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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 40

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

BYE, BYE TREE
SEE PAGE 3

THE BACK AT IT ISSUE

Federal prosecutor responds to Bulger girlfriend's appeal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON A federal prosecutor contends that relatives of James "Whitey" Bulger's alleged victims had a right to address the court during the sentencing of Catherine Greig, the former mobster's longtime girlfriend.

Greig is seeking a reduction in her eight-year federal prison sentence for helping Bulger during his 16 years as a fugitive. Greig's lawyer claims the relatives should not have been allowed to speak at her sentencing because they weren't direct victims of her crimes.

In a court filing last week, First Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Pirozzolo argued that the relatives who spoke did suffer as a result of Greig's harboring of Bulger.

Bulger and Greig were posing as married retirees when authorities arrested them in Santa Monica, Calif., in June 2011.

Bulger is charged with participating in 19 murders and goes on trial next June.

Local activist Rubin re-launches his anti-toy gun drive

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA A crusade against toy guns that began in 1987 is being re-launched following the elementary school shooting in Connecticut that left dozens dead.

Santa Monica activist Jerry Rubin says a personalized merit award will be sent to children who write to him about why they don't like playing with toy guns.

Rubin says his anti-toy gun project used to reward children who sent in their toy guns with teddy bears in exchange, but stopped after he ran out of the 5,000 donated stuffed animals.

Less than two weeks ago, 20 children and six adults were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

Over the years, Rubin's grassroots campaigns against violence and in favor of environmental causes have made him a familiar figure in Southern California news.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

HELPING HAND: **Dial-a-Ride driver LB Brown (right) helps senior Aurora Vasquez board his bus outside of WISE & Healthy Aging.**

Nonprofit takes long look at senior transportation

Area residents want more opportunities to get out, survey suggests

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN A recent survey released by WISE & Healthy Aging suggests that Santa Monica may need to alter the way it provides transportation to its most senior residents to get them out of the house and remain active in the community.

The survey, conducted between Aug. 27 and Nov. 5 with 369 respondents, asked seniors aged 80 and above how often and for what purpose they used Dial-a-Ride, a service that allows seniors to arrange for rides to the grocery store, medical appointments or other necessities.

It also queried how often seniors used the after-hours taxi, a service that picks up after Dial-a-Ride ends for the day.

Results showed that many seniors don't use local transportation options like Dial-a-Ride or the after-hours taxi as much as they could, largely because they're unfamiliar with the programs.

Instead, they end up taking public trans-

SEE SENIORS PAGE 9

State fails to win 'No Child Left Behind' waiver

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California's self-styled bid to avoid the strict requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind law has failed as widely anticipated.

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson said Friday that U.S. Department of Education officials informed him that they were prepared to reject the state's waiver application, although the denial has not yet been formally issued.

"I look forward to thoroughly examining the rationale the Administration provides for its decision and will continue to explore every avenue for providing California's schools and students the relief they deserve," Torlakson said in a statement.

SEE WAIVER PAGE 8

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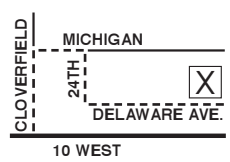
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012

Through the smoke
Promenade Playhouse
1404 Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m.
"Smoke and Mirrors" is a heartfelt comedy-drama with mind-bending magic that has been named "Critics Choice" in the L.A. Times. It is packed with magic tricks, elaborate illusions, audience participation, and spooky Houdini seances. Created by and starring noted actor and magician Albie Selznick, "Smoke and Mirrors" is a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story about a boy who uses magic to escape reality and face the world after the death of his father. For more information, call (800) 595-4849.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Cops plan DUI checkpoint on NYE

The Santa Monica Police Department will be on the lookout for drunk drivers this New Year's Eve.

A DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint will be in place on Dec. 31; police refused to release the location, but it will be somewhere within the city limits.

The checkpoint is part of an ongoing campaign to reduce the number of people killed or injured in alcohol-involved crashes. DUI checkpoints are conducted to identify offenders and remove them from the street, as well as bring awareness to the community of the dangers of impaired driving, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesman for the department.

Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint, looking for signs of alcohol or drug impairment. Drivers caught impaired can expect jail, license suspension and increased insurance costs, as well as fines from the court, DUI classes, court probation and other expenses that can exceed $10,000, police said.

Over the course of the past year, 86 traffic collisions in Santa Monica involved impaired drivers/riders, said SMPD Lt. Jay Trisler. Two people were killed and 26 injured.

Checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of $6 for every $1 spent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The SMPD reminds drivers if they plan on drinking to call a taxi or have a designated driver.

Funding for the DUI checkpoint is provided by a federal grant administered by the California Office of Traffic Safety.

– KEVIN HERRERA

DOWNTOWN

State of the City

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's theme for the 2013 State of the City address will be "Santa Monica on the Move," and will focus on the current issues impacting the business community.

Attendees will get a first look at the Exposition Light Rail Line making its way to Santa Monica in 2015, hear from newly-appointed Mayor Pam O'Connor and City Manager Rod Gould and get updates on all of the business districts, neighborhoods and projects from across the city, officials with the chamber said in a press release.

The American Film Market, which has called Santa Monica home for decades and attracts roughly 8,000 filmmakers, producers and others in the industry for eight days of networking and deal-making, will be presented with the Economic Excellence Award.

The State of the City event will be held Jan. 24 at 7 a.m. For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.sotc2013.eventbrite.com or call (310) 393-9825.

– KH



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

IT'S GONE: **Jo Alyea drops off his used Christmas tree at the tree recycling spot at Clover Park last year.**

Chucking the Christmas tree

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITYWIDE When the sparkle of the holiday has faded from Ol' Tannenbaum and the pine needles begin to fall faster than any snowflake in the Southland, Santa Monicans need look no further than their local parks to dispose of their tree's festive holiday remains.

Residents are encouraged to drop by Hotchkiss, Clover, Christine Emerson Reed or Douglas parks with their ex-Christmas trees — tinsel free, of course — which will be chipped on site and used for other purposes within the city, like mulch, said Wes Thompson, a representative of the Resource Recovery & Recycling arm of City Hall.

Alternatively, residents can stop by the Southern California Disposal site at

SEE **TREES** PAGE 10

L.A. offers groceries for guns in annual buyback

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Long lines of cars and people formed Wednesday to take advantage of a guns-for-groceries exchange program that was moved up in the wake of the Connecticut school shooting.

Police officers filled bins with a variety of rifles and handguns outside the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena and the Van Nuys Masonic Temple.

Officials were mindful of both the massacre of students and teachers in Newtown, Conn., and a gunman's ambush that killed two firefighters in Webster, N.Y.

"All of us are still mourning the tragedy at Newtown, Conn.," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "So many young innocent children were mass-murdered in the way that they were, and now the assassination of two firefighters ... just breaks the heart of so many of us, particularly in this holiday season."

