

Locals donate blood

A4



Sears holds back-to-school event

A4



SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS



SAVE \$410.93 INSIDE

Astronaut Neil Armstrong dies A6

Your news, our passion.

ivpressonline.com | adelantevalle.com

Vol. 12 No. 44 \$1.50

INSIDE TODAY



Investigation

Mexican authorities are looking into why federal police fired upon a U.S. Embassy vehicle, wounding two.

News, B10

Local court wrap-up

Read the latest information about criminal cases in the Imperial Valley.

News, A3

SMILE OF THE DAY



"We have fun. My teachers are fun and I like acting."

Valerie Munguia, 10, Calexico, at the Calexico Cultural Arts Center

OBITUARIES

Shana Biexis
59, Solana Beach

Linda Britschgi
67, Holtville

Iris Craig
93, El Centro

Peter Famiglietti
87, Imperial

John Hignight
53, El Centro

Margarita Segovia
94, El Centro

OBITUARIES | A6-7

TODAY'S WEATHER

102/76

FORECAST | B10

CONNECT

f /ivpress

t /ivpnews

Mobile Site, App

INDEX

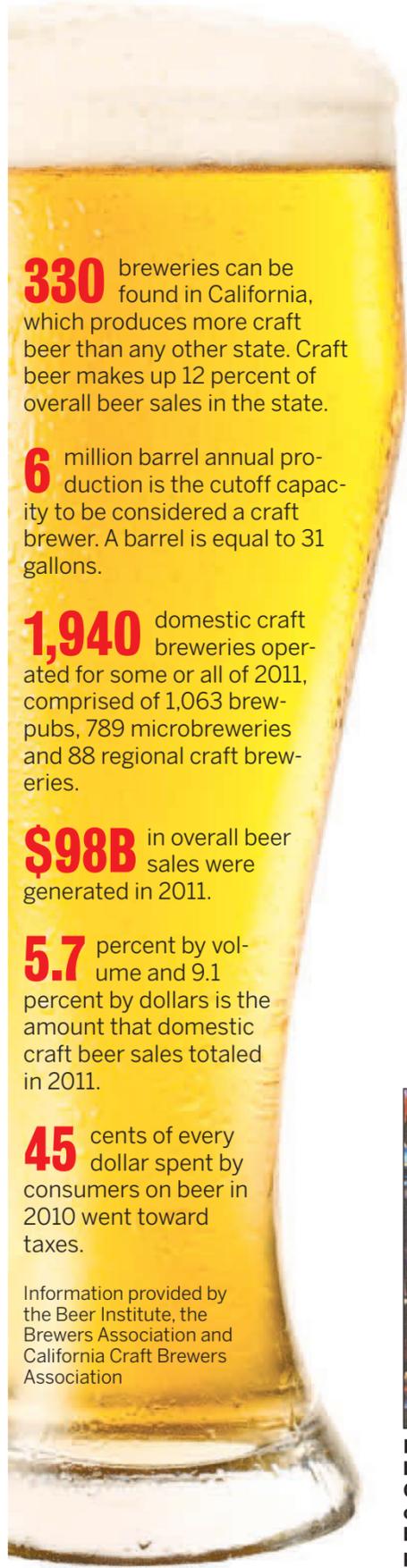
Abby.....B6 Movies.....A2
Business...B4-5 Opinion.....A8
Calendar.....A2 Photos.....A2
Classified...B7-9 Region.....A4
Donohue.....B6 Sports.....B1-3
Lottery.....A3 Weather.....B10



To subscribe 760-337-3456

Local demand for craft beers is emerging

BY JULIO MORALES | Staff Writer, Copy Editor



330 breweries can be found in California, which produces more craft beer than any other state. Craft beer makes up 12 percent of overall beer sales in the state.

6 million barrel annual production is the cutoff capacity to be considered a craft brewer. A barrel is equal to 31 gallons.

1,940 domestic craft breweries operated for some or all of 2011, comprised of 1,063 brewpubs, 789 microbreweries and 88 regional craft breweries.

\$98B in overall beer sales were generated in 2011.

