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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 41



# Santa Monica Daily Press

*We have you covered*

MORE GUNS?
SEE PAGE 4

THE BRIGHT SKIES ISSUE

## Game-maker goes back to court

### Lamle promises to take his case to the Supreme Court

**BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**
Daily Press Staff Writer

SECOND STREET A Santa Monica resident is asking the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal to reconsider its November ruling denying him the right to sell a board game on the Third Street Promenade, claiming that Santa Monica's ordinances governing sales and performance on the street are unconstitutional.

In his petition for rehearing, Stewart Lamle argued that the ordinances violate his First Amendment rights to spread the Farook philosophy of non-violence and negotiation, traits described in the rules and play of the game, which he now calls Wizdom.

The Ninth Circuit judges held in November that Lamle had failed to show how either ordinance restricted his rights to free speech by discriminating against a specific viewpoint or that the local laws were unconstitutionally vague or over-broad.

Lamle called the decision "disturbing" and said that he believed the court was wrong in its analysis of the case.

If the Ninth Circuit refuses to take up the matter again, he will go to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court takes roughly one-tenth of the cases referred to it by the Courts of Appeal.

"I am not stopping," Lamle said. "I do not stop."

City Attorney Anthony Serritella said that he would not comment on the lawsuit except

SEE SUIT PAGE 8



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

MAKING MOVES: **Stewart Lamle demonstrates his strategy game, Wizdom.**

## Ordinary folks losing faith in stocks

**BERNARD CONDON**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Andrew Neitlich is the last person you'd expect to be rattled by the stock market.

He once worked as a financial analyst picking stocks for a mutual fund. He has huddled with dozens of CEOs in his current career as an executive coach. During the dot-com crash 12 years ago, he kept his wits and did not sell.

But he's selling now.

"You have to trust your government. You have to trust other governments. You have to trust Wall Street," says Neitlich, 47. "And I don't trust any of these."

Defying decades of investment history, ordinary Americans are selling stocks for a fifth year in a row. The selling has not let up despite unprecedented measures by the Federal Reserve to persuade people to buy and the come-hither allure of a levitating market. Stock prices have doubled from March 2009, their low point during the Great Recession.

It's the first time ordinary folks have sold during a sustained bull market since relevant records were first kept during World War II, an examination by The Associated Press has found. The AP analyzed money flowing into and out of stock funds of all kinds, including relatively new exchange-traded funds, which investors like because of their low fees.

"People don't trust the market anymore," says financial historian Charles Geisst of Manhattan College. He says a "crisis of confidence" similar to one after the Crash of 1929 will keep people away from stocks for a generation or more.

The implications for the economy and living standards are unclear but potentially big. If the pullback continues, some experts say, it could lead to lower spending by companies, slower U.S. economic growth and perhaps lower gains for those who remain in the market.

Since they started selling in April 2007, eight months before the start of the Great

SEE STOCKS PAGE 9

## U.S. jobless aid applications fall to 5-year low

**CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The average number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits over the past month fell to the lowest level since March 2008, a sign that the job market is healing.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications dropped 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 350,000 in the week ended Dec. 22. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell to a nearly five-year low of 356,750.

Still, the Christmas holiday may have distorted the figures. A department spokesman said many state unemployment offices were closed Monday and Tuesday and could not provide exact data. That forced the government to rely on estimates. Normally, the government might estimate application data for one or two states. Last week, it had to use estimates for 19.

The estimates are usually fairly accurate, the spokesman said. Even so, the government will likely revise the figures by more than normal next week.

Weekly applications are a proxy for lay-

SEE JOBS PAGE 11

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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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, story-telling, opera, jazz, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a capella singing and more. Performances take place beside the huge vintage fire-place 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

Writer in the house
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Author Charles Hood is serv-ing as the beach house's writer in residence and will open his doors to the public to answer their questions and discuss his work. For more information, visit beach-house.smgov.net.

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 participa-tion, and spooky Houdini seances. Created by and star-ring noted actor and magician Albie Selznick, "Smoke and Mirrors" is a semi-autobio-graphical 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.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012

Market fresh
Main Street Farmers' Market
2640 Main St.,
9:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Stock up for the new year at this weekly Farmers' Market. The market features organic produce and lots of prepared foods. For more information, visit smgov.net/portals/farm-ersmarket.

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

DOWNTOWN

### Smartmeter claim named 'most ridiculous'

A Santa Monica resident's legal claim won a dubious sign of notoriety Thursday when the U.S. Chamber of Commerce listed it as one of the top 10 most ridiculous lawsuits of 2012.

In August, resident Denise Barton filed a claim against City Hall for $1.7 billion asserting that new parking meters, which communicate wirelessly with nearby sensors and centralized computers, were making her sick.

Visitors of FacesofLawAbuse.org, an arm of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, were none too impressed with the claim, ranking it the ninth most ridiculous lawsuit of the year in poll results.

The suits on the list were chosen out of lists featured in monthly polls on the site.

Barton's claim, which has not gone to court, ranked below a Colorado man who won $7 million for a disease he said was caused by inhaling microwave popcorn fumes, but beat out a suit by two Bay Area parents whose son was kicked out of an honors class for cheating.

This year's winner is a macabre use of the judicial system – an intoxicated Florida driver who pleaded guilty to manslaughter and then sued the victim who died in the crash.

"Abuse of our legal system is no joke, and these examples range from the outrageous to the absurd," said ILR President Lisa A. Rickard.

– ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

### Don't shoot on New Year's Eve

What goes up, must come down.

That's why the Santa Monica Police Department on Thursday released a community e-mail reminding people that shooting a gun into the air is a felony and extremely hazardous.

Shooting guns in the air to celebrate a special occasion has been a part of American history for centuries. No one is quite sure how it started, but it is possible that the practice stems from cultural assumptions linking weapons with masculinity and ego.

No matter the purpose, those caught busting caps could serve time in state prison. The bail alone is $35,000 if no one is injured by bullets falling back to earth, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesman for the department. If someone is killed, however, the perpetrator could be charged with murder in the state of California.

Aside from possibly killing or severely injuring someone, those shooting into the air can cause damage to roofs, which can lead to more problems if not repaired quickly.

If you witness someone firing a gun, call 911 and report it, Lewis said. Give the 911 dispatcher as much information as possible about the shooting. If you only hear gunfire, call dispatch at (310) 458-8491 immediately.

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

– KEVIN HERRERA




## COMING SOON

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

**Work crews installed this lookout structure earlier this month at the site on Ocean Avenue of a future Civic Center Park, currently known as Palisades Garden Walk. Park visitors will be able to stand inside of the structure and look out over the ocean once completed. City officials expect the park to be completed in August of 2013.**

# Plans under way to refurbish landmark L.A. market

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Grand Central Market, a bustling downtown landmark that saw its glory days decades ago, is hoping to recover some of its fashionable luster as the gritty neighborhood gentrifies.

The 27,000-square-foot market in the heart of the city is getting a cleaning and a new paint job. Consultants have been hired who want to see the huge place — which now houses small Mexican food and grocery stands, fast-food restaurants and a lot of open space — into a ritzier location that could offer sushi and craft beer alongside old-style burritos.

Currently, only about 30 of the 45 market stalls are occupied.