The anonymous buyback program allowed weapons to be turned in with no questions asked. Handguns, rifles and shotguns could be exchanged for $100 Ralphs grocery store gift cards. Assault weapons earned a $200 card.

The program, designed to get guns off the streets, usually is held in May. Villaraigosa decided to do it now in the wake of the Dec. 14 shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

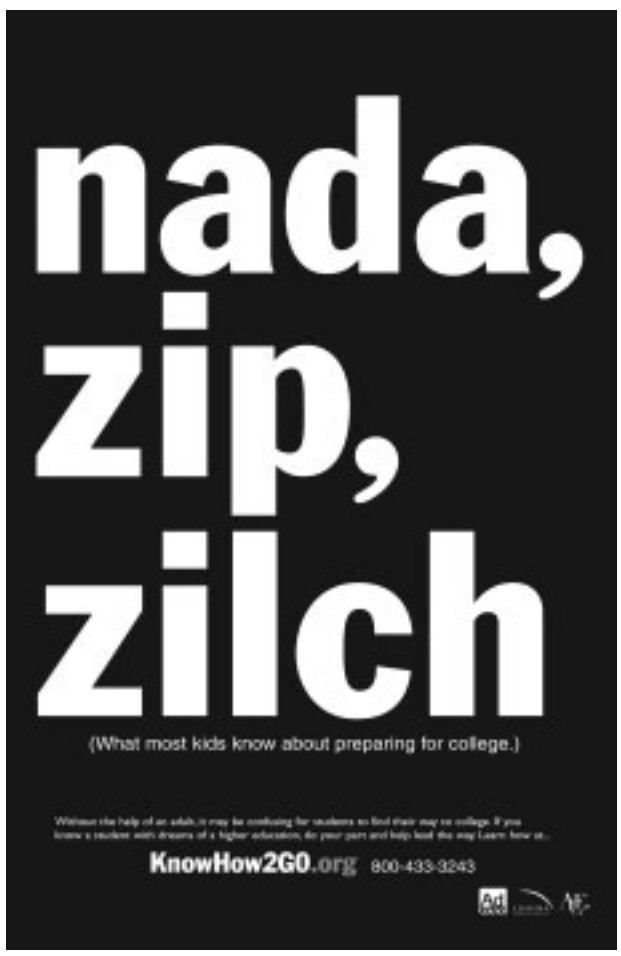
The last buyback netted about 1,700 guns.

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Back to Nature

Reese Halter Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop persecuting wolves

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY, biologist Farley Mowat's book "Never Cry Wolf" eloquently described nature and wolves like the world had never known before. Wolves are exquisite predators; it's time for humans to grant amnesty to this majestic animal, which plays a pivotal role in the wild.

Portrayed throughout history as a villainous critter that wastefully kills, the wolf's reputation precedes it. The traditional image, however, is unwarranted and incorrect.

Wolves are highly intelligent social animals. They are a critically important predator in the western food chain. They keep populations of ungulates (or animals with hooves) healthy. In nature there is no room for unfit or disease-ridden animals. When wolves eat, so too do a host of other animals including wolverines, lynx, bobcats, mink, weasels, hares, porcupines, squirrels, mice, voles, shrews, ravens and crows.

Wolves' ancestry dates back to about 15 million years ago. They are related to foxes and domesticated dogs. There are two species in North America, the gray or timber wolf, and the red wolf. Wolves have the largest natural range of any animal on our continent and their main predator is humans. Hence, they have been hunted and poisoned, at one point to near extinction. Thankfully, they are survivors.

The translation of the wolf's Latin name is literally "dog wolf," and for good reason. Wolves and dogs share common features. They both have a similar gestation time of about two months. And they both molt in the spring and grow winter coats in response to seasonal differences in temperatures.

Wolves, however, do have distinct features. Their ears are relatively shorter, broad at the base and less pointy at the tip than those of most dogs. They have large heads with wide and heavy skulls which curve downward and blend into a broad but tapering muzzle that ends with a black nose. Their jaws have tremendous biting power.

They have longer legs than most dogs, with paws that are longer and wider in the front compared to the back. They have five frontal and four back toes. The fifth frontal toe is actually called a dewclaw and is used to help secure, hold and bring down prey. Because it's not necessary for locomotion, many dog owners have dewclaws removed. Big springy feet assist wolves in attaining a top end speed of about 40 mph. More usually though they travel at 5 to 6 mph while tracking prey for hours on end.

Wolves are large critters, ranging in size from 5 to 6 feet in length with an average weight of 88 pounds. Females are about 15 percent smaller than males.

One of the most remarkable aspects about wild animals, particularly in the north country, is how they manage with cold winter temperatures. It has to do with their winter coats. And wolves have a terrific two-layered coat. The outer layer consists of guard hairs that shed moisture, keeping the coat free of dirt and burs because of the hard, smooth, slippery hairs. Their thick under-fur contains an oily substance similar to sheep's lanolin, helping make it impermeable to cold temperatures.

Wolves, like human beings, are very social animals. And not dissimilarly to us, they have a social hierarchy. Packs have between six and nine members but can be as large as 36. There is one dominant male and female, called alphas, in each pack. Order in the pack is achieved by various postures, stares and physical punishment. Status is shown by the way the other pack members carry tails, eyes and head positions. Subservience is demonstrated by bearing the throat, lifting the leg or exposing the groin.

Wolves howl; humans sing in the shower. Why? Because we both like to.

Wolves are fierce hunters, relying upon their keen power of scent to track their prey. Moose, elk, caribou and deer are their preferred prey. They hunt in a pack. The alpha male will test the prey. If it stands its ground wolves will not challenge it. If it runs the pack will quickly bring it down. Most wolf kills are old, unfit or young prey. Wolf digestive systems break down every bit of protein and their scat contains very little fecal matter.

Wolves are survivors, they will eat beavers, snakes, porcupines, grouse, ducks, voles, mice, rabbits, vegetables, grasses, herbs, mushrooms, fruit and, when low in vitamin C, they will gnaw in the springtime on rich tree bark for its supplements.

Like humans, wolves enjoy playing and grinning. They have suffered from an unnecessary war that we have waged against them for centuries, and somehow managed to survive. Wolves are a symbol of courage, endurance, and admirable intelligence.

Yet today they still continue to be loathed, hunted and "managed." Let me remind you that human management in nature has resulted in entire fish stocks on the East Coast disappearing i.e. North Atlantic cod and the eradication of most of North America's old growth forests (the most efficient CO2 warehouses ever to evolve on planet Earth).

This holiday season I urge you to support Defenders of Wildlife, Pacific Wild and Wolf Songs of Alaska and learn more about the Red Wolf Recovery Program, the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program and the Yellowstone National Park Wolves. It's time for us to stop senselessly slaughtering wolves — once and for all!

Earth Dr. **REESE** Halter is a broadcaster and biologist. He's the author of "The Incomparable Honeybee" and "The Insatiable Bark Beetle."

