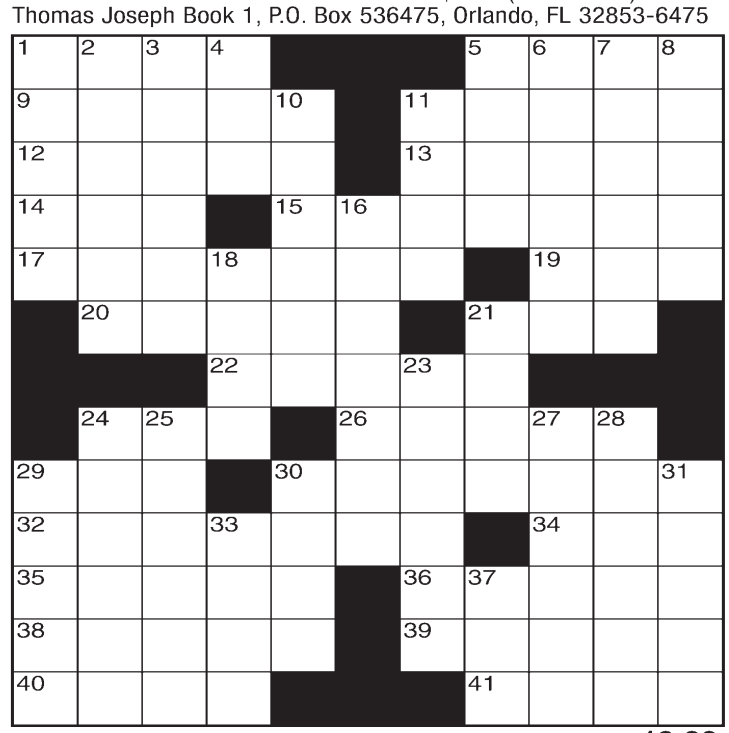
DOWN

1 Goaded on
2 Swelled
3 Puzzle
4 Sault — Marie
5 Cameron of cinema
6 Green, perhaps
7 Makeshift bookmark
8 Derisive sound
10 Printing method
11 Stage show
16 Jupiter feature
18 Call for divine help
21 Dress
23 Cow ID
24 Brewing need
25 Tell tales
27 Selena's music
28 New York's — Island
29 Seventh day of Christmas gift
30 Barracks sacks
31 Lock of hair
33 Rowing team
37 Acquire

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

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



12-26



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ "Braco," a Croatian-born "healer" (although he rejects the term), seems to make legions of sick or troubled believers feel better merely by entering a room and gazing at them in silence for a few minutes before leaving. (A Washington Post reporter, seeking relief from his allergies, attended a 100-person session in Alexandria, Va., in October, but found no improvement.) "Whatever is flowing through him," said one transfixed fan, "is able to connect with a part of us." Said another enthusiast, "The thing that makes Braco unique is he really doesn't do anything." [Washington Post, 10-12-2012]

■ In October, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals petitioned Irvine, Calif., to create a roadside memorial for the truckload of live fish that had perished in a recent traffic accident. (After all, fish, like humans, use tools, tell time, sing, and have long-term memories, wrote PETA.) On the other hand, the traffic casualties that day were en route to the Irvine Ranch Market to be sold as food.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1996 - Six-year-old beauty queen JonBenét Ramsey is found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colorado.

1996 - Start of the largest strike in South Korean history.

1997 - The Soufriere Hills volcano on the island of Montserrat explodes, creating a small tsunami offshore.

1998 - Iraq announces its intention to fire upon U.S. and British warplanes that patrol the northern and southern no-fly zones.