The basement, now home to a discount store, would be turned into a

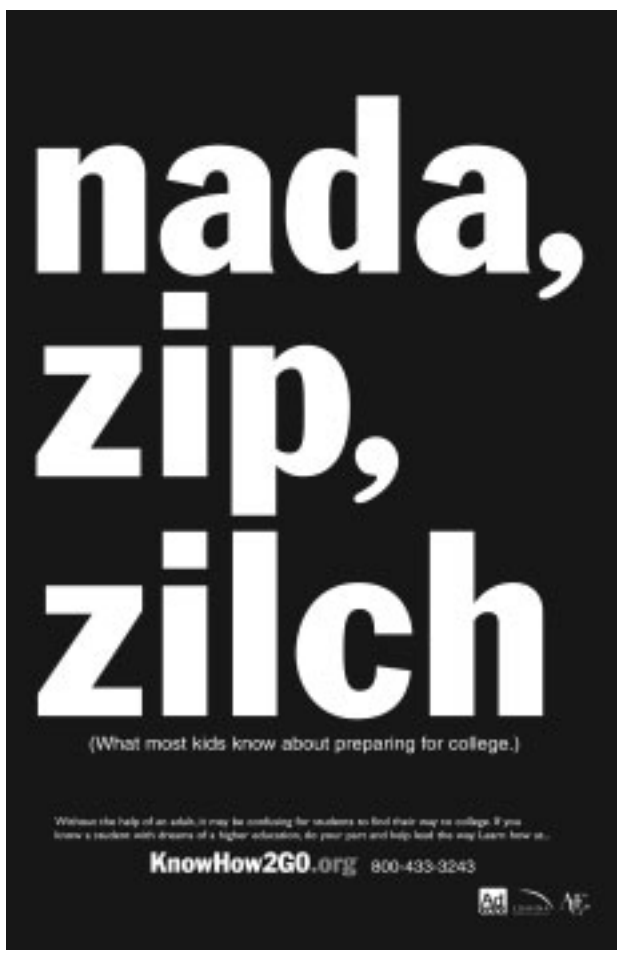
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## Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Sticking to their guns

FOR DAYS AFTER THE HORRIFIC massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School the National Rifle Association was oddly silent. They even shut down their Facebook page and stopped tweeting. (The NRA tweets? How weird does that sound?)

Eventually the NRA announced that in an upcoming press conference it would reveal how they would "contribute meaningfully" to preventing further gun violence. Everyone assumed that finally they would be willing to compromise. Everyone was wrong.

On the same day six more murdered children were buried, the NRA held its press conference, except no questions were allowed. (The big, bad NRA is afraid of the press?) Instead, Wayne La Pierre, the NRA's executive vice president (and chief pitchman), took the podium and gave a lengthy and bewildering interpretation of the Sandy Hook massacre reminiscent of something out of "The Twilight Zone."

Self-righteously, La Pierre, whose NRA annual salary is reportedly $1.4 million, identified the villains of Sandy Hook as the shooter, violent video games, "blood-soaked" Hollywood movies, President Obama and fluoride in the water. (OK, I made up the fluoride part.) The truth is La Pierre blamed everyone and everything but guns.

The movies La Pierre singled out for blame were "American Psycho" (2000) and "Natural Born Killers" (1994), neither exactly current. As for the video games, La Pierre cited "Kindergarten Killers" a game no one had heard of until he mentioned it. With its amateurish cartoon figures, one reviewer said the game was so lame and repetitive that "after five minutes I couldn't stand any more."

Given the horror of Sandy Hook, La Pierre was shockingly disconnected. Never once did he mention that the Bushmaster AR-15 with the high capacity magazine used at Sandy Hook is the same weapon used at Aurora, Colo. and used by the D.C. sniper in 2003.

Eerily, only days later the Bushmaster would be the weapon of choice of William Spengler. On Christmas Eve in Webster, N.Y., Spengler, 62, killed himself after murdering two firefighters and wounding two others at a blaze he apparently set to lure them to the scene. (Wayne probably blames it on a video game.)

La Pierre's "solution" to gun violence massacring our children is to have every school in America staffed with an armed policeman. This seemingly ignores that at Columbine there were two armed security officers, at Virginia Tech there was a well-staffed campus police department and at Fort Hood the entire based was armed.

Apparently to La Pierre there can never be enough guns. The U.S. represents 5 percent of the world's population, but at 300 million guns we account for 50 percent of the world's supply. (Should we chant "we're No. 1?")

Not surprisingly, La Pierre's "press conference" was a PR disaster. Commentators were shocked by his "tone deafness." Even Rupert Murdoch's conservative New York Post ran a headline, "Wayne La Pierre Is The 'Craziest Man On Earth'" and referred to his speech as a "bizarre rant." (If anything, the Post was too kind.)

But maybe La Pierre is crazy like a fox. He is, after all, a high-priced pitchman for the gun and ammunition industry — and business, baby, is beyond booming. Fearing changes in gun laws, on this past Black Friday, 300,000 guns were sold nationwide. And since Sandy Hook, assault rifles have been selling off the shelves as delighted manufacturers struggle to keep up with orders. (What a country.)

Since 1982 there have been 62 mass murders in the U.S., 10 this year alone. In the past, as people return to their busy lives and the NRA, with its $250 million annual income, continues to fund pro-gun political campaigns, public outrage subsides. But hopefully not this time.

The seeds are already there. In this recent election the much-feared NRA used their typical bully tactics, plowing huge dollars into eight key congressional races. Guess what? In seven out of eight their candidate lost. (Can you say "the emperor has no clothes?") And I'm confident that the grieving but remarkably strong community at Sandy Hook will not let their children or their children's heroic teachers and principal die in vain.

Real hunters and gun enthusiasts attest that assault weapons have no place in the sport or even self-defense, nor do 30- to 100-bullet magazines. The irony is that a majority of NRA members are in favor of changing these laws (as was Ronald Reagan) and closing the gun show loophole, which allows 40 percent of all guns to be purchased without background checks.

But as a shill for the weapons and ammo manufacturers, La Pierre is sticking to his guns. (Pun intended.) The NRA is famous for giving grades to political candidates ranking them as pro- or anti-gun. Grading La Pierre as a human being with a soul I'd have to give him an F. And frankly I'd also like to tell him what he can do with all those assault weapons, but this is a family newspaper.

To do your part to prevent future gun violence, go to www.bradycampaign.org. **JACK** can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com.

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## Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Dealing with death

I WRITE THIS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING 2012. On this day 10 years ago my father died in the West L.A. Veterans Hospital Nursing Home. It's a tough holiday, but it raises important issues for me that I hope you will find worth considering for yourself and your family.

In my family, my mother was the realist. She was the one who insisted on wills, pre-burial insurance, advance healthcare directives and DNRs, or "Do Not Resuscitate" orders.

I am grateful, too. When their deaths came, I didn't need to think about what to do, I just called an 800 number and the mortuary came to take their bodies, the physical manifestation of their lives. Their spirits, of course, remain within me.

My mother's doctor is my doctor, Robert Ashley of Santa Monica Bay Physicians. And he's written an important book that I hope you'll consider before you need to think about how to help your family through end-of-life issues. It's called "Beautifully Absurd," for sale as an e-book on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

I can relate to it all too well.

I took care of mom for nine years, and her decline was more gradual than dad's, so we had time to discuss her wishes. Not easy, these conversations, but boy am I glad we had them.

Although we had an advance directive, dad got slammed in his final year, everything from diabetes to prostate surgery, vocal cord paralysis, kidney dialysis, atrial fibrillation, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease, and the inevitable bedsores. He was a mere shadow of himself, subjected to the indignity of being completely dependent on people and machines for almost all his bodily functions. His world shrank to the size of his bed.

After being at his side through a relentless number of emergency room calls, and watching him lifted like a slab of meat from gurney to bed, his situation seemed to me to be pointlessly cruel.

A consultation with a doctor who also believed it was pointless led me — faced with the ungodly responsibility of making his medical decisions — to order the end of his medications and treatment. A few days later, on Christmas eve, we said goodnight to dad, not knowing it would be the last time.

When we got the call at 8 a.m. that he had died at 5, we rushed to the nursing home, only to find him already in a body bag. It was a very stark moment; I felt his forehead through the bag and it was so icy cold. Christmas would be forever marked by this moment for me.