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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
smdp.com

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Your column here

Lee H. Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

One thing we can agree on about government

WE ARE LOCKED IN A SEEMINGLY permanent debate over the proper size and scope of government. It was a centerpiece of the recent presidential campaign. It features heavily in the ongoing maneuvering over the "fiscal cliff" and the upcoming vote on raising the debt ceiling. And it surfaces regularly in the speeches and comments of politicians and opinion leaders who either take the government to task for growing too large or argue that it needs to play an even more active role than it does now.

I don't expect this argument to end anytime soon — after all, it's been a feature of political life for as long as any of us can remember. But no matter how we view the role of government, there's one thing most of us do agree on: whatever government does, it should do it well.

Recently, I read a compelling speech by a prominent corporate CEO who criticized the federal government for creating an environment of uncertainty and stifling the engines of market growth — and then went on to lay out plans for economic renewal that all involved the government: a revamped education policy, more investment in infrastructure and in basic research, changes to the tax code to reward innovation. His speech underscores a basic truth about American life: we can argue about the fine points of its reach, but the importance of government's role in our lives is inescapable.

This does not mean that government is the answer to everything — far from it. Nor, however, does the anti-government rhetoric that so often marks our politics show much sign of being rooted in reality. When we want to build roads and bridges, operate schools and keep our cities safe, create conditions under which businesses can thrive, respond to natural disasters or attacks on our security, we turn to government at some level. And we expect the people who run it — the leaders as well as those on the front lines — to be good at what they do.

As Alexander Hamilton put it, "A government ill-executed, whatever may be the theory, in practice is poor government." You don't want second-rate scientists doing cancer research, second-rate lawyers negotiating arms control treaties, second-rate bureaucrats helping your community recover from a hurricane or flooding, second-rate inspectors making sure your hamburger is free from e. coli, or second-rate air traffic controllers guiding your plane through crowded airspace. None of us wants to live with a government that is incompetent in the exercise of its important functions.

MY SENSE IS THAT THE PUBLIC IS DEMANDING MORE FROM GOVERNMENT, NOT IN SIZE, BUT IN PERFORMANCE.

For this reason, Americans are not as anti-government in practice as their "get government off our backs" rhetoric would often suggest. We turn again and again to government to solve the problems we complain about. And however easy it might be to rail against Washington or against "big government," it's the institutions of government you turn to when you need them.

Constructive criticism of Congress is always appropriate, but the anti-government language that so often gets bandied about creates distrust of the very institutions we rely on to meet the challenges and solve the problems that confront us as a nation. I sometimes find myself wondering how far we can erode confidence in our officials and our government and still have a country that works.

Whatever the particular policies of a given administration, whatever programs are enacted by the Congress, the American public is entitled to have those policies and programs administered effectively, efficiently and competently. This cannot be done without skillful civil servants and a steady stream of talented people who are attracted to public service.

My sense is that the public is demanding more from government, not in size, but in performance. Americans want government to work better for less, and the only way to achieve this is for government to become more effective and productive in dealing with the challenges before us.

LEE Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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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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STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

California's snowpack levels above normal

Officials say several early season storms have pushed California's snowpack – which supplies much of the state's water – to well above normal levels.

The state Department of Water Resources said Wednesday that early electronic readings indicate that the water content of California's snowpack is 146 percent above normal for this time of year.

The snowpack usually provides a third of the water used by households, farms and industries across the state.

The department says the early storms have also replenished many of the state's reservoirs.

Among those showing increases for this time of year include Lake Oroville in Butte County at 111 percent above normal, and Shasta Lake north of Redding at 113 percent.

The DWR will conduct its first official snow survey next week.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA

Police probe possible link in shooting, crash

Police were trying to determine Wednesday whether there was a connection between a Christmas Day shooting that left a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department employee dead and a crash hours later that killed a woman and a boy.

Victor McClinton, 49, a sheriff's law enforcement technician, was fatally shot early Tuesday and another man in his 20s was wounded and listed in critical condition at a nearby hospital. McClinton had been with the Sheriff's Department for the past 18 years, agency spokesman Steve Whitmore said.

"Everybody says he was an extraordinary employee," he said.

Police don't believe McClinton was the target of the shooting, which left a red sedan riddled with bullet holes. No arrests have been made.

More than eight hours later police say they tried to stop an SUV for a traffic violation as it headed away from an area near the murder scene when the vehicle sped away. Police pursued the SUV for about a mile before the vehicle smashed into a van, killing a 26-year-old woman and an 11-year-old boy in the other vehicle. Three others in the van were injured and taken to hospitals.

"It's tragic," said Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez. "We have an innocent family that was going about their business on a special day and a special time of the year."

Two men and two women in the SUV were arrested and booked for investigation of vehicular manslaughter, police said. All four suffered moderate injuries.

AP

ALAMEDA

Four injured after Christmas party turns violent

Four people were injured after police say a woman attacked members of her family with a box cutter during a Christmas party in Alameda.

Alameda police Sgt. Jeff Emmitt tells the Oakland Tribune that 42-year-old Tiffany Thomas was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and causing traumatic injury to a child.

Emmitt says the Thomas attacked two females, including a teenage girl, and a man after some kind of argument.

The injuries to Thomas and the victims were not considered life-threatening.

The attack took place at the Shinsei Gardens Apartments, and investigators were still working on figuring out what spurred the violence.

Emmitt told the paper that one of the victims was injured after trying to break up the fight.

AP

NRC wants more analysis at ailing nuclear plant

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Federal regulators Wednesday pressed the operator of the San Onofre nuclear power plant for more analysis on its damaged steam generators, as the government considers when — or if — one of the seaside reactors can be restarted safely.

San Onofre hasn't produced electricity since January, after a tiny radiation leak led to the discovery of excessive wear on hundreds of generator tubes that carry radioactive water.

In a letter to Southern California Edison, Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials asked for more information on how tubes would interact with each other if a reactor is running at full power.

The inquiry represents a possible stumbling block for the company, which has submitted a plan to run the Unit 2 reactor at reduced power, up to 70 percent, in hopes that will end vibration that has damaged tubing in the huge machines.

According to the NRC letter, the plant — located between Los Angeles and San Diego — is required to ensure that tubes retain "structural integrity" during "the full range of normal operating conditions."

The agency wants to see an analysis "that shows they can operate the plant at full power, 100 percent," NRC spokesman Victor Dricks said.

Edison had no immediate comment on Wednesday.

Dricks declined comment when asked if meeting the full-power threshold could be a condition of restarting Unit 2.

The problems center on steam generators that were installed in San Onofre's reactors during a $670 million overhaul in 2009 and 2010. After the plant was shut down, tests found some tubes were so badly corroded that they could fail and possibly release radiation, a stun-

SEE **PLANT** PAGE 7

Gov. Brown issues pardons based on 'exemplary behavior'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown pardoned 79 convicted felons who had served their sentences and committed no other crimes for at least a decade, the governor's office announced Monday.

Pardons can be granted to those who have demonstrated exemplary behavior following their conviction. Most of Brown's pardons went to people who had been convicted of drug crimes. Others had convictions for theft, robbery, driving under the influence and other such offenses.