5.7 percent by volume and 9.1 percent by dollars is the amount that domestic craft beer sales totaled in 2011.

45 cents of every dollar spent by consumers on beer in 2010 went toward taxes.

Information provided by the Beer Institute, the Brewers Association and California Craft Brewers Association

Growing up on the East Coast, Seth Reynolds said he could walk into just about any small mom-and-pop liquor store or gas station and find a variety of regional craft beers. Although he admits he never really was all that interested in beer in general, he said the variety of craft beers available has sparked an interest in sampling as many of them as he can find. "It's a liquid culinary experience," the 33-year-old El Centro resident said. "I understand why people like it, and why people don't like it."

With a preference for regional beers that incorporate seasonal ingredients, Reynolds said he also enjoys pairing microbrews with food to produce interesting taste combinations.

"To me I'm still an amateur," he said. "I'm not an aficionado, not a connoisseur; I'm just interested in trying something new."

SEE BEER | A5

Video online www.ivpressonline.com

Inside

Cucapá Brewing marks 10-year anniversary, A5

View map online www.ivpressonline.com



Beth Briggs pours a popular IPA-style craft beer brewed in California at the Rat Cellar in downtown El Centro on Thursday evening. The Rat Cellar and a few of other bars have started to offer a wider selection of beers including craft beers that are quickly growing in popularity. ERIC MILLER PHOTO

ELECTION 2012 Local superPAC pulls in \$118,000

BY ELIZABETH VARIN
Staff Writer

As Imperial County residents head into the fall and a much-contested election, more fundraising will take place, signs will start to get posted again and would-be politicians will hit the streets again to campaign for national, state and local seats.

For the first half of the year, though, the local superPAC, Imperial Valley First, has raised the lion's share of the local money — almost \$120,000 from various donors throughout Imperial County — more than any of the candidates for the race it is investing in, two seats on the Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors.

SEE ELECTION | A7

A LIFE LOST

Community lends hands to family after fire

BY CELESTE ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

After a tragic home fire claimed the life of an 11-year-old girl just two days ago, community members from all across the Imperial Valley have come together to support her family.

"This family of six kids is in need of the basic supplies," Sears store Manager Bob Diaz said.

The structure fire having engulfed much of the home left just a few walls, a garage, and portions of the roof of a room remaining.

Employees at the El Centro Sears store were so impacted by the family's loss that they've begun a gift card donation among their store employees, so the family can purchase their needed necessities Diaz said.

"I'm very happy that our associates came together so fast to help," Diaz said. "The family was choked up by the donations and I was choked up that they were."

SEE FAMILY | A7

INDUSTRY SAYS IT WILL COST WORKERS

Local farmers call for action against farmworker overtime bill

BY ELIZABETH VARIN
Staff Writer

A bill set to head to the Assembly for final approval this week could have a big impact on Imperial County's largest industry.

Assembly Bill 1313 would add new overtime regulations for agricultural workers, including those who have before now been able to work

60-hour weeks and Mondays through Saturdays. Under the bill, if a person works past 40 hours a week, they would receive time-and-a-half.

Local farmers are now saying the bill will impact not only farms, but also cut hours for farmworkers.

Federal rules allow agriculture workers to work 60-hour workweeks before going into overtime.

Those rules have "been in place forever" and allow for a more flexible schedule for agriculture workers, Mark McBroom, president of the Imperial County Farm Bureau, said. Now the government in Sacramento has decided that California is to be the exception, he said.

The bill, should it become law, would put Imperial Valley's way of doing business in disarray, he

said. "It may mean leaving food in the field and fields unfarmed because of the inability to farm them in an adequate way," he said.

While there will be farmers affected, the workers are probably going to be hurt more, he said. They can now make, for example, \$9 to \$11 an hour for 60 hours of work, but under the new bill the total number of hours will

probably go down. There would be more people working to fill that need, but for fewer hours each.

What will be most impacted locally is the way people irrigate their fields, McBroom said. Irrigation runs 24 hours, and while workers have their hour break for lunch and 10-minute breaks every few hours, most of the time they're idle.

SEE FARM BILL | A9