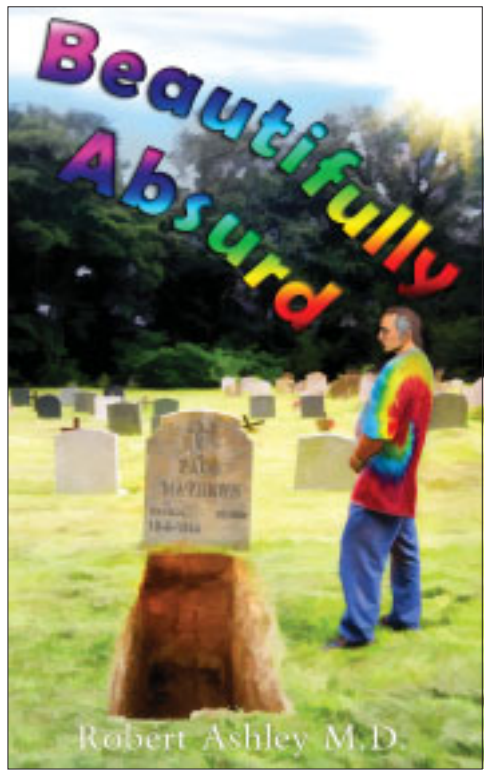



Photo courtesy Robert Ashley

TRUE TO LIFE: **Robert Ashley of Santa Monica Bay Physicians penned this fictional work about dealing with death after he saw one of his patients suffer in a vegetative state.**

Doctor Ashley's e-book is about the importance of thinking ahead to the unthinkable, planning for the unplanned events that occur at life's end.

This is a situation the baby boom generation faces daily and can no longer be considered unexpected. We must be prepared.

Much of the book is a conversation protagonist Paul Mathews is having inside his head, reviewing his life, his love, his friends, his failures, the bad living that led first to his heart attack and the condition he finds himself in now, suffering a massive stroke, being kept alive by artificial means and wondering why he should be.

Paul's son does not want to make the hard decisions about his father's life, leaving Paul in the netherworld, tethered to machinery, unable to live without mechanical or medical support.

It is also about the unbelievable number and kinds of treatments applied to a patient beyond the point when the possibility of any kind of quality of life exists.

SEE **WATCH** PAGE 6

## The Q Line

### Wishful thinking

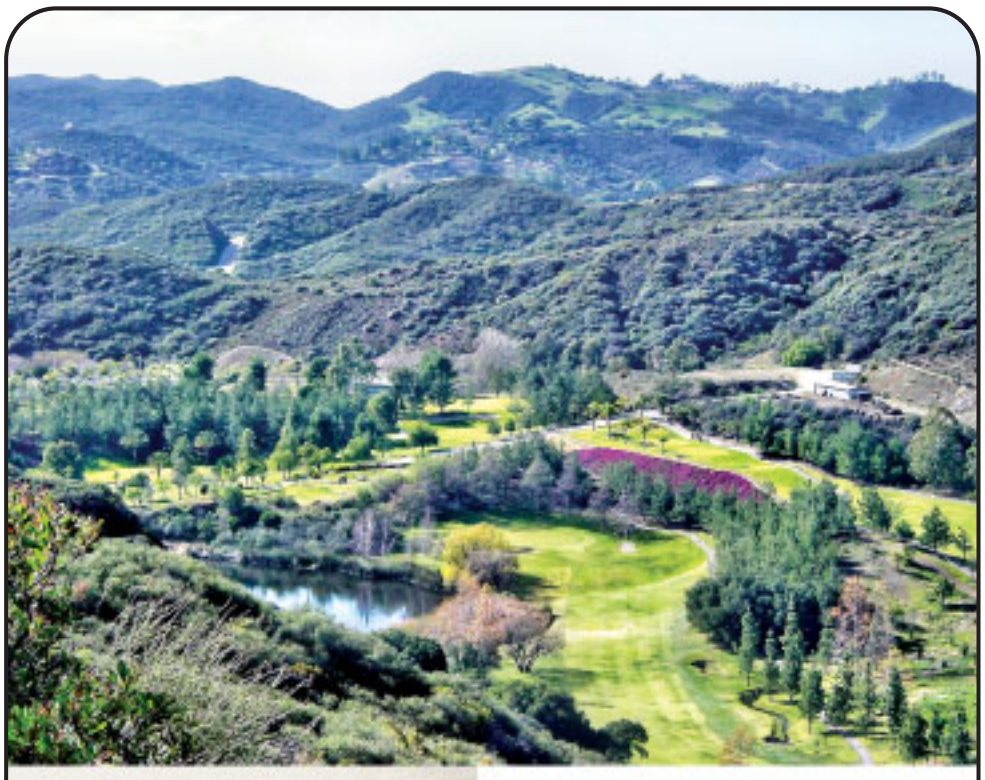
With 2013 seemingly right around the corner, we were wondering what you wanted in the new year.

**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**.









# SeaWorld files to go public with $100 million offering

**MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Reporter

NEW YORK Looks like Shamu may soon be making a splash in the stock market.

The company famous for water shows featuring killer whales, dolphins and other animals at SeaWorld said Thursday that it is planning to go public. SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. has filed for an initial public offering of stock aimed at raising $100 million. That number is likely to change as the company's bankers gauge interest from investors.

From its origins as a Busch Gardens animal park at Anheuser-Busch's Tampa Budweiser brewery, the company has grown to span 11 theme parks housing 67,000 animals. Besides the three SeaWorld parks, the company owns two Busch Gardens parks and Sesame Place, an amusement park based on the children's TV show Sesame Street.

The company warns that its business is dependent on customers' willingness to spend on leisure and entertainment — which may be a tough proposition in a still-weak U.S. economy. Still, SeaWorld's revenue has risen in the three years that it's been owned by private equity firm Blackstone Group LP. The company has looked for ways to stay competitive in the current market, branching out this year with a Saturday morning television show, "Sea Rescue," on the ABC network to attract young viewers.

Blackstone is expected to sell some of its stock in the IPO but keep a majority stake, SeaWorld said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. SeaWorld plans to use money raised in the IPO to pay down debt and make a payment to the New York-based firm.

Blackstone bought SeaWorld, formerly Busch Entertainment Corp., from beer brewer Anheuser-Busch InBev in 2009 for $2.3 billion. The Belgian company was shedding assets to help pay for its $52 billion takeover of St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch in 2008.

Anheuser-Busch started Busch Gardens in Tampa in 1959. The beer company bought SeaWorld, whose park opened in San Diego in 1964, in 1989. SeaWorld is now based in the theme park mecca of Orlando, Fla., also home to Walt Disney Co.'s Walt Disney World resort and Universal Studios. More than half of the company's revenue is generated in Florida.

SeaWorld said about 24 million people attended its 11 parks during the 12 months ended Sept. 30. The company did not disclose how that figure has grown or shrank in the past few years, but says it has a "stable attendance base." In the first nine months of 2012, SeaWorld's profit jumped 73 percent to $86.2 million from $50 million a year earlier, as revenue rose nearly 8 percent to $1.16 billion.

Some of the company's competitors have had a difficult climb back from the recession. Amusement park operator Six Flags Entertainment Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2009, emerging in mid-2010. It has been growing revenue since then, although it posted a loss in 2011.

SeaWorld, which plans to trade under the ticker "SEAS" on the Nasdaq, did not name a date for its IPO or detail how many shares will be sold, and at what price, in its filing with regulators. But SeaWorld did warn investors of the risks involved with having its animals interact with human visitors, noting that accidents could hurt its parks' reputation and attendance. In 2010, a trainer at its SeaWorld Orlando park was killed by an orca, or killer, whale. Last month an 8-year-old Georgia girl said a dolphin at the same Orlando park bit her hand while she fed the animal as part of an attraction.

## WATCH
FROM PAGE 5

It's a compelling narrative, convincing fiction about an all-too-true reality, and an engaging story about Paul, his ex-wife Sarah, his son Jacob, his primary doctor, and his desperate need to be anything but "an average Joe." Despite dreams of being a journalist, then novelist and changing the world, Paul has ended up being very much the average Joe.