Brown, a Democrat, singled out Thomas George Pfleger of Newport Beach for his philanthropic work. Pfleger, 61, had been convicted in 1970 for possession of narcotics with the intent to sell and convicted of second-degree robbery six years later. In 1983, he was sentenced again, this time for using or being under the influence of a controlled substance.

"For many years now, Mr. Pfleger has been a generous and active supporter of numerous charitable and philanthropic causes, including in the areas of child welfare, substance abuse recovery, wildlife preservation and medical research," the governor wrote in his pardon.

Pfleger was recommended for a pardon by the Orange County Superior Court, the Board of Parole Hearings and by a majority of the justices of the California Supreme Court.

According to tax filings, Pfleger is president of the George T. Pfleger Foundation, which gave more than $1 million in 2010 to various charities. They include Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Tustin, Cri-Help, a drug abuse treatment center in North Hollywood, and the Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research, a marine research center in Oceanside.

"He's certainly grateful to Gov. Brown and the judicial system for allowing him to straighten out these earlier mistakes in his life," said Pfleger's attorney, Allan Stokke. "He has tried to accomplish that by his focus on charitable activities and most interesting to him is his work with those who have substance abuse issues. Those are his ways of trying to make it right."

Stokke declined to explain how Pfleger acquired his wealth.

A pardon does not erase a criminal record, but it can restore some rights, such as owning firearms unless the conviction involved the use of a dangerous weapon. It also allows the recipients to serve on jury trials.

Among the other pardons announced on Christmas eve were ones for Frank E. Morino, now 79, for a robbery he committed in San Diego in 1954, and for Leonard Wilson-Banks II, now 76, for drug possession and robbery in the 1960s. Wilson-Banks has served as a chaplain at an Arkansas state prison for the past 11 years.

While most of the offenses were drug-related crimes, there was one financial crime. Jerry Smith, now a 73-year-old resident of Washington state, was pardoned for offering a false statement to buy or sell security back in 1987.

Mendocino moves to quash feds' marijuana subpoena

ASSOCIATED PRESS

UKIAH, Calif. Mendocino County officials are trying to quash a federal grand jury subpoena seeking records about a county program that issued permits to medical marijuana growers.

A motion filed Friday argues that that the information being sought represents an improper intrusion into local government affairs. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports.

"The motion is based on the grounds that the scope of the subpoenas is overbroad and burdensome," County Counsel Tom Parker said.

The county is facing a Jan. 8 deadline to comply with the grand jury's order that it hand over all of its records about the now-canceled program that allowed certain marijuana growers to grow as many as 99 plants if they agreed to regular inspections.

The information being sought includes inspection records, permit applications, and financial information from the program, which generating more than $1 million in fees for the county before it was canceled, the Daily Journal said. The county permitted 91 medical marijuana growing collectives in 2011, the newspaper said.

Mendocino supervisors ended the nearly two-year-old program in January after the U.S. attorney's office threatened legal action. Marijuana remains illegal in all forms under federal law.

A spokesman for U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag, whose office is overseeing the grand jury's work, could not immediately be reached for comment Monday.

PLANT
FROM PAGE 6

ning finding inside the nearly new equipment.

The generators, which resemble massive steel fire hydrants, control heat in the reactors and operate something like a car radiator. At San Onofre, each one stands 65 feet high, weighs 1.3 million pounds, and has 9,727 U-shaped tubes inside, each three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

Company executives have left open the possibility that the heavily damaged generators in Unit 3 might be scrapped.

Cracked and corroded generator tubing has vexed the nation's nuclear industry for years.

Decaying generator tubes helped push San Onofre's Unit 1 reactor into retirement in 1992, even though it was designed to run until 2004. The following year, the Trojan nuclear plant, near Portland, Ore., was shuttered because of microscopic cracks in steam generator tubes, cutting years off its expected lifespan.

San Onofre is owned by SCE, San Diego Gas & Electric and the city of Riverside. The Unit 1 reactor operated from 1968 to 1992, when it was shut down and dismantled.

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City of Santa Monica Holiday Trash Schedule

Tuesday, December 25th - No Collection
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Tuesday's routes will be on Wednesday.
Wednesday's routes will be on Thursday.
Friday's routes will be on Saturday.

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WAIVER
FROM PAGE 1

After missing two deadlines for waivers, California submitted in June a last-minute, customized exemption from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as No Child Left Behind is formally known, saying that even though it did not comply with the specifics of some waiver requirements, it was adhering to them in principle.

U.S. education officials did not return a request for comment on Wednesday. The department has received a total of 47 waiver requests. Approvals have been issued to 33 states and the District of Columbia so far.

Under the law's main provision, schools must raise all students to proficiency levels in English-language arts and math by 2014. If not, they could suffer penalties, including losing federal money.

Critics have long charged that No Child Left Behind is too inflexible and relies too heavily on standardized test scores. The result has been that too many schools have been classified as failing, they say.

Last year, the Obama administration agreed to issue a two-year waiver for states that meet three main criteria: adoption of rigorous academic achievement standards, a program to focus on turning around low performing schools, and the most contentious proviso — an accountability system that would involve using test scores to evaluate teachers and principals.

But Torlakson said waivers should be granted without strings attached and said the requirements were too costly for a state mired in fiscal problems. State education officials estimated it would cost $2 billion to $2.7 billion to meet the waiver criteria.

The state has already committed to the first requirement through the adoption of the national curriculum known as the Common Core State Standards, but the state's main teachers' union, the California Teachers Association, has steadfastly refused to agree to incorporate test scores as a measure of classroom performance.

Instead, California based its waiver application on its current measure of school achievement, called the Academic Performance Index, and several initiatives under way to boost teacher effectiveness.

"Taken together, these initiatives will provide California the opportunity to redesign the system of school accountability to ensure that it is more meaningful and more inclusive than the current federal accountability system," Torlakson wrote in a letter Friday to district superintendents.

School reformers said the waiver rejection shows that California is increasingly out of step with educational progress nationwide.

If the state had submitted an adequate application, low-income schools would also have gained flexibility in how they can use federal money, noted Erin Shaw, spokeswoman for Students First, a Sacramento-based reform group.

"This unfortunately comes at a time when school budgets remain tight and the 'fiscal cliff' looms," Shaw said in a statement. "California has already left millions of badly needed federal dollars on the table by failing to submit competitive applications for 'Race to the Top' funding. It's time to change the system that rejects accountability and continually risks classroom resources that rightfully belong to students."

The teachers association and Torlakson have said they are in favor of Congress rewriting the Elementary and Secondary Act to incorporate state policy differences and to give more flexibility.

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SENIORS
FROM PAGE 1

portation, driving their own car or getting a ride from someone else.

Over half of Santa Monica's octogenarians didn't know that the after-hours option was available, and just under 50 percent of those above the age of 90 were unaware that they could arrange for a cab at night twice a month if need be.