1999 - The storm Lothar sweeps across Central Europe, killing 137 and causing US$1.3 billion in damage.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. SS022929
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Petition of ARYA ALEXANDER KARAMOOZ for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: ARYA ALEXANDER KARAMOOZ filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: ARYA ALEXANDER KARAMOOZ to ARYA ALEXANDER. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: JANUARY 4, 2013 Time: 9:00am, Dept. A, Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 MAIN ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2012
JOSEPH S. BIDERMAN, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012232403 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/20/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as DIVERGENT LIGHTING DESIGN, DIVERGENT LIGHTING, DIVERGENT DESIGN, DIVERGENT ENTERTAINMENT DESIGN, DIVERGENT MEDIA ARTISTS. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: KYLE RUEBSAMEN 4196 MENTONE AVE. CULVER CITY CA 90232. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)10/22/2012. /s/: KYLE RUEBSAMEN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/20/2012. 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 12/19/2012, 12/26/2012, 01/02/2013, 01/09/2013.



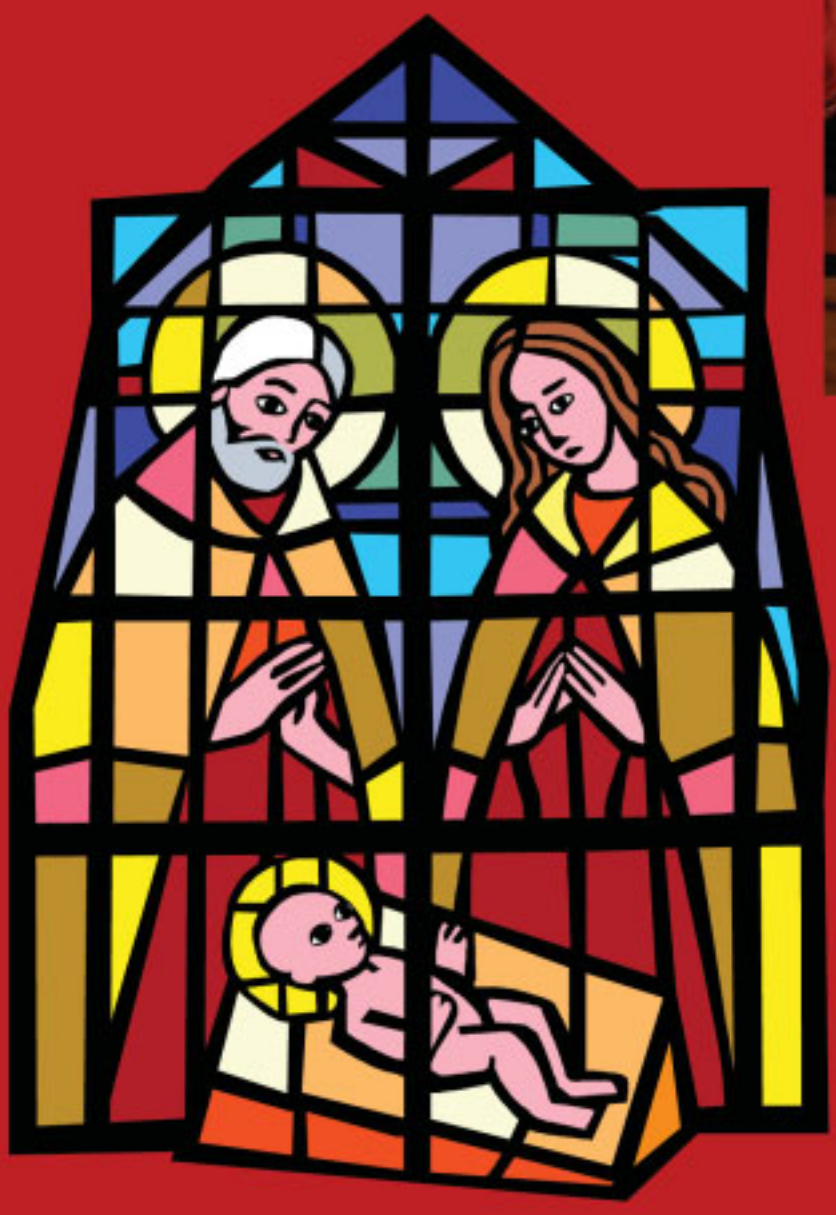
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Kate Bransfield

DRE # 01218699