I asked Dr. Ashley what inspired him to write "Beautifully Absurd."

"I had the idea for the story 10 years ago when I had an 82-year old demented patient who had no ability to interact with her environment. This patient had a tracheostomy connected to a ventilator and was receiving artificial feeding by a gastric tube. She had been living like this for years and she was a ward of the state.

"She had a son living in Sacramento, but for some reason he couldn't make medical decisions for her. Instead she had a conservator who just kept her alive staring at the ceiling. It made me think of the many instances in the ICU and in long-term facilities where patients are kept in a vegetative state."

It took Dr. Ashley — a very busy doctor as I can personally attest — 10 years to write "Beautifully Absurd."

"The time to write this came thanks to my son," he told me. "In the first three years of his life he woke up frequently at night. Since I had difficulty returning to sleep, I would write. But even with that time, it took me 10 years to write this."

His inspirations include, "Doctors who care, patients who have a story to tell, writers, like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Leslie Marmon Silko, John Steinbeck, who want to change social consciousness."

Dr. Ashley's goal is one I endorse: "I want people to read this and hopefully be more mindful of their deaths so that they fill out advanced directives and convey their wishes to their loved ones."

And Dr. Ashley practices what he preaches. "I have one," he said. "It is more elaborate than the typical one. Mine is through Five Wishes [www.agingwithdignity.org/five-wishes.php]. There's also a form for the state of California that you can get online by visiting oag.ca.gov and searching for 'advance health care directive.'"

If there's one lesson to be learned from "Beautifully Absurd," Dr. Ashley said, "Don't be afraid to talk about death. It is always around the corner. But the corollary to that is that each one of us should appreciate this time we call life and hopefully, with that appreciation, there is less suffering when we die."

**SARAH A. SPITZ** is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

# Keys to not getting robbed

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, AT 12:05 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 500 block of Adelaide Drive regarding an auto burglary. When they arrived they made contact with a woman who said she parked her car and left to run the Fourth Street stairs. For some reason she felt it was safe enough to leave her car keys and a water bottle at the top of the stairs while she worked out. As she was running back up a witness told her that a man took her keys and entered her car. She ran to the car and found her keys and that $400 was missing from inside. The witness said the suspect was the same person who parked behind the victim. Officers got his license plate information. Investigators were able to identify the suspect and the next day went to his home in Santa Monica and arrested him for burglary and a probation violation. Officers searched his car and said they found evidence related to the auto burglary. The suspect was identified as Niko Justin Williams, 19, of Santa Monica. No bail was set.

TUESDAY, DEC. 25, AT 4:24 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1700 block of Ocean Avenue — JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot hotel — regarding a report of a possible fraud occurring there. When officers arrived they spoke with an employee at the hotel who told them that they received a call from someone who said that their credit card was being used at the hotel without their consent. Hotel staff went to a room rented in the name of the alleged victim and confirmed that the suspect was still inside. As they were speaking with officers, the employees saw the man, who was in a wheelchair, roll past them in the lobby. Officers detained the suspect, who later admitted that he did use a fake name and credit card so he could stay in a nice hotel for Christmas, police said. The suspect was placed under arrest for burglary, theft/use of a credit card, providing false information to officers, theft with priors and a probation violation. The suspect was on probation for fraud and theft, police said. He was identified as Kevin Alan Moore, 57, a transient. His bail was set at $45,000.

MONDAY, DEC. 24, AT 2:24 P.M.,
Officers assigned to the Third Street Promenade bike patrol responded to the 100 block of Colorado Avenue regarding a report of a strong-arm robbery. When officers arrived they made contact with the alleged victim and got a description of the suspect, who was detained about a block away. The alleged victim told officers that he is employed at a store inside Santa Monica Place and was walking to work along the 100 block of Colorado Avenue when a man approached him from behind and demanded he give him his jacket. When the man ignored the suspect he allegedly threatened to beat him up. The victim ran off and called police. The suspect was positively identified and placed under arrest for attempted robbery. He was identified as Andrew Paul Brandenburg, 33, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23, AT 12:30 A.M.,
Officers were on patrol on the 2900 block of Neilson Way when they were flagged down by a man seeking assistance. Officers made contact with the man, who told them that he had just discovered that his girlfriend had been cheating on him and he was trying to break off the relationship, police said. He told them that she only left him alone when police arrived. Officers contacted the woman to verify the story and they immediately determined that she was intoxicated. Before officers could separate the two, the woman allegedly struck the man in the face and pushed him. She then turned toward officers and asked to be taken to jail. When one officer grabbed her arm, she struck the officer in the chest twice, police said. The suspect was placed under arrest for assault and transported to jail where she was booked for spousal battery, battery on a police officer, obstruction and public intoxication. She was identified as Brenda Zarazu, 24, of South Gate, Calif. Bail was set at $20,000.

FRIDAY, DEC. 21, AT 8:05 P.M.,
Officers assigned to a burglary suppression detail were on patrol on the 1500 block of Alley 6 when they saw a man riding a bicycle in front of them. As they watched the man they saw that he was looking into the rear of several subterranean garages. Once he reached 626 Broadway, officers said the man tried to pry open a gate leading to a garage. When officers made themselves known, the suspect quickly turned around and told officers he wasn't doing anything. He told officers that he did not know anyone in the building. Police said because the man was seen looking into locked garages he was placed under arrest for prowling. He was identified as Daniel Ochoa, 24. He declined to state where he lived. His bail was set at $5,000.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, AT 8:13 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1100 block of Santa Monica Boulevard regarding a report of a disturbance onboard an MTA bus. When officers arrived they made contact with one of two people arguing, as the other one had left. The man was argumentative and refused to cooperate, police said. Due to his aggressive behavior, police searched the suspect for weapons and found a switchblade knife. He was placed under arrest and transported to jail where he was booked for possession of a switchblade and a probation violation. He was identified as Steven Arena, 50, of Long Beach, Calif. No bail was set.

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

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## SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

to say that he felt the petition lacked merit.

Lamle originally took City Hall to court in 2004 after City Hall denied him both a business license and a performer's permit, either of which would have allowed him to conduct some form of business on the public street.

Only certain kinds of businesses are allowed to operate on the promenade, specifically carts, sidewalk cafes and Farmers' Market retailers. Board game sales didn't make the cut.

In his suit, Lamle held that the vending law should have included his game just as it did leaflets, bumper stickers, cassette tapes, paintings and other accepted forms of speech.

That left the court with a fundamental question: Did the board game have enough communication to constitute a protected form of speech?

A lower court magistrate thought no, saying in his decision that Lamle's primary purpose was to profit off of the games, which brought in up to $500 in sales a day, according to Lamle's own deposition.

The judge also held that the board game was not inherently expressive, and that you could play the game without ever internalizing deeper messages of conflict resolution and non-violence.

Lamle called it a "straw man" argument based on the fact that unlike video games which use plot, images and music to get their points across — and have been protected in Supreme Court rulings — his game relied on glass jewels and the board.

"The instructions do communicate, and my verbal instructions also communicate," Lamle said.

The game is supposed to demonstrate fundamental lessons about power and freedom, which are further explored in the instructions, Lamle said.

"That's where the communication occurs. This is an abstraction of politics," he said.