That was huge for staff at WISE & Healthy Aging, who plan to ramp up efforts to familiarize aging Santa Monicans with the transportation options that are available to them, said Grace Cheng Braun, president and CEO of WISE & Healthy Aging.

Snagging a spot in a Dial-a-Ride van or the after-hours taxi takes some advance preparation. The person setting up the ride has to be a member, and in many cases the request must be made at least two days in advance for either service.

Trips also cost 50 cents one-way for the Dial-a-Ride van to city meetings, and $3 each way for the taxi service, according to a flyer.

While it's important for seniors to know their options, where and when those modes of transportation are available make a huge difference in the likelihood that a resident will take advantage of them.

Most of the almost 400 seniors polled reported that they would like to use the services to attend daytime group activities like movies or communal meals, Braun said, and many chose not to use the taxi service because they had no desire to go out that late at night.

On the other hand, 51 percent of respondents between 80 and 89 expressed an interest in once or twice-monthly excursions.

This fall alone, seniors have had the option to go on six after-hours excursions to restaurants and new film releases like "Argo," "Life of Pi" and "Skyfall," activities that Braun describes as "successful."

While most Santa Monicans between the ages of 80 and 89 manage to get out of the house more than five times a week, that number drops sharply in the 90-year-old set.

That's less than one might expect if the seniors are doing occasional trips to the grocery store, hair cuts, regular social activities like card games and other daily chores, Braun said.

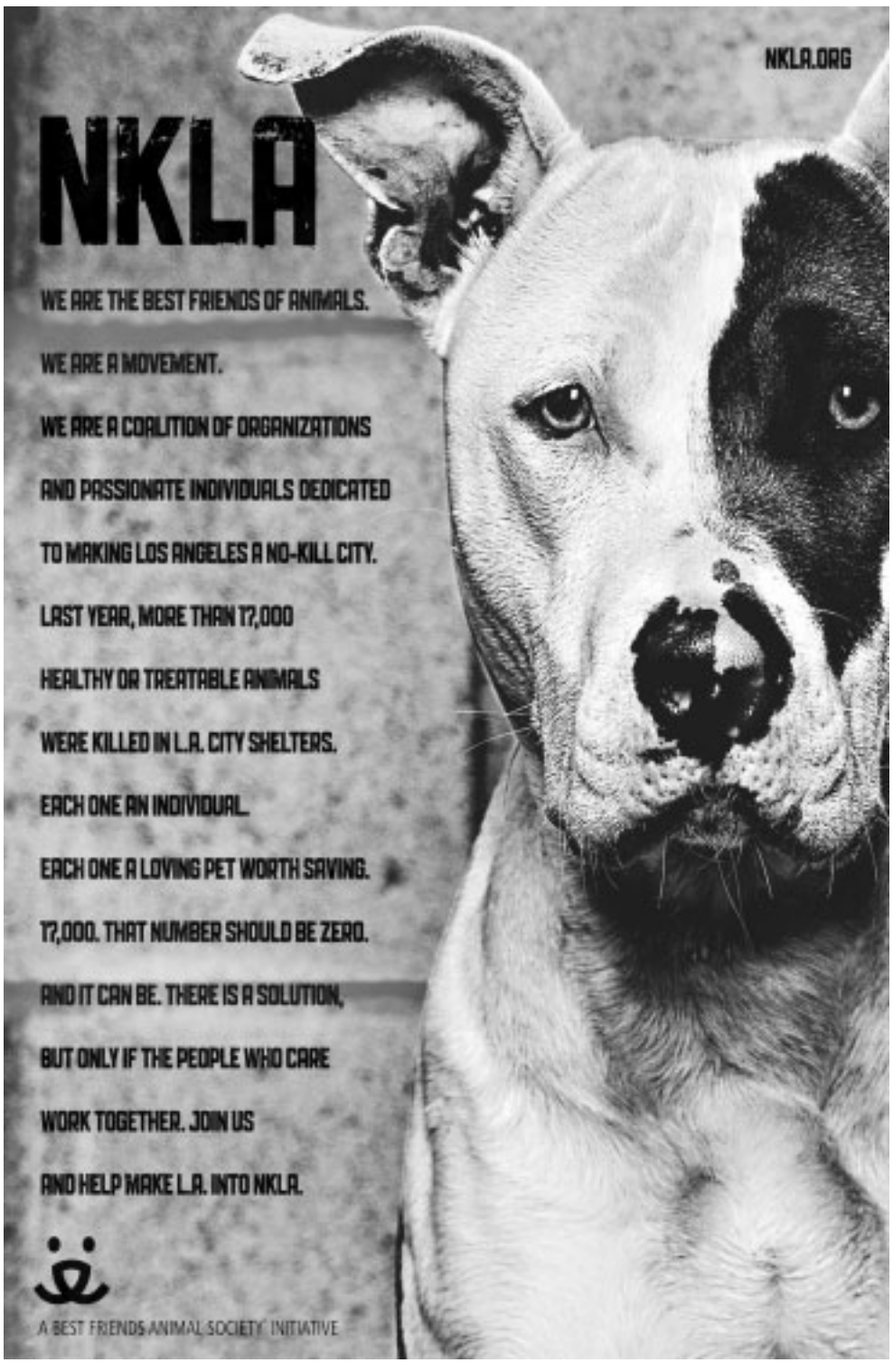
Still at issue are the number of seniors that rely on themselves for transportation.

"I think what always surprises us is that there are people who are driving who are elderly," Braun said.

According to a study conducted by the National Transportation and Safety Board, seniors can have difficulty behind the wheel because of naturally slower reaction time, problems with vision, memory and posture.

The same study notes that by 2030, seniors will account for almost 19 percent of total vehicle miles driven in the United States, and that in the same year, the number of drivers above the age of 85 will be four times what it was in 1998.

ashley@smdp.com



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TREES
FROM PAGE 3

1837 24th St. between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday to accomplish the same goal.

These sites will be open through the end of January, after which point residents will have to deal with the tree themselves.

Proper tree disposal means the aging conifers don't end up in the dump, where their decomposition can add to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Instead, they're put to more productive use, Thompson said.

"They're used in projects around town," Thompson said. "Mulch helps to conserve water. Projects also have been over at the airport in landscaped areas."

Santa Monicans turned in roughly 40 tons of tree material last holiday season, Thompson said.

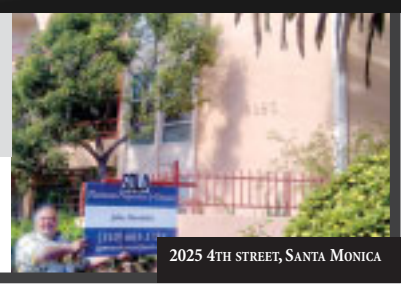
According to the National Christmas Tree Association, former Christmas trees have a wide range of uses after their time as home decoration comes to a close, including soil erosion barriers, fish feeders, bird feeders and even path material for hiking trails.

It is illegal to abandon used trees in alleyways.