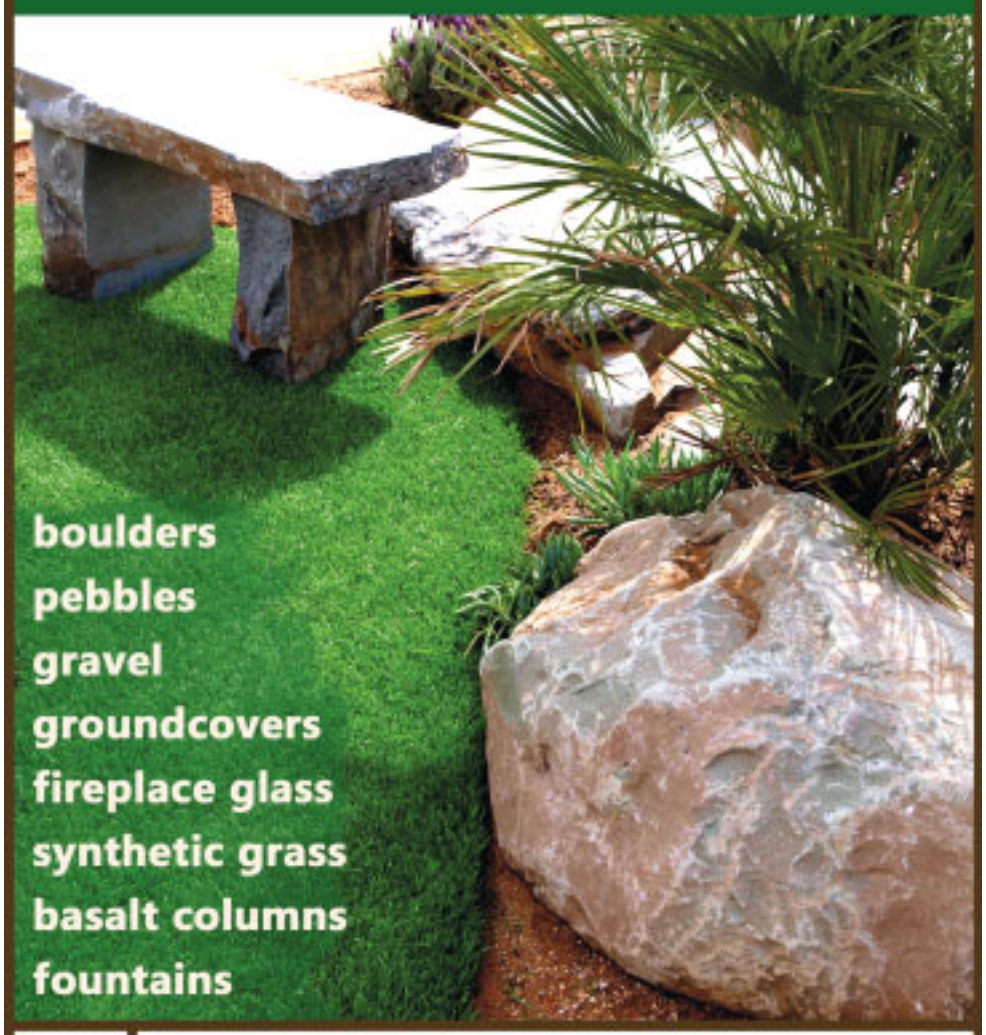
He might have a shot, said David Hudson, an attorney with the First Amendment Law Center.

"It could qualify as commercial speech," Hudson said. "The larger issue is if the city ordinance is a reasonable time, place and manner restriction on speech. Two is whether the law or ordinance has an exception for books and newspapers. If it does, is it discriminatory to treat the sale of the board games differently?"

According to the petition, Lamle began selling the game on the promenade in 1996. Between that time and August 2004, Lamle was cited 29 times for violating Santa Monica ordinances.

Of those, 25 were misdemeanors and Lamle was arrested and removed from the promenade twice.

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## STOCKS
FROM PAGE 1

Recession, individual investors have pulled at least $380 billion from U.S. stock funds, a category that includes both mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, according to estimates by the AP. That is the equivalent of all the money they put into the market in the previous five years.

Instead of stocks, they're putting money into bonds because those are widely perceived as safer investments. Individuals have put more than $1 trillion into bond mutual funds alone since April 2007, according to the Investment Company Institute, a trade group representing investment funds.

Selling stocks during either a downturn or a recovery is unusual. Americans almost always buy more than they sell during both periods.

Since World War II, nine recessions besides the Great Recession have been followed by recoveries lasting at least three years. According to data from the Investment Company Institute, individual investors sold during and after only one of those previous downturns — the one from November 1973 through March 1975. And back then a scary stock drop around the start of the recovery's third year, 1977, gave people ample reason to get out of the market.

The unusual pullback this time has spread to other big investors — public and private pension funds, investment brokerages and state and local governments. These groups have sold a total of $861 billion more than they have bought since April 2007, according to the Federal Reserve.

Even foreigners, big purchasers in recent years, are selling now — $16 billion in the 12 months through September.

As these groups have sold, much of the stock buying has fallen to companies. They've bought $656 billion more than they have sold since April 2007. Companies are mostly buying back their own stock.

On Wall Street, the investor revolt has largely been dismissed as temporary. But doubts are creeping in.

A Citigroup research report sent to customers concludes that the "cult of equities" that fueled buying in the past has little chance of coming back soon. Investor blogs speculate about the "death of equities," a line from a famous BusinessWeek cover story in 1979, another time many people had seemingly given up on stocks. Financial analysts lament how the retreat by Main Street has left daily stock trading at low levels.

The investor retreat may have already hurt the fragile economic recovery.

The number of shares traded each day has fallen 40 percent from before the recession to a 12-year low, according to the New York Stock Exchange. That's cut into earnings of investment banks and online brokers, which earn fees helping others trade stocks. Initial public offerings, another source of Wall Street profits, are happening at one-third the rate before the recession.

And old assumptions about stocks are being tested. One investing gospel is that because stocks generally rise in price, companies don't need to raise their quarterly cash dividends much to attract buyers. But companies are increasing them lately.

Dividends in the S&P 500 rose 11 percent in the 12 months through September, and the number of companies choosing to raise them is the highest in at least 20 years, according to FactSet, a financial data provider. Stocks now throw off more cash in dividends than U.S. government bonds do in interest.

Many on Wall Street think this is an unnatural state that cannot last. After all, people tend to buy stocks because they expect them to rise in price, not because of the dividend. But for much of the history of U.S. stock trading, stocks were considered too risky to be regarded as little more than vehicles for generating dividends. In every year from 1871 through 1958, stocks yielded more in dividends than U.S. bonds did in interest, according to data from Yale economist Robert Shiller — exactly what is happening now.

So maybe that's normal, and the past five decades were the aberration.

People who think the market will snap back to normal are underestimating how much the Great Recession scared investors, says Ulrike Malmendier, an economist who has studied the effect of the Great Depression on attitudes toward stocks.

She says people are ignoring something called the "experience effect," or the tendency to place great weight on what you most recently went through in deciding how much financial risk to take, even if it runs counter to logic. Extrapolating from her research on "Depression Babies," the title of a 2010 paper she co-wrote, she says many young investors won't fully embrace stocks again for another two decades.

"The Great Recession will have a lasting impact beyond what a standard economic model would predict," says Malmendier, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley.

She could be wrong, of course. But it's a measure of the psychological blow from the Great Recession that, more than three years since it ended, big institutions, not just amateur investors, are still trimming stocks.

Public pension funds have cut stocks from 71 percent of their holdings before the recession to 66 percent last year, breaking at least 40 years of generally rising stock allocations, according to "State and Local Pensions: What Now?," a book by economist Alicia Munnell. They're shifting money into bonds.

Private pension funds, like those run by big companies, have cut stocks more: from 70 percent of holdings to just under 50 percent, back to the 1995 level.

"People aren't looking to swing for the fences anymore," says Gary Goldstein, an executive recruiter on Wall Street, referring to the bankers and traders he helps get jobs. "They're getting less greedy."

The lack of greed is remarkable given how much official U.S. policy is designed to stoke it.

When Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke launched the first of three bond-buying programs four years ago, he said one aim was to drive Treasury yields so low that frustrated investors would feel they had no choice but to take a risk on stocks. Their buying would push stock prices up, and everyone would be wealthier and spend more. That would help revive the economy.

Sure enough, yields on Treasurys and many other bonds have recently hit record lows, in many cases below the inflation rate. And stock prices have risen. Yet Americans are pulling out of stocks, so deep is their mistrust of them, and perhaps of the Fed itself.

"Fed policy is trying to suck people into risky assets when they shouldn't be there," says Michael Harrington, 58, a former investment fund manager who says he is largely out of stocks. "When this policy fails, as it will, baby boomers will pay the cost in their 401(k)s."






Photo courtesy Google Images

GRAND CENTRAL MARKET

# MARKET
FROM PAGE 3

"food crafting space" for brewers and upscale wine and cheese stores.

"It's a wonderful world down there," consultant Joseph Shuldiner, who was hired by the owner as a consultant on the renovation project, told the Los Angeles Times. "My fantasy is a pocket cafe or sushi bar under the stairs."

He also envisions an exhibition kitchen for cooking classes, tastings and perhaps movie shoots, while a seating area upstairs would be turned into "downtown's living room."

It would be a cozy place with free Wi-Fi and perhaps couches where "you can get a cheese plate and glass of wine, bring it here and hang out," said Kevin West, another project consultant.

The counters that now offer cheap bananas, pinto beans, dried chilies and "cesina fresca" (fresh cured meat) would be joined by farmers market produce.

Work began in November and planning continues. Shuldiner and West hope to have a dozen new merchants in place by next fall.

The market opened in 1917 on the ground floor of the Homer Laughlin Building, a six-story building that once housed an office for famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The well-to-do on nearby Bunker Hill would take the Angels Flight Railway funicular down to south Broadway, then a thriving area of theaters and department stores.

Over the years, the neighborhood became shabbier. The theaters and department stores closed, replaced by discount shops selling cheap T-shirts, jewelry and electronics to a working-class population. Sidewalks got grittier and doorways became nightly beds for the homeless.

Although the Grand Central Market still bustled, its glory days had passed.

Presently, the location caters mainly to Mexican and Central American immigrants who live in the area not far from City Hall.

West and Shuldiner said they did not know how much the overhaul of the market will cost.

"I remember this market 50 years ago," Xavier Mezcua, a 78-year-old retired baker told The Associated Press as he eyed bananas at 4 pounds for $1.

In the old days, "beautiful people" shopped there, he recalled, and he even saw a movie star or two lugging grocery bags.

But over the years, the clientele got poorer, the groceries got smaller and the floors got dirtier, he said.

The floors have been cleaned, but Mezcua said he wasn't counting on the market returning to its old glory. The neighborhood just doesn't have the gleam of shopping centers in Glendale and other suburbs, he said.

"Not here," he said. "I tell you true, Los Angeles is an ugly town. It's not a beautiful place."

But the neighborhood is changing. A few high-end restaurants have opened a few blocks from the market and streets that used to be deserted at night are drawing adventurous eaters. Renovated lofts and apartment buildings are drawing better-paid, trendier young professionals.

The central downtown area itself has been growing in population and prosperity. The area's population has risen from 18,652 residents in 1998 to nearly 50,000, according to the Los Angeles Downtown Business Improvement District.

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## JOBS
FROM PAGE 1

offs. They have mostly fluctuated this year between 360,000 and 390,000. At the same time, employers have added an average of 151,000 jobs a month in the first 11 months of 2012. That's just enough to slowly reduce the unemployment rate.

Economists were mildly encouraged by the decline in applications. But they emphasized that the figures are volatile around the holidays. They were also distorted until recent weeks by Superstorm Sandy.

Many expect next week's jobs report to show that employers added about 150,000 jobs in December.

The decline in unemployment benefit applications suggests companies are not yet slashing jobs because of concerns over the "fiscal cliff." That's the name for sharp tax increases and spending cuts that are scheduled to take effect next week unless the Obama administration and Congress can reach a deal before then.

Still, unemployment remains high and companies are reluctant to ramp up hiring. The unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent in November from 7.9 percent in October mostly because many of the unemployed stopped looking for jobs. The government counts people as unemployed only if they are actively searching for work.

Negotiations between President Barack Obama and House Republican leaders on a package to avoid the fiscal cliff stalemated last week. Obama and congressional lawmakers return to Washington Thursday with just days to go before the deadline.

The total number of people receiving benefits rose 73,000 to 5.48 million in the week ended Dec. 8, the latest data available.

That includes about 2.1 million people who have been out of work for at least six months and are receiving extended benefits paid for by the federal government. The program is ending at the end of the year. That means those recipients will receive their final checks next week, unless an extension is granted.

Obama wants an extension included in the budget deal. Republicans have yet to agree to that.

There are signs the economy is improving. The once-battered housing market is recovering, which should lead to more construction jobs in the coming months. Companies ordered more long-lasting manufactured goods in November, a sign they are investing more in equipment and software. And Americans spent more in November. Consumer spending drives nearly 70 percent of economic growth.

While a short fall over the cliff won't push the economy into recession, most economists expect some tax increases to take effect next year. That could slow growth.

Consumers are starting to worry about higher taxes. A measure of consumer confidence fell to a five-month low this month, a survey released Friday found. And reports show the holiday shopping season was the weakest since 2008, when the country was in a deep recession.

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# 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**

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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 -- 19 / 10
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

| LOCATION | DRY | WET |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth. | C | A+ |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks. | ns | ns |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach. | A | A |
| Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth. | B | A+ |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private). | A+ | F |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth. | B | B |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach. | A+ | B |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth. | C | B |
| Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach. | F | C |
| Puerco State Beach at creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.. | A | F |
| Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence. | A+ | A+ |
| Surfrider Beach (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 CAW 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.

# American consumers lose confidence as fiscal cliff nears

**PAUL WISEMAN**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON U.S. consumers peering over the "fiscal cliff" don't like what they see.

Fears of sharp tax increases and government spending cuts set to take effect next week sent consumer confidence tumbling in December to its lowest level since August.

The Conference Board said Thursday that its consumer confidence index fell for the second straight month in December to 65.1, down from 71.5 in November.

The survey showed consumers' outlook for the next six months deteriorated to its lowest level since 2011 — a signal to Lynn Franco, the board's director of economic indicators, that consumers are worried about the tax hikes and spending cuts that take effect Jan. 1 if the White House and Congress can't reach a budget deal.

Earlier this week a report showed consumers held back shopping this holiday season, another indication of their concerns about possible tax increases.

The December drop in confidence "is obvious confirmation that a sudden and serious deterioration in hopes for the future took place in December — presumably reflecting concern about imminent 'fiscal cliff' tax increases," said Pierre Ellis, an economist with Decision Economics.

The decline in confidence comes at a critical time when the economy is showing signs of improvement elsewhere.

A recovery in housing market is looking more sustainable. On Thursday, the government said new-home sales increased in November at the fastest seasonally adjusted annual pace in 2? years.

And the job market has made slow but steady gains in recent months. The average number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits over the past month fell to the lowest level since March 2008.

But the political wrangling in Washington threatens the economy's slow, steady progress. President Barack Obama and House returned to Washington Thursday to resume talks with just days to go before the deadline.

Mixed signals over those negotiations led to a rocky day on Wall Street.

Stocks plunged early after the weak consumer confidence report and a warning from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid that the government appeared to be headed over the "fiscal cliff." At one point, the Dow Jones industrial average fell as much as 150 points.

But the market came back in the final hour of trading on a potential sign of movement in the talks: Republican leaders announced they would bring the House back into session on Sunday evening. The Dow recouped nearly all of its losses to close down just 18 points at 13,096.

A short fall over the cliff won't push the economy into recession. But most economists expect some tax increases to take effect next year. That could slow economic growth.

While consumers are more worried about where the economy is headed, they were upbeat about present conditions, according to the latest survey. Their assessment of current economic conditions rose this month to the highest level since August 2008.

A key reason for that is gas prices hit a 2012 low of $3.21 a gallon last week. Normally, that would prompt consumers to spend more on holiday shopping.

But the opposite has happened. A report from MasterCard Advisors Spending pulse indicated sales grew in the two months before Christmas at the weakest rate since 2008, when the country was in a deep recession.