Here are the exact locations where Santa Monicans can "park" their trees:

- Clover Park at 25th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard
- Douglas Park at Chelsea Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard
- Christine Emerson Reed Park at Lincoln Boulevard and California Avenue
- Hotchkiss Park at Fourth and Strand streets
- Southern California Disposal at 1837 24th St., a right-hand turn off of Michigan Avenue.

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Stores look to week after Christmas for big sales

CANDICE CHOI & MAE ANDERSON
AP Retail Writers

Bargain-hungry Americans will need to go on a post-Christmas spending binge to salvage this holiday shopping season.

Despite the huge discounts and other incentives that stores offered leading up to Christmas, U.S. holiday sales so far this year have been the weakest since 2008, when the nation was in a deep recession.

So stores now are depending on the days after Christmas to make up lost ground: The final week of December can account for about 15 percent of the month's sales, and the day after Christmas is typically one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

Stores, which don't typically talk about their plans for sales and other promotions during the season, are known for offering discounts of up to 70 percent after the holiday. This year, they're hoping to lure more bargain hunters who held off on shopping because they wanted to get the best deals of the season.

Still, a powerful winter storm, which pounded the nation's midsection on Wednesday and is heading toward the Northeast, could hurt post-Christmas shopping. The storm is bringing high winds and heavy snow that disrupted holiday travel, knocked out power to thousands of homes and were blamed in at least six deaths.

The Macy's location in Herald Square in New York was bustling with shoppers on Wednesday. There were a variety of deals throughout the store: candy dispensers for 70 percent off, various men's clothes were "buy one get one free," belts for 50 percent off, a bin of ties for $9.99.

Ulises Guzman, 30, a social worker, was shopping in the store. He said he waited to shop until the final days before Christmas, knowing that the deals would get better as stores got more desperate. He said he was expecting discounts of at least 50 percent.

The strategy worked. He saw a coat he wanted at Banana Republic for $200 in the days before Christmas but decided to hold off on making a purchase; on Wednesday, he got it for $80.

"I'm not looking at anything that's original price," he said.

Lenox Square Mall in Atlanta was also crowded by midday on Wednesday. Laschonda Pitluck, 18, a student in Atlanta, was shopping after Christmas because she wanted to get the best deals. Last year she spent over $100 on gifts but this year she's keeping it under $50.

Pitluck said she found items for 50 percent off, including a hoodie and jeans for herself at American Eagle and a shirt at Urban Outfitters. She said she would have bought the clothes if they hadn't been 50 percent off.

"I wasn't looking for deals before Christmas," said Pitluck, who also bought boxers for her boyfriend.

The shopping rush after Christmas illustrates just how important holiday sales are. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, and many retailers can make up to 40 percent of their annual revenue during the two-month holiday shopping period at the end of the year.

So far, holiday sales of electronics, clothing, jewelry and home goods in the two months before Christmas increased 0.7 percent compared with last year, according to the MasterCard Advisors SpendingPulse report that was released on Tuesday. SpendingPulse, which tracks spending, said that's the weakest holiday performance since 2008 when sales dropped sharply, although the company did not know by how much.

The SpendingPulse data, which captures sales from Oct. 28 through Dec. 24 across all payment methods, is the first major snapshot of holiday retail sales. A clearer picture will emerge next week as retailers like Macy's and Target report monthly sales.

In the run-up to Christmas, analysts blamed bad weather for putting a damper on shopping. In late October, Superstorm Sandy battered the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states, which account for 24 percent of U.S. retail sales. That coupled with the presidential election, hurt sales during the first half of November.

Shopping picked up in the second half of November, but then the threat of the country falling off a "fiscal cliff" gained strength, throwing consumers off track once again. Lawmakers have yet to reach a deal that would prevent tax increases and government spending cuts set to take effect at the beginning of 2013. If the cuts and tax hikes kick in and stay in place for months, the Congressional Budget Office says the nation could fall back into recession.

Still, The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, said Wednesday that it's sticking to its forecast for total sales for November and December to be up 4.1 percent to $586.1 billion this year. That's more than a percentage point lower than the growth in each of the past two years, and the smallest increase since 2009 when sales were up just 0.3 percent.

Kathy Grannis, a spokeswoman for the group, noted that the trade group's definition of holiday sales not only includes clothes and electronics, but also food and building supplies.

"Stores have a big week ahead, and it's still too early to know how the holiday season fared, at this point," she said.



SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.8°**

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

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

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

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

Tides

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

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	C	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
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 Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	C

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

Lawmakers try to avert falling off the fiscal cliff

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON When it comes to the nation's budget challenges, congressional leaders are fond of saying dismissively they don't want to kick the can down the road.

But now, a deadline hard ahead, even derided half-measures are uncertain as President Barack Obama and lawmakers struggle to avert across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts that comprise an economy-threatening fiscal cliff.

Congressional officials said Wednesday they knew of no significant strides toward a compromise over a long Christmas weekend, and no negotiations have been set.

After conferring on a conference call, the House Republican leadership said they remain ready for talks, but gave no hint they intend to call lawmakers back into session unless the Senate first passes legislation.

"The lines of communication remain open, and we will continue to work with our colleagues to avert the largest tax hike in American history, and to address the underlying problem, which is spending," the leadership said in a statement.

The Senate is due in session Thursday, although the immediate agenda includes legislation setting the rules for government surveillance of suspected spies and terrorists abroad, including Americans, as well as a measure providing $60 billion for victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Obama decided to cut short his Hawaii vacation for an overnight flight expected to get him back to the White House on Thursday.

Apart from the cliff, other financial challenges loom for divided government, where political brinkmanship has become the norm. The Treasury disclosed during the day it would take accounting measures to avoid reaching the government's borrowing limit of $16.4 trillion by year's end. The changes will provide about two months of additional leeway.

Separately, spending authority for much of the government will expire on March 27, 2013.

After weeks of negotiations, the president urged lawmakers late last week to scale back their ambitions for avoiding the fiscal cliff and send him legislation preventing tax cuts on all but the highest-earning Americans and extending unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless. Longer, term, he said he still supports deficit cuts that were key to the earlier talks.

"Everybody's got to give a little bit in a sensible way," he said at the White House.

The House has no plans to convene, following last week's rebellion in which conservatives torpedoed Speaker John Boehner's legislation to prevent scheduled tax increases on most, while letting them take effect on million-dollar wage earners.

"How we get there, God only knows," the Ohio Republican said of efforts to protect the economy — and taxpayers — from the tax increases and spending cuts.

"Now is the time to show leadership, not kick the can down the road," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said a little over a week ago after Boehner announced he would shift his own focus from bipartisan talks to the approach that eventually was torpedoed by his own rank and file.

It's a phrase that political leaders use when they want to suggest others want to avoid tackling major problems, and one that Boehner, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia and even Obama as well as Reid have used.

"We have a spending problem. We have to address it, And we're not going to address it by kicking the can down the road," the speaker said at a news conference late last week when he was asked about setting a vote on a plan that Democrats find acceptable.