There were other distractions this holiday season. 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 "fiscal cliff" worries dampened sales in December.

The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, remains optimistic that sales won't be quite as bad as earlier reports have suggested. It is 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.

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# MOVIE TIMES

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

**It's A Gift (NR) 1hr 13min**
Plus three shorts by W.C. Fields
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**
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm

**Jack Reacher (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
7:15pm, 10:30pm

**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, 10:15pm, 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

**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.**
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**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

**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

# TGIF, Libra!

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ You could find yourself on both the giving and receiving end of a surprise. On some level, you might feel as if you must answer to someone; on the other hand, you also recognize your own needs. Tonight: Flex.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Keep conversations moving, especially if you think there is an underlying problem. Yes, you eventually will have to deal with this issue, but the timing is off right now. Tonight: Hang out with a loved one.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ Know what is going on behind the scenes. You might find that you're not ready to deal with all of the consequences involved with a partnership and/or a money matter. Your lack of energy very well could have colored your thinking. Tonight: Do what feels right.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★★ The Full Moon points to you. As a result, you might be reactive and cause yourself a problem. You'll try to take command of your life, but there are so many unpredictable elements that it might not work out. Tonight: Do your thing.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Much is going on behind the scenes. Acting on what you think could be difficult at best. Gather information, but avoid making a judgment for about a week, if possible. Today's events will have a different appearance at that point. Tonight: Not to be found.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ Keep your eye on the prize. Do not get distracted by all the hoopla, unexpected events and emotional statements from others. This, too, will pass, given a little time and caring. If a conversation feels stilted, you can be sure that you're not getting all the facts. Tonight: Join friends.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ Pressure builds. On some level, you could feel out of sync as you look at the panorama of your life. You will become the ringmaster if you just relax and allow others to help out. Tonight: TGIF.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★★ You might want to deal with a situation differently. How you handle a personal matter could change once some of the intensity of the moment dies down. You could be overserious or too demanding. Detach for a better perspective. Tonight: Where there is music.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ A creative endeavor takes an unusual turn. A partner could be reactive, especially with finances. You could be making matters worse. Address a low-level depression, and understand that you can handle this problem. Tonight: Answer any questions that are posed.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★★ The Full Moon affects you socially and emotionally. You might wonder what is going on with an important person in your life. If you are having difficulty explaining this person's behavior, don't get uptight. Tonight: Go along with the program.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ You could be past the point of no return when dealing with an associate. You also might give this person an unexpected jolt. Though at first you might feel guilty about it, try to view your words as a wake-up call. Tonight: Get some much-needed R and R.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★ You might feel pushed beyond your limit. Rather than express your exasperation, hold back and do something for yourself. Friends also could be unusually demanding. Your finances will take a strange twist if you are not careful. Tonight: Only what you want.

## Happy birthday

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

This year you often think one way about an issue but act on it in a different way. You'll feel one thing, but think you should do something else. This internal conflict helps you discover which voice to respond to. Many times, the people around you don't know how to respond to these mixed signals. If you continue to flip-flop in this way, both professional and personal relationships could suffer. If you are single, you will meet someone who knocks your socks off. You know what you want and what to do. If you are attached, openly discuss your mental process in order to avoid any negative responses. CANCER has the same issues as you.

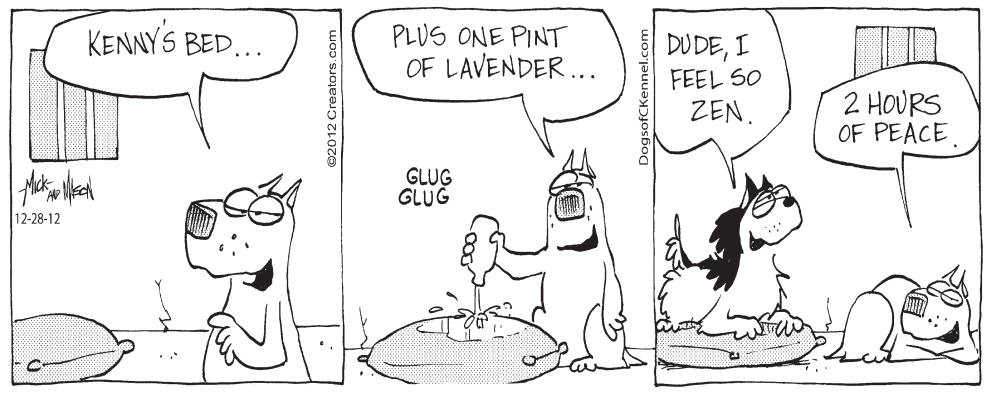
## Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly




## Strange Brew
By John Deering



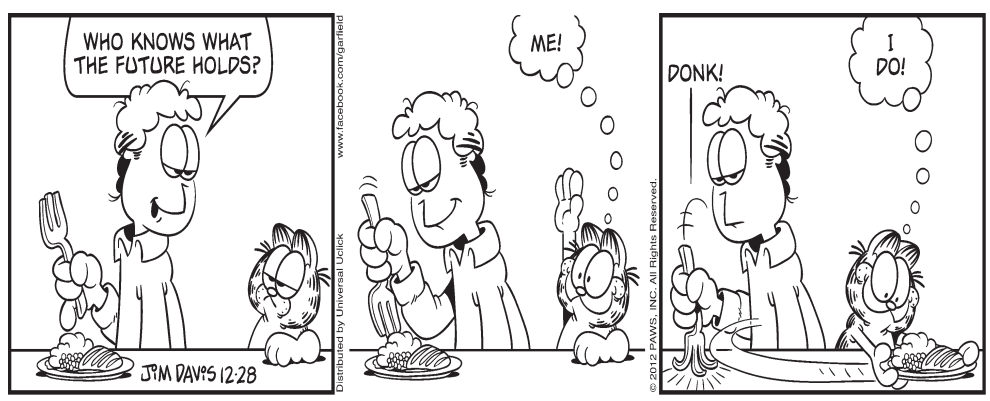

## Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



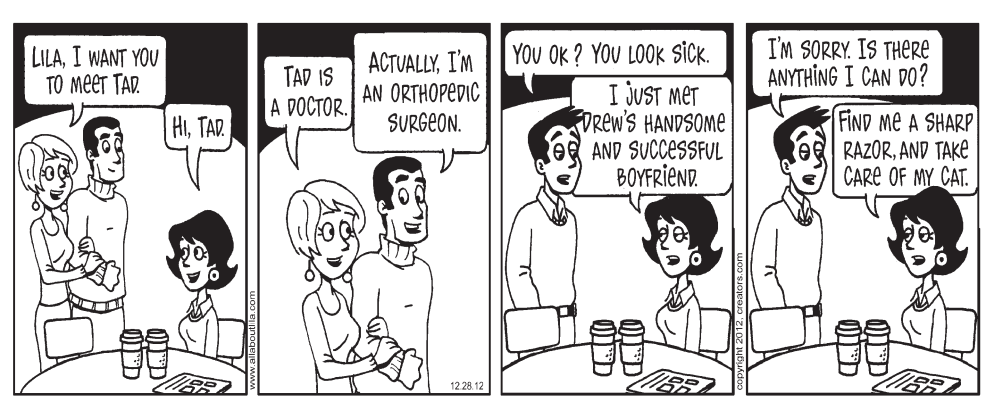

## Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan




## 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 ★★★★

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

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

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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** Restaurant unit
**6** Flexible
**11** Traveler's aid
**12** Rued a workout
**13** Doesn't budge
**14** Jury makeup
**15** Idiosyncrasy
**16** Past and present
**18** Antlered animal
**19** Pro vote
**20** Tillis or Tormé
**21** Some cheers
**23** Loses it
**25** Phone download
**27** Twosome
**28** Lover
**30** Swift jets
**33** Stir-frying vessel
**34** Spare tire
**36** Canine command
**37** Thorough
**39** One of the Gershwins
**40** Nary a soul
**41** Ready to swing
**43** General Rommel
**44** Señor's squiggle
**45** Beach bits
**46** Ignore the limit