Cantor recently used the same approach in challenging Obama to agree to savings from Medicare and other benefit programs. "This has to be a part of this agreement or else we just continue to dig the hole deeper, asking folks to allow us to kick the can down the road further and that we don't want to do," he said on Nov. 28.

In fact, it's a phrase that has been in use for over a year as Obama and Republicans jockey for position on pocketbook issues.

In July 2011, when he was struggling with Republicans over the threat of a first-ever government default, Obama said he had "heard reports that there may be some in Congress who want to do just enough to make sure that America avoids defaulting on our debt in the short term. But then wants to kick the can down the road when it comes to solving the larger problem, our deficit."

A few months later, an extension of a payroll tax cut was the issue, and Boehner was insisting on a year-long renewal rather than the temporary plan that passed the Senate with votes from lawmakers in both parties.

"How can you do tax policy for two months?" he asked on Dec. 18, 2011. "I believe that two months is just kicking the can down the road.

"The American people are tired of that."

At issue now is series of tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to kick in with the new year that economists caution could send the economy into a recession.

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The Bachelor and The Bobbysoxer (NR) 1hr 35min
The More The Merrier (NR) 1hr 44min 7:30pm

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, 10:40pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
11:00am, 2:55pm, 6:50pm, 10:45pm

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

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

Parental Guidance (PG) 1hr 44min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm, 10:55pm

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

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

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

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
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
2:15pm

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

Expect the unexpected, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Use the morning for an important talk or meeting. By midafternoon, you could be conflicted or irritated about a situation. Your mood flows into other dealings. Take your time and process the irritation first, then deal with others. Tonight: Mosey on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Taking a hard look at recent expenditures might be more necessary than you think. Do not let someone's opinion trigger an argument -- just let it go. You know what you want. Do not stand on ceremony. Pick up the phone and call a friend. Tonight: Secure New Year's plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You are full of energy and could be difficult to find, according to more than a few people. It seems as if you flee the scene with an adeptness and quickness that surprises many. Tonight: Treat yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Make it OK to move slowly in the morning. Accept and understand what you have been through as of late. Consider your options in the morning, and act in the later part of the afternoon. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Use the morning to the max when dealing with others. People will tend to be more responsive then. You actually might decide to keep to yourself in the afternoon. Avoid an argument with a favorite person. Patching this up could be difficult. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Rethink a decision more carefully. Take your time. In the afternoon, test out your conclusion. You might be causing yourself a problem if you move ahead blindly. Look to friends and loved ones for their advice and feedback. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your mind drifts to matters beyond the here-and-now. What will it take to anchor you? A boss or key associate needs your time and attention later in the day. Tonight: Once you let go of the day's issues, the night becomes fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Deal with someone or several different people on a one-on-one level. Rethink a personal matter more carefully. Laughter surrounds you later in the day when you relax. Once you detach, you'll see humor in what was once difficult. Tonight: Try a new pastime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Open up in the morning. A discussion could be quite animated with hostility or aggressiveness. You might not be up for an argument, but you will need to establish boundaries regardless. In the afternoon, clear the air. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might find yourself caught in a financial quandary. For some, this scenario might include trying to make ends meet. For others, it might involve returning useless gifts. Take time for someone who needs an upbeat message. Tonight: Be open to a suggestion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might surprise yourself with the feisty words that come out of your mouth. You have swallowed a lot of anger lately. Perhaps the time has come to process these feelings. Tonight: The unexpected occurs.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your ingenuity could face a problem. The issue will keep rearing its ugly head until you face facts and open up a discussion. You'll decide to let go and indulge in some playfulness. Tonight: Buy yourself that item you wanted but didn't get.

Happy birthday

This year you often will swing back and forth between being intellectual and being highly emotional. Some of you might try to control this seesaw of sentiments. Accept that this is unlikely to change any time in the near future. If you are single, this back-and-forth could chase away a potential suitor, but come summer, you are likely to meet someone who enjoys your changeability and accepts you as you are. If you are attached, your sweetie might wonder what is going on. You need to accept that his or her responses could be different from what you'd expect. CANCER plays devil's advocate.

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

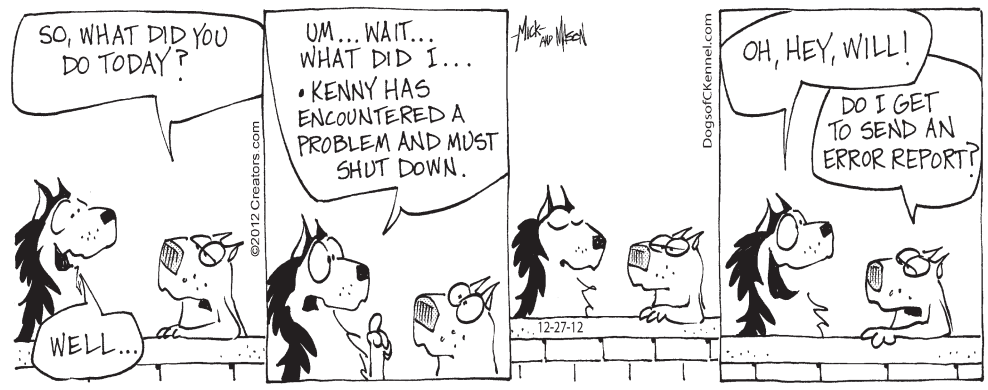
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 Showed up
5 Pumps, e.g.
10 Manual reader
11 Artemis's twin
12 Jazz legend Getz
13 Intro
14 Navigating aid
16 Hoagy Carmichael standard
20 Turkey tool
23 2016 Olympics setting
24 Successful
25 Left over
27 "Not — dare!"
28 Justice symbol
29 Big celeb
32 Sea urchin's cousin
36 Ohio State's conference
39 "Lonely Boy" singer
40 Cherished
41 News article
42 Chopper part
43 Pulls along