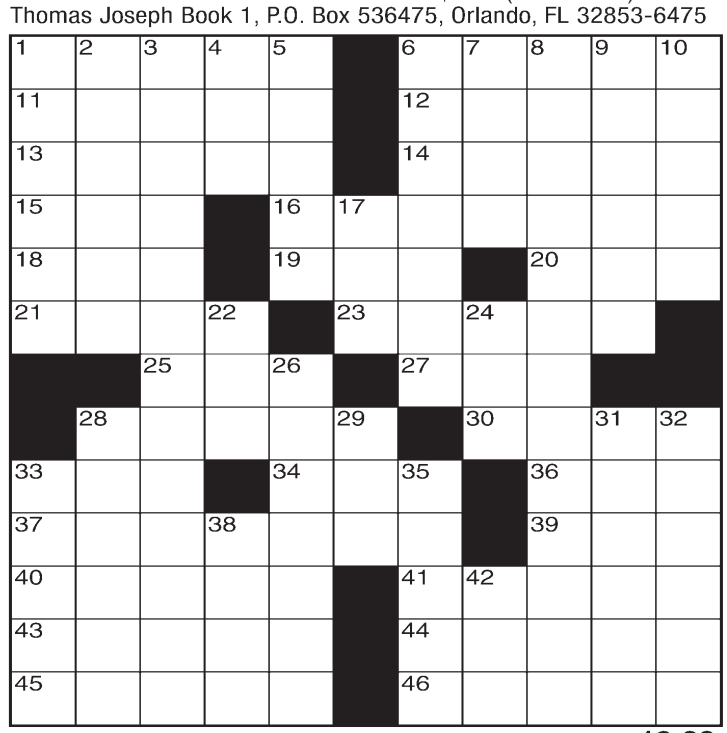
**DOWN**

**1** Wine expert
**2** Hun head
**3** Ewan McGregor movie
**4** Place down
**5** School paper
**6** Scandinavian region
**7** Rapper-turned-actor
**8** Ewan McGregor movie
**9** Messenger of the gods
**10** Bygone auto
**17** Guitarist Paul
**22** Relaxing resort
**24** Switz. neighbor
**26** Sties
**28** Mexican state
**29** Bolt partner
**31** Angry rant
**32** Declared
**33** Cellar stock
**35** "— all, folks!"
**38** Writer Bagnold
**42** Waiting bonus

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

**Yesterday's answer**

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12-28

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2 3 18 34 48
Meganumber: 36
Jackpot: $M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/26
2 9 24 33 37
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/26
16 26 29 33 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/26
MIDDAY: 9 5 9
EVENING: 8 9 9

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 12/26
1st: 10 - SOLID GOLD
2nd: 05-CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
3rd: 04 - BIG BEN
RACE TIME: 1:43.53

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## NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The governing Council of Brentwood, England, professes a "reputation as one of the most transparent" in the country, but in November, responding to a Freedom of Information request for documents on a government contract, it merely released 425 totally-blackened ("redacted") pages. The official explanation was that all of the papers concerning construction of a movie theater were deemed "commercially sensitive" and "not in the public interest." (Following an outcry, the Council re-thought the FOI request and disclosed "considerably more information," according to the Daily Telegraph.)

■ Casey Anthony was acquitted by a jury in Orlando in 2011 of killing her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, in part because investigation of her computer did not yield incriminating evidence (e.g., suspicious search terms in her Internet Explorer's history). However, in November 2012, with Anthony protected by the Constitutional prohibition against "double jeopardy," investigators admitted they had overlooked the computer's other web browser (Firefox). There, on the date of Caylee's disappearance, were pages containing such search terms as "fool-proof suffication" (sic) and "asphyxiation."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1956** - Chin Peng, David Marshall and Tunku Abdul Rahman meet in Baling to try and resolve the Malayan Emergency situation.

**1958** - "Greatest Game Ever Played" - Baltimore Colts defeat the New York Giants in the first ever National Football League sudden death overtime game at New York's Yankee Stadium.

**1972** - Kim Il-sung, already Prime Minister of North Korea and General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, became the first President of North Korea.

## WORD UP!

**stridulous**
\ STRIJ-uh-luhs \ , adjective;
1.
Also, strid·u·lant . Making or having a harsh or grating sound.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Date of Filing Application: 08/01/2012
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are:
OZUMO OCEAN AVE. LLC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1541 OCEAN AVE. STE 120,150,160 SANTA MONICA, CA 90401-2104
Type of License(s) Applied for: 47-ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
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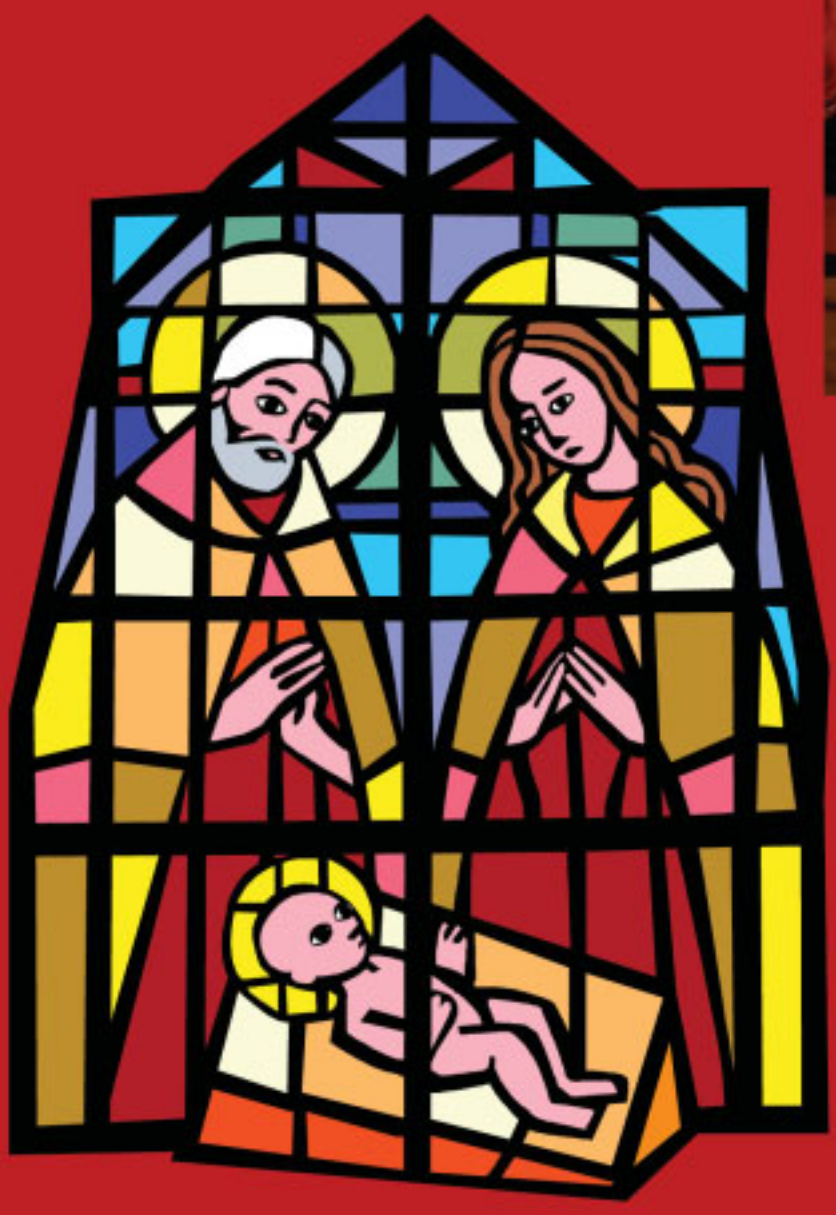
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