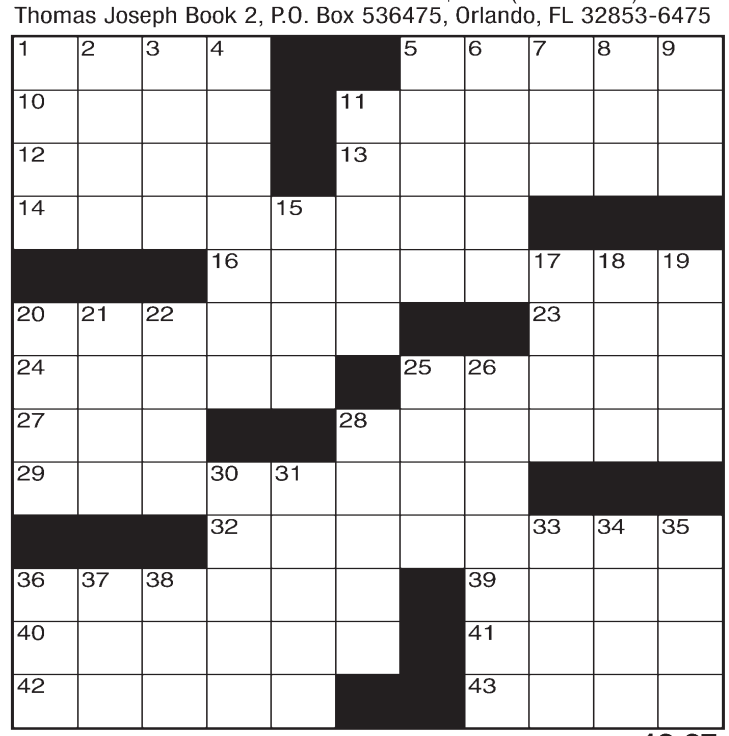
DOWN

1 Crescent's tip
2 Concerning
3 Cook's creation
4 Che's real name
5 Catch fish, in a way
6 Cache
7 Collectible, maybe
8 Connecticut collegian
9 Cain, to Eve
11 Church part
15 Choreography bit
17 Caspian Sea feeder
18 Court address
19 Corn settings
20 Cannon sound
21 Comic Meara
22 Certain deer
25 Cicatrix
26 Chilled dessert
28 Carnival unit
30 Cartoon dog
31 Cattle drive critter
33 Crazy about
34 Contort
35 Corny performers
36 Cantina
37 Courtroom vow
38 Comprehended

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-27

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/25
2 3 18 34 48
Meganumber: 36
Jackpot: $18M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/22
7 12 20 32 39
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $23M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/25
2 3 34 36 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/25
MIDDAY: 7 5 8
EVENING: 7 0 4

SANTA ANITA
Draw Date: 12/25
1st: 06 - WHIRL WIN
2nd: 03 - HOT SHOT
3rd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
RACE TIME: 1:43.47

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) Detroit police chief Ralph Godbee was suspended in October after an affair with a subordinate became public. Godbee's predecessor had been fired for the same reason (among other reasons), and in fact, Godbee had previously had an affair with the same subordinate who had been implicated with his predecessor. (2) The former mayor of Flint, Don Williamson, who resigned in 2009 while being targeted in a recall election, recently erected a large bronze statue of himself outside his home in Davison Township. (3) In June, former Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, having served 99 days in jail on obstruction-of-justice charges and still awaiting a federal corruption trial, asked Michigan prison officials to relieve him of "community service" parole obligations -- because he had a number of paid speeches scheduled out of town.

■ Shortly after drug-possession suspect Patrick Townsend, 30, was arrested in Lakeland, Fla., in November and had allegedly confessed into a detective's digital recorder, Townsend managed to snatch the unattended recorder from a table, took a restroom break, and flushed it down the toilet. Townsend's subsequent advice to the detective: "Tighten up on your job, homie." ("Destroying evidence" was added to Townsend's charges.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1966 - The Cave of Swallows, the largest known cave shaft in the world, is discovered in Aquismón, San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

1968 - Apollo Program: Apollo 8 splashes down in the Pacific Ocean, ending the first orbital manned mission to the Moon.

1996 - Taliban forces retake the strategic Bagram air base which solidifies their buffer zone around Kabul.

WORD UP!

avidity
\ uh-VID-i-tee \ , noun;
1.
Enthusiasm or dedication.

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- Roomates
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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. SS022974
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of ABTIN SHAKOURI for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: ABTIN SHAKOURI filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: ABTIN SHAKOURI to MICHAEL ABTIN SHAKOURI. 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 25, 2013 Time: 9:00 am, Dept. A, Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 Main Street 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: JANUARY 25, 2013
JOSEPH S. BIDERMAN, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT





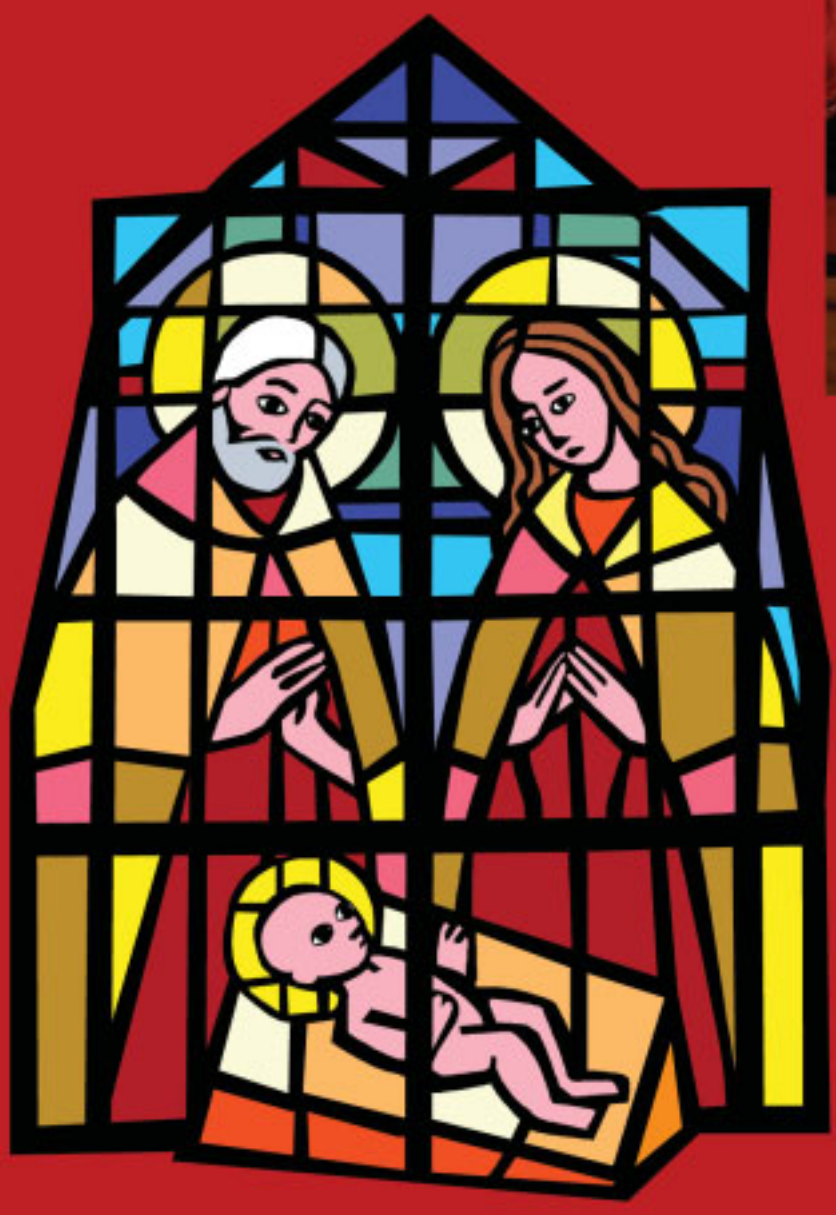
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $7.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 30¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra.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





May Your Days be Merry and Bright..



Kate Bransfield

DRE # 01218699